

Minutes

Meeting title:	Council	
Date:	Tuesday 27 September 2016	Time 3.00pm
Location:	The Conference Room, The Wessex Institute, Alpha House, Chilworth Science Park, Chilworth	
Present:	Dr G Rider (<i>Chair</i>); Professor C Grant, Mr G Hobbs, Mr P Hollins, Mr A Hovden, Ms S Kumar, Dr B Lwaleed, Professor M Niranjani, Mr T O'Brien, Dr D Price, Mr A Reyes-Hughes, Professor P Reed, Dr R Rivaz Hons DSc, Mr W Shannon, Professor Sir C Snowden and Professor J Vickers.	
In attendance:	Mr L Abraham (Clerk to the University Council), Professor S Cox (Chief Information Officer), Mrs J Donaldson (Director of HR), Mr I Dunn (Chief Operating Officer), Professor T Elliott (Pro Vice Chancellor), Ms S Pook (Director of Finance), Professor W Powrie (Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment) and Professor M Spearing (Vice President – Research & Enterprise)	
Apologies:	Mr G Berruyer and Mr P Greenish	

Prior to the meeting, representatives from the Wessex Institute gave a short presentation on the work of NETSCC. NETSCC was established in April 2008 and had been managed since its inception by the Wessex Institute, part of the Faculty of Medicine, through a ten year contract awarded by the Department of Health. The contract was now up for renewal through a competitive tendering process. The NETSCC contract supported approximately 200 University employees, brought in around £100m over ten years and was responsible for awarding over £1bn of research funding on behalf of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The new NETSCC contract would be a ten year contract running from April 2018 – March 2028, with a maximum contract value of £160m over ten years. Strong support had been gained from the University in re-tendering for this contract.

1 Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 July 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed

ACTION: Clerk to Council

2 Actions and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that a report regarding Staff Mental Health be considered at this meeting.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

4 **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 the University Council

5 **Scoping the 10 Year Plan – Outline Business Case**

Council received a presentation outlining the scope of the 10 Year Plan.

The President & Vice Chancellor began by highlighting the need for the 10 Year Plan adding that although the plan would require long term implementation, significant progress would be made in the early years of the plan. Full delivery would be achieved through manageable steps underpinned by evidence and data.

The presentation then outlined the separate workstreams that cut across the 4 principles of Quality, International, Sustainability and Collegiality and identified the Executive lead teams for each. Each principle was then identified as having “levers” which could be activated to bring about change and improvement. These levers were then filtered down to a focused set of actions attributed to either Quality or Financial Sustainability as follows:

Quality

- Increase entry tariff
- Improve career prospects
- Increase student satisfaction
- Maintain REF power ranking
- Improve quality of the estate
- Enhance University reputation

Financial Sustainability

- Decrease academic staff costs
- Decrease professional services staff costs
- Decrease procurement costs
- Increase income from tuition fees
- Increase research income
- Increase other income

Each of the above points were then presented in detail individually, presenting data on the current position, outlining the desired target and highlighting the work required to achieve the target. With regard to implementation, Council noted that effective engagement with the whole University community was required in order to bring the plan to life and that there were many tensions to resolve, including financial sustainability.

With regard to entry tariffs, it was queried whether every part of the University could respond positively to ever increasing standards and that, over time, the student selection would be from an ever narrowing bandwidth. It was noted that the University could

provide more wide ranging support for students from differing educational backgrounds and that this was already underway within the Faculty of Medicine.

It was agreed that many other Universities would be having similar thoughts and implementing similar plans. Council noted that the University would adapt and change as the 10 Plan unfolded against the backdrop of market and environment changes. Council further noted that entry tariff plans had been implemented this year and as a result entry standards had increased significantly with the current year's recruitment round. The aim now was to monitor and build on that early success and maintain it for future years.

With regard to programme areas, it was noted that the University offered a broad portfolio of subject areas and it may be prudent to focus attention on the most successful programmes. It was recognised that this would be an area of major tension for the University and any changes would require careful planning and thorough consideration.

Professional Services was also to become more agile and streamlined. Systems rationalisation was already underway and areas such as governance and decision making were being reviewed to see where improvements could be made. Releasing staff from administrative burden was key in order to focus effort on the 10 Year Plan outcomes.

Council provided the following conclusions:

- Clear and effective communication of the plan was vital;
- Staff must be fully engaged with the plan to ensure success;
- The plan was very high quality; and
- While Council input and advice was important, the executive be trusted to progress the plan and deliver.

RESOLVED that the 10 Year Plan presentation and discussion be noted.

6 President and Vice Chancellor's Report

The President & Vice Chancellor presented his report to Council highlighting the following:

- Government/Ministerial changes and Higher Education Bill
- Inflation increase for tuition fees
- Stern Review of the REF
- The latest position following Brexit
- University recruitment
- Results from the National Student Survey

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 Regulated Fees 2017/18

Council considered a report by the Director of Finance which set tuition fees for regulated students in 2017/18 and beyond. The regulations related to students who had been assessed as eligible for fee support. For the University this could be taken to relate to full-time home and EU undergraduates. Finance Committee had previously considered

the proposals at its meeting on 7 September 2016 and supported the recommendations to Council.

Council noted that the students' union, Union Southampton, would not support the proposed increase in fees. The Union expressed the firm view, via the Union President, that students were increasingly regarded as consumers and expected to pay more for education and while it was understood that alternative funding streams such as central government were diminishing, certainty of fees should be provided particularly to home students. The Union reminded Council that student opinion affected league tables but also recognised that the wider issue of student fees was government policy and not initiated by the University. Council noted that this was currently a national issue affecting many institutions and while the suggestion of fee certainty for different student cohorts was not achievable at this stage for home/EU students due to government constraints, further investigation be carried out into options relating to future fee caps.

ACTION: Director of Finance

RESOLVED that:

- (i) continuing students will continue to be charged a fee of £9,000 per year for the duration of their course;
- (ii) 2017 entrants will be charged a fee of £9,250 in 2017/18, or the maximum permitted for regulated students. This is subject to full parliamentary approval. BIS has confirmed that the University has met the eligibility requirements set out in the Government's White Paper for participation in Year One of the Teaching Excellence Framework;
- (iii) fees for entrants from 2017 onwards will be set annually up to the maximum allowable under the relevant national regulations; and
- (iv) entrants from prior to 2017 who transfer to a new course will be charged the maximum allowable under the relevant national regulations.

The President of the Students' Union wished that his voting to the above resolution be recorded as follows:

- (i) - Abstained from voting
- (ii) - Voted against
- (iii) - Voted against
- (iv) - Voted against

8 Nominations Committee Matters

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

Council noted the Committee recommendation to appoint Ms Francesca Barnes as a Class 2 Lay Member of Council. Ms Barnes had met with a number of key Council members and proved to be an excellent candidate possessing both extensive finance and education management skills.

It was noted that the University Chancellor Dame Helen Alexander's term of office expired in August 2016. Dame Helen had kindly agreed to a further term of 4 years.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Ms Francesca Barnes be appointed as Class 2 member of Council from 1 November 2016 until 31 July 2019; and
- (ii) Dame Helen Alexander be reappointed as Chancellor of the University from 27 September 2016 until 31 July 2020.

9 Mental Health

Council received a report from the Director of Health and Safety which provided an overview of mental health, the legal background, how the risk is identified, control measures currently in place and their effectiveness together with scope for improvement.

Council noted that an advisor was being recruited to help the University with this issue and that various measures would be implemented such as training for line management and investigation into more effective reporting.

Adrian Reyes-Hughes highlighted the work that had been undertaken within the Faculty of Medicine in this area and offered to assist further with work happening centrally. Council requested for a further update in July 2017.

ACTION: Director of Health and Safety

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 Report from the President of the Students' Union

Council received a report by the President of the Students' Union which outlined current activity, including:

- Outline of projects to deliver core goals;
- Union KPIs; and
- Continuing advice and representation for students;

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

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

Council received a report from the Clerk to the Council which presented both Council Standing Orders and the Statement of Primary Responsibilities together with committee terms of references in order that Council be reminded of its powers, mode of operation and responsibilities. An updated membership list for Council and all Committees was also included.

Council noted that a review of the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances was underway for implementation in September 2017.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12 Sealing of Documents

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

13 Chair's Actions

Council noted the following Chair's Actions taken since the last meeting:

- (i) Union Southampton - Changes to the Association
- (ii) Marcus Parry to the role of Head of Academic Unit - Medical Education, within the Faculty of Medicine

Restricted Items

14 Restricted Human Resources Matters

Council considered a restricted report regarding two proposals for redundancy - Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Natural and Environmental Sciences.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be approved.

The meeting concluded at 6.10pm