Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 1st March 2012 at 4.15 pm

Venue: Council Chamber

Present:
Mr P Troughton (Chair of Council)
Mr M Hawkesworth (Appointed Member)
Mr R Whorrod (Appointed Member)
Prof K Edge (Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Dr F Laughton (Elected by Senate)
Dr S Wharton (Chair of Academic Assembly)
Dr M Hejmadi (Elected by Senate)
Mr P Appleton (Appointed by Convocation)
Professor J Knight (Elected by Senate)
Mr P Freeman (Appointed Member)
Dr A Salo (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Dr M Hipkins (Appointed Member)
Miss A Harrington (Elected by Non-Academic Staff)
Mr R Whorrod (Appointed Member)
Mr M Benka (Students' Union President)
Mr T Sheppard (Appointed Member)

Observer:
Mr I Robinson - Chief Executive of BUSU

In Attendance:
Lord Tugendhat - Chancellor
Professor J Millar - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor B Morley - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)
Professor R Eatwell - Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor D Bird - Dean of Science
Professor R Elliott - Dean and Head of the School of Management
Mrs D Aderyn - Director of Finance
Mr M Humphriss - University Secretary
Dr F Butt - Special Adviser for Lifelong Learning
Mr M Whalley - Director of Estates
Dr N Kemp - Director of Policy and Planning
Mr G Maggs - Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Ms C Milner - Head of Secretariat
Dr N Kinnie - Associate Dean, School of Management (for Minute 5918)

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs R Foreman, Prof G Hawley, Sir J Horn-Smith, Mr D Medlock, Prof G Price and Mr K Woodley.

ACTION

5917 PROFESSOR DAME GLYNIS M BREAKWELL

Council congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on being made a Dame in the Queen’s New Year Honours for services to higher education.

5918 PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Council received the above presentation from Professor Richard Elliott, Dean and Head of the School of Management and Dr Nick Kinnie, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Taught Students). This and the associated discussion covered:
- Overview and Rankings;
- Portfolio - Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes;
Emerging Issues - Student Recruitment, Faculty Recruitment & Retention and Internationalisation.

5919 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24th November 2011 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

5920 MATTERS ARISING

(1) Minute 5890(1), Sports Training Village

Council noted that there had been no further developments in respect of the potential claim against the University by Bovis Lend Lease since the previous meeting.

(2) Minute 5890(2), University of Bath Masterplan Update

Council noted that a revised version of the Masterplan would be submitted to Council on 17th May 2012.

(3) Minute 5896, Nominations Committee

AGREED that Council Standing Order 15(xiii) be waived to enable the vacancy which had recently arisen on the Honorary Degrees Committee to be left open until 1st August 2012.

5921 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Paper C11/12-52) was noted. The Vice-Chancellor reported further on:

(1) Student Number Controls and Teaching Funding: HEFCE Consultation on Changes for 2013/14 And Beyond

HEFCE had published the second stage of a consultation on future arrangements for allocating funding for teaching in universities and colleges and implementing government policy on student number controls. The deadline for responses was 25th May 2012.

Particular attention was drawn to the proposal of HEFCE to provide higher rates of grant for postgraduate taught provision than for undergraduate provision from 2012/13. This was an interim approach which would be reviewed in around 2014/15. The rates of grant for postgraduate taught students would comprise the same rates of grant provided for undergraduate provision plus a further supplement for all subjects in price groups A to C, other than where students have access to the undergraduate student support regime (PGCE students and some studying architecture).

(2) Paragraph 2, Higher Education Bill

Council noted that the delay in the Higher Education Bill meant that some sector developments could not be progressed (e.g. in relation to the future powers of HEFCE and the growth and regulation of private providers).
(3) **Paragraph 9, Industrial Action**

In response to a question, the Vice-Chancellor clarified that there was no intention to repeat the practice of making a donation to the Student Hardship Fund using funds available as a result of industrial action.

(4) **Queen's Anniversary Prize**

The Vice-Chancellor displayed the Queen's Anniversary Prize which had been received at Buckingham Palace on 24th February 2012 by the Chancellor, members of the Department of Social and Policy Sciences and herself.

5922 **PRO-CHANCELLOR**

Council considered the recommendation of Nominations Committee (by correspondence) that Court re-appoint Sir Julian Horn-Smith as Pro-Chancellor.

RECOMMENDED to Court that Sir Julian Horn-Smith be re-appointed as Pro-Chancellor for the period of 1st January 2013 to 31st July 2015.

5923 **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Council considered the recommendation of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25th January 2012.

AGREED that the appointment of KPMG as the University's External Auditor for 2011/12 be approved as set out in Paper C11/12-56.

5924 **REVIEW OF PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE (WHISTLEBLOWING) POLICY**

Council considered the outcome of the review of the University's Public Interest Disclosure Policy (Paper C11/12-57).

AGREED that:

i) the proposals for enhanced visibility on the University's website be noted;

ii) revisions to the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy be approved with immediate effect as set out in Appendix A to Paper C11/12-57.
5925 **ALUMNI SURVEY**

(1) **Results of Alumni Survey**

Council noted the results of the Alumni Survey as set out in Paper C11/12-58A.

(2) **Findings of Alumni Survey: Convocation**

Council noted the specific findings of the Alumni Survey in relation to Convocation as set out in Paper C11/12-58B.

The forthcoming appointment of the Director of Marketing and Communications was welcomed by Council. The importance of raising the external profile of the University was emphasised.

5926 **AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCES**

(1) **Ordinance 9, The Senate**

Ordinance 10, The Board of Studies

Ordinance 13, The Division for Lifelong Learning

On the recommendation of Senate, Council considered amendments to three Ordinances arising from the forthcoming disestablishment of the Division for Lifelong Learning.

AGREED that the amendment of Ordinances 9, 10 and 13 be approved as set out in Paper C11/12-59A.

(2) **Ordinance 14, Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the University**

On the recommendation of Senate, Council considered the amendment of Ordinance 14 to allow for honorary degrees to be conferred 'in absentia'.

AGREED that a new provision be included in the Ordinances at 14.13, with immediate effect, to state that 'No honorary degree shall be conferred in absentia except in posthumous circumstances or by resolution of the Senate'.

5927 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Council received and noted the progress report on improvement actions for November 2011 and January 2012 (Paper C11/12-60).

5928 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012/13 AND 2013/14**

AGREED that the Calendar of Meetings for 2012/13 and 2013/14 be approved as set out in Papers C11/12-61A and 61B, subject to the first meeting of Council/Senate/Students' Union being moved from Week 4 to Week 5 or 6.

5929 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND JOINT COUNCIL/SENATE COMMITTEES**

Council received the minutes of the following meetings of Council and Joint Council/Senate Committees:
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Council noted the summary reports from Executive Committee (19th October and 17th November 2011) (Paper C11/12-71).

SENATE

Council noted the minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 30th November 2011 (Paper C11/12-72).

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2011/12

The programme of meetings for the remainder of Council for 2011/12 was noted as follows:

Thursday 17th May 2012
Thursday 28th June 2012

Note: All meetings start at 4.15 pm in the Council Chamber unless otherwise stated.

2011 CONTRIBUTION PAY SCHEME

In respect of the 2011 Contribution Pay Scheme, a member of Council enquired whether the decision to reduce the higher level merit award from the normal £1,000 to £750 because of budget constraints was appropriate in the light of the success of the University, particularly its 2010/11 surplus.

The Vice-Chancellor responded that there had been a 37% increase in the number of merit award nominations for 2011 and a slight increase in successful nominations from 85% to 86%. It had therefore been decided that the standard award should remain at £500 but that the higher level award should be reduced. This had led to a slight budget overspend of £22k but it was felt that the overspend of £50k which would have occurred if the higher level award had also been maintained could not be justified. This was no reflection of the contribution made by staff and it was pleasing to be able to reward more colleagues for their exceptional contribution to the success of the University.

DR FAITH BUTT

Dr Butt had retired as Director for Lifelong Learning with effect from 1st January 2012. Council thanked Dr Butt for her significant contribution to the work of the University.