|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting title:** | | Council | | |
| **Date:** | | Wednesday 19th January 2022 | **Time** | 10.00am |
| **Location:** | | Via Microsoft Teams | | |
| **Present:** | | Mr P Greenish (Chair), Prof. Dame M Atkins, Ms F Barnes, Dr V Cardo, Mr G Hobbs, Mr P Hollins, Professor J Holloway, Dame J Macgregor Ms H Pawlby, President & Vice-Chancellor, Senior Vice-President (Academic), Mr W Shannon, SUSU President, Mr A Thakur, Mr T Whitmore, Baroness S Verma, Dr A Vincent, Dr K Vithana and Mr S Young. | | |
| **In attendance:** | | Clerk to the University Council & Senate, Professor H Carmichael (for minute 46), Executive Director - Finance & Planning, Strategy Consultant to UEB, Vice-President (Education), Vice-President (Operations), Vice-President (Research & Enterprise). | | |
|  |  | | | |
| **41** | **Introduction**  It was noted that from now, Council agendas would be published one week prior to Council meetings rather than up to two weeks which had been recent practice.  The March meeting was anticipated to be held in person and attendance was encouraged. A visit to the University Science Park was being arranged. | | | |
| **42** | **Apologies for Absence**  There was an apology from Professor m.c. schraefel. | | | |
| **43** | **Declarations of Interest**  Dr Vithana declared an interest related to the size and shape report in any discussion relating to her faculty and her main base at the University, the Southampton Business School. | | | |
| **44** | **Publication of non-commercial papers**  RESOLVED That only papers deemed not commercial in confidence be released. | | | |
| **45** | **President and Vice-Chancellor’s Update**  Council received a brief update from the Vice-Chancellor which highlighted:   * Recent deliberations, communications and implementation of measures regarding the January exam period. * The successful launch of the new University Strategy, which included the start of a series of more than 40 roadshows around the institution where so far the strategy had been well received. * Union re-ballots for strike action in response to pension and pay had not reached the required threshold for action to be allowed.   **RESOLVED** that the update be noted. | | | |
| **46** | **Education Plan** | | | |
|  | Council considered a report by the Vice-President (Education) which introduced the draft Education Strategic Plan through a high-level overview of the direction of travel for education over the coming months.  The Plan, while not having yet undergone a full consultation, had been seen and supported by senior education leaders in the University. Based on the triple helix approach, the plan set out to define what blended learning would look like over the coming years and also incorporate what the institution had learned regarding assessment over the last 2 years during the pandemic. People would very much be at the centre of the plan with personalised education delivery to give students increased ownership of their education. Much effort would be focused on curriculum design to ensure that our promise of research-led education was real and could be delivered.  The suggestion was made that linking with appropriate partners to test and develop the plan would be valuable, and that the plan should reflect the international focus and aspirations of the University.  It was noted that many parts of the plan were in train already, including outline curriculum design, involving the student voice and reaching out to schools and colleges.  **RESOLVED** that the report be noted. | | | |
| **47** | **Sustainability Update**  Council received a presentation from the Senior Vice-President (Academic) which set out a reminder of the sustainability plans and goals, provided an update on achievements so far and set out next steps for the future.  The plan was launched in 2020 and was now well governed by an established board. Highlights included the replacement of heat and power generation by 2027 and the need to reduce carbon footprint from buildings both in their construction and operation.  The following comments were made:   * The sustainability implications of growing the student population * The impact of estate size and shape * Education delivery with the potential for more online and remote delivery * What was being done to enthuse both staff and students to help the sustainability goals   **RESOLVED** that the presentation and update be noted. | | | |
| **48** | **University Size and Shape**  Council considered a report by the Senior Vice-President (Academic) which set out progress with Size and Shape work, setting out the next steps to the April Council away day and consideration of the Estates investments.  It was noted that a careful watch was required over the capacity of the campus, while keeping in mind that international undergraduate recruitment was low compared to the competitor group.  Student recruitment aspirations from the faculties would be thoroughly tested and should receive push back if they were dependant on large scale inappropriate investment.  Finding and attracting world class academics to help support these aspirations was also a concern. There was a recognised “talent squeeze” which had been exacerbated by the recent pandemic.  An analysis of the overall size and shape aspirations should be carried out centrally to ensure that any growth, or reduction, was in line with estates planning, resource and investment plans and the ability to find suitable world leading academics.  **RESOLVED** that the report be noted. | | | |
| **49** | **Monitoring the Success of the University Strategy**  Council considered a report by the President and Vice-Chancellor which built upon discussions with Council in May and September to agree principles underpinning a strategic dashboard and its design. In October Council considered a draft set of key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets. There were minor amendments to the KPIs following consultation, with Council approving these when it agreed the Strategy in November. Having already agreed the KPIs, Council was invited to confirm the associated targets and presentation of the dashboard. A number of the KPIs were under-development and the report provided a timeline for that work. The report also explored the frequency with which timely and meaningful dashboard updates could be provided.  It was agreed that Council considers the KPI dashboard three times per year to ensure meaningful updates would be included and that these updates be brought to the online Teams meetings of Council.  **RESOLVED** that   1. the format, content and frequency of reporting of the KPI dashboard (three times per year) be approved; and 2. the timetable for further KPI development be noted. | | | |
| **50** | **HSAAC: Update to the Annual Report to Council**  Council received a report by Chair of Health & Safety Audit and Assurance Committee which provided an update on the Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Committee report to Council which was published in May 2021, and following a further meeting of HSAAC on 19th November 2021.  The Committee was pleased to see improvements made since the May and November meetings both in terms of actions undertaken and action tracking. More people were now in post to add momentum to the implementation of the actions. Actions would not only rectify outstanding issues, but also put in place robust measures to protect the University from potential future occurrences.  RESOLVED that the report be noted. | | | |
| **51** | **Modernising Governance Update**  Council received a report by the Vice-President (Operations) which provided an update on the project. The project was in the delivery phase. The process of engagement with the campus Trades Unions was noted as it was important to achieving the target completion date for the HR workstream; consideration was being given to further mitigating action to avoid delay and would be reported on in the next update.  Dates would soon be issued to Council members for the extra Council meetings required to consider the changes.  It was noted that discussions with unions were focussed upon making improvements and promoting academic freedom as much as possible.  **RESOLVED** that the report be noted. | | | |

**The meeting concluded at 12.03pm**