UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Thursday 12 May 2016**

Present: Dr B Towle (Chair)

Professor P Boyle	Dr D Luckett
Professor J Coleman	Dr S Macleod
Mr G Dixon	Mr D Moore
Mr M Hindle	Mr A Morgan
Ms R Holland	Professor M Peel
Mr I Johnson	Professor E Raven
Mr P Lawson	Dr N Reed
Professor M Lester	Dr V Sharma

In attendance: Mr D Hall (Secretary), Mr M Riddleston, Ms C Ogilvie, and Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Ash, Professor P Baker, Professor M Barstow, Judge A Hampton, Professor J Ketley, Ms C Thorogood, Mr L Trotman.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

16/M21   **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No personal interests were declared by members in relation to any items of business to be transacted at this meeting.

16/M22   **APPOINTMENT OF NEW LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

The Chair of Council reported that Mr P Ash and Judge A Hampton would both stand down as lay members of Council on 31 July 2016, leaving two lay vacancies to be filled from 1 August 2016.

The Nominations Committee was responsible for bringing forward to Council recommendations on the filling of these two positions. The Committee had agreed that on this occasion, in light of the tight timetable and the need to make progress on the issue of the gender balance on Council, appointments to these two positions would be made by means of direct approaches to individuals rather than public advertisement, and that female candidates would be sought. Members of Council were encouraged to submit details of possible candidates to the Chair.

16/M23   **LAY APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES FOR 2016-17**

The Chair of Council reported that the Nominations Committee had given preliminary consideration to the appointment of lay members to serve on University committees in 2016-17. The Committee had agreed not to take any final decisions on this matter until the new lay appointments had been made under 16/M22 above.

In the meantime, the Chair invited lay members of Council to indicate whether they had any particular preferences regarding their membership of committees in the coming year.

16/M24   **ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK**

Council received the outcome letter of HEFCE's annual assessment of institutional risk. Council **noted** that based on the accountability returns submitted for 2014-2015 the University of Leicester was assessed to be 'not at higher risk', and was meeting its accountability obligations as required by HEFCE. The only other assessment level used by HEFCE was 'at higher risk'.

Arising from the assessment **Council also noted** the comparative position of the University, on five key financial indicators highlighted by HEFCE, against the sector as a whole and a benchmark group of institutions. The University was below the sector and benchmark group averages for its historical cost surplus, net liquidity and external borrowing, although its net cash flow was the 12th highest out of 33 benchmark institutions. As previously discussed by Council, the University's staff costs (as a percentage of income) were the fifth highest in the benchmark group and above the upper quartile for the sector as a whole.

16/M25   **ORDINANCES GOVERNING THE AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES**

Council considered proposed amendments to Ordinances 9, 10 and 16 designed to provide the facility for honorary degrees to be awarded to organisations as well as to named individuals.

Council approved the proposed amendments to Ordinances, noting that they had also been endorsed by Senate at a special meeting held on 6 May 2016.

16/M26   **COURTESIES**

Council recorded its appreciation for the contribution and support of Professor Mark Lester, who was attending his final meeting of Council as a member appointed by the Senate.

16/M27   **DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

C**ouncil noted** the dates of forthcoming meetings, all to start at 4.00pm:

Monday 4 July 2016
Wednesday 16 November 2016
Thursday 16 March 2017
Monday 15 May 2017
Wednesday 5 July 2017

CHAIR

Duration of meeting (Unreserved and Reserved Business): One hour and 20 minutes