

COUNCIL

23 July 2015 at 1630

Oak 1 & 2

MINUTES

Exemption from publication under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act is claimed for these minutes on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Members:	Dr Jim Glover	Chair – External member
	Ms Anne Watts	Vice-Chair – External member
	*Prof Sir Christopher Snowden	President & Vice-Chancellor
	Prof Michael Kearney	Acting Vice-Chancellor
	Mr Thomas Chambers	External member – Treasurer
	Dr Helen Bowcock	External member
	Prof Vince Emery	Member elected by Senate
	Mr Ashley Herman	External member
	Mr Maz Hussien	President, Students' Union
	Ms Claire Ighodaro	External member
	Mr David McNulty	External member
	Prof Gill Nicholls	VP & DVC, Academic Affairs
	*Mr Michael Queen	External member
	Professor Lisa Roberts	Member elected by Senate
	*Mr Iain Robertson	External member
	Mr Tony Stuart	External member
	*Dato Dr Kim Tan	External Member
	Mr Keith Taylor	External member
	Prof Lord Robert Winston	External member
	*Dr Simon Usherwood	Member elected by Senate
	*denotes member unable to attend	

In attendance: Dr David Ashton – VP and Registrar
Ms Martine Carter – Director of Strategic Planning
Ms Sarah Litchfield – University Secretary & Legal Counsel (Clerk to Council)
*Mr Greg Melly – VP Corporate Services
Mr David Sharkey – Interim Chief Operating Officer
Ms Lise Richards – Deputy University Secretary & Projects (minutes)

By invitation: Mr Alan Sutherland, CEO USSU (minute 15/028)

A INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

15/023 Apologies for absence

.1 Apologies were received from Prof Sir Christopher Snowden, Mr Michael Queen, Mr Iain Robertson, Dr Kim Tan, Dr Simon Usherwood and Mr Greg Melly.

15/024 Conflicts of interest

.2 None.

15/025 Minutes of previous meetings.

.3 The minutes of the meetings held on 19 March 2015 were **approved**.

15/026 Matters arising

.4 The updated actions log was **noted**. No additional matters arose from the previous minutes.

15/027 Chair's Items

.1 Council ratified Chair's action in relation to the appointment of the Acting Vice-Chancellor and the Interim Chief Operating Officer.

.2 Council noted an update on the progress of the recruitment of a new Vice-Chancellor.

.3 Council approved, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the appointment of Dr Tony Bragg, Ms Sally Howes and Mr Peter Maskell. All appointments to be made for an initial period of three years from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

.4 It was noted that John Sexton had resigned as a member of Council due to unforeseen external commitments.

.5 The approvals made by Council by email on 2 June were noted for the minutes.

.6 The achievements of the University community were noted.

.7 Council was reminded of the forthcoming expiration of the term of office for the current Treasurer. The Chair asked members to advise the University Secretary if they wish to put themselves forward for the role by the end of August.

.8 The Chair thanked members for their input into the recent one-to-one meetings and advised that a report detailing key themes would be circulated for the October external members' meeting.

B ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

15/028 USSU Annual Report

.1 This item was brought forward on the agenda to accommodate the availability of the presenters.

.2 Council noted the annual report from the USSU, in particular the work undertaken on engagement of under-represented students, engagement with the community and enhancing communication to students about actions taken. In addition the continuing strong relationship between the USSU and the University was recognised.

- .3 On behalf of Council, the Chair thanked the outgoing President, Mr Hussien, for the report, for his contribution to Council and for the ongoing positive development of the Students' Union during his Presidency. The Chair wished Mr Hussien well in his future endeavours.

15/029 Valery Budget 2015-16 and Forecast 2015-16 to 2017-18

- .1 Council received a presentation, a copy of which had been circulated with the papers and noted the supporting information.
- .2 Council was reminded that the budget had been scrutinised by Finance Committee and was recommended by it to Council.
- .3 There was discussion around the University's strategic aims and whether these remained achievable if the 7% surplus necessary for financial sustainability was not achievable in the medium term.. It was requested that a review of the achievability of existing financial and strategic targets would be presented at the October Council meeting and away days. A key part of this presentation would be the reconciliation of student quality and necessary population targets.

Action: Acting Vice Chancellor

- .4 On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Council approved the budget for 2015-16 and forecast for 2015-16 to 2017-18 for submission to HEFCE.

15/030 Annual IT Report and Strategy Update

- .1 Council received a presentation in support of the papers circulated.
- .2 Various themes were discussed; in particular the vision for student learning interfaces, the need to recognise the challenges around data control and use, the opportunity to develop our own cyber-security expertise and in relation to this the possibility of developing revenue generating streams from the University's IT resources.

15/031 Capital Funding Update

- .1 Council noted the update on capital funding. This would be included in the discussions for the Council and Executive Board away days in October.

Action: Chief Operating Officer

15/032 Operational Review Update

- .1 In receiving the presentation Council was advised of the significant amount of work that had been (and was still) necessary to achieve implementation of the review objectives in the short timescale set. This had necessarily impacted on individuals' ability to focus on other activities. The Acting Vice-Chancellor thanked the senior team and all those involved.
- .2 Council noted the update and that a report on lessons learned would be made available for the meetings in October.

Action: Acting Vice-Chancellor

15/033 SCC Pension Scheme

- .1 Council approved the proposed changes to the SCC Pension Scheme on the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Executive Board.

15/034 Emeritus Professor Appointments

- .1 Council approved the proposed Emeritus Professor appointments on the recommendation of the Emeritus Panel.

C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

15/035 The report on TRAC was noted.

15/036 The report from the Executive Board was noted.

15/037 The report from the Finance Committee was noted.

15/038 The Health & Safety report was noted.

15/039 The risk management report was noted.

15/040 The report from the Senate was noted.

C CLOSING ITEMS

15/041 AOB

- .1 The annual HEFCE letter of institutional risk, stating that the University was not considered at high risk, was noted.

15/042 Dates of Future Meetings

All meetings (except away days) are at 16:30 unless otherwise advised.

2015

8-9 October, timings tbc

19 November, 1630

2016

17 March, 1600

21 July, 1600

6-7 October (away days)

24 November, 1600

**Dr Jim Glover
Chair of Council**