

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER****COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting held on  
Monday 14 May 2018****UNRESERVED BUSINESS****18/M32     DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No personal interests were declared by members in relation to items of Unreserved or Reserved business to be transacted at this particular meeting.

**18/M33     UNRESERVED MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council considered the Unreserved minutes of the meetings held on 21 March and 19 April 2018. **Council approved** them as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

**18/M34     CHAIR'S BUSINESS****a.     Council Awayday**

The Chair indicated that she would be pleased to receive any comments or suggestions from members on the organisation and usefulness of the Council Awayday held on 19 April 2018, to help with the planning for the 2019 event. As in past years the venue would be varied, if possible, and the programme would be confirmed as close to the event as possible, to try to keep it topical.

**b.     Committee memberships 2018-19**

The Chair indicated that the normal process of reviewing the lay membership of University committees was about to commence, and some rotation was likely for 2018-19. Lay members were invited to notify the Chair if they had any strong preferences as to which committee(s) they would like to serve on in the coming year.

**18/M35     LEARNING STRATEGY**

Further to its preliminary discussion at the last meeting (minute 18/M15b refers) Council considered the University's refreshed Learning Strategy to 2021, introduced by Jon Scott (Pro-Vice Chancellor, Students).

**Council noted** that the refreshed Learning Strategy was an updating of the original Strategy approved by Council in 2015. The original Strategy and the refreshed version had both been developed with appropriate input from students. Although the Strategy was not presented as being unique to Leicester, as equivalent strategies elsewhere inevitably shared many common features, its implementation was designed to be Leicester-specific in terms of its integration with other strategies – such as the digital strategy - and the demography of the student body.

The Strategy did not make specific reference to student health and welfare issues but this was a major issue across the sector and a huge amount of work was being done to address this (minute 18/M27c also refers).

**Council also noted** that full delivery of the Strategy within stated timescales and resources was expected to be challenging, but the supporting KPIs were considered realistic and good progress was being made. One of the key improvement targets was to achieve Gold rating in the TEF by 2021, and the 2018 NSS results would be an early indicator of the direction of travel in this regard, albeit possibly distorted by the period of industrial action in early 2018.

**Council approved** the refreshed Learning Strategy to 2021.

#### 18/M36 **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Council received a presentation from the Head of the College of Science and Engineering on the current strategic direction, challenges and achievements in the College.

**Council noted** that the main strategic priorities for the College remained as stated in the 2017 annual report, but with a slight reordering of the top three priorities to give more weight to the need to enhance the student experience, alongside improving performance at the individual and departmental level, and in research.

The Head of College outlined the programme of activities that were in place to address these priorities, and the breadth of challenges for the year ahead, some of which were continuing to evolve. The University's new approach to planning and forecasting and the setting of defined resource envelopes, with associated performance targets, was proving to be a key tool in ongoing 'check and challenge' discussions to address matters of departmental performance and strategic direction. Detailed metrics were being used in support of these discussions, and this data was proving particularly valuable in certain areas where issues to do with levels of performance and potential problems for future sustainability were not always readily acknowledged.

#### 18/M37 **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Council considered** a report of a meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 2 May 2018, which dealt with five specific items of business:

##### a. **Appointment of new lay members**

**Council noted** that an external advertisement for new lay members of Council to replace Gary Dixon (moving to become Treasurer) and Dominic Luckett (retiring after serving for the maximum term of nine years) had generated over 40 applications. Shortlisting and interviews had been conducted through the Nominations Committee.

**Council approved** the following recommendations of the Nominations Committee:

- i. the appointment of Azam Mamujee to replace Gary Dixon as a lay member of Council, for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 August 2018;
- ii. Subject to formal approval by Court, the appointment of Anil Majithia to replace Dominic Luckett as a lay member of Council, for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 August 2018 (Court's approval would be sought for this by correspondence);

and in addition:

- iii. the appointment of Richard Tapp as a co-opted member of the Audit Committee (ie not as a member of Council), for an initial term of 14 months commencing on 1 June 2018.

b. **Appointment of members of Court**

Following his retirement as High Sheriff of Rutland, **Council approved** the appointment of Sir Laurence Howard as a member of Court, to serve in a personal capacity, for an initial term to 31 December 2020.

c. **Responses to the 2017 Council Effectiveness Review**

Council was reminded that responsibility for examining the various detailed recommendations and suggestions arising from the 2017 review of Council's effectiveness, and for bringing back proposed recommendations/responses for consideration by Council, had been delegated to the Nominations Committee.

Council considered the final, full report of the Nominations Committee on this matter, and noted that this reflected the deliberations of the Committee over three separate meetings during 2017-18.

Council's attention was drawn to the fact that the effectiveness review and its findings, and the Nominations Committee's recommendations and suggestions in response, largely predated the launch of the Office for Students. The long term implications of the new regulatory regime on the responsibilities of the Council were expected to continue to emerge over time, and steps to ensure the continued effectiveness of Council would need to be considered in an on-going basis in that light.

Subject to the caveat above, **Council approved** all of the recommendations/suggestions of the Nominations Committee in response to the findings of the 2017 effectiveness review. The agreed changes would begin to be implemented from 1 August 2018.

d. **Ceremonial Governance**

**Council noted** that the Nominations Committee had considered a report of the first two meetings of the Task and Finish Group (TFG) established to review the structure and processes around the appointment of the Chancellor, and how this might work in future. The Nominations Committee had welcomed the TFG's focus on the development of a more

widely publicized and open process for staff, students and alumni to be able to make nominations for the appointment of future Chancellors, and for the membership of the Augmented Nominations Committee to be extended to include additional staff and student representation. **Council also endorsed** the approach being taken by the TFG and **noted** that detailed proposals on the future appointment process would be presented for consideration by the Nominations Committee, and then Council, in due course.

**Council also noted** that the TFG was considering a separate proposal from the President of the Students' Union for the establishment of a new ceremonial position of Special Pro-Chancellor (Students), as an advocate for students, as someone to whom students could relate, and as a representative of the diverse student body. The Nominations Committee was positive in principle towards this new initiative – as was Council itself - as it demonstrated a proactive step by the University to give more prominence to the 'student voice', which was coming under much greater scrutiny under the new OfS regulatory regime. **Council noted** that it was likely that the establishment of the position of Special Pro-Chancellor (Students) would be presented for formal approval by Council at its meeting in July. In the meantime, the TFG would give further consideration to the process – to be led by the students – by which an appointment would then be made.

e. **Gift Acceptance Policy**

Council considered a substantially revised Gift Acceptance policy and procedure document, the updating of which had been prompted by the disestablishment in 2017 of the Strategic Fundraising Committee, which previously held significant authority for gift acceptance decisions on behalf of the University. Under the revised procedure the authority to accept any gift over £1 million would rest with the Nominations Committee, with the facility for complex or controversial cases to be referred for a decision by the full Council.

**Council approved** the revised Gift Acceptance Policy.

18/M38 **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)**

**Council considered** a report of a meeting of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee held on 16 April 2018. There were no items requiring approval by Council on this occasion, but **Council was pleased to note** that in 2018 the University had risen from 278<sup>th</sup> place to 44<sup>th</sup> place in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers Workplace Index.

18/M39 **FORWARD BUSINESS SCHEDULE**

**Council received and noted** its forward business schedule to the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. The schedule to be presented to the next meeting would outline the standard flow of business to meetings throughout 2018-19.

18/M40 **DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Council noted:**

- a. The date and time of its one remaining meeting in 2017-2018:

Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 4pm

- b. The dates and times of meetings confirmed for 2018-2019:

Wednesday 3 October 2018 at 4pm (**rescheduled from Wednesday 26 September 2018**)

Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 4pm (dinner with lay members afterwards)

Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 4pm

Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 4pm

Tuesday 11 June 2019 (Awayday, 9.30am-4.30pm)

Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 4pm

18/M41 **COURTESIES**

Council recorded its best wishes for the future to Emma Raven, who was attending her last meeting of Council and would be leaving Leicester in the summer to take up a new appointment at the University of Bristol.

CHAIR

Total duration of meeting (Reserved and Unreserved Business): 2 hours and 45 minutes