

Minutes of Council

Friday 8 February 2013

- Present: Ms A Berti, Mr D Burn (Chair), Mr P Charlton, Professor D Clarke, Councillor S Cook, Mr R Cowap, 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, Dr J Manley, Professor R Middleton, Mr B Morton, Mr D Ord, 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, Mr J Wetz
- In attendance: Mr D Alder, Professor G Banting, Dr A Bernays, Mr P Finch, Ms R Geller, Mr G Gregory, Dr R Hooper, Dr M Leggett, Mr H Martin (Clerk), Mr A Nield, Professor C Orchard, Ms S Paterson, Ms A Peck, Ms L Robinson, Sir J Tidmarsh, Ms M West
- Apologies: Dr M Woolley

1. Welcome and Announcements

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Mrs Sharon Goymer to her first meeting.

2. Council Meeting 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. Strategic Items

- 4.1 The Registrar and Chief Operating Officer gave a presentation (on file) reflecting on her first eight months in post. She highlighted her main responsibilities as:
- ensuring Divisions deliver effective and efficient services that provide staff and students with an excellent experience and enable the University to achieve its academic aspirations in teaching and in research;
 - directly supporting, mentoring and guiding each Divisional head;
 - ensuring Divisions are consistently working in a joined-up manner;

- promoting and cultivating a shared sense of pride, professionalism, and purpose across the Divisions.

Ms Geller commented on three areas of activity in which she has been particularly strongly engaged during this period:

- Communication;
- Effectiveness, quality and efficiency of the University's processes, systems and structures;
- Promotion of a Positive Working Environment.

The Registrar identified some of the challenges ahead, including:

- Improving student satisfaction;
- Maximising the University's REF return;
- Launching divisional reviews;
- Cost containment in the current budget round;
- Increasing philanthropic giving;
- Development of the Estate;
- Student recruitment;
- Taking forward the IT review.

4.2 The Director of Communications, the Head of the Centre for Public Engagement, the UBSU Vice-President (Community) and the UBSU Vice-President (Activities) gave a presentation (on file) about Public Engagement. In particular they highlighted these key issues:

- the University's mission is to be engaged with society's interests, concerns, priorities and aspirations;
- the University is a major contributor culturally, environmentally, and economically to Bristol and the south west;
- there is a pragmatic need to reinforce the value HE brings to society and to the economy;
- this value adds to the University's brand and reputation;
- the Centre for Public Engagement brokers collaborative research, supports academics and students, and runs a public engagement programme;
- UBSU ran 31 volunteering projects; there were 152 external volunteering opportunities for students in 2012;
- there were 1592 members of RAG, which raised £134k.

5. Minutes of Meeting on 23 November 2012

5.1 CONFIRMED: the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2012.

6. Matters Arising and Actions

6.1 The UBSU President advised Council that the possibility of adding a second University nominee on the UBSU Board of Trustees (item 16.2, Minutes of Meeting on 23 November 2012) would be discussed at Student Council and a meeting would be arranged with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

7. Chair's Report

- 7.1 APPROVED: the appointment of several Visiting Professors (reference **CN/13/001**).
- 7.2 The Chair encouraged members to attend the Graduation ceremonies to be held from Friday 12 to Friday 19 July (not including the weekend).
- 7.3 The Chair reminded members that an Away Day would be held on Thursday 14 March for Council members only.
- 7.4 Copies of the Staff Survey 2012 were distributed; the Chair noted that this issue would be brought back to Council once the Personnel and Health and Safety Committee had discussed it.

8 Vice-Chancellor's Report

- 8.1 RECEIVED: the Vice-Chancellor's report to Council (reference **CN/13/002**).

Kyoto delegation visit

- 8.2 The Vice-Chancellor reported that the visit had been extremely successful and that a return visit from Bristol to Kyoto was planned for January 2014.

Collaboration with Bath, Cardiff and Exeter

- 8.3 The Vice-Chancellor updated Council on the progress of the GW4 collaboration. It was noted that this builds on much prior work and that it was not an exclusive agreement and other collaborative links would remain, especially with UWE which was a valued partner of the University. The four universities have agreed to take a transparent approach with respect to advertising posts and recognised that an increased number of joint appointments could reap benefits for staff and the partner institutions. It was noted that the University would remain as a competitor with Bath, Cardiff and Exeter in terms of recruiting staff and students from elsewhere.

Open University Collaboration – FutureLearn

- 8.9 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) updated Council on the University's collaboration with The Open University. It was noted that the OU was the single best partner in the UK at Massive Open Online Learning, and since the launch of this project in December 2012, the number of institutions involved had grown from 7 to 11. A meeting to discuss the business model would be held shortly. Although the University was aware that this was a developing field, no major resource or reputational risk had been identified so far and it was agreed that the University should be involved from the outset.

9. Financial Matters

Monthly Financial Report

- 9.1 NOTED: the Monthly Financial Report (reference **CN/13/003**).

The Finance Director summarised latest developments related to UBPAS and USS, noting the increasing concern about the financial position of the USS Scheme.

The UBPAS and USS positions together with other pension matters would be important elements of the overall financial strategy to be considered by Council at its March meeting.

10. Research Governance and Integrity Policy

10.1 APPROVED: the Research Governance and Integrity Policy (reference **CN/13/004**).

11. REF Submission Policy

11.1 NOTED: the REF Submission Policy (reference **CN/13/005**).

12. SPIs

12.1 NOTED: Strategic Performance Indicators for University of Bristol Council (reference **CN/13/006**).

12.2 The Registrar noted that the main paper to accompany this overview (which would include institutional data) would follow for substantive discussion at the next meeting of Council.

13. NCC

13.1 APPROVED: National Composites Centre (NCC) Potential Expansion (reference **CN/13/007**). Council delegated approval of final terms to the Finance Director together with either the Vice Chancellor or Deputy Vice Chancellor.

13.2 It was noted that the Chinese Ambassador to the UK had visited the University and NCC on 7 February and had been impressed with the facilities he saw.

14. Annual Meeting of Court Report

14.1 NOTED: the business discussed at the meeting of Court on 7 December 2012 (reference **CN/13/008**).

15. Senate Report

15.1 NOTED: the business that was presented to Senate on 3 December 2012 for information/discussion (reference **CN/13/009**).

16. Student Complaints Annual Report*

16.1 NOTED: the Annual Report of the Student Complaints Officer (reference **CN/13/010**).

16.2 APPROVED: the report detailing the student complaint hearing that took place on 22 November 2012 (reference **CN/13/010 Annex**).

16.3 It was requested that in future such reports should be anonymised.

17. Ethics of Research Committee Annual Report

17.1 NOTED: the Ethics of Research Committee Annual Report (reference **CN/13/011**).

18. Committee Reports

Estates Committee

18.1 RECEIVED: the summary of the Estates Committee meeting on 11 January (reference **CN/13/012**).

Finance Committee

18.2 RECEIVED: the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 16 January (reference **CN/13/013**).

19. Reports for Information

Annual Report, Faculty of Science

19.1 NOTED: the Annual Report 2011/12 (reference **CN/13/014**).

Chair Appointments

19.2 RECEIVED: the summary of Chair appointments that had taken place since the previous report to Council in November 2012 (reference **CN/13/015**).

20. Standing Items

Equality and Diversity Implications

20.1 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

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

21. Dates of Next Meeting

21.1 NOTED: That the next meetings of Council had been scheduled as follows:
Thursday 14 March 2013 (Away Day for Council members only)
Friday 15 March 2013
Friday 10 May 2013
Friday 5 July 2013

*Reserved business