

THE COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017

Present: The Chair of the Council (Mr J. Greenwell), The Treasurer (Mr M. Williams), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Richardson), the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor F. Lettice), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor N. Ward), Independent Members (Mr S. Blease, Mr J. Clayton, Mr G Jones, Miss G. Maclean, Ms L. McGillivray, Dr K Skoyles, and Dr W. Thomson), Members appointed by the Senate (Professor N Boodhoo and Ms H. Lewis), Member appointed by the Support Staff (Mr C. Brown) and the Student Representatives (Ms A Rust and Mr T Antoniou-Phillips)

With: The Registrar and Secretary (Mr B Summers), the Director of Finance, Planning & Governance (Mr I. Callaghan), the Head of Corporate Communications (Mr A. Stronach), 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 D. Edwards, Professor P Gilmartin and Professor Y Tasker)

Apologies:

32. MINUTES

Confirmed

the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 November 2016.

33. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair announced that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would visit the current exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre on 27 January. He also confirmed that Karen Jones, Chancellor would be visiting the University for a series of meetings.

34. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor had recently returned from India, one of the University's five key countries. There are relatively few students from India studying here in contrast to both the Chinese market and to other UK universities. India is the fastest growing economy in the World and therefore needs to ensure that strong foundations are built as the economy grows. Calcutta has a strong focus on the arts, humanities and culture and is at the forefront of the India at 70 initiative. During his visit the Vice-Chancellor met the British High Commissioner and was clear that UEA does not seek to establish a campus in India but would prefer instead to work in partnership. The key will be to build on the University's links and reputation. In Delhi the Vice-Chancellor attended a reception organised by the British Council with regard to the development of sciences in India and to explore links with the Norwich Business School. An initiative has been established with Cambridge University and the John Innes Centre supporting links with the social sciences. There was also interest in communications technology.

The University will shortly receive some Antony Gormley pieces to display across the campus.

COU16M004

COU-M2
16.01.2017
Min. 34

The admissions position was discussed and it was noted that whilst the current position was 11% down on the previous year it remained 10% up against 2013/14. There was good quality in the Health Sciences numbers but drops in applications as a result of the change in the way study in these subjects is now funded. Detailed discussions are taking place with the Health Trusts to ensure continued availability of placements. Law numbers were also showing a significant drop but this was anticipated due to a move to offer making at a high level. All Schools are working hard on securing conversion. EU applications had dropped down to previous levels from last year's high and the position in PGT was still early although there is a decline in the Chinese market. It may be possible to try and counter this with additional recruitment activity and a review of commission rates paid to agents. In the longer term it will continue to be important to improve diversity in the international market. PGR applications have increased. Target numbers are reviewed annually and the current numbers will increase more gradually whilst the estate catches up. Spaces are currently being identified to accommodate growth and some services will be required to move location to support this. There is also a review of car park strategy.

35. MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

- Learning and Teaching Committee (30 November 2016)

36. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received

the confidential Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU16D034).

*37. PENSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORT STAFF

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*38. UEA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

39. REF UPDATE

Received

a confidential report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (REE) regarding the next REF and a consultation on the key principles. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU16D037).

(Members thanked Professor Lettice for her report and asked how they may individually and collectively support the University in delivering a strong REF performance. It was likely that members of Council could utilise their personal networks to support the impact case studies for some of the key areas of the University's research activity.)

40. ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS IN 2017/18

Received

an oral update on accommodation for students in 2017/18.

(In support of the University's requirements for accommodation in 2017/18 the Registrar confirmed that INTO were allocating 80 rooms, the current contingency was anticipated to be occupied, Homestay was to be promoted, there would be additional twin rooms where space allowed and there was a trial to look at conversion of some rooms to take appropriate bunk beds. The University was also working closely with the Students Union's Homerun service to ensure that all options were pursued. The cost of twinning rooms was c. £10k per bed with a maximum anticipated total cost of c. £1.2m (which Council approved). It may also be possible for the University to purchase some housing stock but this was not currently a preferred option and if ultimately this had to take place it would effectively provide accommodation for new students. There were future developments anticipated in the City (the former Mecca site in All Saints Green for example) and whilst not seeking to enter into any formal income guarantees the University has made positive statements to potential developers about the need for good quality student accommodation in the city. In addition, soft market testing has taken place in respect of Blackdale Phase 2 with the University seeking to identify a solution that was as close to a land sale agreement as possible.)

41. NORWICH RESEARCH PARK

Received

a presentation by the Dean (FMH) regarding the Quadram Institute.

(A copy of the presentation has been uploaded to the Council Blackboard site. It was identified that the University expected to see a return on the investment in the Quadram Institute by attracting international research leaders to the Institute and growing the proportion of 4* research and obtaining additional revenue from research overheads. Given the focus of the research on food it should be possible to really engage the public and demonstrate impact. In addition, as part of the launch, there should be opportunities to leverage additional promotion for the University. There are a number of launch activities planned from March onwards with the main occupancy of the building taking place in the summer of 2018. The current plan is to consolidate the Quadram Institute into the University's financial statements delivering improved metrics. There will also be the return of c. 1,000 square metres from the current CTU. The University is also actively fundraising towards the £5m contribution.)

42. HEALTH & SAFETY 6 MONTHLY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received

the Health and Safety 6 Monthly Report to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU16D038)

(In discussion a query was raised about whether these reports supported the discharge of the Council's responsibilities in connection with Health & Safety. It was identified that the primary responsibility was with the Executive Team and that this matter should be considered further as a specific item on their agenda. It may also be appropriate for there to be a presentation at a future meeting of Council. In the meantime, data from other universities would provide a helpful benchmark of the UEA performance and it would be required that this be included in future reports to Council.)

COU16M004

COU-M4
16.01.2017
Min. 43

43. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Items for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU16D040).

- (1) Sealings

44. DATES OF MEETINGS

Reported

- (1) that the date of the next Council meeting is Monday 13 March 2017 - 10.30am

- (2) that the dates of future Council meetings are:

Monday 15 May 2017 – 10.30am
Monday 26 June 2017 – 10.30am