
Meeting Minutes

Court

24 March 2026, 2.15-4.15pm

Location: Brunswick Room, Guildhall, Bath and Online (Zoom)

Introductory items

44 - Welcome and Quorum

REPORTED

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

A particular welcome was made to new members of Court for whom this was their first meeting. Apologies were also noted.

The Chair confirmed that a supplementary item of business was submitted by a member of Court under Standing Order 5.3. Following consideration by the Chair, elements relevant to the business of Court had been incorporated into the Vice-Chancellor's update, with supporting information circulated, as appropriate. Certain requested details that were commercially sensitive had not been included on the agenda, in line with Standing Order 5.4.

45 - Declarations of Interest

REPORTED

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

46 – Membership and Terms of Reference for 2025/26 and Standing Orders of Court - Paper CT25/26 – 01

REPORTED

Court noted the membership and Terms of Reference for Court.

DECISION

Court approved the changes to the Standing Orders of Court.

47 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Paper CT25/26 – 02

DECISION

Court approved the minutes of the previous meeting of Court held on 5 February 2025.

Part I: Main Business

48 – Introduction from the new Chair of Council

REPORTED

The University's new Chair of Council, Sharon Flood, gave an introduction to Court.

49 – Update from the Vice-Chancellor and Annual Accounts

REPORTED

Pursuant to Statute 8.3(b), Professor Phil Taylor, Vice-Chancellor, shared key developments from across the University, including international and civic activity, sector context, progress on the new University Strategy, and plans for the University's 60th anniversary celebrations. The Vice-Chancellor also provided a sustainability update following discussions at the 2025 meeting of Court. A copy of the presentation slides can be found in Appendix 1.

DISCUSSION

Discussion following the presentation covered the following key points:

- Increasing focus within disciplines by evaluating courses/programmes and improving or stopping courses where there was low student recruitment, student satisfaction and/or high quality graduate outcome - while also looking for opportunities to add new programmes in areas of potential growth. Within research, there needed to be a good body of underpinning curiosity-led research, but the University also needed to be cognisant of what the government and industry was asking for through the Industrial Strategy. More focus would also reduce heavy workloads and ensure the University was looking after its staff.
- Managing the tension between the government's Industrial Strategy and sub-regional priorities. The University undertook mapping between its areas of capability and national and local strategies, to see where it could contribute. The local agenda did not match sectors perfectly, so it was important to pick areas where the University could make high quality and meaningful contributions. The University needed to be responsive to government and remain lean and agile so that it could manage rapid change effectively.
- In addition to the references to industry, it was acknowledged that the University also worked with other organisations that were not industry-focused, such as the Royal United Hospital (RUH).
- The University's stance on belonging to groups of universities, such as the Russell Group. It was felt that there was no detriment to the University in not belonging to these groups, but that there were benefits to certain collaborations, such as international groups and Universities West - a recent collaboration between the University of Bath, Bath Spa University, the University of Bristol and the University of West of England. The University was keen to collaborate rather than compete with other universities in the region.
- Recognition that the employment statistics for postgraduate and international students wasn't as strong as for undergraduate students and that this was an area for improvement. It was acknowledged that it was difficult to find employment

opportunities for international students due to visa issues, and the University was trying to improve reach for those seeking help with employment outside of the UK.

- Maintaining and developing the University of Bath's distinctive characteristics by not just looking at what the University does but how things are done - for example, through being more inclusive.

REPORTED

Court received the University's [Annual Accounts](#) for the year ended 31 July 2025, as formally approved by the University Council on 20 November 2025. A copy of the presentation slides can be found in Appendix 2.

50 – Widening Participation at the University of Bath – CT25/26 – 03a-c

REPORTED

Deputy Director of Student Recruitment & Admissions and Head of Access, Andrew Ross, gave Court members an overview of the current policy landscape and regulation around access, participation and skills and what the University was currently doing to meet these regulations. A copy of the presentation slides can be found in Appendix 3.

Members were then invited to discuss with their tables ideas on ways in which the University could engage with the Skills Agenda across the region, with a focus on education and widening access to the University.

Part 2: Closing items

51 – Next meeting

REPORTED

Court noted that the date of the next scheduled meeting of Court would be Wednesday 3 February 2027 at 2.15pm.

52 – Any Other Business

REPORTED

The unconfirmed minutes to the meeting would be circulated within one month of the meeting and posted on the University's website.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair, Ruth Foreman, as this was her last meeting of Court as Pro-Chancellor.

The Chair thanked attendees for their input to today's discussion and encouraged those who would like to have a more indepth conversation with the University to reach out.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm

Attendance

Members attended

Jamie Agombar (Online)
Bob Allies
Kyriaki Anagnostopoulou
David Bird
Alam Bramley (Online)
Derek Brewer
Max Brown (Online)
Vivian Ching (Online)
Jovana Cuxac
James Davenport (Online)
Izzy Downer
Sam Ellis Hunt
Trevor Elworthy
Carolyn Emery (Online)
Adrian Evans (Online)
Sharon Flood
Ruth Foreman (Chair)
Sofiia Furman
Mohammed Gamal
Abdelnour
Sabina Gheduzzi
Dot Griffiths
Angus Gueterbock
Geoff Hammond
Liz Hardman
Sanya Jethwani
Roland Jones
David Kelly (Online)
Martin Levere
Hartmut Logemann
Annie Maw
Thomas McKinnon-Bell (Online)
Emily McManus
Jane Millar
Bernie Morley
Bharat Pankhania
Lucy Parker
Adrian Price (Online)
Esther Reeves
Ben Rhodes
Paul Shepherd
Helen Slater
Anthony Smith (Online)

Tracey Stenson Jukes
(Online)
Phil Taylor
Chris Watt
Hugo Whittome
Geof Wood

In attendance

Katie Anderton
Laura Andrews
Manuel Barcia
Ian Blenkarn (Secretary)
Jenny Boyle
Elisabeth Day
Corinne Evans
Alice Hossent
Jess Knops
Lydia Lee
Suzanne Maxwell
Harrison Pow-Jones
Ruth Robins
Andrew Ross
Clare Stevenson
Martin Williams

Apologies

Ghazwa Alwani-Starr
Kimberley Bingham
Pete Capener
Julian Chaudhuri
Martin Downes
Gary Hawley
Saskia Heijltjes
Wera Hobhouse
Calum Mercer
Nicolas Mortreuil
Benji Orford Thompson
Emma Reynolds
Sara Russell
Mohammed Sadiq
Henil Shah
Dan Smith
Jennifer Thomson
Cassie Wilson
Sue Wonnacott

Absent

Ajaz Ahmed
Robert Brain
Judith Brown
Zoe Burke
Penny Jane Burke
Jayne Davis
Chris Eldridge
Lynne Fernquest
Antonio Ferrer-Montiel
Helen Godwin
Felix Goni
Kevin Guy
Jonathan Knight
Penny McKissock
Dayo Olukoshi
Drew Ritchie
Chris Roche
Gehan Wanduragala
Alun Williams
Snow Wu