Minutes

Meeting title: Council

Date: Wednesday 20 January 2016   Time 12.30pm

Location: The Media Centre, The Hilton Hotel, Ageas Bowl, West End

Present: Dr G Rider (Chair); Mr G Berruyer, Mr B Franklin, Mr P Greenish, Dr B Lwaleed, Mr T O’Brien, Dr D Price, Mr A Reyes-Hughes, Dr R Rivaz Hons DSc, Mr W Shannon, Professor Sir C Snowden, Mr J Trewby, Professor J Vickers.

In attendance: Mr L Abraham (Clerk to the Council), Mr I Dunn (Chief Operating Officer), Professor A Neill (Pro Vice Chancellor – Education), Professor J Petts (Pro Vice Chancellor – Research), Ms S Pook (Director of Finance) and Professor M Spearing (Provost and Pro Vice Chancellor – International)

Apologies: Mr M Burrow and Ms S Kumar

43 Obituary

None

44 Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meetings held on 26 November and 11 December 2015 be agreed as correct records and signed.

ACTION: Clerk to Council

45 Actions and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the actions for forthcoming meetings be noted.

46 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

47 Publication of unrestricted papers

RESOLVED That the papers circulated that were not deemed "Commercial in Confidence" or Restricted be published on the open access SUSSED site.

ACTION: Clerk to Council
48 Vice Chancellor’s Report
Council considered the Vice-Chancellor’s report, dated 20 January 2016.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced his report highlighting the following:

- The review of Research UK by Sir Paul Nurse;
- The good overall picture of student recruitment;
- Welcoming the new Chief Operating Officer, Mr Ian Dunn;
- Recent awards and prizes including the enterprise partnership SETSquared, located at the University of Southampton Science Park, being ranked by UBI Global as the world’s No. 1 university business incubator

RESOLVED that the Vice Chancellor’s report be noted.

49 Capital Programme – Update
Council considered a report by the Director of Estates and Facilities which provided an update on the Capital Programme 3.

Council was pleased to note that progress was being made on a number of projects. Chamberlain Halls was progressing on budget and Boldrewood Blocks D/G had gained planning approval. Fibre optic cabling was being installed around campus to provide IT resilience. South Gower still had some issues to be resolved such as drainage which was noted as a problem campus wide.

It was noted that initial conversations for a Masterplan for the entire campus had begun, but there remained much to do. Council member involvement in masterplanning was welcomed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

50 Report for the President of the Students’ Union
Council received a report from the President of the Students’ Union which highlighted the continuing work on the Union rebranding, the “Stress Less” Fest and activities surrounding the Union’s Democracy Week.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

51 Management Accounts – November 2015
Council received a report from Director of Finance which presented the management accounts for the financial year 2015/16 as at November 2015. At this stage in the year, the focus was on variances between actual results and the year to date budget, as well as reporting on research grant applications and awards, and cash flow. It was indicated that year to date research income secured appeared to be below the budget track line and in previous years such a gap has not subsequently been closed.

Council noted that the newly established Finance Committee would be involved in financial reporting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.
52 Risk Register

Council received a report from Director of Strategy and Planning which presented the latest risk register and highlighted recent changes to its content.

Council noted one change since the last presentation of the register, relating to the recruitment of international students.

Council raised the issue of potentially controversial conferences arranged on university campus. It was noted that the policy had been revisited and revised in light of the conference proposal in 2015 and that any such further conferences would be rigorously tested against the new policy.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

53 Changes to the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances (Second Reading)

Council considered a report which set out in detail proposed changes to the University Charter, Statutes and Ordinances regarding titles and posts within the University’s senior management. This was the second reading at Council, the previous reading having taken place at the Extraordinary meeting on 11 December 2015.

Changes of this nature required a special resolution to be agreed by Council after two separate readings at separate Council meetings and final approval given by the Privy Council.

Council was unanimously in favour of the proposed changes.

RESOLVED That the second reading of the proposed changes as summarised below, be approved and be presented to Privy Council for final approval:

Charter

Article 6
A clarifying comment has been added about the title of Vice-Chancellor to mark the change at the date of this round of amendments.

Article 8
The deletion of the title and role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and substitution of the title and role of Vice-President.

Article 13
A minor amendment to the text in 13. a. and e. to replace ‘course’ with ‘programme’.

The Statutes

Statute 3: The Council (Section 1b)
Amendment of the Vice-Chancellor’s title and substitution of a nominated ‘Vice-President’ for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Statute 4: The Powers of Council (Section 5)
Amendment of the Vice-Chancellor’s title, inclusion of the Vice-Presidents and deletion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar.

Statute 6: Ordinances (Sections 1 e, 1 g, 1 r)
Amendment of the Vice-Chancellor’s title, inclusion of the Vice-Presidents and deletion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar.
Statute 7: Academic Staff: Dismissal, Discipline, Grievance Procedures and related matters (Sections 1 (4) (5); 2 (4); 3 (4); 7 (1); 10 (i) (ii); 11 (2); 12 (1); 16 (1); 17 (4); 19 (2) and 20 (2)
Amendment of the Vice-Chancellor’s title, inclusion of the Vice-Presidents and deletion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar. (The Vice-President post is a substantive role therefore the provisions relating to non-substantive roles are not applicable.) Inclusion of the Associate Dean in the list of senior staff named in section 1 (4) to rectify an earlier drafting oversight.

54 Sealing of Documents

RECEIVED and noted a report detailing the documents sealed since the last report to Council.

55 Chair's Action

Council noted the following Chair’s Actions taken since the last meeting:

(i) Approval of the contract to construct the Cancer Sciences Building;

(ii) Professor Mark Spearing’s PVC appointment be extended to 30/09/2016 from 30/04/2016 to provide continued support whilst the new executive team is established; and

(iii) Professor Jonathan Forster be appointed as the Head of Academic Unit for Mathematics within the Faculty of Social, Human and Mathematical sciences. The appointment was effective from 1 January 2016 and was to replace Professor Graham Niblo.

Restricted Items

56 Restricted Human Resources Matters

Council received a restricted report regarding disciplinary cases.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be approved.

57 Honorary Degrees Recommendations

Council received a restricted report setting out honorary degree recommendations.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be approved.

The meeting concluded at 1.53pm