
Minutes of Meeting

Convocation

Wednesday 14 June 2023, 1.00pm

Location: Virtual meeting, via Zoom

Attendees:

Ruth Foreman, Pro-Chancellor (Chair)
Gordon Cox, Director, Department of Development and Alumni Relations
Aisling O'Neill, Associate Director (Supporter Engagement)
Professor Ian White DL FREng, Vice-Chancellor and President

Jamil B	Carole L
Oliver A	Angus L
Steph C	Christopher M
Steve C	Richard M
Graham D	Stella M
Godfrey D	Max N
Bilal E	Enorens O
Dave E	Oliver R
Dave F	Neha R
Susanne F	Kate R
David G	Geoffrey S
Ben G	Kondylo T
Ann H	Emmanouil T
Robert H	Isobel T
Uzor I	Ben W
Malcolm J	Sonia W
Chris J	Nicholas W
Nicky K	Hannah Z

Secretariat:

Laura Andrews, Committee Officer
Allan Houston, AV Supporter
Cassie Long, Development and Alumni Relations Events Manager
Caroline Pringle, Governance Manager
Nicole Stewart, Alumni Events Assistant

8 - Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ruth Foreman, Pro-Chancellor, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

9 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Paper CN22/23 - 01

The minutes of the meeting of Convocation on 20 June 2022 were approved.

10 - Matters Arising

1. Update on the disbanding of Convocation (minute 3)

Ruth Foreman read an update on the disbanding of Convocation as follows:

At its meeting on 16 June 2021, following a wider consultation of the alumni community, Convocation was updated on proposals for it to be disbanded as a statutory body in favour of an annual alumni meeting, which would provide a more flexible opportunity for alumni to engage with the University at an institutional level. Convocation exists as a statutory body by virtue of the University's Charter.

Amendments to the Charter, including the disbanding of Convocation as a statutory body, were approved by Senate (1 February 2023), Council (23 February 2023) and Court (20 April 2023), following consultation of the Privy Council and the sector regulator, the Office for Students, in January 2023. Court were due to consider the amendments for a second time at its meeting on 13 June 2023. If approved, the amendments would then be submitted to Privy Council for approval and should come into effect in the autumn. This would mean that this was the last formal meeting of Convocation.

A meeting of the Convocation had been scheduled for Wednesday 12 June 2024. In the event that Convocation was formally disbanded, an annual gathering of alumni would be convened in its stead and on the same day. Alumni would be consulted about what they would like to see at this meeting, which will be used to shape annual alumni meetings going forward.

Ruth Foreman thanked the Governance team for their hard work in pushing through the changes to Charter.

Post-meeting note: The Court approved the proposed amendments to Charter, as amended on 20 April 2023, for formal submission to Privy Council.

11 – Report from the Vice-Chancellor

Convocation received an update from Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor & President, on the work of the University in 2022/23. The presentation slides from this update can be found in **Appendix 1**.

12 – Report from the Department for Development and Alumni Relations

Convocation received an update from Gordon Cox, Director, and Aisling O'Neill, Associate Director Supporter Engagement, on the work of the Department for Development and Alumni Relations in 2022/23.

Gordon Cox had joined the University just over a year ago and this was his first meeting of Convocation. He thanked the alumni community for their support. The presentation commenced with an update regarding the restructuring of the department which was to be renamed the 'Advancement Office' from the following year. Gordon also gave an update on fundraising and alumni engagement.

Aisling O'Neill had joined the University just over 2 months ago and was a Bath graduate, having graduated in 2012. Aisling gave an update regarding the activity plan for 2023/24.

The presentation slides from this update can be found in **Appendix 2**.

A question was raised about whether removing alumni relations from the name of the department took away one of the key purposes of the department. Gordon Cox confirmed that alumni relations

remained core to the department and that the change in name was made to better represent other aspects of the department's work.

13 – Any other business

Ruth Foreman stated that she had been amazed by the breadth of the work achieved at the University and that it was great to be able to share this with its alumni community.

14 – Date of next meeting

The next annual gathering of alumni was scheduled for Wednesday 12 June 2024.

The meeting closed at 1.47pm