

**Council**

**26 October 2021**

**Present:**

Joe Docherty (Chair), Joanna Barker, Jonathan Bewes, Kay Boycott, Camila Caiado, Leslie Ferrar, James Grierson, Alison Hastic<sup>16</sup> (s)- (71D8ot)24 Aoensoe Lerv8, Antony Long (Acting Vice Chancellor), Amir Michael, Cheryl Millington, Rebecca Morris, Liadi Mudashiru, Nigel Perry, Kate Pretty, Ari Sadanandom, Corinne Saunders, Terry Toney, Andrew Tremlett and Seun Twins.

**In Attendance:**

Simon Hackett (Acting Provost), Declan Merrington (PG Academic Officer), Wyn Morgan (Halpin), Jennifer Sewel (University Secretary), Stephen Willis (Chief Financial Officer), and Kelly Knapp (Minutes).

Claire O'Malley (agenda item 9.1), Alan Houston.<sup>7</sup> (ec49 1 .315 0 64s.7 (ecR Tw 5.9 Tw



**Received:** A report summarising the matters discussed by Senate at its October 2021 meeting.

**Noted:**

- a) Confirmation that the proposed timing and approach for the Senate Effectiveness Review had been presented to Senate, noting this was for Council approval.

#### **09. Students' Union Report**

**Received:** The Durham Student Unions' President's Report to Council providing insight on: (i) national matters of student interest; (ii) significant local matters of student interest; and (iii) successes and matters of note for Durham SU.

**Noted:**

- a) The successful start to.

## 11. Annual Report: Strategic Performance Indicators

**Received:** A report outlining the University's performance in relation to the institutional Strategy Performance Indicators (SPIs).

**Noted:**

- a) The need to move away from a one-off annual exercise presenting the SPIs and towards the use of dynamic, iterative information;
- b) SPI reporting should also reflect the counter measures/action plan for delivering the Strategy and Council should be familiar with what is being reported to UEC;
- c) The need to ensure targets remain relevant given the Strategy was developed five-years ago;
- d) The Strategy would be refreshed by the new Vice-Chancellor, most likely in her first six-months of office and would include associated SPIs;
- e) The strategic risks would be mapped to SPIs as part of the Strategy refresh and include better linkages and a holistic approach.

## 12. NSS 2021 Summary Analysis and Response

**Received:** A paper outlining the National Student Survey 2021 results and proposed recommended actions.

**Noted:**

- a) Across the sector there had been a significant drop in scores as a result of the pandemic however, Durham's results had been favourable in this context;
- b) Several areas for improvement were consistent with the results of previous years;
- c) Student support and wellbeing should show improvement following implementation of improvements included in the forthcoming Student Support Project. The Vice Provost (Education) was working with poorly performing departments to develop action plans to address the specific shortfalls;
- d) Council was keen to better understand the follow up process and therefore will be included in future reporting;
- e) The periodic departmental review process is scheduled to recommence in the New Year and will be overseen by Senate with regular feedback to Council;
- f) The Student Voice/Student Union was an NSS area that had ~~3613(5)~~95 0(119)2

- g) Perceptions of fairness differed by demographics, which provided an opportunity for improvements to help minimise perceived inconsistencies between groups;
- h) Wellbeing was an area that warranted review by the University and should focus on identifying root causes and developing actions plans accordingly;
- i) Next steps would include UEC considering more granular survey data, key messages to all staff and dissemination of results to departments and the development of action plans;
- j) There had been a long delay since the previous survey, which will be rectified via a pulse survey in one year followed by a full staff survey every two years;
- k) There was uncertainty as to where consideration of 'people issues' sat within the University's governance structure. The Governance and Nominations Committee would consider whether there



**Noted:** A report for information summarising senior staff appointments, retirements and dismissals under Statute 35 and severance arrangements.

**24. Register of Sealings**

**Noted:** A report for information summarising the documents that had been sealed since Council's last meeting.

**25. Business Agreed by Circulation since the last meeting**

a) Update and proposed Mitigations on Deferrals for the Durham Admissions Cycle 2021 was approved by circulation on 28 August 2021.

**26. Dates of Future Meetings**

**Noted:** The dates of future meetings.

7 December 2021 (with evening event on 6 December)

31 January 2022 (Joint Council and Senate Meeting)

1 February 2022

15 March 2022

10 May 2022

7 June 2022

12 July 2022.