

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

COUNCIL

25th April 2017 at 3.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Mr Ed Smith CBE (Pro-Chancellor, in the Chair); Mr Derrick Anderson; Dame Christine Braddock; Mr David Davies OBE; Mr Martin Devenish; Professor Sir David Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor and Principal); Professor Peter Fryer; Mr Malcolm Harbour CBE; Mr Richard Haywood (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Dame Lin Homer; Professor Tim Jones (Provost and Vice-Principal); Mrs Caragh Merrick (Treasurer); Dame Una O'Brien; Professor Karen Rowlingson; Professor Corey Ross; Dr Ranjit Sondhi CBE; Mr David Stead.

Also present: Professor David Adams (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor Kathleen Armour; Professor Saul Becker (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr Francis Burkitt (Rothschild) – for Minute 17/18; Mr Peter Clack (Director of International Relations) – for Minutes 17/23 and 17/24; Ms Cathy Gilbert (Director of External Relations) – for Minute 17/23; Mr Chris Granger (Director of Finance); Professor Una Martin (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor Equalities) – for Minute 17/23; Professor Robin Mason (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)); Mrs Colette McDonough (Assistant Secretary); Professor Myra Nimmo (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Ms Carolyn Pike (Director of Legal Services) for Minute 17/18; Mr Lee Sanders (Registrar and Secretary); Professor Andy Schofield (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Ms Sarah Seed (Mills and Reeve) – for Minute 17/18; Professor Tim Softley (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor Michael Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College).

Apologies: Ms Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Officer); Mr Alan Davey CBE; Ms Ellie Keiller (President of the Guild of Students); Professor Hisham Mehanna; Sir Terry Morgan.

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

17/18 Private Placing of Loan Notes to Finance the Capital Plan

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Considered: the private placing of loan notes to finance the University's Enhanced Capital Programme (CO.17.04.03).

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

Resolved that:

(i) a private placement of loan notes be approved as set out in Paper CO.17.04.03,

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

17/19 Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 1st February 2017 be approved (CO.17.04.01).

17/20 Matters Arising

Reported: that there were no matters arising.

17/21 Pro-Chancellor's Items

(1) Acquisition of Battery Park

Reported: that the University had concluded the acquisition of Battery Park at a total purchase price of £9.232m plus VAT.

(2) Sports Centre

Reported: that the Sports Centre was due to open on 22nd May 2017 following achievement of practical completion. Members of Council would have the opportunity to tour the facility on 27th June 2017, noting that:

- (a) arrangements for a formal opening were being made;
- (b) the University was supporting the city's bid for the 2022 Commonwealth Games;
- (c) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

17/22 Vice-Chancellor's Items

Considered: a report from the Vice-Chancellor (CO.17.04.02).

(1) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

(2) Higher Education and Research Bill

Reported that:

- (a) the government had made a series of concessions in respect of the Higher Education and Research Bill, including delay of the differentiation of tuition fee levels on the basis of Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) outcomes until 2020/21 and the commissioning of an independent review of the TEF;
- (b) the Bill would need to be passed before the dissolution of Parliament on 3rd May 2017 if it was to become law;
- (c) a further update would be provided to the next meeting of Council.

(3) University School

Reported that:

- (a) the University was considering whether to extend the intake of the University of Birmingham School to cover the ages of 3 to 18;
- (b) a further update would be submitted to Council in due course.

17/23 **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

17/24 The University's International Strategic Framework

Considered: the University's draft International Strategic Framework (CO.17.04.05).

Reported that:

- (a) members of Council had received a comprehensive presentation and briefing on the draft framework earlier in the day. The subsequent discussion had covered a variety of issues, including:
 - (i) student mobility;
 - (ii) the University's future strategy for Europe in light of Brexit;
 - (iii) the concept of a 'global' University;
 - (iv) strategies for individual regions, including China, Dubai, US, Melbourne, Brazil and India, and the need to consider how the return on investment for such activities could be better articulated;
 - (v) the international priorities of each College;
 - (vi) plans for international student number growth and enhancing the international student experience;
- (b) the Framework set out the broad range of activities and priorities for the University's international strategy for the next ten years. Operating Plans for each year would be developed to identify and deliver the University's annual international priorities, noting that the first such Plan would be produced by the end of May and annually thereafter as part of the University's compact process;
- (c) the resource implications of implementing the Strategic Framework would be dealt with in accordance with the University's compact process, taking account of the Annual Operating Plans and noting that the University had already made a significant investment in its international activities during the past five years and would continue to ensure that these activities were resourced appropriately and in a prioritised way;
- (d) the University would develop a series of key performance targets to monitor progress with implementation of the Strategic Framework.

Resolved: that the Strategic Framework be approved as set out in Paper CO.17.04.04 for phased implementation.

17/25 Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee

Considered: the report of the meeting of the Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee held on 9th March 2017 (CO.17.04.06).

Reported: that the overall recruitment position of the University remained strong. The University was currently outperforming the sector and its competitor group. The extra 368 beds secured by the University were currently expected to cover the accommodation requirements of the projected new intake but the position was being monitored closely by the University and would clarify further following the UCAS May deadline for acceptances.

17/26 Audit Committee

Noted: the report of the meeting of Audit Committee held on 14th March 2017 (CO.17.04.07).

17/27 Senate

Noted: the report of the meeting of Senate held on 22nd March 2017 (CO.17.04.08).

17/28 Capital Projects over £10m

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Received: a report from the Director of Estates (CO.17.04.09).

17/29 Affixing of the University Seal

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Received: a report noting the transactions which had required use of the University Seal since the last meeting of Council (CO.17.04.10)

17/30 Any Other Business

Reported that:

- (a) members of Council were invited to process at the degree ceremonies and attend the Chancellor's Dinner. A reminder of the dates would be circulated;
- (b) the Council Strategy Day on 4th October 2017 would be held in Stratford. Members of Council would have the opportunity to visit the Shakespeare Institute and The Other Place and attend an evening performance at the RSC. This meant that there would be no Council Dinner on the evening of 3rd October 2017. Members of Council would be contacted directly about the logistical arrangements for the Strategy Day over the next few weeks.

17/31 Programme of Meetings

Noted: the programme of meetings of Council for 2016/17 and 2017/18:

2016/17

Tuesday 27th June 2017, 5.00pm, Council Presentation and Dinner
Wednesday 28th June 2017, 9.00am, Council Meeting

2017/18

Wednesday 4th October 2017, 9.00am, Council Strategy Day and RSC Performance
Tuesday 28th November 2017, 5.00pm, Council Presentation and Dinner
Wednesday 29th November 2017, 9.00am, Council Meeting
Tuesday 30th January 2018, 5.00pm, Council Presentation and Dinner
Wednesday 31st January 2018, 9.00am, Council Meeting
Tuesday 24th April 2018, 9.00am, Council Strategy Day and Dinner
Tuesday 26th June 2018, 5.00pm, Council Presentation and Dinner
Wednesday 27th June 2018, 9.00am, Council Meeting