

# Minutes (Unrestricted)

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| <b>Meeting title</b> | Council  |                       |
| <b>Date</b>          | Wednesday 3 October 2012   | <b>Time:</b> 11.00 am |
| <b>Location</b>      | The Lord Selborne Room, Chilworth Manor Hotel  |                       |
| <b>Present</b>       | Dr G Rider ( <i>Chair</i> ), Mr M Burrow, Mr J Boyer, Professor J Falkingham, Mr P Greenish, Mr M S Killingley, Ms S Kumar, Mr S Ling*, Professor D P McGhee, Professor D Nutbeam, Mr T O'Brien, Dr D Price, Ms R Rivaz, Mrs H Smith, Professor P G R Smith, Mr G Spittle, Mr J Trewby, Professor J A Vickers and Professor AA Wheeler |                       |
| <b>In attendance</b> | Pro Vice-Chancellors: Professor S M Spearing<br>University officers: The Registrar, the Chief Operating Officer, Director of Communications and Marketing, Director of Finance and Ms C J Gamble   |                       |

(\* not present for restricted business)

## Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone, in particular Professor McGhee who was attending his first meeting of Council.

### 1 Obituaries

The Chair announced with regret the death of the following members of the University and asked members of Council to stand as a mark of respect:

Pilar Callaby, MPhil/PhD Psychology student: 4 July 2012;  
Kaloyan Yordanov, MSc International banking and financial studies; and  
Tara Bradshaw, undergraduate, BA Philosophy: 16 September 2012.

### 2 Standing Orders of Council (Agendum 2)

**Received** A copy of the Standing Orders of Council for the academic session 2012/13, dated September 2012.

The Chair stated that she would like to consider whether in Standing Order 15 (6), under the section 'Registration and Declaration of Interests', the references to the Bribery Act required clarification. She would discuss the point with the Registrar outside the meeting.

**Resolved** (i) That the Registrar should arrange for the matter to be followed up, and reported back to Council.

(ii) That the Standing Orders of Council be approved.

### 3 Minutes (unrestricted and confidential)

**Resolved** That the Minutes (unrestricted and confidential) of the meeting held on 11 July 2012 be approved and signed.

### 4 Matters arising

No matters were raised by members Council in respect of the unrestricted on confidential Minutes.

### 5 Publication of unrestricted papers

The Chair reminded members that Agendum 12 (Chair's action) was confidential and would not be made available on the open access group site.

**Resolved** That, with the exception of Agendum 12, the unrestricted papers circulated for the meeting on 3 October 2012 should be published on the SUSSED open access group site.

6 **Vice-Chancellor's report and the University Executive Group (UEG) decision log (Agendum 8)**

**Received** A report from the Vice-Chancellor on a range of events, activities and developments at the University, dated 2 October 2012.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted a number of the items in his report:

*Chemistry incident*

The Crisis Management Team which had been established to deal with the incident in Chemistry had carried out its work in an exemplary fashion. The Chief Operating Officer reported that, on 25 September 2012, the Health and Safety Executive had given the go ahead to the University to reopen the areas that had been closed. The results of the testing, conducted by external agencies and by the University, had confirmed that there were no contamination issues. The arrangements for using thallium had been moved under central control until an externally led review had been completed of the policy, procedures and handling of dangerous materials. The Police were continuing their investigation.

The student involved was responding well to treatment in the specialist medical unit in Cardiff.

Ms Rivaz, commenting as Chair of the Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Committee, endorsed the statements about the exemplary way in which the matter had been handled.

*QS rankings*

The 2012 QS World University League Rankings had listed the University in 73rd place, two places higher than the previous year.

*HEIF grant*

The University was among twelve institutions which had received additional funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for its performance in knowledge exchange.

*National Student Survey (NSS)*

The results of the 2012 NSS had been outstanding. There had been improvements across the board, most notably in student assessment and feedback. The percentage of students expressing satisfaction overall with the quality of their programmes of study stood at 88 per cent. Together with the Students' Union, the University would continue to work to enhance the student experience.

*Chief Scientific Officer*

In response to a question about where the role of the Chief Scientific Officer would sit within the structure of the local authority, the Vice-Chancellor explained that it was an honorary appointment. Professor Bahaj would provide and coordinate expertise to Southampton City Council on a range of areas, where the Council might seek advice.

*Merger of British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and National Oceanography Centre Southampton (NOCS)*

The Vice-Chancellor outlined his views on the academic benefits of bringing the two research areas together, and the importance of retaining the strong reputations already established for each group.

**Noted** The Vice-Chancellor's report and the UEG decision log.

7 **Report from the President of the Students' Union (Agendum 9)**

**Received** The report from the President of the Students' Union on recent activities and developments, dated 18 September 2012.

Mr Ling presented his report, drawing attention to the work of the sabbatical officers to establish priorities for the year ahead, the Union's five-year plan, and the recent registering of the Union as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. There had been further investment in the Union building with the refurbishment of the 'Bridge Bar', a meeting place and venue for entertainment, particularly for postgraduates and international students.

Turning to the National Student Survey, Mr Ling was pleased to report that students' satisfaction with the Union was ranked in the top five of Russell Group institutions, and 19th in the UK. In the coming year, steps would be taken to start addressing the shortcomings in areas that had been highlighted in the Survey.

Commenting on the section on the UK Border Agency, Professor Spearing said that he believed the Government understood the (potential) damage to the sector's reputation abroad. The University's procedures in the area were up to date and had recently been strengthened.

**Noted** The report from the President of the Students' Union.

8 **Chair's action (Agendum 12)**

**Received** A confidential note, dated 12 September 2012, from the Chief Operating Officer, on behalf of the Chair of Council, on the agreement reached with the Development Agency in Malaysian on the date of the execution of the lease which had been revised.

The Chief Operating Officer drew attention to an error in the note: in the paragraph following the Resolution, the statement in parenthesis should read, 'it had *no* significance as a date except to concentrate the minds of the parties.'

**Noted** The Chair's approval of the decision to enter into the lease under the Development Agreement.

9 **Minutes of the Audit Committee (Agendum 13)**

**Received** A copy of the confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee, held on 27 June 2012 which had been made available on the Council SharePoint site.

Mr Burrow, the Chair of the Audit Committee, stated that there were no issues that he wished to raise. The financial statements for 2011/12 would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee in November 2012.

**Noted** The confirmed minutes of the Audit Committee meeting on 27 June 2012.

10 **The Education Act 1994, Students' Union: annual Review of Code of Practice (Agendum 14)**

**Received** The annual monitoring report on the Students' Union's compliance with the Code of Practice drawn up by the University in response to the requirements of the Education Act 1994, prepared by the Acting Director of Student Services.

**Noted** The content of the report from the Acting Director of Student Services, in particular the statement that no student had chosen to opt out of Union membership during the academic session 2011/12.

11 **Statement of the Council's Primary Responsibilities and delegated and related matters**  
(Agendum 15)

**Received** A copy of the Statement of the Council's Primary Responsibilities and delegated and related matters, 2012/13.

The Chair reminded members of the recent amendments that had been made to the Statement which stemmed from the organizational changes in respect of the role of the former Registrar and Chief Operating Officer.

**Noted** The Statement of the Council's Primary Responsibilities and delegated and related matters, 2012/13.

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