

Strictly Confidential

COUNCIL

8 October 2018 at 10:45

Wright Room, The Aviator Hotel, Farnborough

MINUTES

Sections marked Commercial in Confidence are claimed as exempt from publication under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Members:	Chair – External member	Mr Michael Queen
	Vice-Chair – External member	Dr Anne Watts
	External member – Treasurer	Mr Tony Stuart
	President & Vice-Chancellor	Prof Max Lu
	Provost & Executive Vice-President	Prof Michael Kearney
	Chief Operating Officer	Mr David Sharkey
	Senior Vice-President, Global	Professor Vince Emery
	Senior Vice-President, Advancement & Community	Mr Greg Melly
	President, Students' Union	Dr Alex Harden
	Member elected by Senate	Professor Rachel Brooks
	Member elected by Senate	Professor Shirley Price
	Member elected by Senate	Professor Paul Smith
	External member	Mr Vib Baxi
	External member	Dr Mike Goodfellow
	External member	Dr Sally Howes
	External member	Ms Rachel Hubbard
	External member	Ms Claire Ighodaro
	External member	*Mr Peter Maskell
	External member	Dr David McNulty
	External member	Ms Jan Sawkins
	External member	Mr Nick Standen

*denotes member unable to attend

In attendance: Ms Martine Carter, Director of Strategy and Executive Officer
Mr Phil Grainge, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Sarah Litchfield, University Secretary & Legal Counsel
Professor Jane Powell, Vice-Provost, Education & Students
Ms Lise Richards, Head of Governance Services
Professor David Sampson, Vice-Provost, Research & Innovation

By invitation: Mr Paul Stephenson, Vice-President, Human Resources (minute 18/086)

A INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

18/073 Apologies

.1 Apologies were received from Mr Peter Maskell

18/074 Declarations of interest

.1 None

18/075 Minutes

.1 The minutes of the meeting held 26 July 2018 were **adopted**.

18/076 Actions and Matters Arising

.1 Council **noted** the update as circulated. There were no additional matters arising from the previous minutes not covered elsewhere.

18/077 Chair's Items

.1 Council ratified its resolution (confirmation of which was circulated on 22 August 2018) in relation to the preferred bidder for the Learning Hotel project.

.2 Council ratified Chair's action relating to the acceptance of a philanthropic gift. It was noted that taking Chair's action was driven by the donor's internal processes which required the decision to be made by the end of September.

18/078 Vice-Chancellor's Report

.1 Council **noted** the report as circulated.

.2 Council discussed avenues of potential philanthropic funding for the Hub (associated with the Learning Hotel). It was noted that these would be considered at the appropriate stages. In commenting on wider philanthropic work, Council commended the efforts of the Director of Advancement to implement improved discipline and clarity to the Alumni and fundraising processes.

B ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL

18/079 Global Strategy and Engagement Annual Report (*Commercially sensitive*)

.1 The extent to which the UGPN network is utilised was discussed. It was noted that more effort was being put into to leveraging the network within the constraints of resource limitations.

.2 Council **noted** the report.

18/080 Corporate Risk Report (*Commercially sensitive*)

.1 Council **noted** the report.

18/081 Balanced Scorecard *(Commercially sensitive)*

- .1 In discussing the metrics used for graduate employability, it was noted that these continue to discount a number of jobs which were clearly graduate jobs (e.g. paramedics, GSA). Council commented that this should continue to be lobbied, including a strong message from the student body.
- .2 Council questioned whether the competitor group being used remained the most useful. It was agreed that this would be reviewed and commented on for the next report.
Action: MEC

18/082 Capital Expenditure *(Commercially sensitive)*

- .1 Council **noted** the report.
- .2 Council discussed the possibility of a capex freeze in the context of a likely need for a cash buffer to see the University through potentially significant sector headwinds. It was noted that a modeller for a variety of scenarios would be discussed more fully at the away day introductory session, showing the scale of those headwinds. Delaying capex would be one way to preserve cash over the next two years.

18/083 Treasury Management Annual Report and Policy *(Commercially sensitive)*

- .1 Council **noted** the report and policy.
- .2 It was noted that a revolving facility with Lloyds would be discussed at Finance Committee if the Executive approve any proposals.
- .3 In relation to investments in fossil fuels, the University currently holds no investments in fossil fuel companies but continues to be challenged by a small group of staff to make a formal declaration that it will not invest in fossil fuels in the future. A growing number of universities have made such a statement, including some research intensive organisations. Council commented that there should be a clear formal statement of the University's position on fossil fuel investments, relating its position to research, ethics and sustainability. It was agreed that this should be reviewed and brought back to Council as soon as possible.
Action: PG (with DDS)

18/084 Philanthropic Gift Acceptances *(Commercially sensitive)*

- .1 It was noted that the shape of the donations might change in terms of income mechanisms. Any significant movement will be reported back to Council.
- .2 On the recommendation of the Advancement Committee, Council **approved** the acceptance of the gifts as outline in the paper, noting and accepting the existing knowledge of Huawei in relation to due diligence.

18/085 Emeritus Professorship

- .1 On the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor's Panel, Council approved the award of Emeritus Professorship for Professor David Uzzell.

18/086 Human Resources Annual Report (*Confidential; Commercially sensitive*)

- .1 Council **noted** the report, commending the VP and team for their hard work.
- .2 Council discussed whether there was a case for scaling up resource given the workload and challenges associated with both the HR systems work and also with core HR support for the organisation, as HR resource has reduced whilst the numbers of staff have increased over the last four years. It was noted that additional temporary resource had been agreed to support IT and Estates. It was agreed that there remained a need for additional programme management for the HR system project.
- .3 It was noted that only one of the 34 actions in relation to Athena Swan remains red flagged. All other actions are at various stages of delivery, with an aim that the core elements of the plan are delivered, following which further improvements would be sought, with a view to achieving the silver award in 2020/21.

C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

18/087 Blackwell Park Report (*Commercially sensitive*)

- .1 Council noted the latest update on Blackwell Park.

18/088 Council's Oversight in relation to USSU

- .1 Council **noted** the report.

18/089 Minutes of Senior Committees (*Commercially sensitive*)

- .1 Council noted the minutes summaries in relation to senior committees.

D CLOSING ITEMS

18/090 Any Other Business

- .1 None.

18/091 Dates of next meetings

- .1 22 November 2018
31 January, 2 May, 25 July, 7-8 October, 25 November 2019.

Mr Michael Queen
Chair