

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on  
Wednesday 15 March 2017

Present:

Dr B Towle

Mrs J Arthur  
Professor P Boyle  
Mr G Dixon  
Ms M Duke  
Mr M Hindle  
Mr I Johnson  
Mr P Lawson  
Dr D Lockett

Dr S Macleod  
Mr D Moore  
Professor P O'Brien  
Professor M Peel  
Professor E Raven  
Dr N Reed  
Ms C Thorogood  
Dr V Sharma

Professor J Schwabe

**In attendance:** Mr D Hall (Secretary); Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary); Mr M Riddleston; Mr M Haynes-Coote (for 17/M5); and Professor I Gillespie and Professor P Monks (for 17/M21).

**Apologies for absence** were received from Dr D Lockett, Mr A Morgan and Mr L Trotman.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

17/M1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Professor O'Brien declared an interest with respect to the business recorded under 17/M21 (National Space Park).

17/M2 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016. **Council approved** them as an accurate record.

Arising from minute 16/M94 (Changes to Statutes and Ordinances), the Chair reported that the Privy Council had approved the proposed changes to Statutes arising from the changes to the size and constitution of Council.

17/M3 **CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that due diligence reports were being prepared by the Development and Alumni Relations Office in relation to two new and entirely unrelated offers of significant donations to the University. Both donations were for sums in excess of £1 million and would require approval by Council.

The Chair explained that the two donors would expect a prompt decision from the University and a decision would need to be taken before the May meeting of Council. **Council therefore agreed** that members would be sent the due diligence reports by correspondence, with a request for them to notify the Chair of Council whether they thought each donation should be accepted or rejected by the

University. Failure to respond by the due date would be deemed to indicate support for acceptance of the donations.

17/M4 **PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS**

The President and Vice-Chancellor drew Council's attention to the following:

- a. a formal public announcement of the establishment of the University's international campus in China was expected to be made within the next few weeks, following confirmation of approval by the Chinese authorities;
- b. the formal signing of the acceptance of the philanthropic grant from the British Lung Foundation, towards the work of the University's Mesothelioma Research Programme;
- c. the House of Lords had backed an amendment to the Higher Education and Research Bill that said that the results of the TEF should not be used to determine the fees that an institution could charge, or the number of students that they could recruit. The government's response was awaited.
- d. his appointment to the Board of Universities UK, and as Chair of the UK Research Policy Network.

17/M5 **SAFETY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

Council received a first Annual Report of the Safety Services Office, for 2016, and a supporting presentation from the University's Director of Safety Services. This was conceived as an internal health and safety report, designed both to acknowledge the business case for good health and safety performance and to provide assurance to Council in relation to its strategic responsibilities for health and safety at the University.

**Council noted** the comprehensive scale and scope of the University's Safety Services Strategy, results statistics and other relevant indicators, and a comprehensive analysis of relevant trends and commentaries on health and safety activity and performance. Council welcomed and gained significant assurance from the evidence of health and safety leadership within the University, the operational arrangements to ensure the provision of safe and healthy places to work, and the steps taken to engage the University community and to build staff competence in health and safety matters.

Council also particularly welcomed the practical links being made between health and safety and other related policies, including health and wellbeing, safeguarding, and major incident planning.

**Council agreed** that the health and safety report would be presented annually in future. A supporting presentation might only be required in alternate years, or if major themes were identified and required specific consideration.

**17/M6 HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Council considered a report of a meeting of the Health and Safety Committee held on 27 February 2017.

**Council approved** changes to the Committee's terms of reference and membership for 2016-2017 (attached to the signed minutes as C/17/M6 App.)

**17/M7 COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Council considered** the unreserved report of a meeting of the Council Advisory Committee held on 2 February 2017.

With regard to the ongoing formulation of detailed proposals for the strategic development and enhancement of the University's estate, **Council noted** that a full set of detailed proposals covering the cost, funding and phasing of the Capital Programme was being prepared for formal consideration by Council at its May meeting.

The University's new Director of Estates was due to take up her position on 1 May 2017.

**17/M8 SENATE**

Council considered a report of a meeting of Senate held on 8 March 2017, noting in particular:

- a. the steps that were being taken to focus the attention of Senate on matters relating to academic strategy and risks;
- b. the disestablishment with immediate effect of the Career Development Advisory Board. Action to improve students' employability was an ongoing strategic concern of a number of other committees/groups, and no new body was envisaged to be created to replace the CDAB.

**17/M9 FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2017-18**

Council received the BEIS grant allocation letter to HEFCE for 2017-2018, dated 23 February 2017. **Council noted** that the letter included no major surprises or major new announcements and was broadly in line with expectations. The University expected to receive any 2017/18 capital grant allocations by the end of March, and the recurrent grant allocations in April.

**17/M10 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Council considered a report of a meeting of the Audit Committee held on 14 February 2017.

**Council noted** that the Audit Committee had received a wide ranging presentation from the Provost on the evolving transformation programme and the risks facing the University as this progressed, particularly the fundamental shift in its funding base and the increased accountability expectations that this brought with it.

**17/M11 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

Council received reports of meetings of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 1 December 2016 and 15 February 2017.

**17/M12 STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Council received reports of meetings of the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association held on 8 December 2016 and 16 February 2017.

**Council was pleased to note** that the Development and Alumni Relations Office's Annual Fund Campaign had raised £120,000, the most successful Annual Fund Campaign to date.

**17/M13 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Council considered a report of the Nominations Committee meeting held on 2 February 2017. **Council approved** the following recommendations of the Committee:

- a. that the name 'Centenary Square' be adopted for the recently landscaped area between the Percy Gee Building and the David Wilson Library;
- b. that Mr I Johnson be invited to serve as a lay member of Council for a further period of three years, effective from 1 August 2017;
- c. that the following Emeritus Professors be invited to serve as Associate Members of Court, effective until 31 December 2020 in the first instance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department/School</b>
Professor A al-Nowaihi	Economics
Professor S Ball	History
Professor B Carter	Sociology
Professor W Charemza	School of Business
Professor N Housley	History
Professor J Konje	Health Sciences
Professor B Misztal	Sociology
Professor I Parker	School of Business
Professor T Robinson	Physics and Astronomy
Professor M Thompson	School of Law

- d. that the minimum attendance requirement of Council members for Ordinary meetings of Council be increased from two meetings to three meetings per year, effective from 2017-2018, to reflect the increase in the number of Council meetings from four per academic year to five in 2017-2018.

**17/M14 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Council received the Annual Report of the Nominations Committee for 2015-2016.

**17/M15 COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

**Council noted** that an externally facilitated review of the effectiveness of Council would take place from Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 May 2017. The review would be conducted by Nicola Owen (Chief Administrative Officer) and Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services) from Lancaster University.

Council also received a list of interviewees who had been scheduled to meet with the reviewers, and details of an online survey which would be circulated to Council members and regular attendees for completion in advance of the review.

**17/M16 STUDENTS' UNION SABBATICAL ELECTIONS**

**Council noted** that the outcome of the elections of full-time sabbatical officers in the Students' Union, to serve for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, was as follows:

President: Amy Moran  
Education: Azza Abdulla  
Sports: Kennedy Adamu  
Activities: Carrie Young  
Well-Being: Mollie Henstock

**17/M17 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS****Council noted:**

- a. The dates and times of its remaining meetings scheduled for 2016-2017:

Monday 15 May 2017 at 4pm ('Ordinary' meeting)  
Thursday 8 June 2017 10.00am-4.30pm (Awayday)  
Wednesday 5 July 2017 at 4pm ('Ordinary' meeting)

- b. The provisional (and still subject to confirmation) dates and times of Council meetings in 2017-18:

Monday 25 September 2017 at 4pm  
Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 4pm (dinner with lay members afterwards)  
Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 4pm  
Thursday 19 April 2018 (Awayday)  
Monday 14 May 2018 at 4pm  
Wednesday 4 July 2018 at 4pm

CHAIR

Duration of meeting (Unreserved and Reserved Business): 2 hours and 55 minutes