

## THE COUNCIL



### Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2018

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, Dr K Skoyles and Dr W. Thomson), Member appointed by the Senate (Ms H. Lewis), Member appointed by the Support Staff (Mr C. Brown) and the Student Representatives (Ms M. Leishman and Mr J. Robinson)

With: The Acting Registrar and Secretary (Mr I. Callaghan), the Interim Director of Finance, (Mr J. Brown), the Assistant Registrar (Ms L. Williams), the Head of Corporate Communications (Mr A. Stronach) and the Assistant Head of Corporate Communications (Mrs S. Lawson).

In attendance: The Pro-Vice-Chancellors of Faculty (Professor S. Barrow, Professor J Collier, Professor D. Edwards and Professor P Gilmartin)

Apologies: Miss G. Maclean, Ms L. McGillivray and Professor N Boodhoo.

#### 18. MINUTES

Confirmed

the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 November 2017.

#### 19. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed back the Treasurer, Mark Williams and welcomed Mrs Sue Lawson, Assistant Head of Corporate Communications, to her first meeting of Council.

The Chair drew Council's attention to the achievements of Prof Gerard Parr on the award of his MBE in the New Year Honours list and to Prof Rebecca Stott on the winning the Costa Biography award.

The Chair was entertaining Viscount Clive and Viscountess Claire Mackintosh to the University and SCVA later today. (Clive Mackintosh was the son of Harold Mackintosh, who was instrumental in the early development of UEA with first VC Frank Thistlethwaite.)

#### 20. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The VC reported on the sad case of Sophie Smith, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Biology student who had been missing from her home near Great Yarmouth since Boxing Day. Support had been put in place for any affected students. UEA was still liaising with the police and her family.

14 days of industrial action had been called for by UCU (Universities and Colleges Union) over proposed changes to the USS pension scheme. In the VC's view the changes called for by UCU were unaffordable, a view supported by ET and UEA Council. UEA would endeavour to protect the student experience if the industrial action went ahead. Noted that the SU Council had voted to support the UCU action. The Treasurer outlined that the funding

for the proposed increased employer contribution would need to come from student fees, which in his view was not an appropriate use of student fees. Ms Leishman indicated that the SU Council had the unanimous support of the course representatives on the SU Education Committee. Dr Skoyles indicated that the UUK final proposals needed clear articulation. PVC-ACAD outlined that there were business continuity arrangements in place for dealing with industrial action but these focused upon assessment and classification of degrees rather than delivery of teaching. He and colleagues in LTS would be looking to see how learning outcomes could best be met via alternative means. Dr Thomson outlined how at Norfolk County Council the risks around industrial action were partly managed by 60% of the workforce being outsourced.

The Chair of Council voiced strong support for the Executive Team's position and hoped very much that industrial action could be avoided. The VC indicated that even after the changes went through, the scheme would still be an attractive scheme for staff. Mr Jones suggested that in any communication back to USS it would be useful to remind them to improve their hedging of liabilities, something they had not been good at up until now.

The VC reported that a Chief Operating Officer had been appointed, named Jenny Baxter, ex-BBC, and she would start at UEA on 21 May. In partnership with the Chief Resources Officer (to be appointed next week), Ms Baxter would lead the University's Professional services.

Noted that the first Innovation and Impact awards event had been a great success. Organised by PVC-RI Fiona Lettice and Helen Lewis, several Council and ET members had attended. PVC-RI reported on the grant awarded to UEA by the HEFCE Connecting Capabilities Fund for 2018-21; very good news.

21 MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The following meetings of Committee meetings had taken place since the last Council meeting:

1. Learning and Teaching Committee (29 November 2017)
2. Learning and Teaching Committee (24 January 2018)
3. Audit Committee (26 January 2018)
4. Governance Committee (17 January 2018)

\*22. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*23. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*24. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*25. DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*26. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*27. DEEP DIVE: EMPLOYABILITY

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*28. DEEP DIVE: INTERNATIONAL

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

29. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Items for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU17D027)

- (1) Sealings

30. DATES OF MEETINGS

Reported

- (1) that the date of the next Council meeting is Monday 12 March 2018 - 10.30am

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

- Monday 14 May 2018 – 10.30am
- Monday 25 June 2018 – 10.30am