

## THE COUNCIL



### Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2016

Present: The Chairman of the Council (Mr R Jewson), the Treasurer (Mr J Sisson), Mr J Greenwell, Mr G Jones, Ms V Keller Dorsey, Dr K Skoyles, Dr W. Thomson, Mr M Williams, the Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Richardson), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor N. Ward), Ms H. Lewis, Mr C. Brown and the Student Representatives (Mr T. Antoniou-Phillips and Ms A. Rust).

With: The Registrar and Secretary (Mr B Summers), the Director of Finance, Planning and Governance (Mr I. Callaghan), the Head of Corporate Communications (Mr A. Stronach), the Assistant Head of Communications (Mr S. Dunford), the Assistant Registrar (Ms L. Williams) and the Senior Administrative Assistant (Mrs R. Phillips).

In attendance: The Executive Deans of Faculty (Professor J Collier, Professor P Gilmartin, Professor D. Edwards and Professor Y Tasker)

Apologies: Professor D. Petley, Professor G. Schofield, Ms. L. McGilivray

#### 85. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Noted

that Ordinance 5 makes provision for there to be two student members of the Council nominated by the executive of the Students' Union.

Reported

that in accordance with this Ordinance the nominees were:

- Amy Rust (Campaigns and Democracy Officer); and
- Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education Officer).

Confirmed

that Amy Rust and Theo Antoniou-Phillips be appointed the Student representatives to fill "casual" vacancies from 4 July 2016 to 31 July 2016 and then for a one year period commencing 1 August 2016

#### 86. MINUTES

Confirmed

the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2016.

#### 87. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair confirmed that this was the last meeting that would be attended by him, Jonathan Sisson, Vicki Keller Dorsey and Gillian Schofield. The Pro Chancellor, Stuart Holmes would also end his term of office this year. He stated that the University was a wonderful place that was doing very well and he was very proud of all who worked here together with all of the achievements of the University locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

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### 88. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair for all of his contributions to the life of the University, Jonathan Sisson for his long-standing service as Treasurer, Vicki Keller Dorsey for her helpful and positive challenge and Gillian Schofield for her excellent work representing Senate.

### 89. EU REFERENDUM

Discussed

the implications for UEA of the EU Referendum result.

(The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the position nationally remained unclear and there was no certainty that the Higher Education Bill will clear Parliament prior to the summer recess. However, it is not considered essential for the Bill to clear in respect of several key aspects (introduction of the TEF, increase of fees in line with TEF1). There may be legislation required to create the Office for Students and address other regulatory matters.

Following the announcement of the referendum result significant steps had been taken to re-assure all staff and students that, at least in the short-term, there were no significant changes anticipated and seeking to reassure everyone that they were a valued part of the university. It was noted that all other UK Higher Education Institutions are in the same position and it was still the case that this institution was 14<sup>th</sup> in the Complete Guide and world leading. There was an Open Day on Saturday at which the strength of the UEA community shone through with attendees spontaneously making positive comments as they left.

In terms of 2016/17 starters (and returning students), Student Finance England has confirmed that non-UK EU nationals would be eligible to student finance on the same terms as currently for the duration of their course. The position for 2017/18 is, as yet, less clear and the university was currently taking legal advice.

UUK is the main lobby group representing the interests of Higher Education working for all universities. In addition, the Russell Group is taking a strong lead in supporting research intensive universities. UUK is seeking a continuation of the free movement of students and continued access to ERASMUS programmes together with access to EU research funding. TSL and JIC are major beneficiaries of EU research funds and through TSL we benefit from a close working relationship with the person leading on research for the Russell Group.

We continue to press on with the Guild of European research-intensive universities: the group already included representation from Iceland and Norway so was not EU specific. There continues to be economic uncertainty and the pound will find a new position. It is weaker than it was but this reduces the cost of English HE to international students. In addition there is political uncertainty in the United States which may aid UK recruitment.

The UK was a net beneficiary of EU research funds and it will be important to ensure that as much of this is protected as possible either from continued access to the funds or as a share of the net UK contribution to Europe. The UK Research Council settlement was also relatively favourable and there are opportunities for UEA to get a better share of these resources. In addition, there will be funding available from the Global Opportunities Fund which plays to some of UEA's strengths in research.

There is political, financial and economic uncertainty following the decision to exit and this may impact future plans. However, long term funding appears to be available from the UK banks at good interest rates. We will explore improved recruitment from Home markets and work over the summer to better capture potential impacts prior to presenting the long-term model to Council in the autumn. This will also enable us to factor in the impact of the admissions round in August.

Relationships with TSL may require further review post-Brexit and further updates will be provided to Council as negotiations continue. At present the future relationship looks to be more in line with the Quadram plans which reduces exposure to the UEA and the TSL business plan will need to address the EU outcomes but was also looking to diversify income sources. There is a potential risk that the high quality research scientists may choose to move to within the EU.

It was important that the long term model also included potential cash calls from TSI, SCVA etc.)

\*90. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

91. EMPLOYABILITY

Received

a presentation by the Director of Research and Enterprise during the visit to Career Central regarding Employability.

Considered

a confidential report from Professor Neil Ward, PVC Academic. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D062)

(It was noted that there had been improvement in the key metric in this year's data return but there was no news of how others had fared. It was likely that three or four rounds of improvement would be required to make a significant impact on this metric. It was also confirmed that the University's work on employability had been commended by the QAA during their institutional review visit earlier this year.

The Students' Union were pleased to see mention of the academic societies' impact on employability and also keen to have a continuing ongoing involvement in supporting employability. It was confirmed that they already feed in via the UEA Award, clubs and society leadership positions and as a major employer of students during their studies. It was planned that continued close working between the university and the students' union would take place.

It was noted that there was a significant resource request that would be part of the ET prioritisation of resource in the autumn. There were other requests in respect of IT infrastructure, student services and resilience to support student recruitment that would also be considered once student recruitment was confirmed in August.

In terms of academic colleagues there was a view that the vast majority are clearly behind the university's strategy to improve this key performance indicator. They were committed to supporting students' long-term career plans and, in some places such as DEV this could generate a conflict versus the short-term metric measure but fundamentally there is strong support for student employability.)

\*92. BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AND FUTURE YEARS' FORECAST

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

93. LONG-TERM PLAN

Considered

a presentation from the Director of Estates.

(The Director of Estates confirmed that work was continuing on option D1 of the Estates Strategy. This would be book-ended by the building of the Integrated Science Teaching Laboratories and Phase 4 of the Lasdun Wall refurbishment programme. Capital costs had reduced from £288m to £243m. A car parking solution (likely to be provided by an external organisation) and student accommodation solution would be required with the latter being considered alongside known developments taking place in the wider city. The overall design brief was being considered in terms of the fundamental requirements to reduce the number of offices that are south facing, adjacency requirements of Schools/Faculties, cost and the overall impact on the architecture and built environment of the University.)

94. APPROVAL OF THE INTEGRATED SCIENCE TEACHING LABORATORIES

Considered

a confidential report from the Executive Dean of Science confirming the building of the Integrated Science Teaching Laboratories. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D066)

(In discussion it was noted that the Pharmacy Dispensary facility was now included in the proposals but that the Computer Science labs will remain in the Lasdun Wall. The capital proposal identified the potential loss of students, staff and REF contribution if the decision was taken not to build the new facilities. HEFCE capital funds were no longer available but there were some other potential options for fundraising and these are being considered by the Director of Development. The new site would require new ways of working within the Faculty and these were being embraced by academic staff.)

RESOLVED

to approve the building of Integrated Science Laboratories.

95. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM SENATE

Received

the confidential annual report from Senate to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D067)

(It was positive to see the emphasis that Senate had placed on improving the focus on feedback which is clearly an issue in terms of both quantity and quality. Recent internal surveys had indicated that students were responding positively to the improvements that had been made on the timeliness of feedback but there remained some work to do on quality.)

96. ANNUAL EQUALITY & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Received

the annual report from the Equality & Diversity Committee to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D068)

(A significant element of the work to support this area was focussed on Athena Swan where the agenda was widening to include the full range of academic departments and additional equality characteristics. There was a request for additional resource to support the work of the central team and this would be considered in the wider discussion on resource due to take place in the autumn. A request was made for information on the staff and student profile and also on the specific impacts of individual protected characteristics.)

\*97. UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA STAFF SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

98. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL: SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Noted

that Ordinance 5 makes provision for there to be two members of staff appointed by ballot amongst members of the Senate (of which at least one shall be a member of the academic staff) as members of Council.

Reported

that at its meeting on Wednesday 8 June 2016, Dr Nalini Boodhoo was nominated by ballot as the second Senate representative on Council to replace Professor Gillian Schofield whose term of office has come to an end.

Confirmed

that Dr Nalini Boodhoo be the Senate representative on Council for a three year period commencing 1 August 2016.

99. FINANCE GROUP

Received

the confidential report of the Finance Group which took place on Monday 6 June 2016. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D070).

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04.07.2016  
Min. 100

100. RETIREMENT FROM UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SUFFOLK

Considered

a report from the Registrar and Secretary regarding the University retiring from University Campus Suffolk Ltd. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D071)

RESOLVED

to retire as a member with effect from midnight on 31 July 2016, subject to the University of Essex also retiring.

101. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Item for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU15D072).

- (1) Sealings
- (2) Heads of Schools for 2016/17