UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COURT

Minutes of the Fifty-Ninth Annual meeting of Court
held on Friday 5 February 2016

Present: The Rt Hon the Lord Grocott (Chancellor)
Mr A Aggarwal Very Rev Dr D Hole
Mr G Arthur Ms R Holland
Mr P Ash Dr L Howard
Mr E Baines Mr D James
Mr K Beaumont Mr I Johnson
Dr R Bettles Mr C King
Mr G Bodiwala Mr P Lawson
Mrs S Bowie Dr A Linsell
Professor P Boyle Mr A Mamujee
Lady Ann Brooks Col R Martin
HH Judge D Brunning Mr P Mulvihill
Cllr Mr T Cassidy Professor M Peel
Dr M Chamberlain Ms L Perham
Mr S de Looze Mr C Ramsey
Mr G Dixon Dr N Reed
Mr H Doyle Cllr Mr D Snartt
Mrs D Few Professor S Sharma
Mrs S Forsyth Dr V Sharma
Dr J Foster Mr D Tams
Dr R Graham-Brown Dr B Towle
Jennifer, Lady Gretton Mr M Turnbull
Dr R Hake Cllr Mrs S Waddington
Mr D Hall Mrs S Watson
Ms S Hamilton-Fox Mr A Wessel
Dr P Hammersley Mrs C Wessel
Mr R Hampson Dr A Weston
Dr J Higgins Mr P Wilson
Mr M Hindle Mr D Woodhead

In attendance: Mr M Riddleston (University Director of Finance); Mr N Cox (Secretary).

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

16/M1 MINUTES

Court received the minutes of the fifty-eighth Annual Meeting, held on 6 February 2015.

16/M2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED COURT

The Chair of the University’s governing Council, Dr Bridget Towle, welcomed members to the first annual meeting of the newly-reconstituted Court, following the wide-ranging membership review undertaken in 2015. The review had been overseen by the University’s Nominations Committee, and its recommendations had been approved by the full Council at its meeting held on 24 November 2015.
Under the new constitution, the total membership of Court had been reduced by almost two-thirds, from 430 members to 98 Full and 77 Associate Members, a combined total of 175, as at the date of the meeting. The Full members were drawn predominantly from outside the University, whereas the Associate members were drawn mostly from within the institution, particularly from amongst its retired professorial staff. Only the Full members would normally be invited to attend Court meetings.

**Court received** the list of Full members and noted that the updated list would be presented each year to the annual meeting. The Full and Associate membership lists would also be published on the University’s website.

### 16/M3 ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS OF COURT

Dr Towle explained that the specific purpose of the Annual Meeting was set out within the University’s statutory documents and governance framework, and required the receipt by Court of the audited financial statements together with a report on the institution’s activities and highlights during the previous year. For this reason no significant changes were anticipated at the present time to the format of the Annual Meeting.

The review of Court had considered how the University might engage more effectively with members between Annual Meetings, without the role becoming too onerous. It was hoped that, during the year ahead, there would be an opportunity for some members of Court to engage more directly with the University to offer their insight and advice on a topic of current strategic interest.

### 16/M4 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL REVIEW 2014-15

**Court formally received** the University’s audited financial statements for the 2014-15 financial year, as approved by the University’s governing body, and the published annual review of the institution’s activities and highlights over the last year.

**Court noted** that in the year to 31 July 2015 the University’s income totalled £302 million. Income from student tuition fees reached 50% of total income, whilst funding body grants reduced by 14% on the previous year. The operating surplus for the year was £15.5 million, but this included a one-off HMRC research and development tax credit of £5.7 million, so the underlying surplus was just under £10 million.

### 16/M5 ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

In the course of a wide ranging overview of developments and initiatives over the last year the President and Vice-Chancellor drew Court’s attention to the launch of the University’s new strategic plan in September 2015, with brand refresh and new website, and changes to its academic, leadership and governance structure.

The President and Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the objectives set out in the new strategic plan were designed to focus on the University’s commitment to its distinctiveness and excellence, and to drive performance by challenging complacency, encouraging imagination and rewarding initiative.
The University was keen to develop its partnerships and impact at all levels – local, regional, national and international – and to be much more proactive in its approach to such matters as equality and diversity, and corporate social responsibility (16/M6 refers).

16/M6 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The University’s Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, Mr David Hall, explained to Court how the University was taking forward its commitment to its corporate and social responsibilities. This was focussed on a new strategy for the University’s engagement with the local community, including initiatives for the promotion of health and wellbeing, restoration of the environment, open access to culture and heritage, upskilling for the 21st century, and developing children and young people. These broad themes complemented the priorities of the Leicester City Council, and Court noted the wide range of practical measures being taken by the University to engage with and have a positive impact on the delivery of these priorities.

In connection with the above, member of Court Professor Surinder Sharma gave a short presentation on the work of the University’s new unit for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (DICE), launched in October 2015. DICE’s mission was to raise the local profile of research and engagement activities at the University, to emphasise inclusion as part of organisational vision and values, and to help connect practitioners and policy makers with local communities.

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: one hour and 30 minutes
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

MEETING OF COURT

Friday 5 February 2016

Apologies

Sir Michael Atiyah
Mr P Bateman
Mr P Bhojani
Dr J Bonner
Mr J Bowie
Mr A Brown
Baroness H Byford (has since retired from Court)
Mr J Chandarana
Mr G Cinderby
Mr J D Cloud
Mr P Cottingham
Cllr Mr L Darr
His Hon Judge Dickinson QC
Mr B Ghelani
Mr H Ghelani
Mr B Hellyer
Dr W Hickling
Mr B Hindocha
Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys
Mr J Kapasi
Mrs H Lewis
Dr D G Lewis
Dr D Luckett
Dr F May
Mr D Moore
Mr A Morgan
Emeritus Professor K Pounds
Dr G Rimmington
Mr H Stevenson
Dr P Sykes
Mr L Trotman
Dr D Wilson
Mr J R Wilson (has since retired from Court)