



21.4 MINUTES

- A. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021 were **confirmed**.
- B. An action log was provided noting progress on all outstanding Council actions. Council noted the progress reports and completed actions.
- C. In relation to Minute 20.96C [USS] the Interim Director of Finance reported that the University had rejected the counter proposal from the USS Trustee including pari passu security. In addition, the Council noted the recent decision by the Trustee Board of USS to agree the valuation, with the matter currently in consultation. The University had, once again, responded to the consultation from UUK along the same lines as previously. The Interim Director of Finance confirmed that he would provide a further update at the next meeting of the Council.
- D. In relation to Minute 20.106B[2] [Finance & Strategy Committee] it was noted that a meeting had been held between the Chair of Council, the Chair of Audit & Risk Committee, the Chief Operating Officer and the Secretary to the Council where it had been agreed that a report on Pontio would be prepared in consultation with the Director of Estates & Campus Services. The report would be considered by the Finance & Strategy Committee at its meeting in November 2021.

21.5 SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER AND ORDINANCES

- A. Mrs Hine reminded members of the work which had been underway for a number of months to replace the current Supplemental Charter, Statutes and Ordinances with a new Supplemental Charter and Ordinances. It was reported that the Council at its meeting on 24 April 2020 [minute 19.87A], along with the Senate and the Court had all considered the proposed draft Supplemental Charter, and Council had resolved to make an informal application to the Privy Council Office for approval of the new proposed Charter. The informal application was successful, with a few amendments requested which were reflected in the final draft before the Council.
- B. Ms Helen Mortlock, Eversheds Sutherland LLP joined the meeting and Council were advised ~~that the draft Supplemental Charter~~ (ppl)14 (e)3 (m)4 (e)13 (t(a)4.1 (l)14 ()-10 C)8 (ha)4 (r)14 (te)3 (r)4 ,d)JTJ0

It was noted that discussions with all three campus unions were ongoing, with good progress being made. A plan was in place to agree the new HR Ordinances by the time the new Supplemental Charter came into effect (which would not be before January 2022). It was noted that the University was confident that the goal could be achieved, and all three Campus Trades Unions had also indicated that the timescale was achievable.

However, Ms Mortlock made the Council aware that, should the new HR Ordinances not be agreed by the time the Supplemental Charter came into effect there would be short hiatus, during which general employment law and ACAS statutory codes of practice would apply to staff matters, until such time as the Ordinances were agreed, whereupon they would come before the Council for approval. Ms Mortlock confirmed that the three Campus Trades Unions were aware of this fact.

- C. Following consideration of the advice provided by Ms Mortlock, the Council **agreed** the following resolutions:
- [a] That the Supplemental Charter (attached as Appendix I to the official copy of the Minutes) was hereby approved and adopted as the Charter of the University in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Supplemental Charter and the Statutes of the University, subject to the approval of the Privy Council.
 - [b] That the Ordinances numbered 1-19, and 29-32 (attached as Appendix II to the official copy of the Minutes) were hereby approved and adopted as the Ordinances of the University in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing comparable Ordinances of the University numbered I, III, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XIX, XX, XXA, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII.
 - [c] That existing Ordinances numbered XXII, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXX, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII be added.

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- B. The Council were reminded that the University had recently received a letter from the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) regarding the European Court of Auditors decision that:

B. Report from the Executive

The Vice-Chancellor presented the report from the Executive Committee and updated members on higher education matters at a Wales and UK level. In particular the following updates were noted:

[a] League Tables

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Council that a detailed report would be brought to the next meeting on the varying approaches to league tables, to ensure that the Council were sighted on the sources of data considered by the different league tables. The outcomes of some of the league tables published over the last few weeks were noted, with some positive outcomes for the University, and others being less positive in relation to the University's final position. The Vice-Chancellor noted the huge potential for the University to improve its position in some key league tables, and work was ongoing within the Planning team to consider this further.

Mr Avison welcomed the work being undertaken on the league tables and noted that it might be useful to ascertain which league tables were searchce(h)2 (c)4.rt 2

Chancellor reported that at a recent meeting of the

21.9 STUDENT RECRUITMENT UPDATE

A. The Chief Marketing Officer provided the Council with an update on the current student recruitment situation and noted that it had been a challenging year for the University. However the Council were pleased to note that following a huge effort by both academic and professional services staff there had been an increase in the number of students recruited for the 2021/22 session. In particular the following points were noted:

- There remained a risk of a shortfall against target for Home/EU undergraduate, Home / EU postgraduate and Overseas undergraduate numbers;
- Overseas postgraduate looked set to recruit to target.
- Overall there was a risk of a shortfall of income of c. £4.4m.

In addition the Interim Director of Finance confirmed that work undertaken during the 2020/21 financial year had put the University in a position where it could continue to plan to invest during 2021/22.

B. A number of questions were posed by members, and the following points were made:

- The University's (the) T (y)4 (f)-2.1 4 (l)4 (o)12 3,su Td(16 (t d)10.1 (u8a1w d)10.3)-4 (be)3 (r(e)

were taken into account in relation to the University's position and the decline during the year, namely the impact of Covid

exercise, which was the most recent of a number of such exercises over the last few years, may have had an effect on the outcomes.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Council that the restructuring exercise had been conducted on the basis of sound principles approved by the Council. In addition a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with the Campus Trades Unions which had led to a transparent working arrangement with all three unions during the restructuring exercise. Going forward the University was developing its People First Strategy and whilst it was concerned about a possible further period of industrial action the collaboration with the unions remained positive

this was the last meeting of the Committee which had now been subsumed into the new People and Culture Committee.

21.15 NOMINATIONS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- A. The Report of the meeting of the Nominations and Governance Committee held on the 17 September 2021 (attached as Appendix V to the official copy of the Minutes) was **approved**, and the appointments to Committees and External Bodies **noted**.
- B. In particular the Council's attention was drawn to the 6.1 (t)-4 t (e)3 4 (o)8 (t) held o1gat43 0 Td A.5