



## COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2022

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**Present:** Sir Keith O’Nions (Chair), Dr Pearl Agyakwa, Vicky Bailey, River Butterworth, Sultan Chaudhury, Lynette Eastman, Professor Rachel Gomes, Sherry Madera, Piyali Mitra, Stephen Odell, Nora Senior (from minute 3966), Professor Shearer West

**Apologies:** Ravi Bhalla, Ian Kenyon, Sonya Leydecker, Professor Jo Lymn, Richard Newsome

**In attendance:** Paul Greatrix, Professor Jeremy Gregory (Observer), Professor Sam Kingman (Observer), Helen Pennack (for minute 3968), Sarah Troy-Brown (minutes), Tim Watkinson

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#### 3963 Welcome, Apologies, Quoracy

- .1 The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- .2 Apologies were received from Ravi Bhalla, Ian Kenyon, Sonya Leydecker, Professor Jo Lymn, and Richard Newsome.
- .3 The Secretary CONFIRMED that the meeting was quorate.

#### 3964 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3965 Chair’s Business

- .1 Council RECEIVED a verbal report from the Chair.
- .2 Council was informed the recruitment of new Council members and a co-opted member who was financially qualified for Audit and Risk Committee was ongoing with interviews expected to take place around mid- to late October.

#### 3966 Vice-Chancellor’s Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor.
- .2 The Vice-Chancellor informed Council that Professor Jane Norman had been appointed as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and that Professor Norman would take up her role in December 2022.
- .3 Council was also informed that recruitment to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange role was ongoing and it was expected that a new role holder would be in post early the following year. Professor Neil Crout had been appointed as the Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange and would assume the role from October 2022.

- .4 The Research Excellence Framework (REF) quality research funding (QR) allocation had been confirmed. It was NOTED for context that whilst REF 2021 had differed from previous rounds as institutions had been required to include 100% of research active staff in the return, thus increasing the volume of returned staff in the sector, the level of funding available had remained the same. It was REPORTED that the University would receive approximately £51m QR funding compared with £45.5m in previous years. The Chair suggested that a session on different funding types such as QR, Higher Education Innovation fund (HEIF), and sources of capital funding, would be welcomed at a future Finance Committee.
- .5 The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) was due to be undertaken in 2023. It was recognised that the recently approved performance framework provided the University with a clear steer in terms of performance in relation to student experience and satisfaction.
- .6 Cost of living challenges were NOTED and it was REPORTED that a group, chaired by the Deputy Registrar, had been established to identify measures which would assist students. It was anticipated that such measures would include enhanced hardship funds, improved self-catering facilities, and study spaces for students who resided off-campus. A member of Council requested that there also be a focus on support for staff in addition to students and NOTED that it would be important that assumptions were not made about different salary groups and their ability to manage cost of living increases.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.7	To deliver a session on different funding types such as QR, HEIF, and capital funding, at a future Finance Committee.	Chief Financial Officer	November 2022

### 3967 RESERVED

### 3968 Admissions Update

- .1 Council RECEIVED a verbal update on admissions from the Chief Communications and Marketing Officer.
- .2 Council NOTED that the clearing and confirmation period had been successful and the University had closed clearing the same day as A level results.

### 3969 Council Members Questions

- .1 Council had been asked to submit questions in advance of the meeting.
- .2 Council discussed how the University had planned to address inflation, given the significant impact it would have on project spend as well as staff and students in terms of cost of living. The Vice-Chancellor CONFIRMED that financial modelling had been conducted in connection with the medium term financial plan (MTFP). The Chief Financial Officer was requested to provide an assessment of the University's financial sustainability to Council at its next meeting.
- .3 Student accommodation needs were DISCUSSED and it was REPORTED that there had been a large increase of new purpose built student accommodation in the city and this had undoubtedly contributed to there being less pressure on the University's student accommodation than in previous years.

<b>ACTION</b>		<b>Owner</b>	<b>Due</b>
.4	The Chief Financial Officer would provide an assessment of the University's financial sustainability to Council at its November meeting.	Chief Financial Officer	November 2022