**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

**COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on**

**Wednesday 5 July 2022**

**Present:**

Gary Dixon(Chair)

George Acquah Edmund Burke

Nishan Canagarajah Martin Cullen

Sophie Dale-Black Ian Johnson

Azam Mamujee Catherine Morley

Vijay Sharma Jacqui Shaw

Richard Tapp (via Teams)

**Apologies** for absence were received from Janet Arthur, Huw Barton, Mehmooda Duke, Cathy Ellis, Rhiannon Jenkins, Andrew Morgan, Mark Purnell and Carole Thorogood.

**In attendance:** Alison Benson (Acting Assistant Secretary); Alex Erdlenbruch (Chief of Staff, President and Vice-Chancellor’s Office); Geoff Green (Registrar and Secretary); Kerry Law (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professional Services); Kevin Nagle (Observer); Martyn Riddleston (Chief Operating Officer); Joe Suffield (Secretariat)

22/M32 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**It was noted** that Sophie Dale-Black had submitted a declaration of interest in relation to the Use of the University Seal (see 22/M38) as her employer (British Business Bank) had a loan agreement in place with the business Earthsense via the Midlands Engine Investment Fund and the delivery partner, Maven.

22/M33 **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**Council approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2022 as a correct record and **noted** the responses to the matters arising from that meeting.

22/M34 **CHAIR’S BUSINESS**

It was highlighted that a number of significant improvements within the University had been reflected in the latest university rankings, research grant success and Research Excellence Framework (REF) results.

The Chair placed on record his thanks on behalf of Council to Janet Arthur, Andrew Morgan and Carole Thorogood who were retiring from Council on 31 July 2022.

22/M35 **PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS**

The President and Vice-Chancellor introduced his written report for Council which provided a wide-ranging and comprehensive update on recent developments in the HE sector generally, and at Leicester specifically.

It was highlighted that the University was currently focussed on marking final assessments. The majority of assessment had taken place online and this model had been considered a success.

Particular attention was drawn to a number of successful research grants which had been awarded, such as the Biomedical Research Centre Grant and a significant Global Grant for medical research in India.

It was reported that the University had recently launched its Civic University Agreement alongside Loughborough University and De Montfort University; this would provide a framework for successful collaboration with local authorities and other partners in the region.

The latest Student Recruitment Update report highlighted that forecast student numbers for 2022/23 admission were strong, reducing reliance on the forthcoming clearing round. It was intended to progress from this strong base in future years.

**Council noted** the report and latest Student Recruitment Update.

22/M36 **2022/23 BUDGET AND 5-YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST [RESERVED]**

1. 2022/23 Budget and 5-Year Financial Forecast

Paul Gowdridge, Director of Finance, presented the report on the 2022/23 budget and draft 5-year financial forecast.

Three key income and expenditure challenges were highlighted: the underlying position in the current (2021/22) year, inflationary pressures in the wider economy and expectation of resource to support the growth of income.

**Council approved** the 2022/23 budget and **noted** the draft 5-year financial forecast.

1. 2021/22 Financial Performance and Reporting

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

22/M37 **STUDENT WELLBEING STRATEGY**

**Council considered and noted** a presentation and report on the University’s first Student Wellbeing Strategy. It was noted that in future this Strategy would be fully devolved to the People, EDI and Wellbeing Committee, which had given its approval at its meeting on 23 June 2022.

It was highlighted that the strategy linked to the overarching Education Strategy, to ensure students had a positive learning environment where they could achieve success. There were a number of steps included in this to support the priorities, such as utilising optional National Student Survey (NSS) questions to gather better data, and applying for Mental Health Charter accreditation through Student Minds.

**Council noted** that it was important to communicate this effectively to students and to raise awareness. Although a formal launch for the strategy was not planned, a supporting communications plan was in place to ensure students would be aware of the support available.

22/M38 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Council received and noted** the latest report on the strategic risks for the summer term. Two strategic risks were to be removed from the risk register:

* COVID – this would be removed as government restrictions were unlikely to be reintroduced in the near future;
* Undergraduate fees – it had been confirmed that the fees for undergraduate home students would remain at £9250.

Council was assured that, although COVID would now be removed from the high-level strategic risk register, it was a fluid document and the risk would be reintroduced if the situation changed. The COVID Oversight Group continued to meet and to conduct scenario planning; there were a number of proposals in place in case of additional restrictions or cases rising. It was stressed that the situation would continue to be monitored through underpinning risk management work.

**Council noted** that the deep dive risk exercises by Executive Board would continue in the future.

22/M39 **UKRAINE SUPPORT UPDATE**

**Council received and noted** an overview of the response from the University to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The University planned to work with a consortium of British universities to host up to 50 refugees and fund scholarships. There would also be steps to build partnerships with Ukrainian universities as part of the Universities UK (UUK) Twinning Scheme; the University had been invited to liaise with the Kremenchuk Mykhailo Otrohradskyi National University and the Poltava State Agrarian University. Alongside these steps, there would be proactive support, such as fundraising, English language teaching, and working alongside local government in Leicester and Leicestershire.

**Council commended** the ongoing work of the University to respond to the situation in Ukraine.

22/M40 **HONORARY DEGREES [RESERVED]**

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

22/M41 **COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

**Council noted** the follow-up report on the effectiveness review carried out in 2021. It was noted that an implementation plan had been discussed by the Nominations Committee in June 2022 with the aim of implementing all outcomes by July 2023.

22/M42 **SCHEDULE OF DELEGATION**

**Council approved** the proposed changes to the Schedule of Delegation following the creation of the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professional Services).

22/M43 **UNIVERSITY SEAL**

As custodian of the University’s Seal, Council received and **noted** details of the affixing of the Seal to the document(s) as listed in Appendix C/22/M38 App, attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

22/M44 **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

1. Appointment and reappointment of members of Council and Court

On the recommendation of the University Court, **Council approved** the extension of Dr Vijay Sharma’s term of office on Council for an additional year, to 31 July 2023.

**Council approved** the appointment of Craig Brown and Richard Tapp as lay members of Council for a further three-year term, to run from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2025.

**Council approved** invitations for Glenn Fulcher and Bob Norman, Emeritus Professors, to become Associate Members of Court, effective until 31 December 2024 in the first instance.

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair of Council

*Sophie Dale-Black left the meeting for this discussion*

**Council approved** the appointment of Ms Sophie Dale-Black to the role of Vice-Chair of Council for a fixed-term period of three years from 1 August 2022.

1. Appointment of Senior Lay Member of Council

*Ian Johnson left the meeting for this discussion*

**Council approved** the creation of a Senior Lay Member role, equivalent to Senior Independent Governor (SIG) as set out in the 2020 Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance. It was agreed that clarity would be given in appropriate documentation, such as the annual Financial Statements and any relevant role descriptions, that the role of Senior Lay Member aligned thus with the SIG role.

**Council approved** the collocation of the Senior Lay Member role with the role of Treasurer during 2022/23, with arrangements to be reviewed after one year.

1. Lay membership of University committees for 2022/2023

**Council noted** the lay membership of University committees for 2022/23.

1. Appointment of Chancellor – Recommendation to Court

**Council recommended, for approval by the University Court,** the appointment of Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE as Chancellor of the University of Leicester for a five-year term from 1 March 2023. *Post-meeting note: The University Court approved the appointment on 15 July 2022, and the appointment was publicly announced on 27 July 2022.*

22/M45 **SENATE**

**Council received and noted** a report of the Senate meeting held on 22 June 2022.

1. Creation of new academic unit

**Council approved** the creation of a new academic unit, to be named the School of Psychology and Vision Sciences, with effect from 1 August 2022.

1. Changes to Statutes and Ordinances

**Council approved** the proposed changes to the Statutes for the creation of the role of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professional Services), which will be submitted to the Privy Council for ratification. **Council approved** the associated proposed changes to the Ordinances with immediate effect.

22/M46 **FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE [RESERVED]**

**Council received and noted** a report of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 21 June 2022.

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

22/M47 **AUDIT AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE [RESERVED]**

**Council received and noted** a report of the Audit and Assurance Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022.

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

22/M48 **PEOPLE, EDI AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

**Council noted** a report of a meeting of the People, EDI and Wellbeing Committee held on 23 June 2022.

22/M49 **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

**Council noted** a report of a meeting of the Alumni Association Committee held on 9 June 2022.

Council queried how the Centenary Alumni Dinner was funded and whether it had generated income for the University. Further information on costs and income would be circulated [ACTION: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professional Services]

22/M50 **DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Council noted** the dates of meetings scheduled for 2022-2023:

* 1pm Tuesday 13 September – 4pm Wednesday 14 September 2022: Council/ExB Awayday (including Tuesday night dinner and overnight stay in Leicester)
* Wednesday 19 October 2022 - Ordinary meeting 4pm
* Tuesday 13 December 2022 - Ordinary meeting 4pm
* Wednesday 8 March 2023 - Ordinary meeting 4pm
* Wednesday 10 May 2023 - Ordinary meeting 4pm
* Wednesday 5 July 2023 - Ordinary meeting 4pm

CHAIR Duration of meeting: 1 hour 53 minutes