

Minutes of a Meeting of Council held in the The Hub, Mount Oswald and Zoom

53. Welcome

The Chair welcomed Council members to their first meeting in The Hub and noted that two Council members were joining the meeting exceptionally via Zoom. The Chair also welcomed Richard Crisp to his first meeting as Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost.

54. Declarations of Interests in relation to Agenda Items

Noted:

- a) Amir Michael raised a conflict as the Head of Department: Accounting within the Business School in relation to the update for the Durham University Business School Relocation to the Waterside (Minute 66);
- b) Ari Sadanandom raised a conflict as a Professor within the Department of Biosciences in relation to the Finance Committee Report (Minute 67).

55. Minutes of Meetings held on 28 November and 6 December 2022 (C/22/49 and C/22/50 Confidential)

Approved: the minutes of the meetings held on 28 November and 6 December 2022 subject to the following revisions: r t j0.334.dy 5(/002 Tw 5.815 0 Td[(r)-6 Of ttdjg/6a0 rtdcr the iD Subentg ear the for the print edition;

- b) [38 (h)]: a recent referendum revealed student support for UCU industrial action, including marking boycotts, however, the number of students that responded to the referendum was low.

56. Matters Arising

Noted: there were no matters arising.

57. Action Log and Schedule of Business (C/22/51 and C/22/52 Confidential)

Noted: the status of the Action Log and Schedule of Business.

58. Chair's Business

Received: a verbal update from the Chair on the following matters:

- a) six candidates had been shortlisted and were scheduled to meet the Interview and Stakeholder Panels –

Refresh, which had resulted in challenging questions and a lively discussion. Organisers and presenters were thanked for their contributions.

59. Vice Chancellor Report (C/22/53 Confidential)

Noted:

- a) the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) submission had recently been presented to the Regulator and a copy made available to Council members. The Team that had prepared the submission were commended for their work and the resulting high calibre document;
- b) a ~~13 Oct~~ ~~13 Oct~~ news article incorrect

Josephine Butler College from 1 July 2023; and (iii) Mr Nathan Sempala-Ntege OBE, Principal of John Snow College from 1 July 2023. In the future, ensuring Council's approval had been obtained prior to announcing new College Principals.

62. Durham Students' Union (DSU) Report (C/22/56 Internal)

Noted:

- a) the DSU were satisfied with the University's industrial action mitigation plans. Students were anxious to ensure missed content would not be assessed;
- b) administrative requirements and associated financial impact for certifying short and long term disabilities were of concern to students;
- c) a number of students had raised concerns about asbestos within the estates. Following discussions with the University, the DSU did not have similar concerns but felt wider communications to students would help alleviate misinformation and provide clarifications.

Agreed: the University would engage with the DSU to review policies and procedures related to student disability certification, including a communication plan to help ensure both staff and students were familiar with the agreed approach.

KOB / DSU

a) there was no regulatory requirement for the University to have a

- d) following discussion at Council's last meeting in December 2022, the appointment of Nigel Perry to the Audit and Risk Committee from 1 February 2023 until 31 July 2025;
- e) appointments to the People and Organisational Development Committee as outlined in Appendix 1 of the GNC Report;
- f) the appointment of Jonathan Bewes – currently serving as Vice Chair – as Chair of Finance Committee from 1 August 2023 until 31 July 2025.

70. Wider Student Experience (WSE) across the University (Easter 2022) (C/22/64 Public)

Received: the Report on Wider Student Experience across the University for information.

71. Human Resources (HR) Report on Key Staffing Matters (C/22/65 Confidential)

Received: the HR Report on Key Staffing Matters for information.

72. Business Agreed by Circulation since Last Meeting

Approved via Chair's Action: John Parker as Head of Department: Mathematical Sciences with effect from 1 January 2023 for a further 12-months or until the Department has identified a suitable candidate and appropriate committee approvals have been received.

73. Dates of Future Meetings

Noted: the dates of future Council meetings: 14 March 2023, 16 May 2023 and 11 July 2023.