

THE COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 May 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 Laura McGillivray Dr K Skoyles, Mrs E Slaymaker 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, Professor Y Tasker and Professor P Gilmartin)

Apologies: Mr G Jones, Professor G Schofield, Mr M Williams, Dr W Thomson

55. MINUTES

Confirmed

the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 March 2014.

56. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

There were no statements

57. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor made the following statements:

- (1) The General Election outcome is now known and is confirmed as a Conservative majority government. The University will aim to work productively with the new government;
- (2) The first five years of the UEA plan will run almost concurrently with this 5 year government;
- (3) Letters of congratulation have been written to all of the local MPs; some new faces and others who are well known to us. The Vice-Chancellor will outline the broad thinking behind Vision 2030 and invite them to visit us to explore the opportunities and challenges therein and the importance of the University economically to the region and why and how they can help us as partners in our vision as an anchor institution and powerhouse;

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- (4) The key ministers are:
- a. Sajid Jarvid – Secretary of State of Business, Innovation and Skills
 - b. Jo Johnson – Minister Universities and Science (not a cabinet post)

Both are quite positive about in respect of Europe and Immigration

- (5) Key Conservative policies relevant to the higher education sector include:
- a. A referendum on our membership of the EU – which could be called as early as 2016, given the strength of the Conservative majority. Jo Johnson is a Europhile as is Sajid Jarvid. The EU is important to universities as it provides EU free movement of staff and students; 125,000 EU students in UK, 15% of academic staff, ERASMUS student exchange, Marie Curie networks (PhD students and early career researchers); £1bn research funding etc.).
 - b. There may also be a more rapid movement on the plans to reduce costs, including in relation to the BIS budget that is not protected. The CSR could be difficult for the Research Councils and NRP might be impacted.
 - c. Health is a protected budget, but health education may still be impacted. There may be consideration of a shift towards a student-loan based tuition fees systems for Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health Professions and pharmacists and doctors in their later clinical years (all of which are currently grant funded). This should permit a loosening of the student number control. Health Education England are still trying to implement central workforce planning but under this scheme the outcome would be student-demand led noting of course that if provision increased there may be risks of not obtaining employment. There is risk for the NHS in that loans might reduce demand for e.g. nursing courses.
 - d. There may also be further restrictions and reforms to the student visa regime with a number of areas highlighted for action, including a review of the Highly Trusted Sponsor status system and 'new measures to tackle abuse' and reduce the number of those who overstay student visas. However, Jo Johnson has written articles calling for students to be removed from immigration numbers. Jo Johnson also promotes strong links with India.
 - e. In respect of counter-terrorism, the Conservative manifesto specifically mentions measures to 'ensure colleges and universities do not give a platform to extremist speakers'. This could suggest that sections of the draft Statutory Guidance on the new Prevent duty – which were removed in the final version (pending further specific guidance) – may be reinserted in something like their old form.
 - f. £12bn cuts, (may be £17bn if £5bn in anti-tax avoidance measures are not identified) and public sector pay restraint. The latest pay offer by the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association was to increase the lowest eight spinal points by 2.65%, effectively to the "Living Wage", on the basis of a standard 35-hours-a-week contract. However, a number of institutions organise their contracts, and therefore their pay, differently (UEA included) with a 36.25-hour week. The offer is 1 per cent for the rest of the pay spine. This represents a small advance on the original proposal for 2015-16 of 0.9 per cent and exceeds all indices of inflation. Around half

all employees will be eligible to receive automatic increments which would take the average pay increase in 2015-16 to 2.5 per cent. It is currently unclear if the Unions will accept the offer.

- g. The results in Scotland will mean that the question of further devolution of power to Edinburgh will be high on the parliamentary agenda. HEIs in Scotland are still highly dependent on State funding; HEIs in England much less so and as such are becoming very different kinds of institutions.
- h. No change / disruption to the fees structure is anticipated and the fees cap could be lifted or at least index linked. This might be linked to the introduction of a 'framework' to recognise excellence in teaching.
- i. There is an expectation of a requirement to collate and publish information on graduates' careers.
- j. It is unlikely that a cap on student numbers will be reinstated; UEA is planning to expand by 1500 home / EU UG students over the next 5 years.

58. REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received

a report from the Vice-Chancellor. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D042)

(It was noted that there was some concern about the availability of Secure English Language Tests (SELTs) this year and that this may have an impact on INTO's ability to recruit to target with a consequent potential impact on both the joint venture's financial performance and the future supply of students to the University. UKVI has confirmed that there are, in their opinion, enough centres for the demand anticipated and UUK are also suggesting a similar view. Any impact on INTO will need to be carefully considered and incorporated into future planning.)

59. CONSIDERATION OF RECENT LEAGUE TABLE PERFORMANCE

Considered

a confidential report from the Vice-Chancellor regarding recent league table performance and identifying how this might impact the University's future budgets. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D043)

60. HEFCE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK

Received

the confidential annual letter from HEFCE (dated 24 March 2015) regarding the HEFCE annual assessment of institutional risk. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D044)

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61. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Considered

the Chairman's report on student representation on Finance Group and Senior Officers' Remuneration Committee. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D045).

(Following consultation with members of Council the Chairman had concluded that it was not appropriate to expand the membership to include student representation. This was accepted by Council

63. HIGHER EDUCATION CODE OF GOVERNANCE

Considered

a report from the Registrar and Secretary regarding the Higher Education Code of Governance and its impact on the University. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D046)

(It was noted that key areas for development related to supervision of academic governance and promotion of equality and diversity. This Code was published at a time that fits with the requirement to undertake a review of Council effectiveness and, as such, a group would be formed under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chair of Council to consider all aspects of the Code. As a first step Council will receive (and discuss) annual reports from Senate and the Equality and Diversity Committee.)

64. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE GROUP

Considered

a confidential report from the Finance Group including commentary on the draft budget for 2015/16 and the future years' financial forecasts. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D047)

65. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received

a report from the Health and Safety Executive. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU14D049)

66. ITEMS FOR REPORT

Received

the following Item for Report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. COU1D050)

(1) Sealings

67. UNION OF UEA STUDENTS – ELECTION 2015/16 RESULTS

Reported

the results of the election:

Full Time Officers

- Activities and Opportunities Officer- Yinbo Yu
- Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer- Jo Swo
- Undergraduate Education Officer- Connor Rand
- Campaigns and Democracy Officer- Chris Jarvis
- Postgraduate Education Officer- Liam McCafferty

Part Time Officers

- Non Portfolio Officers- Tom Etheridge, Philippa Costello, Jack Robinson and Cameron Mellowes
- Women's Officer- Bethany Smith
- Environment Officer- Sam Jones
- Ethical Issues Officer- Alex McCloskey
- Ethnic Minorities Officer- Hussam Oweis
- LGBT+ Officer- Theo Antoniou-Phillips
- International Officer- Ting Ni
- Students with Disabilities Officer- Aaron Hood
- Mature Students Officer- Paul Erasmus

68. GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 2015/2016

Reported

the Graduate Students' Association membership:

President: Mr David Hall

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

69. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

that the date of the next Council meeting is on Monday 29 June 2015 at 10.30am.