

THE COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2013

Present: The Chairman of the Council (Mr R. Jewson) (in the Chair), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. J. Richardson), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor N. Norris), the Treasurer (Mr J. Sisson), Dr M. Blyth, Sir Richard Dales, Mr D. Edwards, Mr G. Jones, Ms V. Keller-Dorsey, Ms L. McGillivray, Dr K. Skoyles, Mrs E. Slaymaker and the Student Representative except for business marked ** (Mr J. Levell 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 P. Gilmartin, Professor I. Harvey, Professor Y. Tasker and Professor N. Ward).

Apologies: The Vice-Chancellor (Professor E.D.J. Acton),

71. MINUTES

Confirmed
the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 March 2013.

*72. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

73. STATEMENTS BY THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

The current position in the THE Student Experience league table was confirmed. Our position arose out of consistent performance in each of the measures used in their survey. In addition the University has recently secured 20th position in the Complete Guide. However, there continues to be a balancing act between the University's financial and banking covenant needs and the desire to improve performance in the league tables. Some indicators will deteriorate next financial year as a result of changes to the staff student ratio (moving to ensure achievement of a Top 20 score rather than the current position which is better than Top 20). However, to compensate for this there is a need to continue to optimise employability, good honours and tariff wherever possible and a number of actions are being taken to improve these.

Councillors will have noticed that a number of strategic alliances have been established to help institutions move forward on research. To this end conversations are in train with the Universities of Essex and Kent about the potential formation of the Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC). Partnerships are growing in importance with the Research Councils awarding Doctoral Training Programmes to partnerships in preference to individual institutions. Whilst the Norwich Research Park is also important to the University there is a danger of

COU-M2
20.05.2013
Min. 73

isolation from other HEIs especially in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences. The University has already joined with Kent in respect of an AHRC Doctoral Training Centre bid. A memorandum of understanding is being considered between the three institutions and it is important to note that if we do not take advantage of this opportunity there is a risk that both Kent and Essex could start to look further west for partners which could leave UEA isolated. A meeting is due to take place in July to further discuss the partnership and this is being led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Dean (SSF).

The role and the future of the 1994 Group is still under discussion and this is likely to be the subject of a future Council discussion.

The University has been reviewing closely the potential costs of the previously approved BA Festival of Science. This is looking increasingly unaffordable with a requirement of £0.25m from the University upfront plus another £0.25m on-costs. Funds have not been forthcoming from the other institutions on the Norwich Research Park. Faced with this uncertainty and the current financial position the University has reluctantly advised the organisers that we will be unable to host the Festival.

Norwich City College wishes to use the title of University in its bid to become a University Technical College. The College is formally required to consult with the University on this proposal as "University" is a protected term. Council noted that the University is one of the sponsors of the UTC status and as such Council confirmed approval.

74. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIR'S ACTION

The Chair confirmed the appointment of Rose Tremain CBE following the recommendation of the Council Membership Committee and subsequent conversations with members of Council.

75 CORPORATE PLAN: REVIEW OF THE COMPLETE GUIDE LEAGUE TABLE

Considered

a report from the Business Intelligence Unit regarding the University's performance in the recently published Complete Guide League Table. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU12D057)

(It was confirmed that some considerable time at the forthcoming Executive Team Away Day would be devoted to the University's performance and to identifying sufficient funding to ensure the current league table successes are embedded. The budget for the forthcoming year acknowledges deterioration in the staff/student ratio; albeit back to the Top 20 level which in recent years has been over-achieved. The budget has been designed to meet the capital requirements of the University together with appropriate revenue requirements whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements of the EIB. The Executive Team are firmly of the opinion that the planned capital investment should go ahead to maintain the student experience and that all options for optimising the other aspects of performance should be explored with a view to presenting a detailed analysis of key performance indicator performance and the financial and other impacts of improvement to the Council Strategy Conference in the autumn. At this stage impacts to the SSR should be considered more as fine tuning rather than a radical shift to the days when the SSR was 18:1. It is also important to note that in terms of

external league tables all scores are relative to the rest of the sector and the moves others make are difficult to predict.)

*76. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*77. HEFCE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*78. CONFIDENTIAL PROJECT

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*79. JOINT VENTURE

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*80. REPORT FROM FINANCE GROUP

Received

a confidential report from the Finance Group of their meeting on 15 April 2013. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU12D060)

81. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Received

a report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU12D061)

82. RECRUITMENT, ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE – DISBANDING

Considered

the recommendations within the report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU12D064)

83. CHANGE OF SCHOOL NAMES

Reported

that the Senate at its meeting on 20 February 2013 approved the following changes to School names:

- (1) School of School of World Art Studies and Museology (ART) to become the School of Art History and World Art Studies (ART) with effect from 1st August 2013.

COU12M006

COU-M4
20.05.2013
Min. 73

- (2) that the Natural Sciences courses currently run within the Faculty of Science transfer to a new School of Natural Sciences (NAT) with effect from 1st August 2013.
- (3) School of Allied Health Professions (AHP) to become the School of Rehabilitation Sciences (RSC) with effect from 1st August 2013.

Confirmed
the amendments as recommended by Senate.

84. STUDENTS UNION CONSTITUTION

Considered
a proposal from the Registrar & Secretary to delegate authority to a sub committee to consider and approve the revised Constitution for the Union of UEA students. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU12D062)
RESOLVED

85. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received
a report from the Health and Safety Executive. COU12D065 (Divider H)

86. PROPOSAL i) TO FORM UEA HEALTHCARE PARTNERS LTD AND ii) FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCES NETWORK (NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK NODE)

Considered
proposals from the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health

- (1) to establish a company limited by guarantee UEA Healthcare Partners Ltd.

and

- (2) that the University become a member of a new NHS company to be limited by guarantee: Eastern Academic Health Sciences Network (Norfolk and Suffolk Node)

(A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU12D063)

87. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received
the following Item for Report. COU12D066

- (1) Sealings

88. UNION OF UEA STUDENTS – ELECTION 2013/14 RESULTS

Reported
the results of the election:

Full-time Student Officers (start on August 1st 2013)

Academic Officer: Louise Withers Green
Communications Officer: Rosie Rawle
Community and Student Rights Officer: Bintu Foday
Finance Officer: Joe Levell
Environment Officer: Emma Silk
Ethical Issues Officer: Lauren Sioan

Part-time/Volunteer Student Officers

Non-portfolio Officers: Ella Gilbert, Joe Raynes, Sebastian Bacheller, Freddie Meade
International Officer: Tu An Ngo
Women's Officer: Rachel Knott
LGBT Officer: Holly Staynor
Students with Disabilities Officer: Daniel Delargy
Mature Students Officer: Trevor Killeen

89. GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Reported

that the Graduate Students' Association would have a new committee from the end of the 2013 Easter break.

President: Kimberley Hirst-Jones (k.hirst-jones@uea.ac.uk)
Secretary: Mohamed Elsheemy (M.Elsheemy@uea.ac.uk)
Committees Officer: David Cutting (David.Cutting@uea.ac.uk)

The general GSA email address of gsa@uea.ac.uk will continue to be monitored by the new committee.

90. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

that the date of the next Council meeting was on Monday 24 June 2013 at 10.30am.