
Meeting: COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 27th November 2014 at 4.15pm

Venue: Council Chamber

Present: Mr T Sheppard (Chair of Council)

Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell (Vice-Chancellor)	Mr J Stanion (Appointed Member)
Professor K Edge (Deputy Vice-Chancellor)	Mr R Whorrod (Appointed Member)
Mr P Wyman (Treasurer)	Prof T Ibell (Elected by Senate)
Mr P Troughton (Pro-Chancellor)	Ms K Robinson (Elected by Senate)
Dr M Carley (Chair of Academic Assembly)	Dr A Salo (Elected by Senate)
Mrs R Foreman (Appointed Member)	Dr S Wharton (Elected by Senate)
Prof B Gilbertson (Appointed Member)	Mr S Appleton (Appointed by Convocation)
Mr M Hawkesworth (Appointed Member)	Mr J Kenny (Students' Union President)
Dr M Hipkins (Appointed Member)	Mr P Goodstadt (Students' Union Education Officer)

Observer:

In Attendance:

Professor J Millar	- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor B Morley	- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)
Professor V Hope Hailey	- Dean and Head, School of Management
Mrs D Aderyn	- Director of Finance and Commercial Services
Dr N Kemp	- Director of Policy and Planning
Mr M Humphriss	- University Secretary
Mr M Whalley	- Director of Estates
Ms A Pater	- Head of Secretariat
Mr I Cheetham	- Director of Human Resources
Ms E Holiday (KPMG)	- External Auditor (for items 6321-6322)

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Prof D Bird, Dr J Bryson, Prof I Butler, Ms A Goodman, Prof C Grant, Prof G Hawley, Sir Julian Horn-Smith, Mr R Hughes, Mr G Maggs, Mr I Robinson and Baroness Royall.

ACTION

The meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Marie Morley, a serving member of Council since 2012, who died on 24th November.

6319 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23rd October 2014 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

6320 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6297: Property Acquisition - Bath Police Station. Council noted that the purchase was completed at the end of October.

6321 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council considered the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2014 (paper C14/15 – 20A). The External Auditor reported that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued. There were no issues arising from the audit which required the attention of Council. The Treasurer thanked the External Auditor for the work of her team. Council also congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and her senior management team. The management letter of representation was considered and agreed.

Council approved the Financial Statements and the Letter of Representation for the year ended 31st July 2014.

6322 FINANCIAL FORECASTS

Council approved the updated Financial tables for the year ended 31st July 2014 to be submitted to HEFCE (Paper C14/15 – 20B).

DoF

6323 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mrs Foreman presented the recommendations of the meeting of Audit Committee held on 11th November 2014.

Council approved the Annual report of the Audit Committee (paper C14/15 – 21 Appendix 1) and the Internal Audit Annual report (paper C14/15 – 21 Appendix 2).

6324 ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY RETURNS 2013/14

Council approved the University's Annual Assurance Return 2013/14 to HEFCE (paper C14/15 – 22A) and the Annual Sustainability report 2014 (ASSUR) (paper C14/15 – 22B). These were signed by the Vice Chancellor and Chair of Council.

DoPP

It was noted that full compliance with the research integrity concordat would be required the following year and that the University was on course to achieve that.

6325 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Council noted the report of the Vice-Chancellor (Paper C14/15 – 23). The Vice-Chancellor also reported that:

- the CUC Code of Good Governance would be published on 16 December 2014;
- the £3.2 million 'iCURE' project funded by HEFCE and Innovate UK would see HEFCE, Innovate UK and university enterprise partnership SETsquared work together on a pilot to help accelerate research being successfully commercialised; SETsquared would receive £2.8m and Council commended Simon Bond, the Director, for his excellent work;
- the UCU industrial action had been suspended until 15th January 2015;
- the posts of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and a new role of Vice-President (Implementation) would shortly be advertised as a result of the upcoming retirement of Professor Kevin Edge;
- Bath City College and Norton Radstock College were to merge;
- A new Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill would require Universities to take steps to ensure that students were not radicalised; further guidance was awaited.

6326 BATH INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL INNOVATION

Professor Tony Dooley and Professor Jonathan Dawes attended for this item and, with Professor Millar, presented the outline proposal for a Bath Institute for Mathematical Innovation (Paper C14/15 – 29). There was a discussion about the nature of the research and the intention to link different areas of mathematics and statistics, as well as with colleagues across the University. Council approved the proposal in principle and noted that a full proposal would be considered by Senate on 3 December.

SEC

There was also a more general discussion about the University's strategy to develop more research institutes. Professor Millar explained that more ideas were in development.

PVC(R)

6327 COUNCIL STRATEGY DAY

Council noted paper C14/15 – 25 reporting on the Council Strategy Day on 23rd October 2014. Mr Humphriss explained that the facilitators from each of the group sessions would ensure the comments made were followed up.

In response to a question, the Vice-Chancellor explained that discussions on return on investment in relation to the marketing strategy were ongoing and a report would be brought to Council in February.

PVC(I)

6328 HUMAN RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Council considered the Human Resources Annual Report 2013/14 (C14/15 – 26). The Director of Human Resources drew attention to the progress which had been made during the year, including the updating of the Career progression document to help streamline processes for promotion, the introduction of mandatory Staff Development and Performance Review for all staff from August 2014, the support for women academics through the AURORA programme and the reduction in staff sickness rates. He also explained that the Staff Survey Working Group had agreed that the next staff survey would take place in 2016 to allow time for analysing the effect of actions taken as a result of the 2013 survey.

The President of the Students' Union raised the issue of the campaign to pay the Living Wage to casual staff, and it was noted that this issue would be discussed in the scheduled review of pay rates in April 2015.

There was a discussion about the increasing number of older staff who retired later, and the reasons for this. It was noted that, although there was not a problem with staff retention, staff who resigned were sent an exit questionnaire; the process for this was under review to improve the return rate.

6329 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Council considered the Annual Report of the Equality and Diversity Committee (Paper C14/15 – 27A) and approved the Annual Report on progress against the Statement of Equality Objectives (Paper C14/15 – 27B). It welcomed the progress on Athena SWAN submissions by departments, support for women in engineering, work supporting Trans people, and work on improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

It also noted the Annual Review of the Membership of Council 2014/15: Age, Gender, Disability and Ethnicity (Paper C14/15 – 27C) which it would consider when discussing future nominations for Council membership. It noted that the University was joining the 30% Club which aims to increase the number of women on boards. There was a suggestion that Council should monitor members' religious beliefs and sexual orientation but it was not felt that this would be meaningful with the small numbers involved.

6330 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Council received a tabled paper from the meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 27th November 2014 (Paper C14/15 – 28). Council agreed to recommend to Court the reappointment of Sir Julian Horn-Smith as Pro-Chancellor for a further three years from 1 August 2015. It also agreed to re-appoint Mr John Stanion to Council for a further three years from 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2018.

SEC

6331 ANNUAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2013/14

Council noted the Annual Energy and Environment Report 2013/14 (paper C14/15 – 30).

6332 MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND JOINT COUNCIL/SENATE COMMITTEES

Council received the Minutes of the following meetings of Council and Joint Council/Senate Committees:

- Council/Senate/Students' Union Committee, 28th October 2014
- Finance Committee, 30th October 2014
- Audit Committee, 8th October 2014 and 11th November 2014
- Equality and Diversity Committee, 13th November 2014

6333 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Council received summary reports from Executive Committee held in September and October 2014 (Papers C14/15 – 36A and 36B).

6334 SENATE

The minutes from the meeting of Senate held on 15th October 2014 were received (Paper C14/15 – 37).

6335 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2014/15

The programme of meetings for the rest of the year was noted as follows:

- Thursday, 26th February 2015
- Thursday, 21st May 2015
- Thursday, 9th July 2015

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

The meeting concluded at 6.10pm
