

COUNCIL

12 December 2024 / Online Via Teams

MINUTES



Welcome and Quorum

Purpose - For Information

The meeting was quorate.

Declarations of Interest

Purpose - For Information

There were no declarations of interest.

Annual Financial Reporting - C24/25 - 25

Purpose - For Approval

Reported

The Annual Report and Accounts were presented to Council for its approval. These had incorporated the changes to the accounting treatment adopted for the private placement debt finance from North Western Mutual Life Insurance Company and Met Life.

Council were told that the changes to the accounting treatment did not change the fundamental bottom line of the University's financial performance for the year. Council's attention was drawn to page 30 of the Annual Report which outlined the calibration exercise for the debt finance and its recognition at fair value. The fair value and its modelling of non-basic financial instruments could be found at page 40 of the report.

Council were informed that an adjustment of the reserves had been made at page 23 of the report.

James Bird of Grant Thornton outlined the process which addressed the accounting treatment for the placement debt finance and confirmed that Grant Thornton was now satisfied with this. He apologised for the fact that this issue had not been identified earlier in their audit process and only emerged after his briefing to ARAC and Finance committee on 8th November.

He also presented the audit findings report which was unmodified and gave a clean audit opinion.

Discussion

Council asked if the changes to the accounting treatment of the private placement debt finance would result in more volatility and whether the University should do anything different in the future. The Treasurer said that this change did not affect the economics of the University and arguably made the financial position of the University stronger.

Reactive communications have been prepared in response to the changes which had been made to the Annual Report.

Decision

Council **approved** the Annual Report and Accounts.

Council **approved** the Chair of Council and the Vice Chancellor signing the Letter of Representation to the External Auditors

Council **noted** the External Auditors Final Report.

Attendees

Members Attended

Maria Bond

Teslim Bukoye

Pamela Chesters – Chair

Kate Ehrig-Page

Sabina Gheduzzi

Don McLaverty

Calum Mercer – Treasurer

David Moon

Jo Rhoden

Anthony Smith

Amber Snary

Phil Taylor – Vice-Chancellor

In Attendance

James Bird – Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

Andrew Browning – Interim Head of Governance (*Meeting Secretary*)

Martin Williams – Director of Finance

Apologies

Jimena Alamo

Tim Ford

Dot Griffiths

Alun Griffiths

Tim Hollingsworth

Paul Shepherd