

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COURT

Minutes of the Sixty-First Annual meeting of Court  
held on Friday 9 February 2018

**Present:**

The Rt Hon the Lord Grocott (Chancellor)	
Mr G Arthur	Mr J Kapasi
Mrs J Arthur	Mr P Lawson
Mr P Ash	Dr D G Lewis
Mr E Baines	Mrs H Lewis
Dr R Bettles	Dr A Linsell
Mr G Bodiwala	Col R Martin
Mr J Bowie	Mr C Mitchell
Mrs S Bowie	Mr D Moore
Professor P Boyle	Ms A Moran
Dr M Chamberlain	Mrs S Osborn
His Hon Judge G Dickinson	Mrs L Perham
Mr G Dixon	Dr N Reed
Mrs S Forsyth	Cllr Mrs J Richards
Dr J Foster	Mr D Tams
Dr S Furness	Dr B Towle
Professor R Graham-Brown	Mr M Turnbull
Jennifer, Lady Gretton	Cllr Mrs S Waddington
Dr R Hake	Mrs S Watson
Mr D Hall	Mr A Wessel
Ms S Hamilton-Fox	Mrs C Wessel
Mr B Hellyer	Dr A Weston
Dr J Higgins	Mr P Wilson
Very Rev Dr D Hole	
Mr D James	
Mr I Johnson	
Cllr Mr R Joshi	

**In attendance:** Mr M Riddleston (Director of Finance, University of Leicester); Ms L Davies, Ms D England, Ms R Faint and Ms R Keon (all from the Division of External Relations, University of Leicester); Professor I Gillespie (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, University of Leicester), and Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary to Council and Court, University of Leicester).

**Apologies for absence** were received from those members of Court whose names are listed in the Appendix attached to these minutes.

18/M1 **MINUTES**

**Court formally received** the minutes of the sixtieth Annual Meeting, held on 10 February 2017.

18/M2 **MEMBERSHIP OF COURT**

**Court received** the current list of Full Members of Court, and recorded the addition of Dr S Furness as a new Full Member under Class 3c, *Other Persons Serving in a Personal Capacity*. **Court noted** that the current list was presented each year, at the Annual

Meeting, and the complete and updated Full and Associate membership lists could also be viewed at any time on the University's website.

#### 18/M3 **APPOINTMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR**

Court considered the nomination by the Council of a successor to Lord Bruce Grocott, who had served as Chancellor since 2013 and would officially retire from the position in summer 2018.

The Chair of Council explained that, under the University's Royal Charter, the appointment of the Chancellor was the formal responsibility of the Court, on the basis of a recommendation from the University's governing body, the Council. The Council had itself received advice on this appointment from its Nominations Committee.

At the start of the recruitment process in the summer of 2016 the Nominations Committee had reflected at length on the full range and type of duties that were often associated with the role of a University Chancellor. There was a particular awareness of the need to achieve a sensible balance between the sort of duties that might be asked of an incoming new Chancellor - based in part on their personal interests and background – and what could reasonably be expected of any individual occupying a voluntary and unremunerated position.

With that in mind the Nominations Committee focussed not just on the traditional ceremonial features of the role of Chancellor, but also the ambassadorial aspects and the importance of contacts, networks and positions of public influence and respect.

With all of those considerations having been taken into account, and with the willingness of the individual to be considered for the position having been confirmed, the University Council, at its meeting held on 25 September 2017, agreed to recommend to Court that The Right Hon Lord David Willetts FRS be appointed as the University's next Chancellor. By formal show of hands **Court voted to approve** this appointment.

#### 18/M4 **COURT APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL**

**Court noted** that Full Member of Court Dr Dominic Lockett would retire from membership of the University Council on 31 July 2018, upon completion of the maximum allowed term of 9 consecutive years as a member of the Council.

**Court agreed** that the University's Nominations Committee would in due course present for the approval of Court, by correspondence, its recommendation for the appointment to Council of a new Full Member of Court, replacing Dr Lockett, for an initial term of 3 years effective from 1 August 2018 (*post-meeting note: Mr Anil Majithia was subsequently confirmed for appointment to this position*).

#### 18/M5 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016-17**

**Court formally received** the University's audited financial statements for the 2016-17 financial year, as approved by Council as the University's governing body, including an overview and strategic report of the institution's activities and highlights over the last year.

**Court noted** that in the year to 31 July 2017 the University's income totalled £305 million, an increase of 3% on the previous year, with a surplus of £8.5 million. Tuition

fees had accounted for 52% of total income and 2016-17 had seen the University's largest ever campus-based student intake. This had risen again in 2017-18.

#### 18/M6 **ANNUAL PRESENTATION BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR**

The University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle, made his fourth annual presentation to Court.

In the course of a wide ranging review of another successful year for the University, Professor Boyle reflected on the ongoing programme of strategic initiatives to establish Leicester as a bold, progressive and outward-looking institution. This work was being pursued on many different levels, including:

- an ambitious programme of campus improvements, including a planned major redevelopment of the Freeman's common site
- active promotion of closer regional, national and international relationships to deliver investments and partnerships to underpin stable growth
- the redesigning of student services and launch of the 'digital campus' to deliver the right tools for a new generation of students and staff
- a suite of new programmes, with an enhanced focus on student support, peer mentoring and employability
- a wide-ranging agenda to promote and enhance the University's profile in research, enterprise and business innovation (the subject of a separate presentation to Court under 18/M7 below)
- an outward-looking approach to public, community and alumni engagement, including in relation to the University's legacy and Centenary preparations
- recent major successes in philanthropy and fundraising
- positive commitments and initiatives for the support and promotion of equality and diversity across the University community

**Court noted** that the above programme of work and its supporting initiatives were being pursued by the University during a period of almost unprecedented change and uncertainty for the higher education sector as a whole, with major challenges ranging from the potential impact of Brexit, the future funding of pension schemes, and the new regulatory scheme under the Office for Students. This uncertainty made it all the more important for the University to develop its partnerships and impact at all levels, and to continue its new truly internationalised approach to learning and research.

#### 18/M7 **ENERGISING ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT LEICESTER**

Court received a presentation by Professor Iain Gillespie, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, on the University's strategic initiatives to transform its national and international position in research and enterprise. Underlying challenges for the University in this area included the need to be more ambitious in driving up its research income, including being more collaborative in its research, and to be more engaged politically in efforts to influence the economic agenda both locally and at national level.

**Court noted** that significant progress was being made at local level, currently focused on major initiatives at Leicester Waterside (Space Park Leicester), the Life Sciences Accelerator at the Charnwood Campus near Loughborough, and the MIRA Technology Park at Nuneaton. All three ventures had industrial collaboration and partnerships at their heart, with the aim of growing research income and delivering an improved

student experience, with new courses, more opportunities for placements, and enhanced employability.

18/M8 **COURTESIES**

Speaking on behalf of the Court, the Council and the wider University community, the Chair of Council thanked Lord Grocott for serving in the role of Chancellor - and Chair of Court - with such distinction, courtesy and humour over the previous five years, and wished him all the best for the future. Her words were greeted with sustained and warm applause from all those present.

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: One hour and 45 minutes

**APPENDIX**

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

**MEETING OF COURT**

**Friday 9 February 2018**

**Apologies Received**

Mr K Beaumont  
Mr P Bhojani  
Mr J Bonner  
Mr S de Looze  
Mr H Doyle  
Mrs C Ellis  
Professor Dame Janet Finch  
Mr B Ghelani  
Mr H Ghelani  
Dr P Hammersley  
Mr R Hampson  
Mr M Hindle  
Mr B Hindocha  
Sir L Howard  
Mr T Maxted  
Professor G Nicholls  
Emeritus Professor K Pounds  
Mr C Ramsey  
Mr P Rivlin  
Mr R S Sandhu  
Dr V Sharma  
Mr H Stevenson  
Dr P Sykes  
Ms C Thorogood  
Mr D Woodhead