

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

COUNCIL

3rd February 2016 at 9.00am

MINUTES

Members present: Mr Ed Smith CBE (Pro-Chancellor, in the Chair); Mr Derrick Anderson; Professor Kathleen Armour; Ms Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Officer); Dame Christine Braddock; Mr Alan Davey CBE; Mr David Davies OBE; Mr Martin Devenish; Professor Sir David Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor and Principal); Professor Peter Fryer; Mr Robert Halton; Mr Malcolm Harbour CBE; Mr Richard Haywood (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Ms Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs; Mr Jack Mably (President of the Guild); Professor Hisham Mehanna; Mrs Caragh Merrick (Treasurer); Dr Ranjit Sondhi CBE; Mr David Stead; Professor Adam Tickell (Provost and Vice-Principal).

Also present: Professor David Adams (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor Jeff Bale (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor Saul Becker (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr Chris Granger (Director of Finance); Mrs Colette McDonough (Assistant Secretary); Professor Myra Nimmo (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Ms Heather Paver (Director of HR); Mr Lee Sanders (Registrar and Secretary); Professor Andy Schofield (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor Tim Softley (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor Michael Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Ms Cathy Gilbert (Director of External Relations) (for Minute 16/05), Mr Stuart Richards (Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services) (for Minute 16/08(1)) and Mr Trevor Payne (Director of Estates) for Minute 16/08).

Apologies: None.

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

16/01 Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2015 be approved (CO.16.02.01). There were no matters arising from the minutes.

16/02 Pro-Chancellor's Items

Reported that:

- (a) a Council Membership Panel, chaired by the Pro-Chancellor, had been convened the previous day and had conducted very positive interviews for two new members of Council. The biographies of the two candidates, Dame Lin Homer and Dame Una O'Brien, were tabled (CO.16.02.16), noting that the formal recommendation for their appointment with effect from 1st June 2016 would be considered by the Council Membership Committee for onward recommendation to Council (by correspondence);
- (b) Dr Helen Laville had resigned from the membership of the Council with immediate effect following her appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Manchester Metropolitan University. Dr Laville would be invited to the Council Dinner in April 2016 to thank her for her contribution to Council;

- (c) the following update on implementation of the CTSA and Prevent Guidance since the previous meeting:
 - (i) the University had submitted its self-assessment return to HEFCE, which monitored HEIs' compliance with the Prevent Duty, in January and was awaiting feedback;
 - (ii) the next deadline for submission of information to HEFCE was 1st April 2016. This submission would include the University's Prevent duty risk assessment and action plan and its Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and External Speakers, both of which Council had considered and approved;
 - (iii) the staff training programme had commenced, and in accordance with the proportionate approach endorsed by Council, this consisted of general awareness training for staff and more specialist training for certain groups of staff, such as Welfare Tutors, in the context of student vulnerability;
 - (iv) there was continuing media interest in Prevent, extremism and universities. Birmingham, although not the primary focus, had been mentioned together with several other universities, notably King's and SOAS. HEFCE had confirmed they were satisfied with the approach taken by the University to the event featured in the press coverage;
 - (v) the Registrar had convened a meeting of Russell Group Prevent Co-ordinators on 9th March 2016 to discuss and share good practice.

16/03 Vice-Chancellor's Items

Considered: a report from the Vice-Chancellor (CO.16.02.02).

(1) Ministerial Visit

Reported: that Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities and Science, would be visiting on 15th February 2016 to find out more about the University's approach to research-led teaching and our innovative work to support access and attainment.

16/04 Green Paper Consultation Response

Considered: the University's Green Paper Consultation Response (CO.16.02.03).

Reported that:

- (a) the University had submitted its response to the consultation on the Green Paper. It highlighted the success of the UK HE system globally, and stressed the need for the reforms to avoid the risk of any damage to the sector's reputation;
- (b) a number of the proposals in the Green Paper would require primary legislation to proceed, including establishment of the Office for Students and Research UK. It was expected that a Higher Education Bill would come forward if the outcome of the EU Referendum was in favour of remaining in the EU;
- (c) Lord Stern's Review of the Research Excellence Framework was due to report in Summer 2016. The University would be submitting a response to the call for evidence before Easter. This would reiterate the position set out in its response to the Green Paper that, whilst there might be opportunity for some modest amendments to incorporate greater use of metrics in the environment domain, the fundamental tenet of a robust peer-reviewed process must be retained, and the University would not support radical changes to its methodology;
- (d) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**
- (e) widening participation had already been taken very seriously by the sector, with

significant progress having been made in the last ten years, particularly by research-intensive universities. For example, the University was actively monitoring attainment by BME students and introducing new measures to support BTEC students. Council recognised:

- (i) the importance of ensuring that the University was able to spend its widening participation funding on measures beyond outreach to support such work;
- (ii) the benefits of pursuing national policy alignment between the different tiers of education from primary through to higher education and of identifying good practice on social mobility from other sectors.

16/05 Recruitment and Admissions Update

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Considered: the summary of all applications received by 14th January for 2016 entry and a comparison of the University's undergraduate recruitment with that of its UCAS competitor group and nationally (CO.16.03.04).

Reported that:

- (a) to (e) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**
- (f) the situation remained volatile at this stage of the cycle. The priority was now on conversion of offers made by the University. It was therefore encouraging that attendance at future Applicant Visitor Days had increased significantly;
- (g) to (i) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

16/06 Research Performance

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Considered: the University's research performance for the first five months of 2015/16 (CO.16.02.05).

Reported that:

- (a) to (f) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**
- (g) two new initiatives would be launched in 2016 - the Birmingham Professorial Research Fellowship Scheme and a Research Leaders Programme - to enhance the research culture and intellectual environment, as well as to enhance future major grant capture. In respect of the latter, Council also noted that a series of workshops which were planned to position the University for forthcoming major grant initiatives;
- (h) the importance of continuing to raise awareness of the University's research activities, such as via the Birmingham Heroes Campaign, to support bids for major grants.

16/07 Update of Strategic Framework and Key Performance Targets

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Considered: an update on the University's Strategic Framework and Key Performance Targets (KPTs) (CO.16.02.06).

Reported: that this was the first periodic update of the KPTs for 2015-2020 following their approval by Council in November 2015. The next update would be brought in June 2016.

Resolved: that the updated institutional KPTs be approved as set out in Paper CO.16.02.06.

16/08 Capital Projects

(1) Grange Road Student Residence and Sports Pavilion

Considered: a capital investment of £20m in a new building in Grange Road, delivering residences, catering and sports facilities (CO.16.02.07).

Reported that:

- (a) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**
- (b) the project was critical to the University's ambition for a high quality experience to students applying to the University under the guarantee scheme and the 178 extra beds Grange Road would provide was part of the increase in the University's residential plans previously agreed by Council. It also occupied a high profile location and would be the most public facing student residence operated by the University;
- (c) given the current strength of the construction market, Council recognised that the Library, Sports Centre and Chamberlain Hall projects had all been secured at much lower cost than would be the case if they had been tendered in the current financial year;
- (d) the Director of Estates would be delivering a session at the April Council Strategy Day on the next phase of the Estates Strategy and Masterplan. This would include how the University could ensure best value for the future planning and management of its Estate;
- (e) there was a desire for more mid-range priced accommodation, noting that proposals were being developed for this as part of the next phase of the Residences Strategy.

Resolved: that the capital investment of £20m in a new building in Grange Road, delivering residences, catering and sports facilities be approved as set out in Paper CO.16.02.07.

(2) Campus Rationalisation and Co-Location of Psychology and its Scanning Capability

Considered: the overall revised capital costs associated with the Psychology moves to 52 Pritchatts Road, Gisbert Kapp and the redeveloped Library reserve store in the sum of £18.5m capital expenditure, noting that this represented the first phase of the move sequence (CO.16.02.09).

Reported:

- (a) the total overall costs of the programme - the fully outlined scope, incremental steps and total inclusive capital costs of £39m that made up the delivery of the overall consolidation move sequence which would now be progressed and completed in 2020. Associated business cases would be presented to Council via SPRC in due course prior to commencement of works to Harding, Frankland and Hills to consider and recommend to Council when final costs and scheme details had been developed ahead of tender award as part of the agreed University governance process;
- (b) the proposal had been considered by UEB on 8th January 2016 and recommended to Council for approval by SPRC on 19th January 2016.

Resolved: that the overall revised capital costs associated with the Psychology moves to 52 Pritchatts Road, Gisbert Kapp and the redeveloped Library reserve store with a bid for £18.5m capital expenditure be approved as set out in Paper CO.16.02.**09**.

(3) Energy Research Accelerator

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Considered: the business case associated with the University element of Phase 1 of the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA) and the proposed investment request (CO.16.02.**08**).

Reported that:

- (a) the Government funding of £60m for Phase 1 of ERA was accompanied by £120m of industrial match;
- (b) to (d) **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**
- (e) the proposal had been considered by UEB on 14th December 2015 and recommended to Council for approval by SPRC on 19th January 2016.

Resolved: that the proposed investment request for the ERA be approved as set out in Paper CO.16.02.**08** **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**.

16/09 Report of the Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee

Considered: the report of the meeting of the Strategy, Planning and Resources Committee held on 19th January 2016 (CO.16.02.**10**), noting that all of the recommendations from the Committee had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

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

(2) Quarter 1 Financial Outturn for the Year Ending 31st July 2016

Reported: that the financial outturn for Quarter 2 of the year ending 31st July 2016 would be submitted to Council in April 2016.

(3) Delivering Enhanced Reputation, Impact and Income from Commercialisation of Intellectual Property at the University of Birmingham

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Reported that:

- (a) the series of proposals intended to improve the identification, management and financial leverage of the University of Birmingham's intellectual property (IP) were welcomed;
- (b) Council would receive an update on the University's wider collaborative research activities, including with the University of Nottingham.

16/10 Report from the Council to Court

Resolved: that the report from the Council to the next meeting of Court on 10th March 2016 be approved (CO.16.02.**11**).

16/11 Appointment of Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Considered: the appointment of two Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellors (CO.16.02.12).

Reported: that members of Senate had been consulted on the recommendations by correspondence and had expressed their support for the appointments.

Resolved that:

- (i) Professor Jon Green be re-appointed as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) for four years from 1st April 2016 to 31st July 2020;
- (ii) Professor Paul Bowen be appointed as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Industrial Partners) for three years from 1st April 2016 to 31st July 2019.

16/12 Appointment of Directors of Alta Innovations Ltd

Noted: that the Registrar and Secretary had approved the appointments of the following Directors of Alta Innovations Ltd for one year from 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016 as delegated by Council:

Dr Alan Begg (Chair and Non-Executive Director)
Mr Andrew Sleigh (Non-Executive Director)

16/13 Report to Council on the work of Council-approved Panels during 2015

Noted: the report to Council on the work of Council-approved Panels during 2015 (CO.16.02.13).

16/14 Capital Projects over £5m

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Received: a report from the Director of Estates (CO.16.02.14).

16/15 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.16.02.15).

16/16 Any Other Business

Reported: that the dates of forthcoming degree ceremonies and the 2016 Community Day would be circulated to members of Council.

16/17 Programme of Meetings 2015/16

Noted: the programme of meetings of Council for the remainder of 2015/16:

Wednesday 20th April 2016, 10.00am, Council Strategy Day and Dinner
Tuesday 28th June 2016, 5.00pm, Council Presentation and Dinner
Wednesday 29th June 2016, 9.00am, Council Meeting