

Minutes Unrestricted

Meeting title: Council

Date: Wednesday 23 May 2012

Time: 4.00pm

Location: The Council Room, George Thomas Building

Present: Dame Valerie Strachan (*Chair*), Mr J Boyer, Professor I Cameron, Professor J Falkingham, Professor R Holdaway, Mr M Killingley, Mr S Ling*, Professor D Nutbeam, Mr T O'Brien, Dr D Price, Dr M Read, Dr G Rider, Mrs H Smith, Professor P Smith, Dr G Spittle, Professor J Vickers and Professor A Wheeler.

In attendance: The Chief Operating Officer, the Director of Finance, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), the Registrar and Mrs J Williams.

* not present for restricted business.

The Chair welcomed Dr Gill Rider and Professor James Vickers to their first meeting of Council.

Declarations of Interest: Mr Boyer declared an interest in respect of the item at Minute 117 (in the Unrestricted confidential minutes) relating to grants from Research Councils as a member of the Council of the EPSRC.

100 Presentation from Professor Tim Elliott and Ms Christine McGrath – Translational Research

The Council received a presentation from Professor Tim Elliott, Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Ms Christine McGrath, Director of Research and Development – University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust outlining how the Faculty of Medicine was working with the Hospital Trust to develop the translational research agenda – taking research findings from the laboratory to the patient. Members noted that the partnership between the University and the Trust was underpinned by a shared vision, shared research focus and sharing of resources. This was enabling it to punch well above its weight in terms of what it achieved. Impacts of the translational research undertaken at the Southampton Centre for Biomedical Research included:

- A study of the use of Vitamin D supplements in pregnant women to enhance bone density in babies.
- Development of a DNA vaccine against cancer.
- The use of monoclonal antibodies to boost immunity against melanoma.
- The use of inhaled Interferon to protect asthmatics from respiratory virus infections.
- Responses to the swine flu vaccine in children, which had been used to determine the national vaccine strategy.

A copy of a virtual tour of the Southampton Centre for Biomedical Research would be made available to Council Members.

The Chair thanked Professor Elliot and Ms McGrath for their interesting and informative presentation.

101 Obituary

There were no obituaries on this occasion.

102 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2012

Resolved that the Minutes (unrestricted) of the above meeting be approved and signed, and that the non-confidential minutes may now be published on the SUSSED group site.

103 Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

104 Publication of unrestricted papers

The Chair advised that the papers for agenda items 5, 6.1 and 9 were circulated as confidential to Council and should not be published on the open access site.

Resolved that, with the exceptions set out above, the papers circulated for the meeting on 23 May 2012 should now be published on the open access SUSSED site.

- 105 **Access Agreement 2012/13** (Agenda Item 5)
[This item is commercial in confidence and a separate confidential minute is circulated to members of Council only.]

106 **Business Planning 2012/13**

- 106.1 **Strategic Overview of Business Planning Recommendations** (Agenda Item 6.1)
[This item is commercial in confidence and a separate confidential minute is circulated to members of Council only.]

106.2 **Budget Report 2012/13** (Agenda Item 6.2)

Received a paper from the Director of Finance setting out the financial position of the University, funding proposals that are closely aligned to the University Strategy and recommending a budget which delivers on current priorities in education and research and supports growth in the coming years.

Resolved to approve:

- (1) the overall University budget which would show a surplus of £4.6 million for 2012/13;
- (2) the individual spending plans of the faculties and professional services;
- (3) the spending of £15 million on strategic investments as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, an increase of £4 million on 2011/12.

106.3 **Capital Programme 1 Formal Completion; Capital Programme 2 Update; Capital Programme 3 – Initial Scoping and Strategic Ambitions** (Agenda Item 6.3)

Received a paper from the Chief Operating Officer providing the formal completion report on Capital Programme 1, an update on progress and financial report on Capital Programme 2 and a first preview of the University's long list of projects to support its strategic aims in Capital Programme 3.

Resolved

1. to note the completion of Capital Programme 1 within the overall cost envelope set by Council;
2. to note the currently satisfactory progress on Capital Programme 2 and anticipate the report on an enhanced scheme for Chamberlain Hall to be received in July 2012;
3. to note the initial list of possible projects for Capital Programme 3 and endorse (as recommended in the budget proposals) the start of scoping and evaluation work on these projects.

106.4 **Managing Student Numbers for 2012/13** (Agenda Item 6.4)

Received a paper from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) setting out the figures for student numbers for 2012/13.

Members noted that, as at 23 May 2012, the number of firm acceptances for undergraduate courses had increased to 4,449 (4,586 including deferred applicants), the number of insurance acceptances to 3,289 and there were 1,800 open offers with applicants. For post-graduate taught courses the University had 3,218 acceptances, with 2,226 offers still open.

In the light of variations in performance against targets across courses Faculties had been asked to consider where numbers could be grown in response to high demand. Numbers would be managed at Faculty and Institution levels.

The Provost highlighted the importance of taking a longer term view of student numbers in the light of the fact that fluctuations were often short term.

Members asked to be kept up to date with the student numbers for 2012/13 as additional data became available.

Resolved to note the report and the update given.

107 HEFCE Annual Accountability returns – June 2012 submission (Agenda Item 7)

Received a paper from the Director of Finance recommending the completed financial forecast tables and financial commentary for submission to HEFCE by 20 June 2012.

Resolved to approve the financial commentary and completed financial forecast tables for submission to HEFCE by 20 June 2012, noting that that this is being done a month in advance of the submission date. Any substantial revision will be approved by the Vice Chancellor and the Treasurer and reported back to Council at its July meeting.

108 Treasury Management Policy and Practices (Agenda Item 8)

Received a paper from the Director of Finance recommending a revised Treasury Management Policy and Practices for adoption.

Council noted that the first annual Treasury Management report would be submitted to its July meeting.

Resolved to approve the Treasury Management Policy and Practices.

109 Update on University of Southampton Malaysia Campus Project (Agenda Item 9)

[This item is commercial in confidence and a separate confidential minute is circulated to members of Council only.]

110 Annual Equality and Diversity Report 2011/12 (Agenda Item 10)

Noted that consideration of the Annual Equality and Diversity Report for 2011/12 had been deferred to the July Meeting of Council.

111 Vice-Chancellor's Annual Report on Safety and Occupational Health (Agenda Item 10)

Received a paper from the Vice-Chancellor reporting the safety and occupational health activities of the University in the last year.

Resolved to endorse the Vice-Chancellor's Annual Report.

112 Report from the Nominations Committee 23 May 2012 (Agenda Item 11)

Members noted that the recommendations from the Nominations Committee on 23 May 2012 would be submitted to the July Council meeting.

113 Vice-Chancellor's report (Agenda Item 14)

Received The Vice-Chancellor's report, dated 23 May 2012.

Council noted additional updates as follows:

Health and Safety

Members noted that a report from the Health and Safety Executive was awaited following an accident on board the University's ship, Callista, which had resulted in a serious injury to a contractor. Council would be kept informed.

Guardian University Guide 2013

The Guardian published its 2013 University Guide on Monday 21 May. Overall, the University of Southampton was ranked 22nd, up 6 places from 28th last year.

Resolved To note the Vice-Chancellor's report and updates given.

114 Report from the President of the Students' Union (Agenda Item 15)

Received A report from the President of the Students' Union on the developments in SUSU since the last University Council Meeting.

Mr Ling highlighted the following:

Referendum on Affiliation to the NUS

A referendum would be held in November to determine whether SUSU should affiliate to the NUS.

Charity Registration

This was moving forward on schedule. The Union had been set up as a company limited by guarantee, the process of appointing directors was progressing and the Union's assets were being transferred to the new organisation.

Everest Climb

Congratulations were due to first year medic, Becky Bellworthy, who successfully climbed to the summit of Mount Everest recently.

Rifle Club

The Rifle Club had recently competed in a national competition winning gold in every category.

Resolved To note the report and updates and to record the thanks and congratulations of Council to the students involved in the life-saving, sporting and other achievements outlined.

115 Financial Monitoring 2011/12: March 2012 Management Accounts (Agenda Item 17)

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

Resolved To note the report.

116 Sealing of Documents (Agenda Item 18)

Received A paper listing the documents sealed, dated 10 May 2012.

Noted The list of sealed documents.