

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on
Monday 8 July 2013

Present:

	Mr R Bettles (Chair)	
The Vice-Chancellor (from 13/M39)		Dr D Lockett
Professor A Abbott		Mr D Moore
Mr P Ash		Mr P Mulvihill
Mr G Dixon		Professor E Murphy
Ms J Dunne		Dr M Rawlinson
Mr D Flatt		Dr N Reed
Her Hon Judge A Hampton		Professor K Schürer
Mr M Hindle		Professor J Scott
Mr D James		Professor M Thompson
Mr I Johnson		Dr B Towle
	Professor D Wynford-Thomas	

In attendance: the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance, the Director of Estates and Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary). Also in attendance, as an observer, was Mr P Lawson, appointed as a new member of Council effective from 1 August 2013.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Bateman.

13/M37 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Dr Reed declared an interest as a Trustee of the Students' Union in respect of the business transacted under 13/M50 (Financial Forecasts and Planning Round 2013).

13/M38 **APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Council received a progress report from Dr Bridget Towle, Chair-Designate of Council and Chair of the Joint Committee of Council and Senate with responsibility for conducting the process for the recruitment of the University's next Vice-Chancellor.

Council noted the various actions completed to date by the Joint Committee, including an internal consultation exercise with staff, students and lay members of Council, conducted throughout June. The position would be advertised formally in the autumn and it was the Joint Committee's intention to bring forward a recommendation to Council early in the 2014 calendar year.

Council was advised of the possibility that the Joint Committee would bring forward a formal recommendation for the title of 'Vice-Chancellor' to be amended to that of 'President and Vice-Chancellor'. It was felt that such a title would be more widely understood in the context of the University's international activities, particularly in Asia and North America. **Council indicated** its support, in principle, for such an amendment, noting that it would require a subsequent

formal resolution by Council, internal consultation with Senate, and subsequent external approval by the Privy Council.

13/M39 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2013.

Council approved them as a correct record.

13/M40 **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS**

The Vice-Chancellor informed Council of a number of awards and accolades achieved by the University since the last meeting, including:

- a rise of six places, to 13th, in the Guardian University Guide, with 14 departments in the UK top 10 for their disciplines
- two awards in the THES 2013 awards, for best Communications Team and best Fundraising Initiative
- NUS Students' Union of the Year
- two National Teaching Fellowship Awards
- Craft Guild of Chefs Award to Rob Bean, the University's Executive Head Chef

The Vice-Chancellor also informed Council that Professor Mark Peel had been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Law, effective from 1 October 2013. A permanent appointment to the position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Social Science had not yet been made, and Professor Peter Jackson had been appointed Acting Head of College, effective from 1 September 2013.

13/M41 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Council considered a report of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 20 June 2013.

Council noted that the Finance Committee had considered in detail the University's proposed budget for 2013-14 and the financial forecasts up to 2016-17, and had recommended them for approval by Council (minute 13/M50 refers).

13/M42 **SENATE**

Council considered a report of a meeting of Senate held on 4 July 2013.

Council noted that Senate had endorsed the proposed amendment to *Ordinance 11: Membership of Court* as approved by Council at its meeting on 21 March 2013 (minute 13/M8 refers) and confirmed the amendment for implementation from 1 August 2013.

Council also noted that the University's decision to transfer its lifelong learning provision from Vaughan College to the main University campus would allow lifelong learning students to experience the full range of facilities available to other students. The 'Vaughan' identity would be sustained on the main campus, reaffirming the University's commitment to the original ethos of high quality adult education.

Council also noted that Senate had elected Professor Julian Ketley and Professor Mark Lester to serve as members of Council, replacing Professor Abbott and Ms Dunne, effective from 1 August 2013 for a period of three years.

13/M43 **RISK MANAGEMENT 2012-13**

Council considered the annual report of the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the effectiveness of the University's risk management procedures, covering the 2012-13 academic year.

Council noted that VCAC had concluded that the mechanisms employed by the University to manage and monitor its major risks were firmly embedded and continued to provide a solid framework in support of a statement of full internal control. Further work was to be undertaken, with the assistance of the internal auditors, on the robustness of the link between risk management processes and the University's strategic objectives.

Council noted that the Audit Committee had received a recent presentation on the arrangements operating for the termly updating of the corporate strategic risk register. The Committee had made a small number of suggestions for the University to consider, focussed particularly on thresholds applied for the inclusion or removal of risks from the risk register (minute 13/M51 refers).

13/M44 **LAY APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES FOR 2013-14**

Council approved proposals for lay representation on University committees, sub-committees and groups for the academic year 2013-14.

Council noted that there were a small number of lay vacancies remaining on the college-based research ethics committees. The Chair indicated that lay members who would be willing to be considered for these positions should contact Neil Cox in the Governance Office.

13/M45 **PAYMENT OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES TO LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Council received a report on the outcome of a review conducted by senior management of the University's policy regarding the payment of travelling expenses to lay members of Council and/or University committees. The review had been informed by a survey of the policies in place at other institutions.

Council noted that senior management had agreed that with effect from 1 August 2013 lay members of Council and other lay people appointed to serve as members of University committees would be eligible to claim reimbursement of travelling expenses for attendance at meetings of any University body to which they were appointed. Reimbursement, if claimed, would be made on the same terms and conditions as applied to University staff, as set out in the *Financial Regulations*.

13/M46 **STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Council received a report of a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association held on 16 May 2012.

Council noted the report.

13/M47 AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES

Council was reminded that nominations for the award of honorary degrees could be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor's Office, for consideration by the Honorary Degrees Board in the autumn term.

It was necessary for the person nominating the candidate to provide a full description of the reasons for the nomination, the nominee's CV, other background information (such as a *Who's Who* entry) and contact details. Without this information it would not be possible for the nomination to be considered by the Honorary Degrees Board.

Council noted that nominations for senior female and ethnic minority candidates were especially welcome as these groups were generally under-represented at the present time.

13/M48 COURTESIES

Council recorded its appreciation for the contribution and support of the following members of Council, who were attending their final meeting:

Professor Andrew Abbott
Ms Jackie Dunne
Mr David James
Professor Elizabeth Murphy
Professor K Schürer

13/M49 MR ROGER BETTLES

Council recorded its warm admiration and appreciation for the outstanding and dedicated contribution made by Mr Bettles to the work of the Council and University over the last fifteen years, including as Chair of Council since 2007, and for his personal and supportive style of working. Council extended to Mr Bettles its very best wishes for the future.

CHAIR