

THE COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 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, Ms L. McGillivray, Professor G Schofield, Dr K Skoyles, Dr W. Thomson, Mr M Williams and the Student Representatives (Mr C. Jarvis and Mr Y. Yu)

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 and Professor Y Tasker)

Apologies: Mr G Jones, Mrs E Slaymaker and Professor P Gilmartin

42. MINUTES

Confirmed

the minutes of the Council meetings held on 19 January 2015.

A confidential and reserved update to minute 30 is detailed below.

43. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The Chair invited the Treasurer to provide an update on Generation Park.

The Park was now seven weeks into the period since public launch and the Treasurer and others had attended a number of meetings and presentations. He was comfortable with the current position and noted that any concerns that had been raised related to access onto the site and potential impacts on Trowse and potential impacts if there were a decision to use road rather than rail transport for straw pellets together with a discussion of whether straw was an appropriate fuel for the power station. During the construction phase there are not anticipated to be any significant impacts and it was confirmed that the only realistic method for transporting the straw pellets was via rail. In terms of the fuel if it was deemed necessary for Norwich to have a new power station that pointed to the need for it to be Biomass. Use of straw did not take land out of food production and wood chips would potentially have a higher impact on the carbon footprint.

Discussions on the use of heat in a district heating system were ongoing with some interest from local companies and large users. A planning application was likely to be submitted later this year. It was also confirmed that there was no impact on the University finances as a result of this development.

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44. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

There were no additional statements from the Vice-Chancellor.

45. REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received

the Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D035).

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

- (1) Admissions predictions continue to be buoyant and appear to be benefitting from league table positioning and strong performance on open days. It is expected that at least some of last year's shortfall will be recovered and to support an optimal outcome the University is seeking additional accommodation in Norwich.
- (2) The Labour Party has recently announced that if forming a government post the General Election they will drop fees for Home/EU undergraduates to £6,000 with effect from September 2016. This will impact all students (not just those who commence their studies at that time). There is therefore a risk that students may choose to defer entry to make this one year saving which would have major impacts sector wide. However, as it is effectively a one year only impact of £3,000 it is hoped that students will prefer to continue with their secured place this year rather than re-apply for the following year. The expectation is that the difference will be funded from the State and there is an absolute risk to the continued lack of inflation proofing together with a potential return to capped numbers and, as such, the proposals do not resolve the sustainable funding issue.
- (3) The UEA Plan consultation was welcomed by staff and students and was very successful.
- (4) In terms of capital and estates planning now was the time to pause on the proposed STEM and RPIF buildings to consider which might be best for the University. More information will be included in a future Council meeting.

46. CORPORATE PLAN: ANNUAL SUMMARY METRICS

In terms of REF performance there may be an impact on the tables in The Times and The Complete Guide. The Times also uses more up to date data than the other tables as they delay publication until the latest DLHE and NSS scores are available.

*47. CFH HEADS OF TERMS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

48. BRAND PRESENTATION

Received

a presentation from Robert Jones regarding the University Brand Strategy.

(In response to queries the following was noted:

- The brand work that has featured in the prospectus will now be flowed to digital content and other applications across the University;
- The “making a difference” aspect should be captured a bit more in the use of the brand and to ensure that organisations to which students may progress should be considered;
- The initial launch focuses primarily on undergraduate students and the work will now turn to other stakeholders and audiences;
- The brand will need to be lived and this should be incorporated into the UEA Plan and ensuring that alumni are kept informed;
- There was a need to work more closely with the City and County Councils with regard to visuals and to ensure that all three institutions are communicating a coherent message.)

49. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE GROUP

Considered

a confidential report from the Finance Group meeting held on Monday 3 March 2015. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D038)

*50. UEA PLAYING FIELDS

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

51. ACCOUNTS OF THE UNION OF UEA STUDENTS AND THE GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Received

a report from the Registrar and Secretary in respect of the financial statements for the Union of UEA Students and the Graduate Students Association for 2013/14. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D040)

52. NEXT MEETING

Reported

that the date of the next Council meeting will be on 18 May 2015. ***Please note this would be a Council Strategy Day to discuss the Corporate Plan and would last all day with a dinner in the evening.***

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53. DATES OF MEETINGS 2014-2015

Reported

that the dates of future Council meetings are as set out below:

Monday 18 May 2015 – 10.30am – **Council Strategy Day**

Monday 29 June 2015 – 10.30am

54. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D041

(1) Sealings