

COUNCIL



Loughborough
University

Minutes

COUN21-M5

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 14 October 2021

Attendance

Members

Christine Hodgson

Penny Briscoe
Prof. Malcolm Cook
Dr Marcus Collins
Graham Corfield
Andrea Davis
Prof. Claudia Eberlein
Andrew Fisher (ab)
Prof. Lisanne Gibson

Sally-Ann Hibberd
Paul Hodgkinson
Prof. Nick Jennings
Prof. Chris Linton
Pauline Matturi (ab)
Jennifer Maxwell-Harris (ab)
Freya Mason (ab)
Peter Saraga (ab)

Oliver Sidwell
John Sinnott
Charlotte Style
Steve Varley (ab)
Tony Williams
Mike Wedderburn

In attendance

Caroline Glendenning-Platt; Dr Jennifer Nutkins; Prof. Steve Rothberg; Andy Stephens; Richard Taylor; Prof. Rachel Thomson

Apologies received from

Andrew Fisher; Freya Mason; Pauline Matturi; Jennifer Maxwell-Harris; Peter Saraga; Steve Varley

Business of the Agenda

No items were unstarred.

21/64 Nominations Committee

21/64.1 Appointment of Honorary Treasurer

Council **APPROVED** the appointment of Andrea Davis as a successor to Alan Hughes as Honorary Treasurer for a three-year term from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2024.

21/64.2 Council Membership

Council **APPROVED** the appointment of Penny Briscoe as a co-opted member of Council for a three-year term from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2024.

21/65 Minutes

COUN21-M4

Council **CONFIRMED** the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 1 July 2021.

SECTION A – Items for Discussion

21/66 Chair's Introduction and Duties & Responsibilities of Council Members

21/66.1 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of Council/Statement of Responsibilities of Council

COUN21-P72

The Chair reminded members of the duties and responsibilities of Council members and the Statement of Responsibilities of Council.

21/66.2 Good Governance Declarations

The Chair **CONFIRMED** arrangements for good governance declarations. Council members are required to sign two good governance declarations (Register of Interests and the Fit and Proper Persons Declaration). These should be completed and returned to the University as soon as possible, and no later than 31 October 2021.

21/67 Chair's Report

The Chair warmly welcomed new members to Council, both those attending for the first time and those here for their first official meeting following appointment.

Most substantive items were covered under the away day sessions, and the Chair thanked members and the executive for their time and valuable contributions. Key themes from the group discussions would be shared at the November meeting of Council.

21/68 Student Recruitment

COUN21-P73

The Pro-Vice Chancellor for Teaching provided an update on recruitment for October 2021. Teacher assessed A-level grades meant that more students met their offer, resulting in higher than predicted numbers of UK UG students (~640 students over target). Over-recruitment has been followed by the release of £3m additional investment, and Council was assured that these measures were designed to mitigate short-term negative impacts on the student experience. All UG students who wanted to live on campus were able to, although accommodation was tightly squeezed. Where UG targets were not met, there would be work to strategically review these areas and adjust targets or resource moving forward. Longer term, additional actions will be

needed to manage the larger student cohort as they progress in their studies, especially for final year projects.

Council **NOTED** that the International PGT student numbers were lower than target, but higher than planned for in the financial forecasts. A stronger recovery was seen at the East Midlands campus, compared to the London campus.

21/69 National Student Survey

COUN21-P74

Council **NOTED** the outcomes of the 2021 National Student Survey (NSS) and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES). Loughborough came second highest in England for overall student satisfaction, despite a percentage drop (88.7% in 2020 to 85.2% in 2021).

Despite the overall strong results, performance in the 'assessment and feedback' question banks was concerning and would be addressed by both a series of short-term actions and a root and branch review.

Council **NOTED** that industrial action will have affected students surveyed in 2021 in earlier parts of their students, and qualitative data highlights that as a contributing factor to some extent.

21/70 Council Effectiveness Review

COUN21-P75

Council **CONSIDERED** the Advance HE report on Council effectiveness which was discussed at length during the away day. Council **APPROVED** the proposed initial responses and indicated it would welcome a revised plan at the November meeting which took into account views raised by Council members at the away day.

The Chair of the Effectiveness Review endorsed that the recommendations should be taken forward by Nominations Committee (under its proposed new remit to include Governance) which was **ENDORSED**.

21/71 Risk Appetite

COUN21-P76

Council **NOTED** an update regarding the documentation of strategic risks, assurance mapping and the articulation of risk appetite. Conversations will need to continue, led by Audit Committee, around the right level of visibility, and the right risks and risk appetite to align with the new University strategy.

21/72 Matters for Report by the Vice-Chancellor

Council **RECEIVED** a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following matters:

- Covid cases remain low and are largely flat; three to five cases a day compared to 30-40 a day at this time last year.
- Campus is operating close to normal with a few restrictions on large class sizes.

- UCU is balloting for industrial action from 18 October to 4 November, which will require 50% turnout and 50% in favour to gain a mandate. A strike is likely and mitigations with students will be required. Some Schools will be more affected than others.
- The Director of Finance, Andy Stephens, is leaving the University after 10 years in January, and a successor is being recruited.
- Professors Jan Godsell and Malcom Cook started as Dean of the School of Business and Economics and Acting Dean of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering respectively.
- A significant research grant had been received by the University.
- Loughborough was awarded the Times' Sport University of the Year title for the third time.

The Chair noted her thanks for the Director of Finance's work and that formal acknowledgement of his contribution would follow.

Under Any Other Business, Council discussed the mitigations in place around industrial action. The executive would continue to work cooperatively and cordially with the UCU and maintain a strong dialogue with student representatives.

SECTION B – Starred Items for Approval

21/73 *Amendments to Ordinances – Second Hearing

Further to Minute 21/48.1 (COUN21-M4, paper COUN21-P53 refers), Council **CONFIRMED** revisions to Ordinance XVII (Conduct and Discipline of Students).

21/74 *Financial Matters – LIBOR/SONIA Transition

COUN21-P77

Council **NOTED** an update regarding the transition of interest rates underpinning university loan agreements from LIBOR to SONIA and **DELEGATED** to Finance Committee authority to agree the final terms of the transition agreement.

21/75 *Nominations Committee

21/76.1 *Nomination Committee Minutes

COUN21-P78

Council **NOTED** minutes from the 30 June 2021 meeting of Nominations Committee.

21/76.2 *Membership of Council Committees 2021/22

COUN21-P79

Council **APPROVED** appointments to vacancies on Council Committees and Joint Committees with Senate.

SECTION C – Starred Items for Information

21/76 *Senate Minutes

COUN21-P80

Council **RECEIVED** the minutes of Senate held on 16 June 2021.

21/77 *Office for Students

21/78.1 * Statement of Expectations on Sexual Violence and Harassment

COUN21-P81

Council **NOTED** an update on compliance with the Office for Students' Statement of Expectations on Sexual Violence and Harassment.

21/78.2 *Reportable Incidents

Council **NOTED** that the appointment of Professor Chris Linton as Accountable Officer and Acting Vice-Chancellor from 1 August to 30 September has been reported to the Office for Students.

21/78 *Overview of Year's Forthcoming Business

COUN21-P82

Council **NOTED** an overview of the Year's Forthcoming Business

21/79 * University Senior Academic Appointments 2021/22

COUN21-P83

Council **NOTED** University Senior Academic Appointments for 2020/21.

21/80 *Common Seal

COUN21-P84

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

21/81 * Reports from Committees

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

COUN21-P85	Enterprise Committee of 8 July and 7 September 2021
COUN21-P86	Estates Management Committee of 18 June 2021
COUN21-P87	Finance Committee of 18 June 2021

21/82 Date of Next Meeting

- 25 November 2021, 09:00-11:30 (online)
- 31 March 2022, 09.30-12:30 (London Campus)

- 30 June 2022, 13.30-17.00

21/83 Any Other Business

Author – Caroline Glendenning-Platt

Date – October 2021