



COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 February 2023

Present: Sir Keith O’Nions (Chair), Pearl Agyakwa, River Butterworth (until minute 4022), Sultan Chaudhury (until minute 4017), Rachel Gomes, Michelle Haslem, Sonya Leydecker, Sherry Madera (until minute 4023), Piyali Mitra, Jane Norman, Stephen Odell, Stuart Reeves, Nora Senior, Shearer West

Apologies: Vicky Bailey, Lynette Eastman, Joanne Lymn, Richard Newsome

In attendance: Jason Carter (Director of Governance and Assurance for minutes 4017 and 4023), Alison Dubas (minutes), Rowena Hall (Associate Director of Governance and Executive Services), Jon Grainger (Director of Health and Safety for minute 4017), Dr Paul Greatrix (Registrar), Professor Jeremy Gregory (FPVC Arts for minutes 4018, 4019 and 4021), David Hill (Chief Digital Officer for minute 4023), Sam Kingman (FPVC Engineering for minute 4017), Ruwan Kodikara (Governance Apprentice), Helen Lawrenson (Director of Financial Management for minutes 4018 and 4019), Rosemary Madagwa (Governance Apprentice), Margaret Monckton (CFO), Jason Phoenix (Castle Meadow Programme Director for minutes 4018 and 4019), Rakesh Sharma (Observing), Michael Skinner (Chief Information Security Officer for minute 4023), Colin Stuart (Radiation Safety Advisor for minute 4017), Tim Watkinson (until minute 4021), Zoe Wilson (FPVC Science for minute 4022)

4012 Welcome, Apologies, Quoracy

- .1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
- .2 Apologies were received from Vicky Bailey, Lynette Eastman, Joanne Lymn and Richard Newsome.
- .3 The Secretary CONFIRMED the meeting was quorate.

4013 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4014 Minutes of the Meeting held 22 November 2022 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held 22 November 2022 (paper C/23/01) were APPROVED as an accurate record.

4015 Chair’s Business

- .1 The Treasurer had, sadly, indicated that for health reasons he had to resign from the role. The Chair would send a letter on behalf of Council, to express its sincere thanks to the Treasurer for his significant and valuable contributions during his tenure.

- .2 Nominations Committee had preceded the Council meeting. The Chair REPORTED that Nominations Committee had AGREED that a recruitment exercise for a new Treasurer should commence immediately. A recruitment agency should be engaged and the Registrar should develop a brief for the agency, which would be circulated to Nominations Committee for approval. In the interim, Piyali Mitra would assume the role of Chair of Finance Committee.
- .3 Risk would become a standing item on future Council agenda and be led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC). This item would be an opportunity to report new risks, significant increases in score or severity of current risks, where existing risks had not been sufficiently managed due to inadequate or failing mitigations, or risks that had been de-escalated or closed.

4016 Vice-Chancellor's Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor. The following key points were NOTED:
 - .1 A number of new successful appointments had been made, which included the DVC, who was welcomed to her first Council meeting. An internal appointment had been made to the Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research role in the School of Medicine and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange would assume their role from 1 October 2023;
 - .2 The University and Nottingham University Hospitals Trust had signed a memorandum of understanding and would work closely on the future medical education and research strategies of the Trust;
 - .3 The University had performed well in the Knowledge Exchange Framework, scoring in the top quartile. Numerous projects and initiatives had contributed to this achievement, such as the ultra high field MRI scanner, a national facility, and the net zero aviation project;
 - .4 A Government announcement in response to the consultation on the lifelong loan entitlement was expected shortly and should offer clarity on how this would operate in the future.

4017 Health and Safety

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Health and Safety Committee report from the Chair of the Health and Safety Committee (papers C/23/02 and C/23/03).
- .2 Within the School of Medicine, located within the Queen's Medical Centre (QMC), there was ongoing activity which involved the use of ionising radiation. Activity was heavily regulated and Council was assured that sufficient controls were in place to mitigate risks associated with the use of radiation. The University possessed the necessary environmental permit required to use radiation and around the clock support and guidance was provided by the Trust. The Environment Agency was satisfied with the controls in place around the use of radiation.

4018 Castle Meadow Campus Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Castle Meadow Campus Report from the Castle Meadow Programme Director (paper C/23/10).

4019 Castle Meadow Campus Infrastructure Business Case Summary

- .1 Council RECEIVED the business case summary from the Castle Meadow Programme Director and the Director of Financial Management (paper C/23/11). Members were invited to COMMENT on the business case ahead of its submission for approval at the March 2023 meeting.
- .2 Council NOTED the following:
 - .1 That a series of building condition surveys had been undertaken and had determined that the site was in good condition. Refurbishment costs were expected to align with the initial estimates following acquisition of the site;
 - .2 The Castle Meadow Campus (CMC) business case would consider and align with other business cases that were under development, such as the Nottingham University Business School (NUBS) and Computer Science expansions cases. Increased student numbers in both NUBS and Computer Science were expected and there was potential for those Schools to locate, at least in part, on CMC. All three cases would deliver a positive return on investment;
 - .3 Feedback had been sought from key stakeholders, including staff and students, on the design of the campus and a series of design principles had been established. Accessibility had been identified as a key element of the design.
- .3 Council DISCUSSED whether cost assumptions had been remodelled based upon home working trends. It was CONFIRMED that home working trends had been considered, however there continued to be a high level of interest from potential partners to locate on the Castle Meadow Campus. Latest market intelligence on rental of space aligned with assumptions in the CMC business case.
- .4 Capital projects submitted to Council for consideration should clearly identify their affordability and alignment to the medium term financial plan. Finance Committee's role was to determine the affordability of projects and support Council to make decisions on requests for significant funding.
- .5 Ahead of receiving the CMC infrastructure business case, Council requested that due consideration should be given to the risks associated with the project. Since Council first received the CMC acquisition case in 2022, risks could have evolved and this should be recognised and reflected within the case.
- .6 The Chair reminded members of the opportunity to meet with the CMC Programme Director and Director of Financial Management prior to the March meeting of Council to discuss the case in greater detail.

4020 Latest Forecast

Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper C/23/12.

4021 Faculty of Arts Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Faculty of Arts Report (paper C/23/05) from the FPVC Arts.
- .2 The following key points were NOTED:

- .1 Research citations were a greater challenge for the Faculty in comparison to other Faculties. Although citation indices measured well, monographs and other outputs for the Faculty of Arts were not captured;
 - .2 The National Student Survey (NSS) score required improvement, but the target score of 3.86 was still considered attainable. Numerous factors had contributed to the current NSS score, such as industrial action, which had coincided with the period of time the NSS was completed;
 - .3 There had been an improvement in Research Excellence Framework (REF) performance in 2021 in comparison to 2014;
 - .4 The future plans and priorities of the Faculty, which included a review of the Faculty KPIs and progress with meeting targets. There were plans for investment in the research and knowledge exchange infrastructure;
 - .5 Arts Reimagined was an initiative to redesign all degree programmes within the Faculty and would involve students in the co-design of the curriculum.
- .3 NSS scores and feedback had been compared with other Schools and Faculties to identify where there might be opportunities to learn from areas that scored highly. It was NOTED that differential NSS scores between Schools and Faculties in a University was a sector wide pattern.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.4	Future Faculty reports should include a covering note that identified which University key performance indicators the Faculty contributed to.	FPVCs	Ongoing

4022 Faculty of Science Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Faculty of Science Report (paper C/23/05) from the FPVC Science.
- .2 The following key points were NOTED:
 - .1 Key targets for the Faculty included maintaining quality student recruitment, increasing tariff and increasing international student numbers. Addressing NSS scores and graduate outcomes also remained priorities;
 - .2 There had been challenges in respect of declining numbers of student applications in subjects such as Chemistry and Mathematics. This was a national challenge across UK Universities. There was opportunity for growth in Computer Science and a business case for expansion would be developed;
 - .3 There had been a strong return in the REF, with increased grade point average in every area submitted, although it was recognised that there were still opportunities for improvement;
 - .4 Research targets for the Faculty included an increase in income and improved quality of outputs. Research activity within the Faculty aligned to the University's sustainable development goals;

- .5 A key area of focus for the Faculty was to foster greater diversity amongst its staff and students. Equality, diversity and inclusion targets would be reviewed to determine whether they were appropriate and would support the delivery of greater diversity.

4023 Information Security Risk Review

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the report (paper C/23/06) from the Chief Information Security Officer.
- .2 Cyber issues continued to present significant threat and risks to UK Universities, with the majority of incidents due to deficiencies in three key control areas; multi-factor authentication, anti-virus and security monitoring. The University's effectiveness in those three areas had been tested during 2022 and Council NOTED that controls worked effectively and there was a good level of confidence that systems were well protected although there were no grounds for complacency.
- .3 The security remediation programme continued and controls were being applied that would reduce the likelihood of a cyber-attack on the University. Annual penetration testing exercises assessed controls in place and their ability to resist attack. A focal point for the next phase of the security remediation programme was the continued remediation of legacy systems.
- .4 A data mapping exercise was underway to identify where sensitive data was shared with external suppliers. The purpose was to review the controls and contracts in place with suppliers to ensure that they were sufficient and reduced the risk of a data breach.
- .5 Council was provided with greater detail on actions that would be taken in the event of a major cyber-attack.

4024 Quality and Standards Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Quality and Standards Report (paper C/23/08).

4025 Senate Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Senate report (paper C/23/07).

4026 Audit and Risk Committee Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Audit and Risk Committee report (paper C/23/13).

4027 Council Agenda Forward Plan

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Forward Plan (paper C/23/09).

4028 Suspensions and Discipline Cases

The Registrar REPORTED that, since the last meeting of Council, one student had been excluded from the University, one student had been temporarily excluded from all University campuses and one student had been suspended from their course and temporarily excluded from all University campuses.