Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 27th June 2013 at 4.15 pm

Venue: Council Chamber

Present: Mr P Troughton (Chair of Council)
Mr R Whorrod (Appointed Member)
Mr P Wyman (Treasurer)
Dr F Laughton (Elected by Senate)
Prof K Edge (Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Dr M Hejmadi (Elected by Senate)
Dr M Carley (Chair of Academic Assembly)
Professor G Price (Elected by Senate)
Mr S Appleton (Appointed Member)
Professor J Knight (Elected by Senate)
Mrs R Foreman (Appointed Member)
Dr A Salo (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Dr M Hipkins (Appointed Member)
Ms M Morley (Elected by Non-Academic Staff)
Sir Julian Horn-Smith (Appointed Member)
Miss E Hynes (Students’ Union President)
Mr M Hawkesworth (Appointed Member)
Mr P Hachfeld (Students' Union Education Officer)

In Attendance:

Lord Tugendhat - Chancellor
Professor B Morley - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)
Professor C Grant - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Internationalisation)
Professor G Hawley - Dean of Engineering and Design
Professor D Bird - Dean of Science
Professor R Eatwell - Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mr M Humphriss - University Secretary
Mr M Whalley - Director of Estates
Mrs D Aderyn - Director of Finance and Commercial Services
Mr G Maggs - Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Dr N Kemp - Director of Policy and Planning
Mr I Cheetham - Director of Human Resources
Ms Angela Pater - Head of Secretariat designate
Dr C Harris - Administrative Officer, Secretariat

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Freeman, Ms A Goodman, Mr R Hughes, Mr D Medlock, Mr T Sheppard, Mr J Stanion, Mr K Woodley, Professor R Elliott, Professor J Millar and Mr I Robinson (Observer).

ACTION

6123 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16th May 2013 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

6124 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Paper C12/13-96) was considered and noted.

A member of Council drew attention to Paragraph 12, Pay Negotiations Update, advising that the 1% pay offer had been rejected by UCU, which was balloting for industrial action.
In response to queries from members of Council the following matters were discussed:

Times Higher Education '100 under 50' table 2013: The University was at 34th place; however, it was noted that UK universities were not at high positions partly due to different methodology for UK and overseas universities. In the Symonds QS University Rankings ‘Top 50 under 50’ the University was ranked 12th in the world. The QS University Rankings ‘Top 50 under 50’ to be circulated to members.

Funding for placement students: Lobbying had increased the tuition fee cap for a placement year from 15% of the full-time fee (£1,350) to 20% (£1,800) but this was still too low. There were differential costs across disciplines ranging from £2,500 to £4,500 p.a. for placement provision.

6125 STAFF SURVEY 2013

Council considered the University-wide results from the 2013 Staff Survey in Paper C12/13-97, noting that further specific reports would become available. The response rate had risen from 53% in 2011 to 68%, which was above average among HEIs. Overall the responses were positive, with many areas showing improvement from 2011 and 93% of staff who responded stating that the University is a good place to work. Strategic priorities for the University to consider included Communication, Managing Change and Pay and Conditions.

Discussion focussed on:

- A reduced percentage of staff compared to 2011 felt that the University offered a good pay and reward package, an out-turn to be studied further when the qualitative results were available.
- Responses regarding facilities, including staff social space, would also be assessed when the qualitative results were available and further information provided to Council.
- About 30% of surveys were supplied on paper for staff with no access to computers; some managers provided earmarked time for completion.
- Analysis by smaller groups, possible for groups of at least 10, was considered to be very important.

The University was congratulated on the participation rate and the good results.

Council noted:

- The findings from the University-wide report and the initial areas identified as strategic priorities, and
- The approach to communicating, responding to and monitoring the results at a University wide, specialist area and departmental level.

6126 RISK MANAGEMENT

(1) Annual Report on Risk Management

Council considered the Annual Report on Risk Management (Paper C12/13-106). This provided a summary of the proposed revisions to the University’s Risk Management Strategy and the revised Strategy. Council would be updated on net
risks at every meeting.

AGREED that the revisions to the University's Risk Management Strategy be approved.

(2) Risk Register and Risk Management Plan 2013-14

On the recommendation of Executive Committee, Council reviewed the Risk Register and Risk Management Plan 2013-14 (Paper C12/13-107), in which communication and public accountability were embedded.

AGREED that the Risk Register and Risk Management Plan for 2013-14 be approved.


Council considered and noted the monthly report on risk management for May 2013 (Paper C12/13-108).

6127 RESEARCH INSTITUTES

On the recommendation of Senate, Council considered the mechanism for the establishment of University Research Institutes (Paper C12/13-109 refers).

AGREED that the mechanism for the establishment of University Research Institutes be approved.

6128 UNIVERSITY - STUDENT PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

On the recommendation of Senate, Council considered the proposed University-Student Partnership Statement as set out in Appendix 1 of Paper C12/13-110, noting that it had been extensively consulted upon.

AGREED that the University-Student Partnership Statement be approved.

6129 CALENDARS OF MEETINGS 2013/14 AND 2014/15

Council agreed the proposed changes to the calendars of meetings for 2013/14 and 2014/15, detailed in Paper C12/13-111.

6130 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STUDENT MONITORING DATA 2011/12

Council noted the Equality and Diversity Student Monitoring Data 2011/12 (Paper C12/13-112).

6131 STUDENT BAROMETER RESULTS 2012

Council noted the results of the Student Barometer 2012 (Paper C12/13-113).

6132 MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND JOINT COUNCIL/SENATE COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following meetings of Council and Joint Council/Senate Committees were received:

Council/Senate/Students’ Union Committee 9th May 2013
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Council received a summary report from Executive Committee (17 April 2013) (Paper C12/13-119).

SENATE

Council received the minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 12th June 2013 (C12/13-120).

COURT

Council received the minutes of the meeting of Court held on 12th March 2013 (C12/13-121).

CONVOCATION

Council received the minutes of the meeting of Convocation held on 11th May 2013 (C12/13-122).

ANNUAL DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Council noted that:

(1) members of Council and Council Committees are required to make an annual Declaration of Interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 26;

(2) members of Council are required to make an annual statement of their adherence to the Declaration of Guiding Principles as agreed by Council on 13th May 2005 (Minute 4940 refers).

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2013/14

The programme of meetings of Council for 2013/14 was noted as follows:

Thursday 17th October 2013 at 9.15am (One Day Session)
Thursday 28th November 2013
Thursday 27th February 2014
Thursday 22nd May 2014
June/July 2014 date to be confirmed

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

RETIRING MEMBERS

The Chair thanked the following retiring members for their contribution to the work of the Council over the past three years and presented them with a certificate in recognition of their service:

Dr Frances Laughton
Dr Aki Salo
Professor Gareth Price

and thanked those in attendance for whom this would be the final meeting:

Lord Tugendhat
Professor Roger Eatwell