

MINUTES OF MEETING



Court meeting

Wednesday 27 January 2022 at 2.15pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present:

Ruth Foreman, Chair
Pamela Chesters, Chair of Council
Tim Ford, Interim Treasurer and Senior Independent Director
Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor and President

Gaurang Agarwal
Professor Georgina Andrews
Kimberley Bingham
Richard Bonner
Dr Rob Branston
Dr Judith Brown
Peter Capener
Dr Vivian Ching
Marian Curran
Professor James Davenport
Chris Eldridge
Lynne Fernquest
Dr Sabina Gheduzzi
Professor Barry Gilbertson
Professor Sarah Hainsworth
Matthew Houghton
Steve Huckvale
Professor Hester Kloppe
Dr Justine Mercer
Charlotte Moar
Councillor Lisa O'Brien
Paul Phillips
Ben Rhodes
Alexander Robinson
Professor Jonathan Slack
Professor Jeff Thompson
Luca Volentir
Chris Watt
Annie Willingham
Jacob Withington
Snow Wu

Jamie Agombar
Andie Barlow
Dawn Bonfield
Robert Brain
Derek Brewer
John Buckingham
Professor Julian Chaudhuri
Meg Crossman
Ann Cusack
Gary Davis
Dr Helen Featherstone
Professor Antonio Ferrer-Montiel
Christine Gibbons
Professor Felix Goni
Professor Geoff Hammond
Dr Alan Hayes
David Kelly
Professor Hartmut Logemann
Professor Jane Millar
Professor Bernie Morley
Zoe Paumelle
Professor Peter Redfern
Drew Ritchie
Dr Chris Roche
Elizabeth Stacey
Dr Chloe Turner
Gehan Wanduragala
Dr Steve Wharton
Professor Cassie Wilson
Professor Geof Wood
Keith Zimmerman

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In attendance:

Dr Steve Cayzer, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering (for item 9)
Professor Matthew Davidson, Director of the Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies (for item 8)
Adam Elbounabi Alyahiby, Gold Scholar student (for item 10)
Professor Anna Gilmore, Department for Health (for item 7)
Professor Jonathan Knight, Vice-President (Enterprise) (for item 8)
Councillor Dr Yukteshwar Kumar, Deputy Mayor of Bath, deputising for the Mayor of Bath
Peter Phelps, Climate Action Project Lead (for item 9)
Liz Simmons, Scholarship & Bursary Enrichment Manager (for item 10)
Professor Pete Walker, University Climate Action Chair (for item 9)
Martin Williams, Director of Finance (for item 5)

Secretariat

Emily Commander, Secretary
Caroline Harris, Member of secretariat
Caroline Pringle, Member of secretariat
Laura Andrews, Member of secretariat
Fiona Blackmore, Member of secretariat
Greg Noakes, Member of secretariat
Karen Gleave, Member of secretariat

Apologies

Councillor June Player, Mayor of Bath
Councillor Kevin Guy, Leader of BaNES Council
Professor Alan Bramley, Emeritus Professor
Professor Penny Jane Burke,
Jayne Davis
David Hardy
Jason Tudor

Introductory items

01 - Welcome and Quorum

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

The Chair thanked Emily Commander, Head of Governance, and the Governance Team, as well as Pam Chesters, Chair of Council and Council members for their grace and professionalism during the recent time of change.

The following attendees were welcomed to the meeting:

- Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor and President and the Vice-Chancellor's senior team. The Vice-Chancellor would give an introduction to Court in item 05.
- Councillor Dr Yukteshwar Kumar, Deputy Mayor of Bath, attending on behalf of the Mayor of Bath, Councillor June Player
- Councillor Lisa O'Brien, Chair of BaNES Council
- Richard Bonner, Chair of West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

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- Professor Georgina Andrews - Vice-Provost of Bath Spa

The Chair reported that a new University Treasurer had been recruited and that an announcement would be made soon.

02 - Declarations of Interest

Members had declared interests ahead of the meeting: these had been recorded, though were not considered conflicts of interest for this meeting.

03 - Introduction to Court – CT21/22 – 01

Court noted the Terms of Reference for Court, as set out in Statute 15.

Court considered new Standing Orders, to which the following amendments were proposed by Christopher Roche and seconded by Professor Geof Wood:

- a. In paragraph 2.3, after “Ordinances” to insert the words “but this may be reversed if two thirds of the members present and voting so decide”.
- b. In paragraph 9.6, after “responded” to insert the words “and providing that there is a minimum interval of seven days between the circulation of any proposal and the date on which a decision is required”.

The amendments were agreed.

A question was raised about the timeframe for submitting supplementary agenda items (paragraph 5.3), which had been extended from 14 days to 21 days. It was explained that this revised timeframe was to correspond with the deadline for distributing papers to Court members.

The Standing Orders, as amended, were approved.

Court noted the membership of Court.

04 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting – CT21/22 – 02

Court approved the minutes of the meeting of Court held on 28 January 2021.

Main business

05 – Overview from the Vice-Chancellor – CT21/22 – 03

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](#).

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed attendees and acknowledged the wide range of the University community in attendance at a local, regional and national level. The University was delighted to be ranked top for student satisfaction, despite the challenges around Covid-19.

The 2021-2026 University Strategy had been launched in summer 2021 with four key pillars which drew out the key areas of focus for the years to come:

- a. Fostering an outstanding and inclusive community
- b. Driving excellence in education
- c. Driving high impact research

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d. Enhancing strategic partnerships

The values of the University had also been redefined, strengthening the University's commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and to sustainability.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced the newest members of his senior team:

- a. Professor Cassie Wilson had taken up her new role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience).
- b. Professor Jonathan Knight had taken up a new role as Vice-President (Enterprise).
- c. Professor Philip Allmendinger was due to join the University on 1 March 2022 as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Professor Allmendinger had previously worked at the University of Cambridge and Mendip Council and had been active in research.
- d. Professor Rajani Naidoo had taken up a new role as Vice-President (Community & Inclusion).
- e. Gordon Cox had recently joined Bath from University College, Oxford, to take up post as Director of Development and Alumni Relations.
- f. Professor Sarah Hainsworth had joined Bath from Aston University's College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, to take up the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).
- g. Professor Julian Chaudhuri had returned to Bath from the University of Plymouth on 1 December 2021, to take up the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education).

Professor Julian Chaudhuri introduced himself to Court. Professor Chaudhuri believed that, at Bath, education was in a strong position and that the University would look to build on strong staff and student relationships to maintain its position in the top 10. The University Strategy would form the basis for an education strategic plan.

A question was raised about why Bath had no medical school. It was confirmed that discussions had taken place, and would continue, in this area, depending on the future direction of government policy on health. The University's reputation for psychology and health was excellent, with the Department of Health ranking within the top 10 QS rankings.

06 – Annual Report and Accounts – CT21/22 – 04

Pursuant to [Statute](#) 15.2(b), Court received the University's [Annual Report and Accounts](#), as formally approved by Council at its meeting on 29 November 2021.

Tim Ford, Interim Treasurer, confirmed that the uncertain and volatile environment and resulting challenges of 2019-20 had been amplified in 2020-21. Despite this, outcomes had been stronger and, with a responsible and flexible approach from the University, a pleasing overall result had been achieved.

Martin Williams, Director of Finance, made a presentation to Court which covered key figures for 2020/21 with comparisons to 2019/20 and the outlook for 2021/22. The presentation slides are attached at Appendix 1.

07 – Developments in Research

A summary of the presentations for items 07 to 10 was provided in Paper CT21/22 – 05.

Professor Sarah Hainsworth, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), gave an overview of the University's research priorities. The University's aim was to grow research income, making a significant step change, with three new research themes: Sustainability, Health and

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Wellbeing and Digital. Please refer to the presentation slides in Appendix 2 for more information.

A positive comment was made about the clear identification of research themes. It was acknowledged that there might be research collaboration potential in the overlaps between these themes.

Professor Anna Gilmore gave a presentation on *21st Century in Public Health*, one of the Bath Beacons, and its vision to make Bath a globally-recognised centre of excellence in ground-breaking population level health research. Please refer to the presentation slides in Appendix 3.

A question was raised about the process for selecting Beacons. It was confirmed that this first year was a pilot year, with five main beacons and two mini projects. The success of this initiative would be evaluated after the pilot year.

08 – Innovation and enterprise

Professor Jonathan Knight, Vice-President (Enterprise), gave an overview of developments in innovation and enterprise. Professor Knight's presentation covered the external drivers for change, giving the opportunity for the University to build on its research strengths. Please refer to the presentation slides in Appendix 4.

Professor Matt Davidson, Director of the Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies (iCAST), gave a presentation on the work of the Centre. iCAST was a collaboration between the University of Bath, University of Oxford, the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) and National Composites Centre. Funded through a grant from Research England, the initiative brought together industry and academia to translate discoveries in green and sustainable technologies into commercial application. Please refer to the presentation slides in Appendix 5.

09 – Climate Action

Pete Phelps and Dr Steve Cayzer from The Climate Action Project team gave an overview of the education theme of the University's [Climate Action Project](#). A climate action emergency had been declared across the organisation in May 2020 and 11 Climate Action Framework principles were adopted, with a 2040 target to declare Net Zero Carbon. There had been a whole institution response in four key areas: footprint, education, research and partnerships. In the area of education, there was a focus on climate literacy, embedding in curriculum, outreach and impact, pedagogical innovation, new programmes and academic and professional development. Please refer to the presentation slides in Appendix 6.

10 – Gold Scholars

Adam Elbounabi Alyahiby, one of the University's [Gold Scholars](#), gave a personal account of the scheme. Adam was a final year Politics and Economics student with an interest in the financial world, which started following the recession in 2008. He was the first in his family to go to university. The scholarship scheme offered £5k per year to 200 students and included a structured enrichment programme. The programme was inclusive and open and had allowed Adam to connect with other gold scholars through 50 hours of compulsory volunteering and strong connections with student communities.

Adam had benefitted from both social and professional development as part of the scheme. The curriculum was tailored to each year group, offering valuable skill development, such as

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networking, time management and budgeting. Adam had learnt Arabic in his second year at the University and had been able to advantage of work experience opportunities. The scholarship team were there to support scholars. As a result, Adam had received valuable support in getting tested for dyslexia. The financial support from the scheme was crucial, helping to pay rental costs over the summer and funding study and life essentials. Without this support, Adam would have been forced to find a job, making his studies more difficult. Adam had also been able to put money aside for plans post-degree.

The scholarship programme had given Adam a community away from home as well as the skills to develop in confidence and as a well-rounded individual in society.

Whilst not presented at the meeting of Court, Appendix 7 includes a presentation giving general information on the University's Gold Scholarship Programme.

Closing items

11 – Next meeting

Court noted that the date of the next scheduled ordinary meeting of Court would be Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 2.15pm.

Unconfirmed minutes of this meeting would be circulated within the next month and published on the University website.

12– Any Other Business

There were no further items of business. The Chair thanked everybody for attending.

The meeting finished at 4.15pm.