

Minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2022

COUN22-M4

Attendance

Christine Hodgson

Kerri Akiwowo
Penny Briscoe
Marcus Collins
Malcolm Cook
Graham Corfield
Andrea Davis
Lisanne Gibson
Naomi Hudson

Harry Hughes
Nick Jennings (ab)
Chris Linton
Jennifer Maxwell-Harris
Nicky Morgan
Emma Nadin
David Price
Peter SaragNick Jennings

Surinder Sharma
John Sinnott
Danny Smith
Luke Stott
Paul Taylor
Mike Wedderburn

The strategy will be supported by significant capital investment over the next five years and additional investment has been released to fund high priority activities including additional academic and professional services staff to support the strategy.

It is expected that KPIs for the new strategy will be implemented at the end of the current academic year and be brought to Council for approval.

As the strategy covers an 8-10 year period it is important to be aware of potential government policy changes and ensure there are mechanisms for review to manage risks appropriately to manage.

70.2 Key Performance Indicators

COUN22-P96

Council **ACCEPTED** an update on current Key Performance Indicators.

The University continues to be successful, maintaining a top 10 position in all but one of the national league tables and a number of metrics continue to improve post-pandemic. The overall University performance rating remains amber largely owing to uncertainty in the sector.

The National Student Survey metric has changed from green to amber to reflect the drop in overall satisfaction and work on the NSS is a key focus for the University. The Graduate Outcomes survey has seen significant improvement on the previous year's results and therefore the rating for this metric has changed from amber to green.

22/71 Financial Update

71.1 University Financial Statements 2021/22

COUN22-P97

Council **APPROVED** the adoption of the accounts and the submission to the Office for Students for the year ended 31 July 2022 on the recommendation of Finance Committee and Audit & Risk Committee.

The report indicated an overall positive picture for the last year and a good base for the future.

The Chair of Audit & Risk Committee confirmed the committee had scrutinised the report and that the external auditors had commended the report.

Council noted that change in staff costs was largely owing to the revaluation of USS pension liability.

The teams who provided the report were thanked for their work.

Council **DETERMINED** it can take assurance on academic standards and

22/74 Audit & Risk Committee

74.1 Report of meetings

COUN22-P102

Council **RECEIVED** a report from the meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 25 October which had focussed on the annual report under item 74.2 below.

74.2 Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report

COUN22-P103

Council **APPROVED** the Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report 2021-22, **NOTED** the Audit Committee's findings, and **RECEIVED** the Internal Audit Annual Report 2021-22.

Council noted the Audit & Risk Committee findings that based on discussions held during 2021/22 and consideration of the Internal Audit Annual Report and the Internal Audit Reports received throughout 2021/22, the Committee expressed a positive opinion regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, control and governance arrangements by the University for 2021/22.

The external auditors had reported no outstanding issues and all audit issues were complete. The external auditors thanked the Finance Team for their cooperation and quality of their work. The internal auditors report concluded with assurance that the majority of university processes are well-designed and operating effectively.

22/75 Establishment of a Fourth Pro Vice-Chancellor Position

COUN22-P104

Council **APPROVED** the establishment of a fourth Pro Vice-Chancellor position, with the remit for the institutional leadership of sport.

The proposal for a Pro Vice-Chancellor position rose from a recommendation in Mike Wedderburn's report on sport at Loughborough, commissioned as part of the strategy's core plan on sport. The report concluded there was a need for additional strategic oversight of sport to further leverage opportunities.

The Charter contains provision for up to 5 Pro Vice-Chancellor positions. Council is responsible for establishing the role; Senate has a role in commenting on the job description owing to its oversight of academic matters. Once the job description and role are approved a recruitment process will begin.

22/76 Health, Safety and Environment Report

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on 05 October 2022.

The general situation with Health and Safety is good. Legionella, which was exacerbated by the pandemic, is now under control thanks to excellent work by the Estates and Facilities team. Work continues on fire regulation compliance following new legislation. Staff well-being remains the top health and safety priority.

22/77 Matters for Report by the Vice-Chancellor

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Provost on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor who sent his apologies.

The University and College Union had balloted nationally for industrial action with strikes dates for the 24th, 25th and 30th November. There is also a mandate for action short of strike, which could include an assessment boycott in future. The cause of the dispute is pay and pensions and the pension dispute will depend on the USS valuation in 2023. There has been constructive dialogue locally with UCU. The dates of the National Student Survey have been brought forward so the action has less effect on results.

The process to recruit a new Dean for the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering is on-going.

The Vice-Chancellor has undertaken a successful trip to India where he held meetings with high-ranking institutions, businesses, members of the Indian government and the Indian Olympic Association. Alumni receptions were held in Delhi and Mumbai.

A one-off cost of living payment for staff, tiered to benefit the lowest grades most, is due to be paid in November. The Chief Operating Officer reported that the payments had been well received by staff on lower grades who he had met at roadshows. A cost of living package for students is also being developed and includes offering breakfast for a pound. In Week 1 of the scheme over 1,500 people had partaken of the cheap breakfast. A different option is being devised for the London campus as catering agreements are different there.

Council asked if feedback on recruiting students from India could be brought to a future meeting. The Provost reported recruitment from India is currently strong and has mitigated a decline in Chinese students. Other emerging markets are being actively engaged by the marketing team and an Africa Scholarship is being piloted.

22/84 *Name Change of the School of Business and Economics to Loughborough Business School

COUN22-P113

Council **NOTED** a name change of the School of Business and Economics to Loughborough Business School.

22/85 *Senate Effectiveness Review

COUN22-P114

Council **NOTED** proposals for the Senate Effectiveness Review.

22/86 *Capital Framework Progress Report

COUN22-P115

Council **RECEIVE** the progress report.

22/87 *Graduation Ceremonies

Council **NOTED** the date of Graduation Ceremonies on the Loughborough campus on Friday 9th December at 12:30pm and Friday 16th December at 10:00am, 13:15pm and 15:45pm. Council members are welcome to attend any of the ceremonies.

22/88 *Common Seal

COUN22-P116

Council **RECEIVED** the list of documents to which the University Seal has been attached.

22/89 *Senior University Appointments

Council **NOTED** the reappointment of Professor Mark Lewis as Dean of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences for a further 3 years from 1 August 2023 until 31 July 2026.

22/90 *Reports from Committees

Council **RECEIVED** reports from the following Committees:

COUN22-P117 Audit & Risk Committee – 25 October 2022

COUN22-P118 Operations Committee – 3 October and 7 November 2022

COUN22-P119 Finance Committee – 26 October 2022

COUN22-P120 Governance & Nominations Committee – 12 October 2022

COUN22-P121 Health, Safety & Environment Committee – 5 October 2022

22/91

Date of Next Meeting