

## C O U N C I L

### Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022

**Present:** Vice-Chancellor, Ms Wendy Becker, Mr John Bowers, Professor Sir Rory Collins, Professor Patricia Daley, Sir Chris Deverell, Fra' John Eidinow<sup>1</sup>, Professor Fabian Essler, Professor Cécile Fabre, Mr Charles Harman, Professor Richard Hobbs, Mr Nicholas Kroll, Professor Aditi Lahiri, Professor Kia Nobre, Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Professor Alex Schekochihin, Professor Anne Trefethen, Chair of Conference of Colleges (Baroness Jan Royall), Head of the Humanities Division (Professor Daniel Grimley), Head of the MPLS Division (Professor Sam Howison), Head of the Medical Sciences Division (Professor Gavin Screation)<sup>2</sup>, Head of the Social Sciences Division (Professor Timothy Power), Senior Proctor (Ms Lucinda Rumsey), Junior Proctor (Dr David Johnson), Assessor (Dr Bettina Lange).

**Student Member Representatives and representative of the Early Career Research Staff:**, Devika Devika (SU Graduates), Safa Sadozai (VP Access and Academic Affairs) and Dr Hilary Wynne (Representative of the Early Career Research Staff)

**Apologies:** Mrs Boyt

**Officers in attendance:** Registrar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Innovation), the Chief Financial Officer, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs), the Director of Public Affairs and Communications, the Director of Legal Services and General Counsel, the Executive Officer (Policy and Governance) in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, the Director of Planning and Council Secretariat, the Head of Governance Secretariat, the Assistant Registrar (Governance).

**In attendance:**

Professor Chris Conlon (Chair of the Health Measures Advisory Group) item 2.

**Introductory matters:** the Vice-Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Declarations of interest:** Council members were reminded to declare any interest that could give rise to a conflict in relation to any item on the agenda. These would be noted in the footnotes of the minutes of the meeting.

## I. ORDINARY BUSINESS

### (A) Unreserved

#### 1. Vice-Chancellor Introduction\*\*

The Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone for their attendance at what she hoped would be the last of the extraordinary meetings that had been used during the pandemic to give Council members brief updates on the University response to the pandemic.

The plan, subject to government guidance, would be that the next and all subsequent meetings would be held in person. The next meeting on 7 February 2022 would be held at the HB Allen Centre, Keble College.

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following additional items of business:

- The appointment of:
  - Professor Daniel Grimley as the Head of the Humanities Division as from 1 January 2022.
  - Professor Soumitra Dutta of Cornell Business School to be the Dean of the Saïd Business School as from 1 June 2022.
  - Professor Matthew Weait formerly of New College and currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Hertfordshire as the new Head of Continuing Education as from 11 April 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Items 1- 3 of the unreserved agenda only. Conflict of interest declared for item 4 of the reserved agenda.

<sup>2</sup> From 2:30pm onwards.

\* The confidential or restricted designation is removed from this version of the minutes

\*\*A brief note of the action taken by Council is included instead of a version of the minutes

- The proposed response to the latest UUK consultation on USS. Council were informed that a further draft joint submission, with Cambridge, was being prepared, expressing reservations about the proposed USS investment strategy.
- An amendment had been tabled to the Freedom of Speech Bill which, if it were to become law would be enormously damaging to universities and potentially provoke opposition from staff and students whose rights to privacy could be compromised. It would require the reporting of all transactions over £50k (by any member or part of the university) with any person (non UK national) or entity outside of the UK. Retrospective information would be gathered for the last 10 years and going forward and would need to be submitted to the Office for Students (OfS) so that they could create a searchable data base. Subsidiaries, OUP, and overseas research groups would be impacted as well as any academic colleagues with an international relationship / collaboration as well, of course, as donations and research funding. It would impose an enormous bureaucratic burden. There would be duplication of information already collected in response to other legislation and export control arrangements.
- Since the last meeting a gift agreement for the Pandemic Sciences Centre (£50m) had been signed.

CONFIDENTIAL 2. **The Vice-Chancellor's unreserved business (above the line)**

*Covid-19\*\**

The Vice-Chancellor introduced Professor Chris Conlon to provide Council members with a Covid update from a medical perspective, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) updated from an educational perspective and the Registrar updated on the business continuity plan (BCP).

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Conlon and team for their continued experienced advice.

CONFIDENTIAL 3. **Reuben College Project update (C22)01)**

Council **took the actions** set out in the report.

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