

## Council

10 December 2020

Minutes of the University Council meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2020 at 2.00pm (ending at 4.20pm) via video conference.

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**Present:** George Garlick (Chair)

Phoebe Bastiani, John Duffy, Professor Phil Gilmartin, Professor Susan Lea, Vanessa Lee, Ursula Lidbetter, Professor Mark Lorch, Rosalyn Schofield, Matthew Swindells, Denise Wilson.

**In attendance:** Louise Cook, Professor Becky Huxley-Binns, Professor Stephen Hardy, Professor Andrew Heyes, Eve Kyte, Professor Lucy Mazdon, Professor Una Macleod, Dr David Richards.

Minutes: 23 - 43

### Action by

**23 Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Declaration**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Matt Jukes, Frances Hanson, Richard Thompson and Julia Whittaker.

The Chair welcomed Professor Stephen Hardy to his first meeting of Council.

**24 Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**25 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**26 Chair's Report**

The Chair reported on the continued promising trajectory of the University. It had been a challenging time and he expressed his thanks to staff for their continued hard work. He reported that he had recently held a number of one to one meetings with Lay Members and commented on the continued development of Council which would be assisted by the appointment of the new University Secretary.

**27 Transformation Programme**

The Vice-Chancellor reported that Phase 3 of the Transformation Programme would focus on Systems and Processes and Estates.

**28 (11) Management Report**

A confidential report providing updates on activity within the sector and the University was submitted.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the Covid Test Centre was now operating. Government guidance had now been received on the return to campus which would be staggered.

Members commented on the impact of the pandemic on mental health. The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer advised of the services provided and it was suggested that this could be a subject for a Council pre-meet session in the future.

The President of HUSU commented on the late return to campus for most students and on consideration being given to campus wide activities.

**29 (12) University Strategy**

The University Strategy 2030 was submitted to Council for approval.

The Vice-Chancellor advised on the development of the Strategy. The Strategy had been informed by the Visions, Values and Behaviours work previously undertaken. The duration of the Strategy, to 2030, had been chosen to provide a reasonable planning horizon notwithstanding uncertainty and change. Success would be measured by seven overarching indicators, KPIs and the culture, policies and processes of the University.

Members queried how staff would remain invested in a 10-year strategy. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the next steps would be to ensure that the Strategy became an embedded and living document. The vision for the University in 2030 could not be achieved quickly. There would be a three-year cycle of planning and elements would be delivered as soon as possible and on a rolling basis. Members indicated that it would be useful to include phases and to bring as much work forward as possible. It was also suggested that it would be useful to include indicators of the type of University Hull hoped to be by 2030 and to set targets for things that were hoped to be achieved. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that a Working Group had been established to consider league table performance and the Strategy and associated targets would complement that work. The PVC (Education) commented on the

OfS targets and the University's Access and Participation Plan which would also link to targets. Members indicated that it would be helpful to identify those areas where the University could be seen as the best.

Reference was made to the responses that had been received on the draft Strategy. There had been a number of very detailed comments, mostly relating to measures and next steps. There had been a lot of positive feedback but it was acknowledged that the follow-up engagement would be critical to success.

Reference was made to the University's aim to become carbon neutral and the reconciliation of that against the University's aim to increase International Student recruitment. The PVC (International) commented on the strategy for decarbonising the campus and of the plans to engage in offsetting activities to reduce the impact of an increase in International Students.

Members requested that additional information on phasing, KPIs, measures and targets, including the format in which they would be reported to Council, be submitted to future meetings.

**RESOLVED:**

That the University Strategy 2030 be approved in principle, subject to additional information on phasing, KPIs, measures and targets, including the format in which they would be reported to Council, being submitted to Council. VC

**30 (13) International Strategy**

An International Strategy 2020-25 was submitted to Council for approval.

The PVC (International) commented on the Strategy and the development of KPIs.

The President of HUSU welcomed the inclusion of the comments that had been made at Senate and supported the delivery of services for International Students from one location.

The PVC (International) advised that the Strategy would also impact upon home students as it would help to build a global experience.

**RESOLVED:**

That the International Strategy 2020-25 be approved.

**31 (14) Annual Return**

(a) Financial Statements

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31.07.20 were submitted. The report had been considered by a joint meeting of the Audit Committee and the Finance and Investment Committee and had been recommended to Council for approval.

The Director of Finance commented on the paper and the overall improved performance against last year.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Annual Report and Financial Statements as at 31.07.20 be approved, and
- (b) That the letter of continued financial support for the University's subsidiary, Lampada Digital Solutions, be approved.

(b) Going Concern Paper to External Auditors

A Going Concern report was submitted to enable Council to assure itself that the University remained a Going Concern and that the Financial Statements for 2019/20 could be prepared on such an accounting basis.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Going Concern Report be approved and presented to the External Auditors.

(c) Management Letters of Representation to External Auditors

The management letter of representation to support the auditors to sign off the audit opinion was submitted. The management representation letter for Lampada Digital Solutions Ltd was included for information.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Management Representation Letter to the External Auditors be approved for signature, and
- (ii) that the Management Representation letter for Lampada Digital Solutions Ltd be noted.

(d) External Auditor's Audit Findings Report 2019/20

Following consideration and recommendation of approval by the Audit Committee the External Auditor's Audit Findings Report was submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

That the External Auditor's Audit Findings Report be accepted and approved.

(e) Internal Audit Annual Report

A copy of the reported which had been approved by the Audit Committee on 21.09.20 (minute 7 refers) was submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Internal Audit Annual Report 2019/20 be approved.

(f) Audit Committee's Annual Report 2019/20

A copy of the report which had been approved by the Audit Committee on 23.11.20 (minute 5 refers) was submitted.

The Chair of Audit Committee commented on the amount of work undertaken by the Director of Finance and the Auditors to achieve the current position. There were concerns regarding the pensions situation and that situation along with bank covenants would continue to be monitored.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Audit Committee's Annual Report 2019/20 be approved.

**32 (15) Prevent Monitoring Return**

The report provided details of the University's Prevent Return as required by the OfS.

**RESOLVED:**

That the accountability statement, data returns and summary statement of activity over the period 01.08.19-31.07.20 be approved for submission to the OfS.

**33 Ferens Education Trust**

Council was asked to extend the terms of office of Dr Sarah Jane Dickenson and Professor Mark Lorch on the Ferens Education Trust who had both served an initial term of three years on the Trust.

**RESOLVED:**

That Dr Sarah Jane Dickenson and Professor Mark Lorch be reappointed as members of the Ferens Education Trust for a further 3 years.

**34 (16) Hull University Students' Union Report**

The President of HUSU presented a report outlining the activities of each of the Presidents.

**35 (17) Honorary Degree Nominations**

Council considered two nominations for Honorary Degrees that had been recommended for approval by the Honorary Awards Committee and Senate.

**RESOLVED:**

That the two proposed Honorary Degrees be granted.

**36 (18) Sustaining University Research Expertise (SURE)**

A report setting out details of the SURE fund was submitted and approval sought to continue to explore the options and for an application to be made, if beneficial.

**RESOLVED:**

That an application for SURE funds be approved, if beneficial to the University.

**37 (19) University of Hull Performance, KPIs and League Table Position**

Council received a confidential report setting out Institutional KPIs.

**38 (21) Schedule of Tuition Fees 2021/22**

Following Council approval in April 2020 (minute 67 refers) of the tuition fees for 2021/22, the report set out a number of amendments and provided an updated schedule of fees.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**39 Office for Students**

No exceptional matters reported.

**40 (22) Minutes/Executive Summary of Committees**

(a) Transformation Sub-Committee – 15 October 2020

The minutes of the Transformation Sub-Committee held on 15 October 2020 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be noted.

(b) Senate – 11 November 2020

The minutes of Senate held on 11 November 2020 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the minutes be noted;
- (ii) That Senate's terms of reference and composition be approved, and
- (iii) That the amended Ordinance be approved.

(c) Joint Finance and Investment/Audit Committee –  
23 November 2020

The minutes of the Joint Finance and Investment/Audit Committee meeting held on 23 November 2020 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be noted.

(d) Remuneration Committee – 5 October 2020

The executive summary of the Remuneration Committee held on 5 October 2020 was submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the executive summary be noted;
- (ii) That the Annual Senior Severance and Remuneration Report be approved.

**41 Valediction**

None

**All members**

**42 Dates of Meetings 2020/21**

| <b>Date of Meeting</b>                | <i>Deadline for papers</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday 25 February 2021,<br>2.00 pm | <i>11 February 2021</i>    |
| Wednesday 26 May 2021,<br>Away Day    |                            |
| Thursday 29 April 2021,<br>2.00 pm    | <i>15 April 2021</i>       |
| Thursday 8 July 2021, 2.00 pm         | <i>24 June 2021</i>        |

**43 Any other business**

There were no other items of business.

Signature of Chair

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Date of signature

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