

THE COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015

Present: The Chairman of the Council (Mr R Jewson) (in the Chair), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Richardson), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor N. Ward), The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Petley), the Treasurer (Mr J Sisson), Dr M Blyth, Ms V Keller Dorsey, Mr J Greenwell, Mr G Jones, Professor G Schofield, Dr K Skoyles, Mrs E Slaymaker, Dr W. Thomson, Mr M Williams and the Student Representatives (Mr C. Jarvis and Mr Y. Yu)

With: The Registrar and Secretary (Mr B Summers), the Director of Finance (Mr S Donaldson), the Director of Planning (Mr I Callaghan), the Assistant Registrar (Mrs L. Williams), the Head of Corporate Communications (Mrs S. Giles) and the Senior Administrative Assistant (Committee Office) (Mrs R. Phillips)

In attendance: The Executive Deans of Faculty (Professor J Collier, Professor I Harvey, and Professor P Gilmartin)

Apologies: Ms Laura McGillivray, Professor Y Tasker

70. MINUTES

Confirmed
the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2015.

71. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair noted that this was to be the last meeting of Council for Dr Mark Blyth and Mrs Eve Slaymaker. He thanked them for their hard work and support during their terms of office.

The Chair had attended the NRP Chairs' meeting at which there was a briefing from the Chief Executive, Sally Ann Forsyth. All present were positive and supportive of the direction for the Norwich Research Park.

72. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor supplemented his written report with the following additional statements:

Norwich Research Park: Anna Dugdale, Chief Executive of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) had stood down. Ms Dugdale had developed a strong partnership between the University and the Hospital. The Director of the Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC) had also resigned. Pending a successor the University had agreed to second Professor Dylan Edwards to

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TGAC subject to formal Board approval. A number of stakeholder meetings had taken place over the past few weeks regarding future development of the NRP estate. There was an anticipation that this would need to be supported by the New Anglia LEP in some form and the Vice-Chancellor has been asked to Chair an innovation sub-group looking at opportunities to leverage EU funds.

Open Day: there was a very successful Open Day on 20 June and the next one takes place on 4 July. Members of Council are welcome to attend should they be free.

Radio 1 Big Weekend: the weekend had been very successful; made more so by the news of the promotion of Norwich City Football Club to the Premier League.

73. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received

a confidential report from the Vice-Chancellor. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D051)

(The drop in the Guardian tables was discussed further and it was noted that this table did not contain research, it was the table that contained the lowest tariff of recent years and that there had been issues with the spend per student measure.

*74. BUDGET FOR 2015/16 AND FUTURE YEARS' FORECAST

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*75. DEVELOPING THE 15 YEAR PLAN

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*76. COLNEY PLAYING FIELDS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

78. IMPACT OF THE EU ON UEA

Received

a confidential report from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the impact of membership of the European Union on the University. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D055)

(It was noted that the report clearly showed the benefits to the University of existing EU arrangements though there was some doubt about whether all aspects would be lost should the UK decide to leave the EU. That said, there would be potential difficulties arising out of loss of free movement for students and staff and it was noted that the UK currently benefits significantly from Research funding. It was agreed that the data would be used as evidence to explain the impact of membership of the EU on higher education, rather than to support a political argument, one way or the other. There was no intention for the University to take actions that would require registration with the Electoral Commission.

The Vice-Chancellor would be sharing a platform with the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge at a UUK event later this year and there will doubtless be a number of debates regarding all aspects of EU membership/covering all views being hosted on campus as the referendum draws nearer.)

78. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM SENATE

Received

the confidential annual report from Senate to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D056)

(The lack of traction on assessment and feedback was noted and there was discussion about the fact that a mixed picture was showing with the development of better reporting information. Over the summer work will take place with a small number of Schools which has a disproportionate impact on the overall figures to identify solutions. This topic is already widely discussed via Senate, Heads meetings and cascaded through Faculties to Schools. There was a suggestion that more could be done to manage communication with students including a clear statement of the ultimate aim, the current target and managing expectations in the meantime.)

RESOLVED

that the Vice-Chancellor (as Chair of Senate) should thank them for their report and highlight the importance which Council attached to the issue of assessment and feedback.

79. ANNUAL EQUALITY & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Received

the annual report from the Equality & Diversity Committee to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D057)

(It was noted that the profile of the University's duty on Equality and Diversity increased significantly with the new CUC Code of Governance. The focus on gender through the Athena Swan submissions was also noted but there was concern to ensure that all strands were under consideration and a specific concern was raised regarding the gender pay gap and the actions being taken to address this.)

RESOLVED

to request the attendance at Council of the Head of Equality and Diversity at the next meeting to discuss the report in more detail and to consider the impact of the new CUC code on equality and diversity activity.

*80. REVISION OF STATUTE 7

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*81. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

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82. THE COUNCIL: MEMBERSHIP

Reported

- (1) an election had taken place resulting in the nomination of Mr Christopher Brown as the Support Staff representative to serve on Council for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.
- (2) Senate had nominated Ms Helen Lewis as their representative to serve on Council for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

Resolved

Council approved the above appointments.

*83. FINANCE GROUP

Received

the confidential report of the Finance Group which took place on Monday 8 June 2015. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D059).

84. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Item for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D060)

- (1) Sealings