



Council

Date and time Thursday 31 May 2007 at 5.30 pm

Place The Council Room, George Thomas Building

Present Dame Valerie Strachan (*in the Chair*), Professor J K Hammond, Professor I Cameron, Mr M S Killingley, Mr B Purkiss, Professor M Ratcliffe, Mr B Rogers*, Mr M J Snell, , Mr R H M Symons, Professor W A Wakeham, and Mr A Walker

With Dr K A Piggott and Revd A J Strike

Unrestricted

Dame Valerie welcomed members and thanked everyone, particularly the lay members, for giving up their time to attend. She reminded members that this was a special meeting with a single item agenda, and that therefore no other business could be taken.

69 Governance matters: Amendments to the Charter and the Statutes (Second Reading)

Received Proposed amendments to the Charter and the Statutes of the University, with a covering paper setting out the procedures to be followed, dated May 2007.

Members were reminded of the reasons for the proposed amendments to the Charter and the Statutes, and of the procedure for securing their approval. Approval of the proposals had been given for the first time at the meeting of Council on 15 March 2007, and the Chair invited members to confirm their approval of the amendments.

It was noted that for practical reasons involving the need to give staff reasonable advance notice of changes in contractual arrangements and to conduct management training on the new Ordinances once the revised Statute had been approved, the Privy Council would be asked that changes to Sections 2, 3, 7, 7A, 8, 10 -12, 14, 15, 17-20, 23, and 28-30 of the Statutes come into force immediately, whilst changes to Section 31 come into effect up to three months* after the making of the Order.

In response to a query from the Treasurer the Director of Human Resources clarified the arrangements for the removal from office (if necessary) of senior executive officers (the Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors, and the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer).

The proposals were passed without dissent.

- Resolved**
- (i) That the proposed amendments to the Charter set out in the circulated paper dated 14 February 2007, be passed for the second time and forwarded to the Privy Council for approval, subject to such amendments as the Privy Council may require.
 - (ii) That the proposed amendments to the Statutes, set out in the papers dated 16 March 2007, be passed for the second

time and forwarded to the Privy Council for approval, subject to such amendments as the Privy Council may require.

- * **Post meeting note:** Amended in the submission letter to the Privy Council to up to **six** months after the order. The rationale is that the University has to give members of staff 'reasonable notice' to any change to their terms and conditions, such as will occur with the implementation of the Statute S31 and procedural Ordinances. Legal guidance has indicated that three months is appropriate and consistent with current practice. The intention is to notify staff at the beginning of September in order to implement the revised procedures on 1st December. As it is not clear when the Privy Council will make their decision on the amendments to the Statute, the six month period is felt to be 'safer' to ensure that the Privy Council order does not expire before December, should approval early in the summer be forthcoming.

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The meeting finished at approximately 5.45 pm.

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