

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2017

Present: Baroness Beverley Hughes, (Chair), Geoff Bean, Dr Mike Burrows, Phil Cusack, Garry Dowdle, Jill Evans, Julia Fawcett, Ben Gallop, Amina Helal, Councillor Paul Longshaw, Professor Helen Marshall, Ian Moston, Jelili Mustapha, Sean O'Hara, Sam Plant, Professor Susan Price, Joyce Redfearn, Margaret Rowe and Professor Tony Warne.

Apologies: Ceewhy Ochoga, Tom Russell.

In attendance: Alison Blackburn (Registrar), Julie Charge (Director of Finance), Vikki Goddard (Chief Operating Officer), Dr Sam Grogan (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Experience), John McCarthy (Director of Marketing & Student Recruitment), Jackie Njoroge (Director of Strategy), Professor Richard Stephenson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and Martin Toner (Secretary)

COU.17.18 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (COU/17/14)**

Confirmed: the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 January 2017.

COU.17.19 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Noted: the update on the previous meeting's actions appended to the minutes. There were no other matters arising which were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

RESOLVED; that future action logs would be presented as a single table and would include information on progress and expected submission dates for all actions.

ACTION 1: COMMITTEE SECRETARY

COU.17.20 **LLOYDS BANK COVENANT (COU/17/15)**

At a meeting of the Council of the University of Salford ("the University") held at the Council Chamber, The Old Fire Station on the 24th day of March 2017, the following resolutions were passed:

[REDACTED]

be further amended in the manner proposed in a letter from the Bank dated 7th February 2017 (the "Amendment Letter").

It was further RESOLVED that Ms Julie Charge and Mrs Helen Marshall be authorised to make the necessary arrangements with the Bank and to sign on behalf of the University the Amendment Letter which was produced to the meeting and its terms and conditions approved.

ACTION 2: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Paragraphs from this minute have been redacted as they are considered to be exempt information as defined by section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

COU.17.21 **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT (COU/17/16)**

Considered: a report from the Vice-Chancellor on key issues affecting the University.

Reported: the following developments since the circulation of the report:

- i) The University had reached the final shortlist of three institutions for the Guardian's Teaching Excellence Award, for work undertaken by Fashion students with the 2-Fit organization in China;
- ii) The University had risen 19 places in the latest Times Higher Student Experience Survey, from 86th to joint 67th, and was now very close to the second quartile.

Noted:

- i) that opportunity of a partnership with Salford City Council and the Arts Council had first been identified by Ms Fawcett. The agreement ensured that the University would play an important part in the development of a masterplan for cultural activity and arts investment in Salford;
- ii) the University was currently running a pilot scheme for a two-year Honours degree, as part of its ongoing work in developing a flexible portfolio of degree programmes;
- iii) that Remuneration Committee would provide oversight of the succession planning and talent planning for senior staff undertaken following the recent staff changes.

COU.17.22

QUARTER 2, 2016/17 FINANCE REPORT (COU/17/17)

Received: the University's financial report for Quarter 2, 2016/17.

Reported:

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

Noted:

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

RESOLVED:

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

- ii) that the next quarterly financial report would include more details of the student fee deficit and on the split between the different categories of student.

ACTION 4: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Paragraphs from this minute have been redacted as they are considered to be exempt information as defined by section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

COU.17.23

QUARTER 2, 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REPORT (COU/17/18)

Received: a report setting out the University's performance against lead indicators during Quarter 2, 2016/17, including a detailed report on the University's reputation and sustainability.

Reported: that the University's Marketing Plan would be coming to Council later in the year for approval.

Noted:

- i) that the current Lead Indicator "% Recruitment through Clearing" was not an indicator as such but rather a mechanism used to ensure that other targets were achieved. However it was accepted that the indicator should be retained for the time being;
- ii) that the reference to a "worsening academic reputation" reflected the fact that the

- public perception of institutions tended to be 2-3 years behind its performance in the various league tables, so Salford's recent improvements were not yet being translated into a more positive public perception;
- iii) the report as currently presented did not include a strategic perspective;
 - iv) that the factors identified as positively influencing the choice of students to come to Salford could be used more in marketing the University, for example through highlighting them on the University website.

RESOLVED:

- i) that a timescale be agreed for the submission of the University's Marketing Plan to Council;
- ii) that the factors which positively influence students to choose Salford should be displayed on the University homepage.

ACTIONS 5-6: DIRECTOR, MARKETING & EXTERNAL RELATIONS

COU.17.24 BRONZE TO SILVER – TEF PATHWAY (COU/17/19)

Considered: a report setting out the University's planned actions for achieving a TEF Silver rating by 2018/19.

Reported: that due to time constraints, discussion on this item would be limited and a more substantial discussion would be deferred until the next meeting.

Noted: that initial reactions of Council members to the Action Plan highlighted in the report were positive. Members indicated that they would welcome an indication of how Council would be kept informed of progress when an updated version of the report was brought back in May.

RESOLVED: that an updated version of the report, incorporating details of how Council would be kept informed of progress, would be brought to the next Council meeting.

COU.17.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Friday 12 May 2017.