

Minutes of Council

Friday 10 May 2013

- Present: Ms A Berti, Mr D Burn (Chair), Mr P Charlton, Professor D Clarke, Councillor S Cook, Dr E Crawley, Mr T Flynn, Professor G Foster, Dr A Garrad, Mrs S Goymer, Mr C Green, Dr M Hamlin, Sir R Kerr, Ms P Lawrence-Archer, Professor N Lieven, Mr T Macdonald, Professor R Middleton, Mrs D Moore, Professor G Orpen, Mrs C Peck, Mr A Poolman, Mr B Ray, Mr M Saddiq, Ms V Stace, Ms A Stephenson, Professor E Thomas, Dr T Thompson
- In attendance: Dr N Bradshaw, Professor N Canagarajah, Mr C Dalton, Mr P Finch, Ms R Geller, Mr G Gregory, Dr D Langley, Mr H Martin (Clerk), Mr A Mitchell, Mr A Nield, Ms S Paterson, Mr T Phillips, Ms L Robinson, Sir J Tidmarsh, Dr M Woolley
- Apologies: Mr J Manley, Mr B Morton, Mr D Ord, Mr J Wetz

1. Welcome and announcements

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Dean of Engineering and the Director of RED and colleagues to give their presentations to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair thanked the outgoing President of UBSU on behalf of Council for all that he had achieved and wished him and the other outgoing sabbatical officers well in their careers.

2. Apologies

- 2.1 NOTED: the apologies received in advance.

3. Declaration of interests

- 3.1 Members were reminded that they had an obligation to disclose any pecuniary, family or other personal interest that they had in any matter under discussion at any meeting of Council as soon as practicable.

4. Minutes of meeting on 15 March 2013

- 4.1 CONFIRMED: the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2013.

5. Matters arising and actions

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6. Presentations

6.1 The Dean of Engineering gave the Faculty's biennial presentation (on file). The Dean was joined by Mr A Mitchell, Senate Undergraduate Representative of the Faculty of Engineering, and Mr C J Dalton, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science.

The discussion which followed highlighted these points:

- the Faculty was aware of the gender imbalance in its sector and had set up female focus groups, was recruiting female chairs, and was working with the Head of Widening Participation and Undergraduate Recruitment;
- the success of the Faculty was also problematic in that space was critical and expansion highly desirable;
- there was a significant issue in recruiting Home PGT as a result of the rise in HUG fees but it was noted that the mood in RCUK was changing towards funding PGT and reinvestment might be likely in the near future;
- there were significant opportunities and benefits (in employability and in biomedical collaboration, for example) arising from Engineering Mathematics.

6.2 The Director of Enterprise gave a presentation (on file).

The discussion which followed highlighted these points:

- later that day the Vice-Chancellor would be signing an agreement with the Food and Environment Research Agency; this would be the basis of an important relationship with FERA and more widely DEFRA in the agri-science field;
- it was agreed that pragmatism in dealing with IP which understood and placed emphasis on what was important for academic staff was the right approach;
- it was important that IP was used as a tool for developing relationships with industry rather than simply for making money; IP delivered impact, was expensive to maintain and did not often provide significant financial benefits;
- it was important not to give away IP but being too aggressive could change or influence behaviours and damage relationships with industry;
- the University needed to protect its academic staff so that they could prosecute their own research with the necessary academic freedom; their freedom to operate had primacy;
- there was a need for a more integrated joining up of interfaces with industry across the University and a proactive approach would be taken to achieve this.

7. Chair's report

7.1 APPROVED: the appointment of two Visiting Professors (reference **CN/13/031**).

8 Vice-Chancellor's report

8.1 RECEIVED: the Vice-Chancellor's report to Council (reference **CN/13/032**).

Comprehensive spending review

- 8.2 The Vice-Chancellor noted the importance to the University of the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, particularly in light of the political situation and the likely cuts to be made in BIS.

China graduation ceremonies

- 8.3 The Vice-Chancellor advised Council that the graduation ceremonies held in China had been a great success and were a proud achievement for the University; he thanked all the staff involved for their hard work and noted that the event had raised the University's profile with its largest alumni group outside the UK. While for cost reasons it was not envisaged that this would become an annual event, its impact was significant and it should therefore be repeated.

GW4 – collaboration with Bath, Cardiff and Exeter

- 8.4 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) updated Council on the progress of the GW4 collaboration, which had reached the operational stage and was developing the governance requirements of the alliance. There would be a Council of the four Vice-Chancellors, and an academic-led Board of the four Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors (Research); at Bristol the Board would work with RED and HR to deliver a Bristol-led workstream on doctoral training and staff development. The University of Exeter would lead the research development workstream to build the GW4 community; the University of Cardiff would lead the articulation of the political face of GW4 and its communications strategy; the University of Bath would lead the sharing of research infrastructure and its exploitation.

NCC

- 8.5 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) updated Council on the progress of the ongoing operations at the NCC, noting that the Audit and Finance Committees were closely observing its rapid growth; the Phase 2 expansion would double the NCC footprint and was approaching the signing of the principal building contract.

REF 2014 preparation

- 8.6 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) updated Council on the REF preparation, noting that the contribution made by authors of impact case studies (which had the equivalent value in the REF of eight individual publications) would be recognised.

Admissions update

- 8.7 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) updated Council on the Admissions figures, noting that there had been an increase in applications above the sector average but that the situation would not be fully clear until August.

Recent Grants and Awards

- 8.9 The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Finance Director and other staff involved in the University receiving the award by the MRC of the first new university-based Unit in integrative epidemiology.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the election of Professor Guy Lloyd-Jones as a Fellow of the Royal Society; he became the fifth FRS elected in the School of Chemistry in successive years.

9. Financial Matters

- Monthly Financial Report
9.1 NOTED: the Monthly Financial Report (reference **CN/13/033**).

- University budget and business objectives 2013/14
9.2 The Finance Director gave a presentation (on file).

Mr T Macdonald and the Finance Director declared an interest as trustees of UBPAS.

APPROVED: the operating budget for 2013/14 and outline plans for 2014/15 and 2015/16, and the updated Capital Programme subject to the caveat about financing of the potential additional £40m (reference **CN/13/034**).

- Tuition fees 2014/15
9.3 NOTED: the undergraduate and postgraduate fees for 2014/15 (reference **CN/13/035**).

It was agreed that student representation on the Strategic Pricing Group should be considered and a discussion would follow between the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the UBSU sabbatical officers.

10. BHP Billiton update

- 10.1 NOTED: the BHP Billiton update (reference **CN/13/036**).

Mrs D Moore was absent for the discussion of this update.

It was noted that there had been a robust discussion of this item which had been handled appropriately at the previous Council meeting.

11. NSS update

- 11.1 NOTED: the NSS update (reference **CN/13/037**).

Council congratulated the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) for the rigorous process and reviews undertaken, and the student engagement in the School reviews was welcomed.

12. University Ethics of Research Policy and Procedure

- 12.1 APPROVED: University Ethics of Research Policy and Procedure (reference **CN/13/038**).

13. University Disposal Policy for Human Tissue

- 13.1 APPROVED: University Disposal Policy for Human Tissue (reference **CN/13/039**).

14. Proposed amendment to Ordinance 18 (Failure to Complete Assessment)

- 14.1 APPROVED BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION: the proposed amendment to Ordinance 18 (Failure to Complete Assessment) (reference **CN/13/040**).

15. Potential redundancy cases: Fixed-term Contract Policy (Ordinance 26)

- 15.1 AGREED: that redundancy procedures be instituted as described in the paper (reference **CN/13/041**).

16. Committee reports

Audit Committee

- 16.1 NOTED: the oral report of the Audit Committee meeting on 7 May; the minutes would be submitted to the next Council meeting.

NOTED: HEFCE's annual assessment of institutional risk: University of Bristol (reference **CN/13/042**).

Estates Committee

- 16.2 NOTED: the oral report of the Audit Committee meeting on 26 April; the minutes would be submitted to the next Council meeting.

16.3 Finance Committee

RECEIVED: the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 1 May (reference **CN/13/043**).

17. Reports for Information

Annual Report, Faculty of Engineering

- 17.1 NOTED: the Annual Report 2012 (reference **CN/13/044**).

18. Standing Items

Equality and Diversity Implications

- 18.1 Council did not feel that the business discussed at the meeting had raised any equality and diversity issues which had not been appropriately addressed by report authors and/or relevant sub-committees.

Communications and Consultation

- 18.2 The Chair congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and his team for his termly note to all staff.

The Chair encouraged members to sign up for governance training events run by the Leadership Foundation (expenses for which would be funded by the University) and asked the Clerk to circulate the 2013/14 schedule in due course when it became available.

The President of UBSU invited all members to attend the Students' Union Awards Night on Thursday 20 June; formal invitations would follow.

19. Dates of Next Meeting

- 19.1 The next meeting of Council would be held at Southmead Hospital on Friday 5 July 2013.