



COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2023

Present: Sir Keith O’Nions (Chair), Pearl Agyakwa, Anh Do, Michelle Haslem (to minute 4099.9), Sonya Leydecker, Jo Lymn, Piyali Mitra, Jane Norman, Jessica Nuttall, Stephen Odell, Stuart Reeves, Nora Senior, Rakesh Sharma, Shearer West, Giles Willits

Apologies: Vicky Bailey, Lynette Eastman, Sherry Madera

In attendance: Alison Dubas (minutes), Paul Greatrix (Registrar), Rowena Hall (Associate Director of Governance and Executive Services), Rav Kalsi (Principal Executive Officer, observing), Ruwan Kodikara (Governance Apprentice), Rosemary Madagwa (Governance Apprentice from minute 4099.7), Margaret Monckton (CFO to minute 4101.2), Sarah Speight (PVC ESE for minute 4099.3-4099.5)

4096 Welcome and Apologies

- .1 Giles Willits, Treasurer, Jessica Nuttall, the Students’ Union Development Officer and Anh Do, the Students’ Union Education Officer were welcomed to their first meeting as members of Council.
- .2 Apologies were NOTED from Vicky Bailey, Lynette Eastman and Sherry Madera. For some items, the number of external members in attendance would not exceed the number of internal members. For minute 4100, Professors Jane Norman and Joanne Lymn formally withdrew, acting only as observers.

4097 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4098 Vice-Chancellor’s Update

- .1 Council RECEIVED an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor and the following points were NOTED:
 - .1 The UK had rejoined Horizon Europe from the beginning of September 2023;
 - .2 The impact of the marking and assessment boycott. Thanks to the implementation of the Contingency Regulations, the vast majority of University of Nottingham students had graduated. The hard work of staff to ensure this outcome for the University’s students was acknowledged;
 - .3 Local strike action, in relation to pay, due to take place in the week commencing 25 September 2023 would not go ahead. However, it was expected that national action would still take place.

4099 Brief Updates on Current Forthcoming Items

People and Culture Survey

- .1 The Vice-Chancellor provided Council with the headline results of the people and culture survey. There had been many positive responses, which included staff feeling proud to work for the University of Nottingham, staff being clear about their roles and there was a strong sense of teamwork. There were areas that required improvement, such as staff collaboration across the University and to better support the health and wellbeing of staff. Schools and Departments would develop action plans to respond to the survey results.
- .2 Following the analysis, a report would be submitted to Council at its November 2023 meeting where there would be opportunity for detailed discussion.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.3	A detailed report on actions that would be taken following analysis of the people and culture survey results would be submitted to Council.	Director of HR	November 2023

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and National Student Survey (NSS) Results

- .4 The PVC Education and Student Experience provided Council with an overview of the results of the TEF and NSS.
- .5 There were two aspects of the TEF, student experience, for which the University had been awarded silver, and student outcomes, for which the University had been awarded gold. The overall rating was silver.
- .6 The TEF submissions of all other Universities would be published at the end of September 2023, which would be reviewed by colleagues to identify areas of good practice and actions that could be taken to improve the student experience at the University of Nottingham.
- .7 A gold TEF rating had not been awarded as there was further work required to improve upon and ensure parity of student experience across the University. This had also been highlighted in the results of the NSS.

Admissions 2023

- 8 The Registrar reported on the government policy to realign A-level results to those in 2019, and the impact of this deflation upon the sector. The international student recruitment market had also been affected.
- .9 The University expected to fall slightly short of its target in the recruitment of undergraduate home students and undergraduate international students.
- .10 Council NOTED there would be financial implications and an action plan to respond to those implications was in development and would be discussed at the Finance Committee the following week.
- .11 Although the University's size and shape plan would not significantly change, it would be reviewed in the light of this year's experience.

Reserved

.12 Reserved

Medicine and Health Sciences Discovery Project

- .13 The Deputy-Vice-Chancellor informed Council of the discovery project within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The project had different pillars, including education, research and the estate and would explore opportunities to improve each of those areas.
- .14 As part of the project, consideration would be given as to how current activity within the Faculty could be improved, how new approaches to education could be embedded and to the expansion of the Faculty, in alignment with the National Health Service (NHS) workforce plan, which included an increase in the number of medical students. Options were being explored in terms of a new location for the Faculty.
- .15 A stage zero briefing on the discovery project would be submitted to Council for discussion during the spring of 2024, followed by a full business case in September 2024.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.16	The stage zero FMHS briefing would be submitted to Council in Spring 2024, followed by the full business case in September 2024.	DVC	September 2024

4100 Continuation of the Role of University Assessor and Deputy Assessor for Academic Years 2023/24 and 2024/25

- .1 Council RECEIVED paper C/23/74 from the Registrar and APPROVED the following:
 - .1 The extension of Professor Stephen Bailey’s term as University Assessor to 31 July 2025. Should Professor Bailey retire from the University, his appointment could continue as appropriate;
 - .2 Professor Richard Hyde to be re-appointed as Deputy Assessor for a further period to 31 July 2025;
 - .3 That a second Deputy Assessor be reappointed as required and if available.

4101 Council Member Questions

- .1 Council AGREED that it would be valuable to have an item on a future Council agenda about the potential implications of the geopolitical environment upon the Higher Education sector and how this might impact the University’s international size and shape ambitions.
- .2 Clarity was sought on the relationship between the University of Nottingham and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, particularly around staffing arrangements. Although the University employed staff that worked within the Trust, the Trust was responsible for the delivery of clinical care provided by those members of staff. Should there be any issues, those issues would be dealt with according to the Trust’s policies.

- .3 The Trust and the University had a good working relationship and worked together to ensure that the student placement experience was good and that staff were also well supported.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.4	An item on the impacts of the geopolitical environment upon the HE sector would be added to a future Council agenda for discussion.	Secretary	March 2024

4102 Council Agenda Forward Plan

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Council Forward Plan (paper C/23/75).