

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on
Tuesday 15 March 2022

Present:

Gary Dixon (Chair)

George Acquah	Craig Brown (Online via Teams)
Nishan Canagarajah	Edmund Burke
Sophie Dale-Black	Martin Cullen
Rhiannon Jenkins	Cathy Ellis (Online via Teams)
Azam Mamujee	Ian Johnson (Online via Teams)
Vijay Sharma	Andrew Morgan
Richard Tapp	Jacqui Shaw

In attendance: Geoff Green (Registrar and Secretary); Kerry Law (Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer); Martyn Riddleston (Chief Operating Officer); Alex Erdlenbruch (Chief of Staff); Rebecca Lord (Assistant Secretary), and Joe Suffield (Secretariat).

In attendance for item 22/M05: Aash Khadia (Director of Planning, Online via Teams)

Apologies for absence were received from Janet Arthur, Huw Barton, Mark Purnell and Carole Thorogood.

22/M01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ian Johnson and Gary Dixon declared their interest in Agenda Item 15.a and stated they would leave the meeting while this item was being discussed.

22/M02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021. **Council approved** them as a correct record. There were no matters arising from this meeting.

22/M03 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair **noted** the passing of former vice-chancellor Sir Bob Burgess and highlighted the significant impact he had made to the University.

The Chair informed Council that there had been offers made to three individuals to be new lay members of Council, following a recruitment exercise.

One item of Reserved Business was **noted**.

22/M04 PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS

The President and Vice-Chancellor introduced his written report to Council which provided an update on recent developments, news and key student and staff achievements since the meeting of Council held on 23 November 2021.

Council received an update on the support provided to students and staff affected by the conflict in Ukraine. A situational analysis had been completed and a group had been convened to monitor the conflict and ensure students and those affected would receive assistance if they required it.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted that he had undertaken his second visit of all of the schools and divisions within the University and summarised the feedback received.

Council noted and congratulated the successful significant research awards and the student and staff prizes within the University.

Council highlighted that the University faced cost pressures caused by inflation and frozen tuition fees. These were being monitored closely through the planning process and would be factored into the budget.

The Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer reported an update on student recruitment [RESERVED].

22/M05 STRATEGY

Council considered a progress report on the delivery of the Strategic Plan. The Strategy's three key themes had now been embedded within the governance structure, with a number of enabling plans and supporting strategies assisting in their delivery. The Strategy was to be implemented into the annual planning process to support the increased longer term and strategic thinking of the University. The slides covered in the meeting would be shared with Council members after the meeting. **[ACTION: Assistant Secretary]**

In considering the key performance indicators, Council noted that the University was benchmarking its performance against data that was publicly available for similar UK universities. The data available for international universities would not always be directly comparable, and therefore was only used where appropriate.

Council considered and noted the report on the Strategic Reporting Framework. This highlighted that clear monitoring was in place for the Strategy for reporting to Council, Senate and the Executive Board. KPIs for the Strategy would be reported to monitor the efficacy of its implementation and there would be "deep dive" sessions held into specific items.

22/M06 RISK MANAGEMENT (RESERVED BUSINESS)

Council noted a proposed new Risk Appetite Statement for the University and the spring term update on risk management.

22/M07 PEOPLE, EDI AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Council considered the business of the first meeting of the People, EDI and Wellbeing Committee. It was highlighted that the work of the Committee would fit into the wider University strategy and would report into Council.

Council noted that the Committee membership included representation from across the University to ensure diversity.

22/M08 STUDENTS' UNION

Council considered the review of the Students' Union Constitution which had taken place in 2021 to enable the Students' Union to remain compliant with the 1994 Education Act requirements.

Council approved the proposed changes to the Students' Union Constitution, detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B, following the five year periodic review.

Council noted that the Chair of the Students' Union Board of Trustees was to transfer from the Lead Officer Trustee to a lay Trustee, to reflect good governance practice.

Council noted that a number of amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Students' Union had been made.

22/M09 STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Council noted the outcome of the 2022 elections for full-time Executive Officers in the Students' Union. The Election results were:

- Wellbeing Officer – Hoor Pathan
- Liberation Officer – Nic Farmer
- Sports Officer – Archie Robinson
- Education Officer – Anne-Marie Deeb
- Activities Officer – Jack McDonald
- President Officer – Rhiannon Jenkins

22/M10 UNIVERSITY SEAL

Council noted the affixing of the University Seal to official documents.

Council were informed that the contracts related to Shephard Epstein Hunter predated the issues which had arisen in relation to the Percy Gee Building, and **requested** more information on this at a future meeting. **[ACTION: Martyn Riddleston]**

22/M11 FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE (RESERVED BUSINESS)

Council noted a report from the Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting which had taken place on 24 February 2022.

22/M12 AUDIT AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE (RESERVED BUSINESS)

Council noted a report from the Audit and Assurance Committee meeting which had taken place on 15 February 2022.

22/M13 REMUNERATIONS COMMITTEE (RESERVED BUSINESS)

Council noted an oral update on the business considered by the Remunerations Committee at its meeting on 15 March 2022.

22/M14 SENATE

Council considered the report of the meeting of Senate on 2 March 2022.

Council approved the nomination of Dr Catherine Morley as a nominated member of Senate on Council.

Council endorsed the Degree Outcome Statement for the 2019/20 academic year and the amendments to the Student Protection Plan.

Council noted that there remained sector challenges with grade inflation, with the University's approach to continue to deliver the best outcomes for its students.

Council noted the establishment of the new Research Institutes on which Council would receive a formal update at the next meeting.

22/M15 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Council considered the report from the Nominations Committee on the re-appointment of Senior Officers.

Gary Dixon and Ian Johnson left the meeting. Vijay Sharma assumed the Chair.

Council approved the reappointment of Gary Dixon as Chair of the Council and Ian Johnson as University Treasurer.

Council noted that these two senior posts were held by professional accountants. It was confirmed that the Nominations Committee had taken this into account when recommending their reappointments to their roles. The Committee remained fully committed to ensuring that Council as a whole demonstrated a diverse skillset.

Council commended the Chair and the Treasurer for their commitment to their roles and their engagement with the University.

Gary Dixon rejoined the meeting and reassumed the Chair.

Council considered and approved the recommendation of the Nominations Committee that the following newly-appointed Emeritus Professors should be invited to become Associate Members of Court, effective until 31 December 2024 in the first instance:

Name	College/School/Department	Emeritus Professor from
Christine Pullar	Molecular & Cell Biology	1 January 2022
Nuala Sheehan	Health Sciences	1 January 2022

22/M16 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Council noted an update from the Alumni Association Committee. It was highlighted that the tickets for the Centenary dinner to be held in May 2022 had sold out.

22/M17 VAN GEEST FOUNDATION HEART AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES RESEARCH FUND

Council noted the report of the annual meeting of the van Geest Foundation Managing Trustees.

22/M18 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Council noted the dates and times of scheduled Ordinary meetings for 2021-22, away day and provisional dates of meetings in 2022-23, all to commence at 4pm unless stated otherwise.

Remaining meetings in 2021-2022

- Wednesday 11 May 2022 -Ordinary meeting 4pm
- ~~Tuesday 7 June 2022 – Council/ExB Awayday, 9.30am–4.30pm approximately~~

- Tuesday 5 July 2022 -Ordinary meeting 4pm

Provisional dates of meetings in 2022-2023:

- Wednesday 14 September – Council/ExBAwayday, 9.30am-4.30pm approximately (*rescheduled from 7 June 2022*)
- Tuesday 20 September 2022 - Ordinary meeting 4pm
- Wednesday 7 December 2022 - Ordinary meeting 4pm
- Wednesday 15 March 2023 -Ordinary meeting 4pm
- Wednesday 10 May 2023 -Ordinary meeting 4pm
- Tuesday 6 June 2023 -Council/ExB Awayday, 9.30am-4.30pm approximately
- Wednesday 5 July 2023 -Ordinary meeting 4pm

Post-meeting note: The provisional dates were being reconsidered in light of business need. Council members would be informed of revised dates as soon as possible.

22/M19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Council members were invited to attend the University Varsity Games which were due to take place week commencing 21 March 2022.

Total duration of meeting: 1 hour and 50 minutes

CHAIR