

# Minutes Unrestricted

<b>Meeting title:</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 10 July 2013	<b>Time</b> 4.00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Southampton General Hospital	
<b>Present:</b>	Dr G Rider ( <i>chair</i> ); Mr J Boyer; Mr D Gilani*; Mr M Killingley; Professor D McGhee; Professor D Nutbeam; Mr T O'Brien; Dr D Price; Dr M Read; Mrs H Smith; Professor P Smith; Dr G Spittle; Mr J Trewby; Professor J Vickers; Professor A Wheeler.	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr L Abraham (observer); Mr M Ace (Chief Operating Officer); Mrs T Harrison (Registrar); Ms K Kerridge-Poonia (for item 115); Ms S Pook (Director of Finance); Professor M Spearing (Pro Vice-Chancellor (International));.	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr M Burrow; Professor J Falkingham; Professor A Neill; Mr S Peatfield; Ms R Rivaz	

\* not present for restricted business.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Mr Lee Abraham (the recently appointed Clerk to Council) attending the meeting as an observer and Mr David Gilani, the new President of SUSU.

**Declarations of Interest:** there were no conflicts of interest declared.

## **110 Presentation on the Cancer Immunology Centre by Professor Iain Cameron, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Professor Peter Johnson, Cancer Research UK Professor of Medical Oncology**

Council received a presentation from Professors Iain Cameron and Peter Johnson, [?] on the proposed Cancer Immunology Centre. The presentation highlighted the University's existing strengths in cancer immunology and the great potential to develop this research in ways that will fundamentally improve our understanding of cancer and shape future treatments. Professor Cameron updated Council that the required total package to support the CIC would be £20M of which £10M had been raised through the recent philanthropic gift to the University. The Faculty was working with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations on the most significant fundraising campaign the University had ever engaged with to raise the remaining amount. It was anticipated that this would provide a timely springboard for developing a culture of philanthropy more widely across the University. A degree of urgency was required to align the Southampton initiative to the opening of the Crick Institute.

The Chair thanked Professors Cameron and Johnson for an interesting and informative tour of the hospital and the presentation, noting that Council would receive an update on progress in the Autumn Term.

### 111 Obituary (Agenda Item 1)

The Chair reported with regret the deaths of the following staff and students since the last meeting and invited members to stand as a mark of respect:

- Professor Robin Usher – former professor in Education died on 1 July 2013 following a traumatic fall whilst on holiday
- James Within – third year Mathematics students died in 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013
- Tekeste Hagos Tesfazion – studying for a Doctorate in Education had died on 2 February 2013.

### 112 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2013 (Agenda Item 2)

**Resolved** That the minutes (unrestricted) and the confidential minutes (unrestricted) of the meeting held on 29 May 2013 be approved and signed and that the minutes be published on the open access SUSSED site.

### 113 Publication of unrestricted papers (Agenda Item 4)

**Resolved** That the papers circulated for the meeting be published on the open access SUSSED site with the exception of the papers for agenda items 6.3 and 13 which had been circulated as confidential to the Council.

### 114 Vice Chancellor's Report (Agenda Item 5)

**Received** the Vice-Chancellor's report, dated 10 July 2013.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced his report noting the largely positive outcome for higher education from the Comprehensive Spending Review and especially the commitment to support postgraduate taught students in light of intensive lobbying by the sector.

*Student Recruitment* – the University was cautiously optimistic about its position. The Provost was leading intensive scenario planning activities to position the University to prepare for, and respond to, the confirmation and clearing period. The University was actively planning for over-recruitment in a number of postgraduate taught programmes, most notably at Winchester School of Art and in the Faculty of Business and Law. The University had recently hosted the head of UCAS who had spoken about the national recruitment picture and Southampton's actual and relative performance. Council could be reassured that the University community was collectively motivated and engaged around the challenge of student recruitment in response to the difficulties the sector had experienced last year.

*Strategy* – an advanced set of ideas would be brought to Council for debate and decision at its October Away Day.

*Southampton Asset Management (SAM) Board* - the University was in the process of delineating the different roles currently undertaken by the SAM Board and would bring forward the outcomes in the Autumn Term. The Chair and the Vice-Chancellor expressed the Council's and the University's gratitude to Mr Boyer for his energy and commitment to the activities of the SAM Board. Mr Boyer suggested that Council should give consideration to how the Board could focus its attention on providing strategic advice to best support the University as it worked through defining where it was truly excellent and from which truly

strong science could create ambitious and game changing opportunities.

*Business School* - the University Executive Group had recently discussed an advanced proposition for a new Business School which had been well received. Work on the proposal would continue and would be brought to Council with a range of other related capital propositions in the Spring. Council noted it would welcome being able to view the capital projects as a complete programme of activity aligned to strategy (i.e. Capital Programme 3).

*International Links* – Council’s attention was drawn to the University’s formal links register.

*OFFA Agreement* – the University had heard recently that its 2014/2015 Access Agreement had been agreed by OFFA. The new agreement represented a significant change from the previous two agreements allowing new investment in the student experience as less money was allocated to fee relief.

*Birthday Honours* - Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt had been knighted in the 2013 Queen’s Birthday Honours List for services to science and engineering.

*Visits* – the University was benefitting from a number of high profile senior level civil servants visits providing for much higher level recognition of the University and its activities.

*Higher Education Academy* - the Vice-Chancellor reported that he had recently been appointed as the new Chair of the Higher Education Academy with effect from 2014.

**Resolved** To note the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

## 115 Annual Equality and Diversity (Agenda Item 7)

**Received** a paper from Professor Jeremy Howells and the Head of Equality and Diversity.

Professor Howells introduced the report noting:

- progress in 2012/2013 on priorities in respect of governance, the recruitment and promotion of women, the renewal of the University’s bronze Athena Swan award and preparations to apply for a silver award in Medicine, the Research Excellence Framework preparations;
- the University's focus in 2013/2014 would be on the experience of BME staff and students, further activities in relation to the promotion of women and further Athena Swan related activities, work on internationalisation and good campus relations to better understand the cultural change required at the University to create an inclusive environment for an increasingly internationalised staff and student profile;
- development of a well-being strategy for the University.

During discussion the following points were made:

- addressing poorer BME student outcomes had not been explicitly reflected in the priority objectives for 2013/2014;
- there was no explicit reference to equality and diversity in the University's Strategy or Key Performance Indicators which meant the Council was unclear about why this was strategically important and what the University was seeking to achieve. The University Executive Group had recently discussed how to achieve cultural change whilst avoiding a tick-box approach. The Council expected to see internal and sector comparative data in future reports to be able to monitor the University's progress;
- whether the focus on REF equality and diversity was concerned with the outcomes or

the intrinsic equality and diversity profile of submissions; the REF process required a process of equality impact to assess the contribution of individuals in protected categories and their treatment as part of the institutional submission.

The Chair summarised by congratulating the University on the improvements made in reporting and in the quality of the discussion. The queries raised by Council related to the overall leadership and organisational behaviours which would make the difference in bringing about cultural change. Council would expect to understand what each faculty and professional service was doing to address the issues and how the change was being led and implemented through a more explicit link with the University's strategy that made clear the expectations of staff and students operating within a diverse community.

**Resolved** to endorse the annual report.

**116 New Academic Titles** (Agenda Item 8)

**Received** a paper from the Provost.

**Resolved** to approve the use of the Associate Professor title with effect from 1 January 2014.

**117 Changes to Ordinances and Statutes** (Agenda Item 9)

**Received** a paper from the Provost.

**Resolved** to approve the changes as proposed.

**118 Report from the President of the Students' Union** (Agenda Item 10)

**Received** a paper from the President of the Students' Union.

Mr Gilani introduced his report updating Council on the Union's plan for the year noting the main priority items as being postgraduate funding; developing student leadership and working with the University to scope the proposal to develop central facilities to support students.

The Chair thanked Mr Gilani for his report.

**Resolved** to note the report.

**119 Students' Union Memorandum and Articles of Association** (Agenda Item 11)

**Received** a paper from the Deputy Director of Student Services.

**Resolved** to note the paper.

**120 Students' Union Review of Code of Practice** (Agenda Item 12)

**Received** a paper from the Deputy Director of Student Services.

**Resolved** to note the report and approve the proposed minor changes to the Code of Practice.

### **121 University Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (Agenda Item 13)**

**Received** a paper from the Director of Strategy and Planning.

The Vice-Chancellor outlined the process by which the KPIs had been developed. The purpose of the KPIs was to enable Council to track progress on the implementation of strategy; as such each KPI was necessarily expressed at a high level. Council was interested to understand the means by which the University decided how it would benchmark its performance and suggested there might be some tightening up of the most important indicators to better inform Council's ability to support to the University's senior team. It was suggested that a small sub-set of members might work with the Director of Strategy and Planning to develop the KPIs further.

**Resolved** to note the report and to request the KPIs reflect the University's equality and diversity goals.

### **122 University Risk Register (Agenda Item 14)**

**Received** a paper from the Chief Operating Officer.

**Resolved** to note the report.

### **123 Annual Report on the Code of Practice to Ensure Freedom of Speech (Agenda Item 15)**

**Received** a paper from the Registrar.

**Resolved** to note the report.

### **124 Reports from the meetings of the Nominations Committee held in November 2012, January 2013 and July 2013 (Agenda Item 16)**

**Received** the minutes of the meetings of the Nominations Committee held on 21 November 2012 and 23 January 2013 and an oral report on the meeting held on 10 July 2013.

**Resolved** to approve the reappointment of Dr David Price as a Class 2 member for a second term of three years commencing on 1 October 2013.

### **125 HEFCE Five Year Forecasts (Agenda Item 17)**

**Received** a paper from the Director of Finance.

**Resolved** to approve the financial commentary and completed financial forecast tables for submission to HEFCE by 31 July 2013.

### **126 Financial Monitoring 2012/2013: May Management Accounts (Agenda Item 18)**

**Received** and noted a paper from the Director of Finance updating Council on the Management Accounts of the University.

### **127 Sealing of Documents (Agenda Item 19)**

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