UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

COUNCIL

24th April 2013
at 4.35 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Mr J E K Smith (Pro-Chancellor, in the Chair); Dr D Anderson; Dr C N Banks CBE (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Mr D J Davies OBE; Mrs M C Davies; Mr M Devenish; 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; Dr R Horton; Mr D Franklin (President, Guild of Students); Mr R Haywood; Professor E J Jenkinson (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); 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: Professor J Bale (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Mrs G Ball OBE (Director of Finance); Ms S Brant (Interim Director of HR); Ms L Ewers (Governance Support Officer); Professor J K Heath (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Mrs C McDonough (Assistant Secretary); Professor E W Peck (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor M C Press (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr L Sanders (Registrar and Secretary); Professor A Tickell (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Mr T Veit (Director of Recruitment) for item 13/24 only; Professor M Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor R A Williams OBE (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College).

Apologies: Mr R J Keys; Mrs H Paver (Director of HR).

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

13/19 Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2013. (CO.13.04.01).

13/20 Matters arising not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

(i) Guild Quinquennial Review

Reported: that

(a) the recommendations of the Guild of Students Quinquennial Review would be submitted to the next meeting of Council on 26th June 2013, noting that the Guild had arranged an Annual General Meeting in early June, at which a number of constitution changes would be voted upon;

(b) Andrew Vallance-Owen, Chair of the Guild Trustee Board, had resigned in March 2013. The vacancy would be advertised with the aim of appointing his successor before the end of the current term of office of the President of the Guild. In the
meantime, the President, who was Vice-Chair of the Board, would cover the responsibilities of the Chair;
(c) Poppy Wilkinson had been elected as President of the Guild for 2013/14 and would be attending the next meeting of Council in preparation for her new role.

13/21 Pro-Chancellor’s Items

There were no items for report.

13/22 Vice-Chancellor’s Items

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor (CO.13.04.02)

(i) Senior Appointments

Reported: that the Vice-Chancellor would be proposing that Professor M Press, currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, be appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) with effect from 1st September 2013. Pro-Vice-Chancellors are approved by the Council on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor having consulted the Senate.

Resolved: that approval of the appointment of Professor M Press by Council be sought by correspondence, following consultation with the Senate.

Noted: that:
(a) an interim Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences was expected to be appointed pursuant to the appointment of Professor M Press as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) to give time for thought and a permanent solution;
(b) Professor Paul Stewart, Dean of Medicine and Deputy Head of College of Medical and Dental Sciences, would be leaving the University to take up the post of Dean of Medicine at the University of London. An internal call for expressions of interest in the vacancy would be issued in the middle of May 2013;
(c) Professor Peter Byers, Director of Education and Deputy Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, would be leaving the University to take up the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Liverpool John Moores University. An internal call for expressions of interest in the vacancy would be issued shortly;
(d) the aim was for appointments to be made to these three vacancies before the next meeting of Council in June 2013.

(ii) 2012/13 Budget - Q2 Update

Noted: that:
(a) under the new Student Loans Company fee payment profile, 50% of the home undergraduate fee was paid to the University after Easter based on students registered in April. There was therefore a risk across English universities of higher drop-out-rates through this period which could have a major financial impact on universities. So far, the University's undergraduate student withdrawal rates had not worsened. Indeed, for the year overall, they had improved;
(b) Mr JEK Smith declared an interest in the NHS Leadership Academy (Paragraph 10 of Paper CO.13.04.02) but remained in the Chair in the absence of any conflict with the transaction of business.
13/23  The University of Birmingham Training School and Sixth Form

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

Considered: a paper (CO.13.04.03).

13/24  Report from the Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

Considered: a report from the meeting of the Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee held on 12th March 2013 (CO.13.04.04).

13/25  Economic Impact Survey Report

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

Considered: the summary report of the Economic Impact Survey (CO.13.04.05).

13/26  Report from the Membership Committee of Council

Noted: a paper (CO.13.04.06).

Resolved: that:

(a) Mrs Carragh Merrick be appointed to the Investment Committee for 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2016;
(b) Mr David Davies be appointed to the Membership Committee for 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2016;
(c) Mrs Cilla Snowball be appointed to serve on the Remuneration Committee for a further year to 31st July 2014;
(d) Mrs Norma Broadbridge, President of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association, be appointed to serve on Court from 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2017.

13/27  Report from the Audit Committee

Considered: a paper (CO.13.04.07).

Resolved: that the appointment of new external auditors be approved by Council by correspondence at the end of May 2013.

13/28  Report from the Senate

Received: a report from the meeting of Senate on 13th March 2013 (CO.13.04.08).


Received: a report on the work of Council-approved Employment-related Panels during 2012 (CO.13.04.09).
13/30 Items approved between Meetings of Council

**Received:** a list of items approved since the meeting of the Council on 30th January 2013 under the procedure for approval of business between meetings of Council (CO.13.04.10).

13/31 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.13.04.11).

13/32 Any Other Business

**Resolved:** that:

a) arrangements be made for Council to visit and/or hold meetings at different key University locations (e.g. The Vale, Manufacturing Technology Centre, The Shakespeare Institute);

b) Council thanked the Vice-Chancellor and his team for the Council Strategy Day.

13/33 Date of Next Meeting

**Reported:** that the next meeting of the Council would take place on **Wednesday 26th June 2013** at 10:00am. There would be a presentation (**topic to be confirmed**) on **Tuesday 25th June 2013** from 5:30pm followed by dinner at Hornton Grange.