

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a 'Teams' meeting held on
Wednesday 8 July 2020**Present:**

Gary Dixon (Chair)

Janet Arthur	Cathy Ellis
Craig Brown	Alison Goodall
Edmund Burke	Martin Hindle
Nishan Canagarajah	Ian Johnson
Martin Cullen	Andrew Morgan
Sophie Dale-Black	Mia Nembhard
Sarah Davies	Vijay Sharma
Sandra Dudley	Richard Tapp

Carole Thorogood

In attendance: Geoff Green (Registrar and Secretary); Kerry Law (Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer); Martyn Riddleston (Chief Operating Officer); Neil Cox (Assistant Council Secretary); Alex Erdlenbruch (Chief of Staff, President and Vice-Chancellor's Office); and Graham Wynn (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education).

Apologies for absence were received from Mehmooda Duke and Azam Mamujee.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS20/M49 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of personal interest in any of the items dealt with under the Unreserved Business section of this meeting.

20/M50 **UNRESERVED MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council considered the unreserved minutes of the 'Teams' meeting held on 9 June 2020. **Council approved** them as a correct record. There were no matters arising that were not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

20/M51 **COVID-19 OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

Council received a comprehensive update from senior management on the University's latest operational response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The main new factor since the last meeting had been the sudden reimposition of a local lockdown in Leicester, until at least 18 July, which had obviously required a pause in the planned phased re-opening of certain campus activities. The University was working closely with relevant parties in helping to facilitate and lobbying for a safe lifting of the local lockdown as soon as possible, as this would be a positive signal to prospective students in the run up to confirmation and clearing.

In the meantime there would a further focus over the summer on staff morale and work-life balance issues, with a programme of digital detox initiatives planned throughout August.

20/52 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Council considered the University's updated risk management report for the summer term 2020. **Council noted** that significant attention and effort had been focussed on responses to Covid-19, with all areas having developed response plans which had been discussed and reviewed in a series of planning meetings, and as part of a separate assessment of all Covid-related risks.

On other risk-related risk matters, **Council noted** that the new *Institute for Inclusivity* (minute M20/53 refers) would be an important driver in tackling the risks associated with BAME student attainment and satisfaction gaps; and Covid-19 was already raising further questions about the long-term funding and affordability of the USS pension scheme.

20/M53 **SENATE**

Council considered a report of a virtual meeting of Senate held on 24 June 2020. On the recommendation of the Senate, **Council approved:**

- a. the publication of the University's *Degree Outcomes Statement*, prepared by the Quality and Standards Sub-Committee and the Learning and Teaching Committee. The Statement covered the last five academic years and included an analysis of the University's degree classification profile; an outline of the academic governance structure; a summary of quality assurance practices; an outline of awarding regulations and student support; and the monitoring of future outcomes and next steps.
- b. the establishment of a new *Leicester Institute for Inclusivity in Higher Education*. As a first in the country the new unit would be dedicated to transformative education research and innovation in higher education, to enhance teaching policy and practice and inclusive learning for all students.

Council also noted the nomination by Senate of Dr Huw Barton, Head of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, to fill the one existing Senate vacancy on Council from 1 August 2020.

20/M54 **CHANGES TO STATUTES AND ORDINANCES**

Council noted that, at its virtual meeting held on 24 June 2020, Senate had endorsed proposed amendments to the Statutes and Ordinances that were necessary in order to give effect to certain recommendations from the 2019 external review of Senate's effectiveness, and to take account of changes to the titles of two specific senior officer positions, as considered and provisionally approved by Council at its last meeting.

Council therefore confirmed its approval for the necessary amendments to be made to the Ordinances, and for a submission to be made to the Privy Council for approval to make the necessary amendment to the Statutes.

20/M55 **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Council considered a report of a virtual meeting of the Audit Committee held on 15 June 2020. **Council noted** that the current situation with regard to Covid-19 was

expected to be an important issue for the sector in the preparation of institutions' financial statements for 2019-20, particularly in relation to auditors' opinions on matters such as material uncertainty and going concern disclosures. The Committee would be working closely with the University's auditors to ensure that any national guidance or instructions on the treatment of such matters was applied appropriately in the Leicester audit.

20/M56 **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Council received and noted a report of a virtual meeting of the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association held on 23 April 2020. There were no matters that required the approval of Council on this occasion.

20/M57 **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

Council received and noted a report of a virtual meeting of the Health, Safety Wellbeing Committee held on 4 June 2020. There were no matters that required the approval of Council on this occasion.

20/M58 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Council received details of the appointment of lay members of Council and other lay people to serve on key University committees during 2020-21. There had been a significant rotation of lay members during 2019-20 and in the interest of continuity, especially given the uncertainty over the likely working environment for 2020-21, it was planned that these would all roll forward to next year with no new rotations required.

Council noted that there were a small number of existing lay vacancies on the Audit and Nominations committees. The Nominations Committee would be considering any proposals to fill these vacancies.

20/M59 **UNIVERSITY SEAL**

Council received and noted details of the affixing of the University Seal to the document(s) as listed in Appendix C/20/M59 App, attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

20/M60 **DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Council noted the provisional dates and times of Ordinary meetings and an Awayday to be held in 2020-21, all to commence at 4pm unless stated otherwise:

Wednesday 30 September 2020
Wednesday 25 November 2020
Wednesday 17 March 2021
Monday 10 May 2021
Tuesday 8 June 2021 - Council/Executive Board Awayday (all day)
Tuesday 6 July 2021

Council noted that additional meetings might be arranged, but only if essential, to provide Covid-specific updates on an interim basis.

CHAIR

Total duration of meeting: 1 hour and 45 minutes