

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held on  
Wednesday 29 January 2014

Present:

Dr B Towle (Chair)

Mr P Ash	Professor M Lester
Professor M Barstow	Dr D Lockett
Mr G Dixon	Mr D Moore
Mr D Flatt	Mr A Morgan
Judge A Hampton	Mr P Mulvihill
Mr M Hindle	Professor M Peel
Mr I Johnson	Ms V Sharma
Professor J Ketley	Professor M Thompson
Mr P Lawson	Ms C Thorogood

**In attendance:** the Registrar and Secretary and Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary).

**Apologies for absence** were received from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr M Rawlinson and Dr N Reed.

14/M1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared by members of Council in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

14/M2 **APPOINTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY'S NEXT VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Council considered the final report of the Joint Committee ('the Committee') of Council and Senate responsible for the recruitment of the University's next Vice-Chancellor. Council was pleased that, for the purpose of the University's historical record, the report documented in some detail the main features of the recruitment and selection process. The report is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as appendix C/14/M2(App).

Council's attention was drawn in particular to the following matters:

a. Working arrangements and timetable

The Chair of Council, as Chair of the Joint Committee, recorded her appreciation for the commitment and diligence shown by the members of the Committee in undertaking the recruitment and selection task. She also thanked the Registrar and Secretary and his administrative colleagues for the efficient and discreet organisation and support of the Committee's work.

The Committee had retained full control of the process at all times but the support provided by the search consultants, Perrett Laver, including their detailed knowledge of the HE sector and of individual candidates, had been invaluable.

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The balanced, representative membership of the Joint Committee had provided reassurance to the academic and student community, and the internal consultation exercise conducted by the search consultants had proved a very positive feature. The facility for members of the University to submit on-line comments in confidence direct to the search consultants had been well-received, as had the invitation for members of Court to submit comments direct to the Chair of Council.

The Chair of Council indicated that the timetable for the whole process – approximately nine months from the establishment of the Joint Committee to the holding of the final interviews – had mostly worked very well. In retrospect, though, it was not ideal for the concluding stages to have been scheduled for completion in the week before Christmas, as this had resulted in certain closing details being carried over into the festive period itself.

b. The successful candidate

Council reviewed the biographical details of the candidate recommended by the Committee for appointment as the University's next Vice-Chancellor (attached to the signed copy of these minutes as appendix C/14/M2b). Members of Council who had served on the Committee drew attention to and explained the significance of the candidate's background and experience, academic status and profile, and personal attributes as demonstrated at interview.

**Council resolved unanimously** that Professor Paul Joseph Boyle FBA, FRSE, Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council and President, Science Europe, be appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, effective from 1 October 2014, and as Vice-Chancellor Designate from 1 September 2014. **Council authorised** the Chair to determine all contractual matters relating to Professor Boyle's appointment.

c. Communication plan

Council noted that the University's Press Office had prepared a detailed communication plan to inform staff, students and the wider community of Professor Boyle's appointment. (The Assistant Secretary left the meeting at this point to notify the Press Office that the appointment had been confirmed, and the first formal announcements were released whilst the meeting was still in progress.)

d. Transitional arrangements

Council noted that any communication with Professor Boyle from the University prior to 1 September 2014 would be made through the Chair of Council, Vice-Chancellor or Registrar only. It was emphasized to Council that Professor Boyle's position as Vice-Chancellor Designate during September 2014 did not mean that there would be a dual-management system for that month. Professor Burgess would be the University's Vice-Chancellor up to and including 30 September 2014.

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e. Retirement events

Council noted that the Registrar and Secretary was chairing a small informal group to ensure that the Vice-Chancellor's retirement was acknowledged in an appropriate way at key University events up to September 2014. The main event for lay members of Council would be a dinner on the evening of Friday 18 July to which civic guests would also be invited. A separate dinner for Senate and senior staff members would be held on the evening of Wednesday 16 July.

14/M3 **COURTESIES**

On behalf of Council the Treasurer presented flowers to Dr Towle as a mark of appreciation for her enormous contribution in steering the Vice-Chancellor's recruitment process to such a successful and impressive conclusion.

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: 55 minutes