

Minutes

Meeting title:	Council	
Date:	Thursday 8 October 2015	Time 3.00pm
Location:	The Mathematical Sciences Student Centre, Building 56, Highfield	
Present:	Dr G Rider (<i>Chair</i>); Mr M Burrow, Professor Dame J Corner, Mr B Franklin, Mr P Greenish, Ms S Kumar, Dr B Lwaleed, Mr T O'Brien, Dr D Price, Mr A Reyes-Hughes, Dr R Rivaz Hons DSc, Mr W Shannon, Professor Sir C Snowden, Mr J Trewby, Professor J Vickers and Professor A Wheeler.	
In attendance:	Mr L Abraham (Clerk to the Council), Ms C Atkins (Academic Registrar), Mrs J Donaldson (Director of HR), Professor A Neill (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Mr S Peatfield (Director of Marketing and Communications), Professor J Petts (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Ms S Pook (Director of Finance) and Professor M Spearing (Provost and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)).	
Apologies:	None	

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting, particularly Professor Sir Christopher Snowden, Dr Bashir Lwaleed and Mr Ben Franklin all attending their first Council meeting. The Chair also thanked those who had made presentations to Council prior to the meeting. Those presentations were:

- (i) Paul Deegan and Richard Baskerville of PwC – Progress on the Business Model Review
- (ii) Dawn Baxendale, Chief Executive of Southampton City Council – Opportunities for joint working and city promotion
- (iii) Nicky Passmore, Director of Student Services/Rosie Tressler, Student Minds/Sam Bailey, SUSU – Student Wellbeing and Mental Health

1 Obituary

Council was informed of the sad deaths of Engineering Sciences PhD student Sunghan Kim, Honorary Graduate Norman Powell and former head of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Emeritus Professor of the University, Geoffrey Lilley OBE.

Council stood as a mark of respect.

2 Council Standing Orders and Statement of Primary Responsibilities, Committee Terms of Reference and Membership

Council considered a report by the Clerk to the Council which set out both the Council Standing Orders and the Statement of Primary Responsibilities which enabled Council to be reminded of its powers, mode of operation and responsibilities. An updated membership list was also included. As part of good governance Council should also annually review those committees which provide advice directly. Details of the terms of reference and membership for the Standing Committee of Council, Nominations Committee, Audit Committee, Senior Salaries Committee and the Health and Safety Audit Committee were also provided.

Council noted that changes had been made to the Standing Orders and the Statement of Primary Responsibilities to reflect the abolition of Court, changes to senior post titles and the quorum guidelines related to Council following the reduction in Council numbers. It was also noted that further changes and amendments were likely to be forthcoming mid year, and these would be agreed via Chair's action and reported to Council for noting.

RESOLVED That

- (i) the amended Council Standing Order, the Statement of Primary Responsibilities and membership of Council be noted; and
- (ii) the terms of reference and membership information for each of the Committees be noted.

3 Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2015 be approved and signed and that the minutes be published on the open access SUSSED.

ACTION: Clerk to Council

4 Actions and Matters Arising

The outstanding actions that were to be dealt with via items on the agenda were deleted.

It was noted that with regard to recent PGR data audit, both the Audit Committee and the Data Quality Group would monitor the implementation of the action plan.

In response to an action from the last Council meeting relating to Capital Programme 3, Council received a report which provided information related to the significant decision points for Capital Programme 3 projects Boldrewood D/G and South Gower. The ongoing relationship with the Science Park was also raised. The Vice Chancellor undertook to review the issues surrounding Capital Programme 3 and the Science Park and would report back to Council on a structured way forward in due course.

ACTION: Vice Chancellor

5 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

6 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

7 Vice Chancellor’s Introduction

The new Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Christopher Snowden, addressed Council setting out his aspirations for leading the University. He provided a summary of his thoughts and observations about the University during his first week, and highlighted his initial priorities for the coming months.

8 Vice Chancellor’s Report (Agenda Item 9)

Council considered the Vice-Chancellor’s report, dated 8 October 2015.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced his report highlighting the following:

- continuing funding reductions from central government;
- the arrival of more than 6,000 new students for 2015;
- the implications and responsibilities of the new Prevent legislation (to be discussed at a future Council meeting);
- that students were now occupying the City Gateway halls and providing positive feedback;
- the recent rise of the University in league tables and the National Student Survey results;
- the recent official opening of the Boldrewood Campus by HRH The Princess Royal.

RESOLVED That the Vice-Chancellor’s report be noted.

9 Student Recruitment 2015 Update (Agenda Item 10)

Council received a report which provided an update on the University’s undergraduate recruitment performance for the 2015/2016 entry. The Pro Vice Chancellor (Education) presented the report in detail.

Council noted that more precise figures for post graduate recruitment would be known later in the year and reported to Council accordingly.

The issue of time-tabling and limited lecture space was raised and discussed. It was agreed that the matter be discussed further outside of the meeting between the Pro Vice Chancellor (Education) and the Students’ Union President with University Senior Management Team being asked to resolve the matter.

Action: Pro Vice Chancellor (Education)/President SUSU

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 USMC Update (Agenda Item 11)

Council considered a report by the Provost and Pro Vice Chancellor (International) which set out a brief update on activity at the Malaysian Campus.

Council was pleased to note good progress.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the report be noted; and
- (ii) a further update be provided in May 2016.

11 Report from the President of the Students' Union (Agenda Item 12)

Council received a report from the President of the Students' Union which highlighted the recent launch of the SU Recruitment Agency, recent visits by the SU team to high performing institutions, the finalisation of the SU Vision 2020 strategy and the changes introduced to aid the smooth running of Fresher's Week.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12 Nominations Committee Appointment Matter

Chair of Council reminded that due to Dr David Price being appointed to the role of Class 1 University Treasurer, a Class 2 vacancy existed on the Nominations Committee. Mr Philip Greenish was proposed.

RESOLVED that Mr Philip Greenish be appointed as Class 2 representative to the Nominations Committee until 31 July 2017 (to run concurrently with Class 2 appointment on Council).

13 Strategic Risk Register – Full Item (Agenda Item 14)

Council received a report which presented the University Strategic Risk Register and also provided an update on recent changes to the strategic risks.

Council noted that the University now maintained two risk registers: strategic and operational. The methodology used to split the risks was noted and the strategic risks were presented to Council for consideration. It was further noted that operational risks were owned and monitored by University Senior Management Team.

Two Class 2 lay members of Council had worked closely with the Strategy and Planning team in producing and compiling the new strategic risk register. It was noted that more consideration was required regarding reputational risk, the spread of the impact of risks and how the University could use the register most effectively. It was noted that changes and refinements would be made to the register as the new method embedded.

RESOLVED that the strategic risk register be noted.

14 Sealing of Documents (Agenda Item 15)

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

15 Chair's Action

Council noted the following actions taken by the Chair since the last meeting:

- (i) Appointment of Professor Sir Christopher Snowden as Professor of Microwave Engineering.
- (ii) Chair of Council is requested to authorise a total of £15,500 to allow CP3 continue into 2015/16.

Restricted Items

16 Restricted Human Resources Matters (Restricted Item 17(i))

Council received a restricted report regarding a Dean appointment.

RESOLVED that the recommendation be approved.

17 Restricted Human Resources Matters (Restricted Item 17 (ii))

Council received a restricted report regarding a Head of Academic Unit appointment.

RESOLVED that the recommendation be approved.

The meeting concluded at 5.35pm