

## COUNCIL



## Minutes of the meeting of 16 October 2025

### COUN25-M23

#### Attendance

|                         |                              |                 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Christine Hodgson            |                 |
| Karen Blay (ab)         | Nick Jennings                | Rachel Thomson  |
| Penny Briscoe (ab)      | Jennifer Maxwell-Harris (ab) | Mark Thurston   |
| Graham Corfield         | Nicky Morgan (ab)            | Julie Turner    |
| Andrea Davis            | Lucy Palmer                  | Justin Waring   |
| Natalie Gasson-McKinley | David Price                  | Mike Wedderburn |
| Naomi Hudson (ab)       | Dan Rodenhurst               | Sheryl Williams |
| Matthew Inglis          | Surinder Sharma              | Jon Woods (ab)  |
| Mia Jackson             | Luke Langbein-Stott          |                 |

In attendance: Sam Grogan; James Henry; Jo Maher; Jennifer Nutkins; Dan Parsons;  
Richard Taylor; Luke Vulpiani

Apologies received from: Karen Blay; Penny Briscoe; Naomi Hudson; Jennifer Maxwell-Harris;  
Nicky Morgan; Jon Woods

#### 25/57 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 25/58 Minutes and Matters Arising

##### 58.1 Minutes

##### COUN25-M2

Council **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 03 July 2025.

##### 58.2 Matters Arising

1. A report on the University's commercial activities was discussed at the October Council away day.
2. A report on the University's work with the government and sector groups was provided in the pre-reading for the October Council away day.
3. A report on the London campus was presented at the October Council away day.

4. Philanthropy sector benchmarking data was provided under item 25/75 of the October Council agenda.
5. The schedule of briefings for Council members expected in October will now be brought to November Council. The schedule will include a session on lobbying and the role of UUK.

## **25/59 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of Council and Statement of Primary Responsibilities of Council**

### **59.1 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of Council and Statement of Primary Responsibilities of Council**

#### **COUN25-P80**

Council **NOTED** the Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the University Council and the Statement of Responsibilities of Council.

### **59.2 Good Governance Declarations**

Council **CONFIRMED** arrangements for good governance declarations. Council members were reminded to complete and return the Fit and Proper Persons and Register of Interests forms.

## **25/60 Chair's Report**

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Chair.

The Chair commended the executive on a successful away day; a summary report will be brought to November Council for discussion.

## **25/61 Council Effectiveness Review**

#### **COUN25-P81**

Council **APPROVED** the Annual 2025 Council Effectiveness Review Report.

The annual report found that overall members were positive about the effectiveness of Council. Recommendations arising from the report will be actioned by the Secretariat.

## **25/62 Senior Independent Governor Role Descriptor**

#### **COUN25-P82**

Council **APPROVED** the Role Descriptor for the Senior Independent Governor.

## **25/63 Central Accommodation Project**

#### **COUN25-P83**

Council **APPROVED**, on the recommendation of Estates Management and Sustainability Committee the Stage D major capital project application for the 552 student bedroom Central

The project was subject to planning permission approval by Charnwood Borough Council due to be considered on 16 October.

Oversight of the project if it is approved and proceeds will be undertaken by Estates Management and Sustainability Committee, Strategic Portfolio and Resources Committee Student Accommodation Project Management Board and the Director of Finance.

[Secretary's Note: Planning permission was approved by Charnwood Council on 16 October 2025.]

## 25/64 Audit and Risk Committee

### COUN25-P84

Council **CONSIDERED** a report from the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 17 September 2025.

ARC received an overview from the external auditors on the Gillies Report regarding the financial collapse of the University of Dundee. The report highlighted financial management, governance and oversight, and organisation culture as factors contributing to the failure for Council to note.

ARC received the Annual Export Control Report and welcomed the continued improvements in this area. The report noted one potential breach where a protective disclosure had been made to HMRC; no intervention from HMRC was expected and ARC were assured action was being taken to prevent a recurrence.

The internal auditors report on Business Continuity was considered by ARC who noted some actions were due to be completed by January. The Director of Estates and Facilities will attend ARC in February to provide an update and progress will be reported back to Council.

## 25/65 Governance and Nominations Committee

Council **NOTED** the appointment of Luke Langbein-Stott as Alumni Association President for a further 3-year term to 31 July 2028. Luke is the Council member under Ordinance VIII as 'the appointed member of an Association recognised by the Council as representing former students'.

## 25/66 Health, Safety and Environment Update

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on 08 October 2025. Monthly Health and Safety Bulletins are available on the BI bookshelf. There were two serious incidents on campus over the summer, both arising from building work that was taking place; neither incident involved harm to people. Council asked that Health and Safety be included in the 2025/26 audit plan.

## 25/67 Matters for Report by the Vice-Chancellor

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor who reported the following items:

- In future the Vice-Chancellor's Report will be a written rather than a verbal report.
- A successful move-in weekend had been completed with members of the executive involved in welcoming new students. The Students' Union were also heavily involved and are a key partner in ensuring new students are welcomed to campus.
- The leader and chairman of Leicestershire County Council was hosted on campus, with the aim of showcasing the University's activity and the value we add both to Charnwood and the wider county. The Council are a vital local partner and it is important for the University to engage with them.
- The academic recruitment campaign has continued to run successfully with over 500 applications in total. Ten Professors and two Readers have been appointed and further appointments are expected. A limited campaign focussed on Engineering and internal 'rising stars' at Lecturer level is now in-process.

## SECTION B – Starred Items for Approval

### 25/68 \*Tuition Fee Increases greater than 10%

#### COUN25-P85

Council **APPROVED** the tuition fee increases greater than 10%.

### 25/69 \*Ordinance XVII – Conduct and Discipline of Students

#### COUN25-P86

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XVII Conduct and Discipline of Students.  
Second hearing.

### 25/70 \*Ordinance XXXV – Staff Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

#### COUN25-P87

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XXXV Staff Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.  
Second Hearing.

### 25/71 \*Ordinance XXXVI – Staff Disciplinary, Capability and Dismissal Appeal Procedure

#### COUN25-P88

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XXXVI Staff Disciplinary, Capability and Dismissal Appeal Procedure. First Hearing.

**25/72 \*Ordinance XLIII – Policy and Procedure on the Use of Fixed Term Contracts****COUN25-P89**

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XLIII Policy and Procedure on the Use of Fixed Term Contracts. First Hearing.

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**SECTION C – Starred Items for Information****25/73 \*Matters for Report**

Council **RECEIVED** the following reports:

**73.1 \*Deputy Vice-Chancellor COUN25-P90**

**73.2 \*Student Recruitment Update COUN25-P91**

**73.3 \*Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) COUN25-P92**

**73.4 \*Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) COUN25-P93**

**73.5 Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sport) COUN25-P94**

**25/74 \*Overview of Year's Forthcoming Council Business****COUN25-P95**

Council **NOTED** an overview of the Year's Forthcoming Council Business for 2025/26.

**25/75 \*Philanthropy Sector Benchmarking****COUN25-P96**

Council **NOTED** an update on philanthropy sector benchmarking data.

**25/76 \*Office for Students Reportable Events****COUN25-P97**

Council **NOTED** that there have been no reportable events since the last meeting of Council and no event which needed to be considered if it qualified as a reportable.

**25/77 \*Common Seal****COUN25-P98**

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

**25/78 \*Senior University Appointments**

Council **NOTED** the following Senior University Appointments:

Professor Rebecca Cain has been appointed Dean of the School of Design and Creative Arts, from 11 August 2025.

Professor Lauren Sherar has been appointed Dean of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, from 11 August 2025.

### 25/79 \*Reports from Committees

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

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>COUN25-P99</b>  | <b>Finance Committee – 13 June 2025</b>  |
| <b>COUN25-P100</b> | <b>Governance and Nominations Committee – 03 July 2025</b>   |
| <b>COUN25-P101</b> | <b>Research and Innovation Committee – 16 September 2025</b>   |
| <b>COUN25-P102</b> | <b>Senate – 11 June 2025</b>   |
| <b>COUN25-P103</b> | <b>Strategic Portfolio and Resources Committee (Part B) –<br/>07 July 2025 and 15 September 2025</b> |

### 25/80 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 27 November 2025, 9:00-12:00, online

#### **Future Meetings**

Thursday 26 March 2026, 9:00-12:00, Loughborough University London

Thursday 02 July 2026, 14:00-17:00, Loughborough Campus

#### **2026/27 Dates**

Thursday 15 October 2026, all-day, Away Day, Loughborough Campus

Wednesday 25 November 2026, 9:00-12:00, online

Tuesday 23 March 2027, 9:00-12:00, Loughborough University London

Thursday 24 June 2027, 14:00-17:00, Loughborough Campus

Luke Vulpiani

October 2025