

COU15D071

Title: University Campus Suffolk
Author: Registrar & Secretary
Date: 16 June 2016
Circulation: Council 4 July 2016
Agenda: COU15A008
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

Council is very much aware of, and has been entirely supportive of, the proposal that University Campus Suffolk (UCS) (currently a company limited by guarantee with the Universities of East Anglia and Essex as the two members) should become an autonomous University.

All necessary approvals are now in place and the purpose of this report is to secure Council's formal approval to exit the company and to substitute a new memorandum and articles which will *inter alia* mean that the two Universities cease to have representation on the Board and any ongoing control on the finances.

Recommendation

Council is recommended to agree that it will exit UCS and approve the adoption of the new memorandum and articles as approved by the Privy Council, all with effect from 1 August 2016.

Resource Implications

There will be a phased withdrawal of the current validation fee paid to UEA by UCS (some £300k pa)

Risk Implications

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Timing of decisions

University of Suffolk will come into being on 1 August 2016.

Further Information

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Previous Council references: Council 27 June 2011 (COU10D063 as part of Vice-Chancellor's "Strategic Stock-Taking" report) and Minute *78 (COU10M007); Council 15 October 2012 (COU12D003 as part of Vice-Chancellor's "Strategic Stock-Taking" report) and Minute *6 (COU12M001), Council 19 November 2012 (COU12D026) and Minute *30 (COU12M002); Council 14 October 2013 (COU13D004) and Minute *7 (COU13M002) and (COU13D005) and Minute *8 (COU13M002); Council 18 November 2013 (oral report) and Minute *27 (COU13M003); Council 19 May 2014 (COU13D035) and Minute 76 (COU13M007); Council 13 October 2014 (COU14D007 as part of Vice-Chancellor's "Strategic Stock-Taking" report) and Minute 8*; Council 30 November 2015 (COU15D016 as part of Vice-Chancellor's "Strategic Stock-Taking" report) and Minute *25 (COU15M004)

Discussion

UCS was established as a joint venture of the Universities of East Anglia and Essex in 2007. The two Universities guaranteed loans of £18m from Barclays Bank and were responsible to HEFCE for the prudent financial management of UCS. UCS was allowed to use the word "University" through business names law rather than education law, in the latter case approval of the name by the Privy Council does convey a clear University status on an institution. For a number of reasons, including branding and the public perception of UCS in both the home and international markets, it was decided to progress to an autonomous institution.

In truth, the process has been a remarkably smooth and rapid one and there is now approval from the Privy Council, BIS and HEFCE to:

1. the use of the title "University of Suffolk";
2. the conferment of taught degree awarding powers (students receive degrees of the University of Suffolk rather than joint awards of the Universities of East Anglia and Essex;
3. designation, allowing direct funding by the funding council;
4. exempt charity status;
5. revised memorandum and articles.

In November 2014 the two Universities were released from the bank guarantees.

Attachments

There are no attachments.