

## UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

## COUNCIL

29<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## MINUTES

Members present: Mr J E K Smith (Pro-Chancellor, in the Chair); Dr D Anderson CBE; Mr C N Banks CBE (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Mr D J Davies OBE; Mrs M C Davies; Professor D S Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor and Principal); Professor J Frampton; Dr M G Gilbert (Treasurer); Ms E Halford (Postgraduate Mature Students Officer, Guild of Students); Mr R Halton; Mr D Franklin (President, Guild of Students); Mr R Haywood; Ms S Kaur-Stubbs; Dr N E Price OBE; Hon Alderman D Roy OBE; Professor C Ryan; Professor A Sanders; Professor A J Schofield; Professor M C Sheppard (Provost and Vice-Principal); Ms C Snowball CBE; Dr R Sondhi CBE

Also present: Mrs G Ball OBE (Director of Finance); Mr I Barker (Director of Estates) for item 12/79 only; Ms E Conway (Deputy Director of Finance) for item 12/80 only; Dr S J L Gower (Assistant Secretary); Professor J K Heath (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor E J Jenkinson (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Ms O Kew-Fickus (Director of Planning) for item 12/75 only; Ms T Lancaster (Director of External Relations) for item 12/75 only; Professor K O'Brien (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor E W Peck (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr L Sanders (Registrar and Secretary); Professor A Tickell (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor M Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor R A Williams OBE (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College)

Apologies: Mr M Devenish; Dr R C Horton; Mr R J Keys; Mrs H Paver (Director of HR); Professor M C Press (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College)

Papers: The minute book contains copies of all written papers or reports to which reference is made below unless indicated otherwise.

12/70 Minutes of previous meeting

**Resolved:** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 (CO.12.11.01).

12/71 Matters arising not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

There were none.

12/72 Pro-Chancellor's Items

**Received:** a report from the Pro-Chancellor (CO.12.11.02).

(i) Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences

[Professor Jenkinson left the room for this item.]

**Reported**: that

- (a) the post had been advertised with the assistance of external recruitment consultants and candidates had been interviewed. The opinion of the interview panel was that none of the candidates were appointable and therefore no appointment had been made from the interviews;
- (b) Professor Eric Jenkinson had been acting as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College in a temporary capacity in the last month. He already commanded the support and confidence of senior colleagues in the University as well as in the College. Following consultations with colleagues the Vice-Chancellor now wished to recommend that Council approve Professor Jenkinson's appointment to the substantive post for a fixed period.

**Resolved**: to approve the appointment of Professor Eric Jenkinson as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

(ii) Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

**Reported**: that Professor Karen O'Brien would leave the University in March 2013 to take up the role of Vice-Principal (Education) at Kings College, London. Council thanked her for her leadership of the Education agenda in the last two years and wished her well in her new post.

12/73

Vice-Chancellor's Items

**Received**: a report from the Vice-Chancellor (CO.12.11.03).

(i) £60m Rolls-Royce Research Collaboration

**Reported**: that the collaboration was an outstanding achievement by colleagues in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, building on a long-standing relationship with Rolls-Royce, which had decided that the partnership would be with this University alone. The collaboration would provide significant opportunities for the leverage of major funding from the private sector and from the government.

(ii) International Advisory Board (IAB)

**Reported**: that the IAB was a high level initiative – its members were influential people who were keen to assist the University. A number of actions were already in hand, in particular identifying new markets for the University and the development of a new approach to international marketing. The Board would probably meet twice a year.

(iii) Power Outage

**Reported**: that on the evening of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November a fire and explosion destroyed Western Power's main electricity infrastructure at Battery Park including a cable bridge and both main electricity supply cables connecting the University to the National Grid, causing a site-wide black-out. The University had been without mains power for nearly three weeks and had had to rely on local generating capacity from the CHP and additional temporary generators. It was an extraordinary achievement by colleagues,

in particular in Estates, Security, Housing and Accommodation Services IT Services, and Communications that the effects of the outage were minimised. An insurance claim for business interruption and loss was being compiled, and a lessons learnt review would be undertaken. Audit Committee had been briefed on the incident.

(iv) The Milburn Report 'University Challenge: How Higher Education Can Advance Social Mobility':

**Reported:** that Alan Milburn had written to the Russell Group and Russell Group universities seeking their responses to his Report. The Russell Group would not respond until after its January Board meeting. In the mean time this University would give a purely factual response – we had a positive story to tell at a particularly challenging time.

(v) The Postgraduate Education Report

**Reported:** that there was little likelihood that the current student loan system would be extended to postgraduate students, as insufficient funding was available. If postgraduate education was in the future to be funded in this way there was a danger that this might lead to government fee-capping and regulation of the market.

12/74 National Student Survey Results

**Received:** a paper from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) (CO.12.11.04).

**Noted:** that

- (a) the University's overall satisfaction score had again risen this year to 88%, the highest score it had yet achieved. Scores for all individual questions were better than last year. The score for "the quality of teaching on my programme" was particularly pleasing, at 90%, which put Birmingham in the top four of the Russell Group;
- (b) scores for the quality of academic support were also much improved, reflecting a concentration on academic tutoring and the recent appointment of a University Senior Tutor;
- (c) a number of departments were achieving consistently high scores, but more needed to perform at this level, particularly those with large programmes. Local action plans had been put in place and would be closely monitored in the course of the session;
- (d) the overall target score at 88% for 2013 for overall satisfaction had already been achieved. The target would remain unchanged for 2013, with the focus this year being on ensuring that all subjects were at least above half way in scores for their discipline. The intention remained to increase the overall target to 90% in 2014; there would be a special focus on raising the performance in the larger subjects;
- (e) the University's performance in the NSS should lead to improvements in the domestic league tables.

**Resolved:** to congratulate all staff involved in the achievement of this excellent outcome.

12/75 Student Recruitment and Admissions

**(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)**

**Received:** a report (CO.12.11.05).

12/76 Report of the Audit Committee

**Considered:** a report from the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (CO.12.11.06).

**Reported:** by Mrs Marcia Davies, on behalf of the Audit Committee, that:

- (a) in the opinion of the Committee it was satisfied that the University's risk management and internal control arrangements were adequate and effective, and that appropriate arrangements were in place to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- (b) the Committee had noted the feedback received from Council members in their one-to-one meetings with the Lay Officers which confirmed that Council and its sub-committees were operating effectively.

**Resolved:**

- (a) to approve the accounting policies (as specified in the Annual Accounts);
- (b) to approve the reappointment of KPMG as External Auditors for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013;
- (c) to approve the Annual Assurance Return.

12/77 Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012

**Considered:**

- (a) audit highlights, memorandum and the management letter from KPMG, the external auditors for the University and its subsidiaries;
- (b) the letter of representation for the University for submission to the external auditors, KPMG;
- (c) the University Annual Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, confirming the Council had discharged its corporate governance responsibilities, and the accounts for each of its subsidiaries.

**Resolved:**

- (a) to approve and adopt the annual accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, as set out in paper CO.12.11.07, confirming that Council had discharged its corporate governance responsibilities;
- (b) to approve the letter of representation for signature by the Pro-Chancellor and submission to the external auditors;
- (c) to approve the accounting policies and estimation techniques on which the accounts were based;
- (d) to thank the Finance Office, the Auditors and the Audit Committee for their work with respect to the Annual Accounts.

**Considered:** a report with recommendations for Council from the meetings of the Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (CO.12.11.08).

(i) Business School Postgraduate Teaching Centre

**Reported:** by Professor Peck that

- (a) the Business School had expanded significantly since its move to University House. In the last five years alone postgraduate student numbers had doubled, and the Business School's facilities were no longer adequate. The proposed Postgraduate Teaching Centre would enable the School to remain competitive and to grow market share;
- (b) the scheme would be funded through a one-off payment of £1.5m from the College, with the balance being met largely through increased student numbers.

**Resolved:** to approve the development of the Postgraduate Centre at a cost of £10m, as set out in the paper.

(ii) Physiotherapy

**Reported:** by the Vice-Chancellor and by Professor Jenkinson that

- (a) the Colleges' response to the review proposals had been considered and endorsed by UEB, SPRC and Senate;
- (b) research in Physiotherapy was unsatisfactory, and there was no research base. It was felt that this would be promoted by the proposed relocation of the discipline from the Medical School to Sport and Exercise Sciences;
- (c) Physiotherapy was a commissioned programme, the numbers for which had reduced in recent years. This meant that the staffing complement was now above that which could be sustained by the commissioned numbers;
- (d) the proposals had been welcomed by the professional bodies, including NHS stakeholders. The new location in Sport and Exercise Sciences would broaden the experience of students and make them even more employable;
- (e) an appropriate level of clinical provision would be maintained in all programmes as it was recognised that this was an essential component for professional accreditation;
- (f) meetings had taken place with Guild officers and with individual groups of Physiotherapy students to ensure that they understood the rationale and opportunities presented by the proposals and to reassure them regarding continuing clinical provision;
- (g) formal consultation had commenced with staff. Whilst there were some natural anxieties there was also excitement about the developments.

**Resolved:** to approve the continuation of the 90 day consultation period.

(iii) Annual Accountability Returns

**Reported:** by the Vice-Chancellor that in a letter to accompany the Return he would express the University's concerns about the timing and validity of the updated financial forecasts. In particular, the full Quarter 1 update had yet to be undertaken and it would

show significant movements given that it had been prepared in the spring.

**Resolved:** to approve the Annual Accountability Returns for submission to HEFCE.

(iv) University School and Sixth Form

**Reported:** by Professor Peck that he had recently had a constructive meeting with Lord Hill (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Schools). The key outstanding issue remained capital. To build a University Training School (UTS) with the vision and ethos set out in the original application, the University required significantly more than the £14m which the Department for Education was currently prepared to allocate under the Free School formula. A number of detailed questions had been raised about our proposed costings, and these were being addressed. It was anticipated that a higher allocation would be offered but that a funding gap would remain. It was noted that the government was believed to be keen to see a University School open before the next General Election.

**Resolved:** that

- (a) the University commit up to £2m funding to the UTS if required;
- (b) the Reference Group continue in existence and be empowered to make decisions on behalf of Council between Council meetings;
- (c) reports be brought back to SPRC and Council in January.

12/79 Redevelopment of Chamberlain Hall

**(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)**

**Considered:** a paper (CO.12.10.09).

12/80 Institute of Translational Medicine

**(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)**

**Considered:** the business plan for the ITM (CO.12.10.10).

12/81 Guild Quinquennial Review

**Considered:** a paper with an update on progress (CO.12.10.11).

**Reported:** by the Deputy Pro-Chancellor that

- (a) a General Meeting of the Guild was to be held in January, at which a number of matters would be considered relating to the governance of the Guild. The Review Group had therefore decided it was more appropriate to defer its final recommendations until after that meeting;
- (b) in the mean time a number of further amendments to Guild bye-laws were being proposed to assist the smooth running of the Guild.

**Resolved:**

- (a) to approve the proposed amendments to Guild Bye-Laws as set out in the paper;
- (b) to note the progress of the Review Group to date.

12/82 Report of the Membership Committee

**Considered:** a report from the meeting of the Membership Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (CO.12.10.12).

**Resolved:**

- (a) to approve the appointment of Mrs Caragh Merrick as a Lay Member of Council with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013;
- (b) that a closed election for the office of University Treasurer would be held at the meeting of Council on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013, with Mrs Merrick as the candidate.

12/83 Annual Estates Report to Council

**Received:** a report (CO.12.10.13).

12/84 Appointments of the Provost and Vice-Principal and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

**Received:** a paper regarding senior appointments (CO.12.10.14).

**Resolved:** to approve the processes for the appointments of the Provost and Vice-Principal and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), as set out in the paper.

12/85 Report of the Senate

**Received:** a report from the meeting of Senate held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (CO.12.10.15).

**Resolved:** to approve the extension of Professor Ian Grosvenor's term of office as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Cultural Engagement) be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

12/86 Report of the Remuneration Committee

**Received:** a report from the meeting of the Committee (CO.12.10.16).

12/87 2011/2012 Financial Outturn

**Approved:** the 2011/2012 Financial Outturn (CO.12.10.17).

12/88 Financial Statements of University Companies

**Approved:** Financial Statements of University Subsidiary Companies for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 (CO.12.10.18).

12/89 Items approved between Meetings of Council

**Received:** a list of items approved since the meeting of the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 (CO.12.10.19).

12/90 Affixing of the University Seal

**Received:** a report noting the transactions which had required use of the University Seal since the last meeting of Council (CO.12.10.20).

12/91 Any Other Business

There was none.

12/92 Date of Next Meeting

**Reported:** that

- (a) the next meeting of the Council would take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013;
- (b) there would be a presentation on the evening of Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 on the College of Social Sciences, followed by dinner.