

## THE COUNCIL



### Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2010

- Present: The Chair of the Council (Mr S. Holmes) (in the Chair), The Pro-Chancellor (Mr R. Jewson), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor E.D.J. Acton), the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Professor T D Davies and Professor T. Ward), the Treasurer (Mr J. Sisson), the Deans of Faculty (Professor J. Cook, Professor I. Harvey, Professor D. Richardson and Professor N. Ward), Mr D. Edwards, Mr D. Hill, Ms L. McGillivray, Mrs S. Thurston Professor C. Waddams. and the Student Representatives except for business marked \*\* (Ms N. Barnes).
- With: The Registrar and Secretary, the Academic Registrar (Mr R.P. Evans), the Director of Finance (Mr S. Donaldson), Head of the Planning Office (Mr I. Callaghan), the Senior Assistant Registrar (Mrs L. Williams) and the Committee Clerk (Mrs R. Phillips).
- Apologies: Professor J. Burgess, Sir Richard Dales, Mr M. Jopp, Mrs J de Moller and Mr D. White.

#### 48. MINUTES

Confirmed

the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2010 and 24 May 2010.

#### 49. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair noted that this would be the last meeting of Council for the following members and wished to record his thanks for the effort and contribution made by each of the members:

Sue Thurston  
Jacquie Burgess  
Natasha Barnes  
Martin Jopp  
Jon Cook.

The Chair stated that this was his last full meeting of Council (aside from an Extraordinary meeting in July) and that he was pleased that Richard Jewson had accepted the position of Chairman of Council from the start of the new academic year.

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

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair for his long service to the Council and to the University over the past 12 years. During this time he has overseen a number of major developments at the University including closer collaboration with the Norwich Research Park developing a common vision for Science, the foundation of University

Campus Suffolk as a completely new development in higher education (one which David Willetts, Minister for Higher Education has specifically commented upon), the foundation of the Norwich Powerhouse, and the changing map of the campus. The Vice Chancellor added that whilst the higher education sector faced unprecedented challenges Stuart Holmes had set the University up to navigate these with confidence.

\*51. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

This report is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

52. SUSPENSION OF PLANNING & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A FINANCE GROUP

Considered

a proposal from the Registrar and Secretary. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D041)

(The Registrar identified that the reduction in size of Council had made it easier for it to consider financial and strategic matters that are currently also dealt with by Planning and Resources Committee (a joint committee of Senate and Council). The involvement of PRC meant that some members of Council will have seen much iteration of items that progress from Executive Team to PRC to Council. It is therefore proposed to suspend PRC for the academic year 2010-11 and, instead, establish a smaller/more nimble "Finance Group". Senate has already considered this proposal and given broad agreement subject to still formally being consulted on the annual budget. It was noted that the delegated responsibilities that were proposed for transfer from PRC to the new Finance Group included setting of fees. Given the potential need to take a strategic view of fees should the cap be lifted or removed following the Browne Review it was considered that whilst routine fee setting could be dealt with by the Finance Group major strategic fees issues should be considered by Council and the Registrar agreed to review the terms of reference for circulation to Council members and then sign off by Chair's action to reflect this. It was noted that residence rents and nursery charges would also continue to be referred to Student Affairs Group before the Finance Group approved these charges.)

RESOLVED

to suspend Planning and Resources Committee with a further review to take place in autumn 2011 subject to an amendment to the terms of reference to reflect the delegation of only standard fee setting to the new Finance Group. Strategic decisions regarding fees (e.g. the University's response to the Browne review) should be taken by Council.

\*53. HEFCE ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK

This report is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*54. BUDGET SETTING 2010-11 AND AN OUTLINE FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL AND CAPITAL PLAN

This report is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

55. AUDIT OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (REVIEWING THE PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL)

Considered  
the report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D045)

RESOLVED  
to adopt the framework set out in the report for the monitoring of the performance of Council.

\*56. CONFIDENTIAL PROJECT

This report is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

57. USS

Considered  
the report from the Registrar and Secretary. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D047)

RESOLVED  
to invite the Chair to write to the Board of USS stressing:

- a) the University's full support for the employers' proposals for significant changes to the scheme; and
- b) the importance of the trustees of USS, from their widely accepted standpoint of independence, communicating to the beneficiaries their own concerns for the future stability of the scheme and the strength of the employers' covenant if the costs endanger the ability of universities to thrive and to invest in their own future.

58. ORDINANCES

Considered  
the report from the Registrar and Secretary. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D048)

RESOLVED

- (1) to approve the membership of the Council Effectiveness Committee as follows:  
  
Two independent members of Council  
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)  
One member of Council nominated by Senate  
One student member of Council nominated by the student members  
The Registrar & Secretary;
- (2) to ask the Committee to review Statute 7 and in particular the arrangements for considering proposals for effecting redundancies

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59. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Considered

a Report from the Registrar and Secretary. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D049)

RESOLVED

to approve the recommendations in the Registrar & Secretary's report that:

- (1) the following independent members of Council be re-appointed for a further term of 3 years from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2013: Mr Jonathan Sission, Sir Richard Dales, Mr David White;
- (2) that Professor Nigel Norris be appointed as a Senate representative on Council to serve 3 years from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2013;
- (3) that the balance of the membership of Audit Committee be amended to allow for two independent members and three external members to maintain the overall membership at 5.

60. PRO-CHANCELLORS

Considered

the recommendation in the confidential report from the Registrar and Secretary. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D050)

(Stuart Holmes left the room for this item and the Chair was taken by David Hill)

RESOLVED

to approve the recommendation that Stuart Holmes be appointed a Pro-Chancellor from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2013

61. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Considered

the nomination from Senate of Professor Nigel Norris as a member of Council from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2013 (in succession to Professor Jacqueline Burgess)

RESOLVED

62. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SUFFOLK PROSPECTIVE BOARD VACANCY

Reported

- (1) that on Stuart Holmes' retirement from Council a vacancy would arise on Board of University Campus Suffolk (UCS);
- (2) that following consultation with the Council Membership Committee David Edwards was invited and has agreed to take up the appointment.

63. RECRUITMENT, ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

Received

the Annual Report of the Committee. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D051)

64. 2009 HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received

the 2009 Health and Safety Report to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D052)

RESOLVED

to review the report formally in the next meeting of Council.

65. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Items for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU09D053)

- (1) Heads of School Appointments – LAW, LCS & PSI
- (2) Union of UEA Students – Election 2010/11 Results
- (3) Sealings

\*\*66. REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE

This report is confidential and reserved and attached as a separate sheet.

\*\*67 THE SENATE

This report is confidential and reserved and attached as a separate sheet.