

Minutes of Meeting

Court

20 April 2023, 2-4pm

Location: 10 East 0.17

Present in person:

Ruth Foreman, Pro-Chancellor (Chair)

Guarang Agarwal

Youssef Asaad

Robert Brain

Derek Brewer

Dr Judith Brown

John Buckingham

Professor Julian Chaudhuri

Pamela Chesters

Professor David Collard

Elizabeth Dark

Professor James Davenport

Gary Davis

Chris Eldridge

Dr Helen Featherstone

Tim Ford

Christine Gibbons

Professor Sarah Hainsworth

Professor Geoff Hammond

Professor Alan Hayes

Mark Hepworth

Titus Hiller

David Kelly

Julia Kildyushova

Zisis Tzifas Kratiras

Professor Hartmut Logemann

Dr Justine Mercer

Professor Jane Millar

Jura Neverauskaite

Adrian Price

Drew Ritchie

Nathan Roberts

Alexander Robinson

Professor Jonathan Slack

Elizabeth Stacey

Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall

Viktor Toshev

Dr Chloe Turner (until 3.15pm)

Chris Watt

Dr Steve Wharton

Professor Ian White

Professor Geof Wood

Present online:

Dawn Bonfield MBE

Professor Barry Gilbertson

Professor Alan Bramley

Antonio Ferrer-Montiel

Professor Hester Klopper

Dr Trevor Elworthy

In attendance:

Richard Brooks, Head of HR

Dr Asel Sartbaeva, Researcher, Chemistry

Martin Williams, Director of Finance

Secretariat:

Laura Andrews

Emily Commander, Secretary

Karen Gleave

Caroline Harris

Caroline Pringle

Apologies:

Jamie Agombar
Councillor Rob Appleyard
Professor Phil Allmendinger
Professor Georgina Andrews
Kimberley Bingham
Maria Bond
Pete Capener
Dr Randolph Cooper
Marian Curran
Ann Cusack
Councillor Kevin Guy
Wera Hobhouse

Matthew Houghton
Calum Mercer
Charlotte Moar
Professor Bernie Morley
Dan Norris
Dr Paul Phillips CBE
Dr Chris Roche
Professor Jeff Thompson
Luca Volentir
Blake Walker
Professor Jane White
Professor Cassie Wilson

Introductory items

13 - Welcome and Quorum

Pro-Chancellor, Ruth Foreman, welcomed members and attendees and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

14 - Declarations of Interest

Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Chair of B&NES Council, declared that he was also an employee of the University of Bath. Dr Steve Wharton and Pamela Chesters each declared an interest relating to item 18 (CT22/23 – 03) as members of the Governance Framework Advisory Group.

15 – Membership and Terms of Reference - Paper CT22/23 - 01

Court noted the membership and Terms of Reference for Court.

16 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Paper CT22/23 - 02

Court approved the minutes of the previous meeting of Court held on 27 January 2022.

Due to the distance between meetings of Court, approval of the minutes would be obtained within one month of the meeting.

Part I: Main Business

17 – Overview from the Vice-Chancellor and Annual Accounts

Pursuant to Statute 15.2(b), Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor, gave an overview of the University's strategic activities, based on the [University Strategy 2021-2026](#). A copy of the presentation slides can be found in Appendix 1.

The following points were made in the question and answer session which followed the presentation:

- There had not been a major review of course content and the teaching framework since the mid-1990s: Curriculum Transformation was designed to ensure the delivery of education was right and to reflect diversity of teaching. A number of courses had been through the process and the first cohort of students (in Chemical Engineering) were about to graduate.
- There had been no change in the number of trained and appropriately skilled lecturers as a result of Covid. A long established new lecturer programme, accredited by advanced HE, was still in place.
- The University was committed to developing the Civic University Agreement. There had been a lot of work on sustainability, innovation and working with local schools to support young people. The University was also working locally with other anchor organisations.
- It was commented upon that the University had not been present at the Bath and North East Somerset Inequalities Summit. While not being aware of the specifics of that particular event, as Chair to the Key Cities Innovation Network, the Vice-Chancellor was aware that more work was needed to establish how universities could best contribute to key cities. The University had been talking to B&NES about research and sustainability. There were multiple links within the region where the University's research was playing into the future needs of the City.
- The University's Public Meeting in July would provide another opportunity to connect the University to the community.
- The University strategy had been focused on driving the performance of the University to the level where it could attract interest from leading international universities and international partners and to build up areas of critical mass in key activities.
- The University had developed a new structure for professorial pay. There would now be a professorial pay scale with three bands and an introductory band, each with set criteria, a formal committee structure at central and faculty level and an appeals process. Staff could apply for a pay rise on an annual basis through a submission which would be based on previous performance and planned future activity.
- Bath had negotiated a sector-leading agreement on anti-casualisation. In this, it had been fortunate in working with local union representatives, enabling them to work out the areas of common purpose. It was helpful to work out the mechanisms by which the wider University could be consulted, outside of union membership.

Court received the University's [Annual Accounts](#), as formally approved by the University Council at its [meeting on 24 November 2022](#).

18 – Amendments to Charter – Paper CT22/23 - 03

On the recommendation of Senate and Council, Court considered the proposed Charter amendments under the Special Resolution Procedure of Court (as set out in [clause 29\(c\) of the University Charter](#)).

Emily Commander, Head of Governance, introduced the proposed amendments to Charter. A project was underway to review the governance framework (primarily its Charter, Statutes and Ordinances), the first stage of which was to review Charter. A modest set of amendments were proposed: they had been approved by Senate and Council twice (as

required) as well as having been reviewed by the Office for Students (OfS) and Privy Council, who had no objections.

Two proposed amendments were circulated to members on Monday 17 April 2023 and introduced by each member.

1. *Tabled by Dawn Bonfield*

In Paper CT22/23 – 03, Appendix 1, page 12, new article X(e) (column 2), delete the word “equality” and insert the word “equity”.

There was a discussion about the legal implications of replacing the word “equality” with the word “equity”. The Secretary to Court advised that the proposed amendment to the amendment did not have any legal implications.

Amendment 1 to the amendment was agreed by Court: to replace the word “equality” with “equity”.

2. *Tabled by Helen Featherstone*

In Paper CT22/23 – 03, Appendix 1, page 12, article 27 (column 1), delete the words “him or her” and insert the word “them”.

Amendment 2 to the amendment was agreed by Court: to delete the words “him or her” and insert the word “them”.

Court was asked to approve for the first time the amendments, as amended, to the Charter, as set out in paper C22/23 – 03.

The amendments to the Charter, as amended, were agreed by Court for the first time.

A second meeting of Court formally to approve the amendments under the Special Resolution Procedure was scheduled to take place online, on Tuesday 13 June at 2pm.

19 – Developments in Research

Dr Asel Sartbaeva, Researcher in the Department of Chemistry, shared details of the latest research enabling the safe delivery of vaccines without refrigeration. A copy of the presentation slides can be found in Appendix 2.

The following points were made in the question and answer session which followed the presentation:

- The majority of vaccines were made of amino acid chains which unravel and stick together when taken out of the fridge. Use of inorganic material on top of this acted like a shell or shield to stop the amino acids unravelling. For the vaccine to work again, the shell needed to be broken to release the antibody.
- Trials had been held to test effectiveness in conditions of humidity, sunlight, high temperatures and acid.
- There was a lot of research and experimentation to arrive at a potential product: the first successful experiment took five years. There had been small incremental progress rather than a light bulb moment.
- Dr Sartbaeva had no previous knowledge of how to spin out so engaged with the Technology Transfer Office and partnered with Spin Up Science to learn what to do.

- Equity shares were prescribed in Ordinance 22.

Part 2: Closing items

20 – Next meeting

Court noted that the second meeting under the Special Resolution Procedure of Court would take place on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 2pm. This meeting would take place online.

Unconfirmed minutes would be circulated within the next month and published on the website.

Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor, departed the meeting.

21 – Any Other Business

Richard Brooks, Director of Human Resources, gave a brief update on the process for recruiting a new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Ian White had announced he would be stepping down from his role as Vice-Chancellor in July 2024 (Court members having noted earlier that this would not be his last Court meeting as Vice-Chancellor). The Committee on the Office of the Vice-Chancellor was due to meet for the first time around early June 2023 to put a plan together for recruitment. The expectation was to run a process of engagement and a global recruitment process, to be determined by the Committee. This Committee would ultimately recommend a candidate to Council.

The following points were made in the question and answer session:

- The University hoped to have a candidate confirmed by the end of 2023 recognising that the successful candidate may have to serve a notice period in their current role prior to taking up office.
- COVC would be responsible for determining the method by which the University community would be kept abreast of progress in the appointments process. It was noted that Court members would wish to be included in this.

Court noted that this would be Emily Commander's last meeting as Secretary to Court before her departure from the University. The Chair thanked Emily for all of her work.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their time and invited them to gather for refreshments in the Pavilion area.

The meeting closed at 4.03pm.