

# THE COUNCIL



## Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2015

Present: The Chairman of the Council (Mr R Jewson) (in the Chair), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Richardson), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor N. Ward), The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Petley), the Treasurer (Mr J Sisson), Dr M Blyth, Ms V Keller Dorsey, Mr J Greenwell, Mr G Jones, Professor G Schofield, Dr K Skoyles, Mrs E Slaymaker and the Student Representatives (Mr C. Jarvis)

With: The Registrar and Secretary (Mr B Summers), the Director of Finance (Mr S Donaldson), the Director of Planning (Mr I Callaghan), the Head of Corporate Communications (Mrs S. Giles) and the Senior Administrative Assistant (Committee Office) (Mrs R. Phillips)

In attendance: The Executive Deans of Faculty (Professor J Collier, Professor I Harvey, Professor Y Tasker and Professor P Gilmartin)

Apologies: Ms Laura McGillivray, Dr W. Thomson, Mr M Williams, Student Representative (Mr Y. Yu)

### 30. MINUTES

Confirmed

the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 December 2014.

### 31. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

(1) The Chair congratulated the University on the REF outcome which was a tremendous result with which the Council was well pleased. He also noted that thoughts were already beginning regarding preparations for the next REF.

(2) The Chair noted that Generation Park formed a major feature in the EDP this morning. He confirmed that contracts had been exchanged with Eon and funds were transferred. Contracts with the second consortium of investors had also been exchanged and there were sufficient funds in place to progress towards a planning application; ideally by the summer. Significant efforts were being expended to ensure appropriate public consultation and that whilst the project had to be financially viable it should also deliver community benefits. To that end a Community Advisory Board had been established (chaired by the Bishop of Norwich).

(3) This item is confidential and reserved and attached as a separate sheet.

### 32. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor's statements are incorporated in minute 33 below.

33. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received

the Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D026).

(In addition to his report the Vice-Chancellor made the following statements:

- (1) In early November UCU confirmed that "action short of a strike" would take place in response to the proposals regarding pension reform. At that time the University's position was that partial performance was not acceptable and any person taking action would forfeit 100% of salary for the duration of their action. In the event minimal action was taken and since that time formal proposals have been submitted which bring the employers and the UCU closer together. Action was to be renewed from January 16<sup>th</sup> and in view of the positive discussions taking place UUK recommended that employers make only a 25% deduction in the event of "action short of a strike" in respect of this specific dispute. The University agreed to support this proposal and notified staff accordingly but in the event UCU has suspended action and are balloting members on acceptance of the revised proposals. [Subsequently to this meeting the ballot result confirmed acceptance.] Separately, the University has arranged a pensions meeting for all staff to be led by Mercers.
- (2) It was reported that the turnaround times for coursework assessment had improved and noted that this was an important aspect of the National Student Survey (NSS) for which fieldwork commenced in February.
- (3) The Vice-Chancellor had attended the opening of the Hermitage/SCVA Francis Bacon exhibition in St Petersburg. It was anticipated that this would generate lots of interest when the exhibition transferred to the SCVA for the period April-July with an additional 200 visits to campus per day anticipated. The University was working closely with the City Council to seek planning permission for the temporary car parking required with a view to a more permanent solution as the number of large exhibitions was anticipated to increase. A long term solution for the SCVA was in reality linked to a long term solution for the entire campus; the University has a planning permission for a decked car park on the site of the main car park and a business plan to support such a development on a self-financing basis was being progressed.
- (4) The deadline for applications via UCAS has now passed with the following data for UEA:
  - a. UCAS applications nationally: +1.75%
  - b. Competitor applications: +2.44%
  - c. UEA applications: +18%

Upgrade unconditional offers are not thought to have impacted these statistics which are thought to be more linked to league table position. The former are more likely to influence conversion behaviour.

- (5) Work continues on re-designing the STEM building to manage the costs more in line with the budget. It is still considered that there is a need for the building and the design may now mirror the Ziggurat format of the residences. Discussions about potential fundraising opportunities were also taking place.

- (6) The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) had just returned from a visit to Burma on a trip funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. All Universities in the country were expected to become free entities and they are seeking to upskill staff. During the visit the PVC visited the Ministry for Higher Education, the Ministry for New Capital and the Ministry for Science, Mines and Health. There was potential opportunity in the Health area where the Burma model is based on the NHS. Burma is looking to build research and collaborative links with a UK university in the Nursing/Pharmacy area. )

\*34. REF RESULTS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*35. LESSONS LEARNED

Considered

a report from the Registrar and Secretary regarding the "Lessons Learned" discussion at the Council Strategy Conference. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D029)

(The report was welcomed by Council and it was agreed that where major projects were to be considered in the future an ad-hoc committee would be established to scrutinise in detail before presentation to Council for a final decision.).

\*36. DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SUBJECT AREA

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

\*37. CORPORATE PLAN: LEARNING AND TEACHING

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

38. STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON FINANCE GROUP AND SENIOR OFFICERS' REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Considered

a proposal regarding student representation on the Finance Group and Senior Officers' Remuneration Committee. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D032)

(The background to the establishment of the Finance Group was discussed noting that this was primarily an informal group to enable more detailed briefing on financial matters to be provided to the Treasurer prior to them being presented to Council. The Finance Group was not fundamentally a decision making group. It was also noted that a new CUC code is currently in draft and may well make recommendations about governance. On that basis it was agreed to await the final version of the CUC guidance following which a final decision would be made.)

## **COU14A004**

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### 39. 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. COU14D033).

### 40. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Items for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D034

(41) Sealings

### 41. DATES OF MEETINGS

Reported

(1) that the date of the next Council meeting was Monday 9 March 2015 – 10.30am

(2) that the dates of future Council meetings were:

Monday 18 May 2015 – 10.30am

Monday 29 June 2015 – 10.30am