



## COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2022

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**Present:** Sir Keith O'Nions (Chair), Dr Pearl Agyakwa, Vicky Bailey, Rachel Gomes, Ian Kenyon, Sonya Leydecker Professor Andy Long, Professor Jo Lymn, Sherry Madera, Piyali Mitra, Professor Roshan das Nair, Richard Newsome, Stephen Odell, Nora Senior, George Sullivan, Chris Taylor, Professor Shearer West

**Apologies:** Lynette Eastman

**In attendance:** Ravi Bhalla, Jason Carter (for minutes 3900 and 3903), Laura Clayton (for minute 3898), Dr Paul Greatrix, Rowena Hall, Professor Sam Kingman (for minutes 3902 and 3903), Professor Todd Landman (for minute 3901), Margaret Monckton, Keji Mustapha, Michael Skinner (for minute 3900), Tim Watkinson

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#### 3892 Welcome, Apologies, Quoracy

- .1 The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- .2 Apologies were received from Lynette Eastman.
- .3 The Secretary confirmed that the meeting was quorate

#### 3893 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

#### 3894 Minutes

Council AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 22 and 23 November 2021 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and NOTED the Action Log (C/22/09).

#### 3895 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Registrar REPORTED that the Financial Statements had been approved (Minute 9881) and the appointment of external auditors had been approved (Minute 3889), both by circulation.

#### 3896 Chair's Business

- .1 The Chair reminded Council it had received, by circulation, a copy of a letter from professorial staff concerning the professorial pay banding scheme. It was REPORTED that a follow-up letter had been received which requested that Council consider the professorial pay banding scheme.
- .2 The Chair NOTED that professorial pay banding was a matter for Remuneration Committee and that the letter would be provided to the committee for consideration. A copy of the letter would also be circulated to other Council members for information.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.3	To circulate the professorial banding letter to the Remuneration Committee and to Council members.	Registrar	March 2022

### 3897 Vice-Chancellor's Update

- .1 The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on government policy developments which included a Levelling Up White Paper in which both Nottingham city and Nottinghamshire county were named as areas selected to be able to progress with more devolved decision-making from the Government.
- .2 The University would sign up to the East Midlands Chamber's plan for local skills.
- .3 Council was apprised of the three consultations published by the Office for Students.
- .4 The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill would be very unlikely to progress further in Parliament until after Easter. Council was reminded of the proposed amendment to the bill that would require universities to declare overseas donations and the impact that this bill would have on the University should it progress through to legislation.
- .5 Graduation ceremonies for classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 would take place in the summer. Members would be invited to attend one or more of these ceremonies.
- .6 The following achievements were REPORTED:
  - .1 Professor Matt Brookes had been awarded a physical sciences and engineering laureate award from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and the New York Academy of Sciences for a brain scanner which enabled people to move around whilst being scanned;
  - .2 Kelly Vere, Director of Technical Skills and Strategy, had been awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to higher education in the New Year's Honours.
- .7 Honorary Degrees Committee had met in December 2021 to review the award of an honorary degree. The Honorary Degrees process had been reviewed and additional gateway procedures along with further due diligence had been established.

### 3898 Castle Meadow Update

- .1 Council RECEIVED paper C/22/08.
- .2 The paper provided an update on progress of the Castle Meadow Campus (CMC) since it had been purchased in November 2021.
- .3 Council NOTED the following:
  - .1 The purchase had been completed;
  - .2 The Delivery Board would be chaired by the Deputy-Vice Chancellor;

- .3 Workstreams had been established on education and student experience, research, and infrastructure;
  - .4 Timescales would be confirmed at the following meeting of the Delivery Board on Digital Nottingham and Nottingham University Business School;
  - .5 Initial discussions had been held with potential partners and an event had been held with the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce where their feedback had been sought on Digital Nottingham and CMC generally.
- .4 Council NOTED the risks and the need to ensure other campuses would continue to be improved. It was CONFIRMED that campus planning groups were in place and these groups would provide focus on areas such as improvement of teaching facilities and use of technology on sites.
- .5 Suggestions from Council included:
- .1 Ensuring the project not be Estates-led in order that focus on project delivery of the strategies related to education and student experience, and research and knowledge exchange be maintained;
  - .2 Provision of clarity on CMC becoming an exemplar of 'digital first' and ensuring this approach was included in the design stages.

## **FINANCE MATTERS**

### **3899 Finance Overview – LRF1**

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/03.
- .2 The Chief Financial Officer REPORTED that the latest revised forecast (LRF1) surplus for the year was £27.4m which was better than the budgeted surplus of £21.9m.
- .3 The additional LRF1 surpluses of £6.4m would be reinvested for the alleviation of workload pressures and support the delivery of the University's performance framework in 2021/22.
- .4 Total student numbers were 163 higher than budget. However, the University had not achieved the planned size and shape targets with total home students having exceeded the target by 383, and the total international student numbers being 220 below target. These numbers had resulted in tuition fee income which was £3.4m lower than budgeted. Work was ongoing to improve the average tariff score of students recruited and for the maintenance of access and participation targets.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

### **3900 Information Security Review**

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/04.

- .2 The Chief Information Security Officer provided an update on the information security risk profile at the University, actions that had been progressed since the last update in February 2021, and future plans.
- .3 Council NOTED the following key points:
  - .1 Cyber security continued to be a threat to UK universities. It was NOTED that during 2021 there had been 18 instances of serious ransomware attacks that had affected UK universities and colleges, and these attacks had a typical recovery cost of £2m and disruption of 10 to 20 days;
  - .2 Good progress had been made to reduce cyber risk. This had included three primary controls: cyber monitoring, multi-factor authentication, and an annual penetration test;
  - .3 Progression of the information security risk profile continued to be impacted by systematic challenges in the University's complex IT estate which contained legacy components that had been difficult to make secure. Three projects would significantly reduce this risk:
    - .1 The Foundation IT Services Refresh Project which sought to address legacy systems;
    - .2 The Digital Core project which would embed secure ways of working and data handling;
    - .3 The Security Remediation programme which would apply controls that would reduce the likelihood and severity of a cyber incident.

## **COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**

### **3901 Faculty Report Social Sciences**

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/05.
- .2 The Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Social Sciences presented an overview of the status of the Faculty of Social Sciences which included the following:
  - .1 A review of professional services within the Faculty had been undertaken to ensure greater operational resilience and less reliance on tacit knowledge. Professional services resources had been increased overall by 21% with particular focus on education and student experience, and research and knowledge exchange areas;
  - .2 Total research awards had increased by 22% from 2020/21 to 2021/22. The Faculty was 12<sup>th</sup> in the Russell Group for research income per full time equivalent (FTE) which was up from 22<sup>nd</sup> place in the previous year;
  - .3 The total research portfolio was £25m. New strategic opportunities had been identified: inclusive financial technology (INFINITY hub), Castle Meadow Campus, Digital Nottingham, and NUBS.
- .3 Student size and shape was DISCUSSED and it was CONFIRMED that the Faculty aimed to maintain student undergraduate numbers at the current state but

increase the quality of students admitted. There was an aim to increase overseas postgraduate taught student numbers during the following five to eight years.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.4	A case study of University of Nottingham Business School would be presented to a future meeting. This case study would include focus on UK as well as the School's presence in UNNC and UNM.	Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Social Sciences	June 2022

### 3902 Faculty Report Engineering

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/06.
- .2 The Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engineering presented an overview of the status of the Faculty of Engineering which included the following:
  - .1 Much work had been undertaken to review previous planning and subsequent performance in research and education and student experience. It was REPORTED that the Faculty was on track to meet research awards targets;
  - .2 Targeted intervention had been used to support individuals with research grant applications and this support had resulted in an increase in the number of staff holding research grants with a value of £1m or more;
  - .3 Advancement was a key strategic priority for the Faculty. This priority had focused on philanthropy and volunteering. Scholarship programmes had been established and these programmes currently supported approximately 60 students;
  - .4 A business case for net zero was being developed and this case would include a number of technological areas in which the University could claim to be a global leader.

### 3903 Update on Health and Safety

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/10.
- .2 The Director of Governance and Assurance provided the following update:
  - .1 There had been five Reports of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences (RIDDORs) since the last meeting;
  - .2 The Director of Health and Safety had resigned and would leave the University at the end of February 2022. Recruitment was in progress for a new role entitled Director of Health and Safety Assurance. An experienced contractor had been appointed as an interim Director of Health and Safety to oversee the operational activities and the delivery of the improvement plan;
  - .3 Progress was being made on fire safety matters and the project was on track to meet the deadline of May 2022;
  - .4 A new fire safety risk related to the evacuation of disabled students and staff had been identified following a recent near miss incident where a disabled occupant was unable to be evacuated from a building during a fire alarm in a

timely manner. This matter had been discussed by Health and Safety Committee and a task and finish group had been established to implement interim procedures, and to establish more effective procedures;

- .5 Progress continued on the updating of Water Risk Assessments (WRAs) in order to ensure water systems were compliant with the necessary regulations;
- .4 The Compass IT system project had identified some defects and system performance issues during testing of the product. These defects had been returned to the supplier for resolution, however confidence in the supplier had been significantly eroded following poor response and poor quality fixes. A remediation plan was in place and detailed testing was planned once the supplier had delivered the fixes;
- .6 An effectiveness review of the Health and Safety Committee had been undertaken and the membership of the committee had been revised to include Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellors and key professional services leads following this review.

**3904 RESERVED**

**3905 Audit and Risk Committee Report**

Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/13.

**3906 Nominations Committee Report**

Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/11.

**3907 Senate Report**

Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/02.

**3908 Quality and Standards Report**

Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/07.

**3909 Council Agenda Forward Plan**

Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/22/12.