

COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Present: Dr Mike Burrows, (Chair), Geoff Bean, Phil Cusack, Garry Dowdle, Ben Gallop, Professor Helen Marshall, Ian Moston, Sean O'Hara, Professor Sheila Pankhurst, Professor Susan Price and Joyce Redfearn.

Apologies: Julia Fawcett, Amina Helal, Margaret Rowe, Sam Plant, Tom Russell

In attendance: Dr Sam Grogan (PVC Student Experience), Andrew Hartley (Director, Legal and Governance), Louise Edwards Holland (Director of Human Resources, John McCarthy (Executive Director of Marketing & Student Recruitment), Jackie Njoroge (Director of Strategy), Jo Purves (PVC, International and Regional Partnerships), Professor Richard Stephenson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and Jo Makin (Secretary).

COU.17.71 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (COU/17/62)

Confirmed: the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14 July 2017.

COU.17.72 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

COU.17.73 MEMBERSHIP

Approved: the three-year extension of Council members, Sean O'Hara, Joyce Redfearn and Garry Dowdle.

COU.17.74 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT (COU/17/63)

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

Reported:

- i) National Student Survey results show Overall Satisfaction with the University is now at the sector average demonstrating considerable movement from a 4% deficit position in 2016;
- ii) Teaching on my Course is also at the sector average from a 2% deficit position in 2016;
- iii) Assessment and Feedback remains at 2% above the sector average;
- iv) Academic Support is 1% above the sector average from a 2% deficit in 2016.
- v) Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Employment and/or Further Study results show that the University is now 3% short of the sector average, this stood a 7% deficit in 2016.
- vi) Highly skilled and/or Further Study also shows an improvement at 2% short of the sector median, from an 11% deficit position in 2016.
- vii) A question as part of student registration now maps student career aspirations, tracking progress towards graduate employment, whilst in turn providing data to enable targeted interventions if required.
- viii) League table improvement show an upward trajectory of 55 places from 129th to 74th nationally.
- ix) Up 10 places in the Sunday Times Complete University Guide, demonstrates overall improvement given the breadth of the range of metrics used;
- x) Registrations for 17/18 currently stand at 103% to target, with increases to overall planned numbers of 337;
- xi) Continuing students are up 6% on 2016 despite a smaller first year cohort.
- xii) Postgraduate and International recruitment are about two weeks behind

the report cycle but there are positive signs across both despite a difficult international market.

RESOLVED: that a future Meet&Eat receive a presentation outlining upper quartile performance and how the University benchmarks against it.

ACTION 1: DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY

COU.17.75 GOOD GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE (COU/17/64)

Considered: the executive summary of the GGI governance effectiveness and development review (in workshop format).

Noted:

- i) Of the recommendations contained within the report, recommendation 1, 'A single governance system should be clearly set out for the University', was collectively felt to be the most important to enable the foundation for a mature governance culture.
- ii) Independence & objectivity, constructive challenge and support, advocacy, collective responsibility and assurance were agreed as being key components of the individual role of a Council member.
- iii) The maturity matrix self-assessment identified broad consensus on the institution's current level of governance maturity and the areas for improvement and focus over the next 18 months.
- iv) There was strong agreement as to the need to operate 'as one body'.

Noted: that the full report was to be received by the Governance Nominations and Ethics Committee which would determine the next steps.

COU.17.76 PAUL LONGSHAW

Noted: Members of Council took a moment to reflect on the sudden and sad passing of Councillor Paul Longshaw and the contribution he made to the University Council and the partnership with Salford City Council.

COU.17.77 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Friday 13th October 2017.