

Minutes

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| Meeting title: | Council | |
| Date: | Wednesday 1 October 2014 | Time 2.30pm |
| Location: | Room 1025, Building 175, Boldrewood | |
| Present: | Dr G Rider (<i>Chair</i>); Professor Dame J Corner, Mr P Greenish, Mr M Killingley, Ms S Kumar, Professor D McGhee, Mr D Mendoza Wolfson*, Professor D Nutbeam, Mr T O'Brien, Dr D Price, Mr A Reyes-Hughes, Mr J Trewby, Professor A Wheeler and Professor J Vickers. | |
| In attendance: | Mr L Abraham (Clerk to Council), Dr A M Drummond (Academic Registrar), Professor J Petts (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Professor A Neil (Pro Vice Chancellor (Education)), Ms S Pook (Director of Finance), Mrs J Donaldson (Director of Human Resources), Mr M Spearing (Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)) and Mr S White | |
| Apologies: | Mr M Burrow, Dr M Read, Ms R Rivaz | |

* not present for restricted business.

The Chair welcomed new members Professor Dame Jessica Corner and Mr Adrian Reyes-Hughes both attending as Council members for the first time and extended the welcome to Dr Anne Marie Drummond the Academic Registrar and Mr Steve White the Interim Chief Operating Officer both in attendance.

Council received a presentation from Professor Alex Neill, Pro Vice Chancellor (Education) and Dr Anne Marie Drummond outlining the preparations and the timetable for the forthcoming QAA Higher Education Review in February 2015.

1 Obituary

The Chair reported with regret the death of Mr Dave Williams, a Multi-Skilled Employee from Estates and Facilities, who had sadly died on 30 August 2014. Council stood as a mark of respect.

2 Council Standing Orders and Statement of Primary Responsibilities

Council received the latest version of Council Standing Orders and Statement of Primary Responsibilities for information.

RESOLVED that the Council Standing Orders and Statement of Primary Responsibilities be noted.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2014

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2014 be approved and signed and that the minutes be published on the open access SUSSED site.

Council also received a list of actions. Completed actions were deleted from the list. An outstanding action regarding Operational Excellence was assigned to the Academic Registrar/Director of Finance/Director of Strategy and Planning to report back in due course. (Updated list attached to these minutes).

ACTION: Clerk to Council

4 Declarations of Interest

Staff members and Mr O'Brien declared a collective interest as USS members. It was noted however that Council were not required to make a decision regarding the USS and were receiving an update only.

5 Publication of unrestricted papers

RESOLVED That the papers circulated that were not deemed "Commercial in Confidence" or Restricted be published on the open access SUSSED site.

ACTION: Clerk to Council

6 Vice Chancellor's Report (Agenda Item 7)

Council considered the Vice-Chancellor's report, dated 1 October 2014.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced his report highlighting the following:

- Work was continuing at a national level in an attempt to bring stability and sustainability to the USS (University Superannuation Scheme). Council noted the University position from the following key points:
 1. The University recognised the need to create long term sustainability for the pension scheme, and fully supported the current process to tackle this challenge;
 2. The University supported the principle of retaining employer and employee contribution at or very close to current levels;
 3. In the absence of any alternative, viable proposals, the University saw the merits of a hybrid solution to provide a flexible solution maintaining a significant defined benefit pension element;
 4. The transitioning arrangements had to be very carefully thought through, the University needed to ensure that staff close to retirement or making retirement plans were protected as far as possible in any changed arrangements;
 5. The University would want to see the threshold for any cap set as high as is affordable; and
 6. Given the early stage in the process, the University believed that UCU plans for industrial action were premature.
- Council noted the recent departure of Registrar, Mrs Tessa Harrison, and the Vice Chancellor placed on record his thanks to Mrs Harrison for her hard work and dedication over the past 3 years. The Vice Chancellor also thanked senior staff members for acting up while new arrangements were being discussed.
- Council noted good news related to the University rankings. Overall the University had risen by 14 places in the world rankings. A close watch was being maintained on those aspects that affect the rankings and particular attention would be paid to improving the University reputation. During discussion Council asked for the Pro Vice Chancellor (Education) to report back on the NSS and the effect on rankings.

Action: Pro Vice Chancellor (Education)

- Council were pleased to note the opening of the Mayflower Halls of Residence and asked for a visit of the facility in the new year.

Action: Clerk to the Council

- Council noted that the City Gateway complex had not been completed on time and therefore full occupation by the University was now not expected until summer 2015.
- Both USMC recruitment and action from the staff survey would be reported in November.

Action: Director of the VC Office

RESOLVED To note the Vice-Chancellor's report.

7 Student Residencies Strategy 2015-2020 and the Redevelopment of Chamberlain Halls (Agenda Item 10)

Council considered a report by the Director of Estates and Facilities which sought endorsement of the redevelopment of the Chamberlain Halls. Council noted that in order to aid realisation of the growth targets in the Vision 2020 and to gain support for capital expansion of the University from Southampton City Council, quality planned expansion of the residential halls was required.

Council expressed support for the redevelopment of Chamberlain Halls noting the revised budget of £31.7m.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the current lack of Halls places and associated implications be noted. The strategy aim to enable delivery of 12,000 bed-spaces by 2020 using a mixed economy of University owned and third party provided student accommodation with flexibility at key stages to review actual recruitment against plans be noted; and
- (ii) Chamberlain Hall redevelopment be progressed in order to deliver 356 new rooms in 2016.

Action: Director of Estates and Facilities

8 Executive Management Arrangements (Agenda Item 8)

Council considered a report by the Vice Chancellor which set out proposed changes to the executive management arrangements in the University, following the previously reported review carried out over the summer.

Council expressed full support of the proposals.

The Vice Chancellor stated that the new arrangements would be implemented as proposed and that refinements would be made in order to ensure successful alignment with the Vision 2020.

RESOLVED that the new arrangements be approved.

9 Student Recruitment 2014 (Agenda Item 9)

Council received a report by the Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor which provided an update on the University undergraduate performance for 2014/15 entry.

Council were pleased to note that the indications showed that progress through confirmation

and clearing meant that current projections are that undergraduate recruitment targets could be met. It was further noted that post graduate final numbers would not be known until sometime in November.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 Strategic Relationships with Local Colleges (Agenda Item 11)

Council received a report by the Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor which provided information regarding a strategic development with a local college.

It was noted that an opportunity to work with a local College had emerged which would enable the University to make significant expansion and improvements to the foundation year programmes, secure a pipeline of students and continue the commitment to the City of Southampton.

Council endorsed the approach.

RESOLVED that the approach be endorsed and the report be noted.

11 Council Awayday – 12/13 November 2014 (Agenda Item 12)

Council considered a report which sought to identify key topics that could form the agenda for the away day and to receive feedback from Council to help undertake appropriate preparation.

Council gave direction that the following matters be covered at the awayday:

- (i) The International picture – USMC, global trends, the strategic choices and to remind Council of the University international portfolio;
- (ii) The Southampton Business School – what will make it distinctive and world class, how it will be managed, student recruitment and the continuing plans for a new building. It was further suggested that an external expert view on the Business School may be required.
- (iii) Improvements to the student experience, including reputation and brand.

It was agreed that it was too early to discuss REF Results meaningfully and this would be removed from the proposed programme.

RESOLVED that the Council Awayday take the form as set out above covering the International Strategy, Southampton Business School and the Student Experience.

Action: Director of Strategy and Planning

12 Report from the Students' Union (Agenda Item 13)

Council received a report from the President of the Students' Union.

Council noted the various activities held by the Union during Fresher's Week and the need to focus attention on NSS results relating to Union work at the Winchester School of Art.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

13 Nominations Committee Matters (Agenda Item 14)

Council received a verbal update from the Chair outlining discussions from the Nominations Committee held earlier in the day.

It was noted that Mr Andrew Gordon, a member of the Audit Committee had reached the end of his term of office and had expressed interest in a second term. His appointment was recommended by the Nominations Committee.

Potential candidates for the Class 2 vacancies on Council had been discussed and further consideration been given on the names provided. The Chair and Vice Chancellor would meet with candidates and form a view to the Nominations Committee in due course.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Mr Andrew Gordon be re-appointed to the Audit Committee until 31 July 2017;
and
- (ii) The verbal update regarding Class 2 vacancies be noted.

ACTION: Clerk to Council

14 Senior Salaries Committee Update (Agenda Item 15)

Council received a report by the Chair on the activities of the Senior Salaries Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

15 Risk Register (Agenda Item 16)

Council considered a report from the Director of Strategy and Planning which set out the latest risk register.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16 Sealing of Documents (Agenda Item 17)

Received and noted a report detailing the documents sealed since the last report to Council.

Restricted Items

17 Restricted Human Resources Matter (Restricted Item 18(i))

Council considered a restricted report by the Head of Electronics and Computer Science.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

18 Restricted Human Resources Matter (Restricted Item 18(ii))

Council considered a restricted report by the Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm