

THE COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2012

Present: The Chairman of the Council (Mr R. Jewson) (in the Chair), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor E.D.J. Acton), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor D.J. Richardson), the Treasurer (Mr J. Sisson), Sir Richard Dales, Mr D. Edwards, Mr G. Jones, Ms V. Keller-Dorsey, Ms L. McGillivray, Dr K. Skoyles Mr S. Thompson, Mr D. White and the Student Representatives except for business marked ** (Mr R. Bloomer and Mr M. Myles).

With: The Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Planning (Mr I. Callaghan), the Director of Finance (Mr S. Donaldson), the Senior Assistant Registrar (Dr L. Moulard) and the Senior Administrative Assistant (Committee Office) (Mrs R. Phillips).

In attendance: The Deans of Faculty (Professor I. Harvey, Professor Y. Tasker and Professor N. Ward).

Apologies: Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor T. Ward), Professor P. Gilmartin, Professor N. Norris and Professor C. Waddams.

The Vice-Chancellor made a statement to mark the passing of the Chancellor which was followed by a minute's silence in his memory.

61. MINUTES

Confirmed
the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 March 2012.

62. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The Chair stated that he had met with the Director of Development (Graeme Byrne) who is currently building the Development team and building an advisory team of alumni and others in support of the University Jubilee Campaign.

63. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor made the following statements:

- (1) The government has announced a further phase of deregulation in respect of student recruitment by extending free choice to those applicants achieving ABB+ or equivalent. This should provide an opportunity for UEA to grow on a measured basis in the areas where it is strongest; for example LDC has some striking opportunities. It is anticipated that there will be an increase this year in the number of students the University recruits that are ABB+ partly as a result of higher tariff-level offers being made by a significant number of Schools. In terms of Student Number Control (SNC) it has previously been government practice to protect up to 20% of an institution's SNC to ensure that they have sufficient opportunity to recruit widening access students. Confirmation of the detail of this exercise is awaited.

- (2) Current student recruitment for 2012-13 is broadly on target. It is possible that undergraduate Home/EU students may be short by c. 50 students but there are opportunities for some over-recruitment of international students where applications are particularly strong though there is continuing concern about the potential adverse impact of government immigration policy. Interesting possibilities are also opening up with the Brazilian government's Science without Borders programme. However, the University is conscious of the current pressure on student accommodation which limits growth amongst those categories of student carrying an accommodation guarantee. Investigations are taking place into potential Homestay arrangements for some students in September 2012. This could have the added advantage of improving the students' English language abilities. Some concern was expressed about Homestay by the Students' Union representatives primarily about ensuring that if there were cases where this did not provide the appropriate solution in specific cases there was a swift approach to resolving any issues. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that this would be the case.
- (3) Last week saw the Universities UK conference where it was noted that employers had increased their pay offer from 0.5% to 0.8% for 2012/13. This is on top of the annual incremental increases that at UEA average c. 1.7%. The trades unions had pressed for 7%. The event was a risk based event with additional discussions about the acceptance of large gifts from donors, the growing impact of competition law on the sector, the UK Border Agency and a Research concordat. The President of UUK had written to the Prime Minister asking that university-sponsored students be removed from the net migration figures and UUK are seeking Chancellors and Chairs to sign in support of this campaign. The late Sir Brandon Gough was an initial signatory and the Chair has also agreed to sign. Backbench MPs are also supporting the move as is the New Anglia LEP.
- (4) Members should have received an invitation to a summer dinner (21 July 2012).
- (5) The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (Professor Tom Ward) has announced that he will be leaving the University in early September to take up the post of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) at the University of Durham. The departure of Professor Ward will be a sad occasion for the University but an excellent opportunity for him personally and we wish him well in his new role. Council's approval was sought and received to recruit a replacement via external advertisement with terms and conditions to be agreed with the successful candidate.

64. UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA STAFF SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

As agreed at the January meeting the University had conducted an appropriate consultation over the proposed changes to the local pension scheme (USSS, a scheme which had been closed to new members for some time), to replicate as closely as practicable the changes to the arrangements for members of USS which had been implemented on 1 October 2011. These included (for future service) a change in normal pension age to 65, cost sharing in respect of future increases in overall contribution rate and an inflation cap on pension increases. In addition, a scheme of flexible retirement would be introduced and provisions made for actuarial reduction in pensions in redundancy cases arising after 1 October 2014.

Council appointed a committee comprising David Edwards, Sir Richard Dales and Kathryn Skoyles with delegated authority to consider the results of the consultation and to agree revisions to the scheme.

65. SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Received

an update from the Head of School. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU11D051)

(In discussion it was noted that considerable effort had been expended to support students and staff since the closure of the School had been announced and many positive developments have taken place both to support students and staff and to maintain quality. There was concern from the Union of UEA Students that communication with students had not always been optimal and it may be this information vacuum that had led to some of the internet comments. It was also noted that with the departure of Professor Ward it would be important to address a replacement chair for the monthly meetings. The Acting Executive Dean (HUM) stated that she would ensure communications improved.)

*66. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*67. STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

68. NORWICH RESEARCH PARK

Considered

a confidential report from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the Norwich Research Park. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU11D054)

*69. CONFIDENTIAL PROJECT

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

70. THE CHANCELLOR

Received

an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the Chancellor.

(Following the sad news of the sudden death of the Chancellor, Sir Brandon Gough, it is likely that there will be a period of time before active moves are made to seek a successor. This would be considered by Council Membership Committee. The Vice-Chancellor would ask all members of Council to give consideration to suitable people for this important role and to

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suggest them to either the Chairman or himself. The core requirements of the role are to preside at Court and Congregation but there are also additional informal roles which vary considerably from University to University. These may include strong influence with potential donors, some Chancellors come from celebrity backgrounds and others are elected by the student body.

In response to a request all members of Council will be sent a list of current Chancellors of other UK universities.)

71. NORTH SEA MARINE CLUSTER COMPANY FORMATION

Considered

a report from Dr Jon Carter regarding the formation of a company limited by guarantee to facilitate the further growth of the North Sea Marine Cluster. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU11D056)

72. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Considered

a report from the Council Membership Committee. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU11D057)

*72. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

73. APPOINTMENT OF DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES: PROCESS

Reported

that the Chairman has acted, in between meetings of Council, to approve a process of internal advertisement and interview for the appointment of the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, upon the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor and in accordance with the provisions set out in Ordinance 1 (*Appointment of Staff and Terms and Conditions of Service*).

74. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Item for Report. COU11D058

(1) Sealings

COU-M5
21.05.2012
Min. 75

75. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2012/2012

Reported

following the release of the Council dates for the academic year 2012/2013 noted in the March Council agenda, it had become necessary to make the following amendments:

Monday 8 October to Monday 15 October 2012

Monday 4 March to Monday 11 March 2013

Monday 20 May 2013 - the timing will be moved to 14.00

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For convenience the full list of meetings is below:

Monday 15 October 2012 – 10.30am (*CMC following Council*)
Monday 19 November 2012 – 9am (then Council Strategy Conference all day)
Monday 21 January 2013 – 10.30am
Monday 11 March 2013 – 10.30am
Monday 20 May 2013 – 2pm (*CMC following Council*)
Monday 24 June 2013 – 10.30am

76. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

that the date of the next Council meeting was on Monday 2 July 2012 at 10.30am.

**77. REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE

This minute is confidential and reserved and is attached on a separate sheet.

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