

Minutes Unrestricted

Meeting title:	University Council	
Date:	Wednesday 29 May 2013	Time 2.45pm
Location:	National Oceanography Centre	
Present:	Dr G Rider (chair); Professor J Falkingham; Mr P Greenish; Mr M Killingley; Ms S Kumar; Mr S Ling*; Professor D McGhee; Professor D Nutbeam; Mr T O'Brien; Dr D Price; Dr M Read; Ms R Rivaz; Mrs H Smith; Professor P Smith; Mr J Trewby; Professor J Vickers.	
In attendance:	Chief Operating Officer; Director of Finance; Provost; Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education); Pro Vice-Chancellor (International); Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research); Registrar.	
Apologies:	Mr J Boyer; Mr D Galani; Mr M Burrow; Dr G Spittle	

* not present for restricted business.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting noting the attendance of the incoming President of SUSU, Mr David Galani.

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

93 **Minutes of the meeting of Council on 15 March 2013 – Unrestricted and Minutes of the meeting of Council on 15 March 2013 – Unrestricted Confidential**

Resolved That the minutes (unrestricted) and the confidential minutes (unrestricted) of the meeting held on 15 March 2013 be approved, signed and published on the open access SUSSED site subject to noting:

- Ms S Kumar and Mr P Greenish were in attendance
- minute 72 should read 'Dr Spittle's attendance was incorrectly recorded in the Financial Statements. Dr Spittle attended four not three meetings of the Council.'

94 **Publication of unrestricted papers**

Resolved : That the papers circulated for the meeting be published on the open access SUSSED site with the exception of the paper for agenda item 8 which had been circulated as confidential to the Council.

95 Vice-Chancellor's report to Council

Received the Vice-Chancellor's report dated 29 May 2013.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following issues in particular:

QAA Institutional Review - the University had successfully appealed the outcome of the QAA Institutional Review. The entire review had been set aside and a new review scheduled, the timing of which was under discussion with the Chief Executive of the Quality Assurance Agency. The lessons learned would be used to inform the University's preparations for the new review. The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor and his team for their efforts in achieving the positive outcome for the University.

Business Planning - the outcomes of the University's business planning round would culminate in the presentation of the 2013/2014 plan and budget to the July meeting of Council.

Staff Survey - further discussion in Faculties and Professional Services had been broadly consistent with the outcomes from the survey and a series of actions was being formulated at university and local levels.

OFFA Agreement 2014 - the University was awaiting confirmation of its Access Agreement for 2014.

UKBA - the University had recently had its sponsor licence and Highly Trusted Sponsor status renewed.

Chair of Southampton Asset Management Board - the Vice-Chancellor placed on record his thanks to Mr Jack Boyer who had recently announced his resignation from the position of chair of the Southampton Asset Management Board. The arrangements for the management of assets and of spin-out and knowledge transfer activities were being reviewed and the outcomes would be brought to the July meeting. The Chair noted that Mr Boyer's resignation meant he would also step down from the Council and a replacement would be sought.

Launch of Science and Engineering South (SES-5) - the University had joined forces with the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College and University College London to form the most powerful cluster of research-intensive universities in the UK.

MOOCs - the University continued to engage with the *Futurelearn* initiative. The experimental nature of MOOCs represented opportunities and challenges for the University as one of the leading group of universities involved. A fuller briefing on MOOCs and the emerging business model would be presented to a future meeting.

Student Recruitment - the Provost updated Council on the work undertaken by the University to optimise student recruitment in 2013. A paper was tabled outlining the current position showing increases in undergraduate applications, the rate of offer making and the number of firm acceptances. The postgraduate position showed strong firm acceptances but a predicted declining Home/EU position. The University could not be absolutely certain of its position until confirmation and clearing in August. Plans were in hand to prepare for recruitment 2014.

Resolved: To note the Vice-Chancellor's report.

96 **Student support 2014**

Received : A paper from the PVC (Education).

Professor Neil introduced the paper setting out proposals for the redirection of resource to support the University's widening participation activities including a capital build proposal.

Three associated work-streams had been identified; learning and teaching led by Professor Neill; student support led by the Director of Student Services and social and cultural space led by SUSU to inform the consultation and scoping for the project. Further detail about the University's academic initiatives in curriculum innovation and employability would be presented to Council at its away day in September.

During discussion the following issues were noted:

- the need to be aware of competitors' provision
- the demand for internships/placements was greater than even the enhanced funds would support as the University responded to the imperative of aiding students into employment
- the importance of being aware of the changing student profile and how to get the best fit for students from the redirected funding.

Resolved: To note the paper.

Minute 99 is confidential to the Council.

100 **Report from the President of the Students' Union**

Received: A paper from the **Students' Union**.

Mr Ling presented the SUSU Annual Review noting that the Union had been successful in achieving charitable status during 2012/2013. This had had a profound impact on the deepening and strengthening of the relationship between SUSU and the University as two independent bodies. He highlighted:

- student representation and strong student leadership
- the innovative *excellence in teaching awards*
- community action and performing arts activities and achievements
- fundraising and financial achievements

The Chair led the thanks to Mr Ling for the clarity of vision he had brought to the role of President, for his leadership and his passion. While Mr Ling would say it had been a team effort, it was clear it was his leadership that had made the real difference. The Vice-Chancellor thanked Mr Ling for the honesty of the relationship between the University and SUSU and congratulated him on his skills in balancing a strong commitment to act in the best interests of students with the wider responsibilities of representing students to the University.

Resolved: To note the President's report and to thank Mr Ling for his contribution to the work of Council and the Students Union over the last two years.

101 Senate matters: Ordinances and PVC Appointment

Received : A report of the meeting of Senate on 27 February 2013 and proposed revisions to the Ordinances have been circulated.

Resolved: To approve the amendments to the Ordinances to facilitate the proposal to Senate and Council in June/July to extend Professor Nelson's period of office.

102 Report from the annual reports meeting of the Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Committee on 11 March 2013

Received: A report of the meeting of the Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Committee on 11 March 2013 has been circulated.

Resolved: To note the paper subject to requesting that data about incidents be included in future reports.

103 HEFCE's Annual Assurance of Institutional Risk

Received: The HEFCE annual assurance of institutional risk.

Resolved: To note the paper.

104 Financial Monitoring 2012/2013: 2013 Management Accounts

Resolved: To note the April 2013 Management Accounts which had been made available on the SharePoint site.

105 Sealing of Documents

Resolved: To note the documents sealed since the last meeting of Council.