

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on
Tuesday 20 November 2012

Present:

Mr R Bettles (Chair)
The Vice-Chancellor (except for 12/M99) Mr A Mamujee
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
Mr M Hindle Professor J Scott
Mr D James Dr B Towle (except for 12/M94)
Mr I Johnson Professor D Wynford-Thomas
Dr D Lockett

In attendance: the Director of Finance, the Director of Estates and Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Bateman, Judge A Hampton, Professor K Schürer, Professor M Thompson and the Registrar and Secretary (as an officer usually in attendance).

12/M87 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr D Flatt and Dr N Reed both declared an interest, as trustees of the Students' Union, in respect of the business transacted under 12/M102.

12/M88 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2012.

Council approved them as a correct record.

12/M89 **MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL 2012-2013**

Council received details of its membership for the academic year 2012-2013.

12/M90 **RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Council received the following documents concerning the conduct of Council business, the powers of Council and the role of members:

- a. Extracts from Statutes (Section 5) and Ordinances (Section 9), *'Powers of the Council'*
- b. Council's *Statement of Primary Responsibilities*
- c. Council's *Standing Orders*
- d. The University's *Corporate Governance Code of Practice*
- e. *The Register of Members' Interests*

12/M91 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Council received reports of meetings of the Audit Committee held on 20 September and 13 November 2012.

Council noted that the Audit Committee had considered in detail the draft *2011-12 Financial Statements* and the Management Letter, in discussion with the external auditors, and had identified no fundamental concerns regarding any audit-related matters.

Council noted that the Audit Committee had also considered the year-end report of the internal audit service and the head of internal audit opinion for 2011-12, which had provided 'significant assurance' of a generally sound and consistent system of internal control. **Council approved** the report, for submission to HEFCE.

12/M92 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Council considered the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the financial year 2011-12 and the three-month period leading up to the preparation of the report. **Council noted** the attention paid by the Committee to key risk areas such as data quality and UKBA visa requirements. The Committee's overarching opinion was that the University's system of internal control was generally sound and consistent, and provided a reasonable (though not absolute) assurance against material misstatement or loss.

Council approved the Annual Report for submission to HEFCE.

12/M93 HEFCE ANNUAL ASSURANCE RETURN 2012

Council received a copy of the University's Annual Assurance return for 2011-12, signed by the Vice-Chancellor as the accountable officer, for submission to HEFCE. HEFCE required this document to be copied to Council and the Audit Committee alongside the financial statements.

12/M94 APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Council considered the final report and recommendation of the Special Committee established to oversee the process for the recruitment and selection of the next Chair of Council.

Council confirmed the appointment of Dr Bridget Towle as the next Chair of Council, effective from 1 August 2013 for an initial period of three years.

12/M95 APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Council noted that, as a consequence of Dr Towle's appointment as the next Chair of Council, it would be necessary to appoint a new Treasurer, effective from 1 August 2013. The Chair reminded lay members of Council that they had been invited to indicate, by 21 November 2012, whether they wished to be considered for the position. The Nominations Committee would be responsible for bringing forward a formal recommendation in due course.

12/M96 **APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL AND COURT**

Council approved recommendations of the Nominations Committee as follows:

- a. the re-appointment to Council of Mr Paul Ash for a further period of three years, from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016, (subject to formal approval by Court)
- b. Extensions of appointment for existing Court members:

Member	New end date
Mr P Ash	31.07.2016
Lord Bach	31.07.2016
Lady Ann Brooks	31.07.2016
Sir Tim Brooks	31.07.2016
Mr G F (Mike) Churchill	31.07.2016
Mr J Dean	31.12.2015
Dr J Hayer	31.12.2015
Mr I Johnson	31.12.2015
Ms L Jones	31.07.2016
Mr A Mamujee	28.02.2016
Sir David O'Dowd	31.07.2016
Dame J Paraskeva	31.07.2016
Ms Linda Perham	31.12.2015
Dr N Shah	31.07.2016
Ms V Sharma	31.07.2016
Mr J Smith	31.07.2016
Mr S Smith	31.12.2015
Mr M Thompson	31.03.2016
Mr J R Wilson	31.07.2016

- c. the appointment of the following individuals to Court, from 1 January 2013 for an initial period of 3 years, in recognition of their wide-ranging engagement with the University's fund-raising activities, or for their civic contributions to Leicester and Leicestershire:

Mr Gautam G Bodiwala
 Mr Prakash Bhojani
 Mr Jayanti Chandarana
 Mr Birju Ghelani
 Mr Hemu Ghelani
 Dr Robin Graham-Brown
 Mr Bhikhu Hindocha
 Mr Don Kotak
 Mr Jay Morjaria
 Mr Naresh Popat
 Mr Kal Sangra
 Mr Kulvinder (Vic) Sethi
 Mr Surinder Sharma
 Mr Rajan Singh

Continued/.....

Mr Hugh Stevenson
Mr Sailesh V. Thakrar
Mr Michael Turnbull
Mr Anthony Wessel
Mrs Caroline Wessel

12/M97 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Council received the annual report of the activities of the Nominations Committee during 2011-12.

Council approved the report.

12/M98 **SENATE**

Council considered a report of a meeting of Senate held on 14 November 2012.

Council noted that the University had improved its position in the latest league tables published by the Sunday Times (25th), the QS World University Ranking (185th) and the THE World University Ranking (196th).

Council also noted that in the 2012 National Student Survey Leicester was placed fourth among mainstream UK universities. Student satisfaction at Leicester had improved overall during the seven years up to 2011-12, particularly in the areas of student support and learning resources.

12/M99 **ESTATES AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Council considered reports of meetings of the Estates and Infrastructure Committee held on 21 September and 30 October 2012.

Council approved recommendations for the naming of the following University buildings:

- The Cardiovascular Research Centre – to be named the '*University of Leicester British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre*'
- The Manor Road Sports Centre – to be renamed the '*Roger Bettles Sports Centre*'
- University Sports Centre at Entrance 1 – to be named the '*Danielle Brown Sports Centre*' (Danielle Brown graduated from the University in 2010 and won a gold medal in Archery at the 2012 Paralympics)
- The new Academic Building on Regent Road – to be named the '*Robert Burgess Building*'

12/M100 **STUDENTS' UNION SABBATICAL ELECTIONS**

Council approved the appointment of Professor Mark Thompson, acting in his capacity as the Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, to oversee the conduct of the Students' Union sabbatical elections with effect from 1 January 2013. **Council noted** that the Students' Union would revert to having a 'President' from 2013-14.

12/M101 **HONORARY DEGREES BOARD**

Council considered the recommendations of the Honorary Degrees Board, as endorsed by Senate, for the award of Honorary Degrees from January 2013 onwards, including awards to be conferred at Newman University College.

Council approved the awards.

12/M102 **HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Council received a report of a meeting of the Health and Safety Committee held on 7 November 2012.

12/M103 **STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Council received reports of meetings of the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association held on 30 June and 5 October 2012.

12/M104 **COURTESIES**

Council recorded its best wishes and warm appreciation for the contribution and support of Mr Azam Mamujee, who would be standing down as a member of Council on 28 February 2013, after nine years' continuous service.

CHAIR