

COUNCIL

Loughborough
University

Minutes of the meeting of 12 October 2023

COUN23-M3

Attendance

Christine Hodgson

Kerri Akiwowo
Penny Briscoe (ab)
Graham Corfield
Andrea Davis
Tarek Hassan
Naomi Hudson
Matthew Inglis

Nick Jennings
Chris Linton
Jennifer Maxwell-Harris
Nicky Morgan (ab)
Emma Nadin
Molly Page
David Price (ab)
Surinder Sharma

John Sinnott
Luke Stott
Paul Taylor
Mark Thurston
Mike Wedderburn (ab)
Georgia Whelan
Sheryl Williams

In attendance: Charlotte Croffie; Jo Maher; Alex Owen; Dan Parsons; Richard Taylor; Rachel Thomson; Luke Vulpiani

Apologies received from: Penny Briscoe; Nicky Morgan; David Price; Mike Wedderburn

Declaration of Interests

John Sinnott declared an interest in the Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park owing to his role as Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, relevant to item 23/58.

23/52 Minutes & Matters Arising

52.1 Minutes

COUN23-M2

Council **CONFIRMED** the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June March 2023.

52.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

SECTION A – Items for Discussion

23/53 Reappointment of Chair

The Chair of Council recused herself and left the room. The Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council chaired this item.

Council **APPROVED** the reappointment of Christine Hodgson as Chair of Council for a further three-year term from 01 January 2024.

23/54 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the University Council and Good Governance Declarations

54.1 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the University Council and Statement of Responsibilities of Council

COUN23-P69

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

54.2 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.

23/55 Chair's Report

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Chair. The Chair noted that John Sinnott is in his final year of Council membership and other members may be asked to take on the committee positions John currently fills when he finishes.

23/56 Research and Innovation Core Plan

COUN23-P70

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation outlined details of the Research and Innovation Core Plan, including objectives, KPIs and a timeline roadmap for delivery.

- The Plan has been through rigorous internal consultation and approved by Senate.
- Alongside the Council-level KPIs, there will be a set of sub-level KPIs to ensure that lead indicators are effectively monitored.
- Council noted that the KPIs were due to be met by 2030 and that it may be possible to achieve some of the objectives more quickly.

- A sharper articulation and contextualisation of objective 1 KPI, 'to increase research awards to an equivalent of a market share of 1% by 2030', would make the scope and ambition of this objective clearer.
- Council asked for more visibility of all core plans to assist in assurance purposes.

Council **APPROVED** the objectives and KPIs for the Research and Innovation Core Plan.

23/57 Process for Recruitment of Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

COUN23-P71

The Vice-Chancellor provided an outline of the process for recruiting a new Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, including a timeline.

A Joint Committee of Senate and Council will oversee the recruitment process. The selection and interview process will be led by a sub-group of the Joint Committee who will progress the appointment and advise the full Joint Committee of the outcome of its deliberations.

Council **APPROVED** the process for the recruitment of Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Charter and Statute VI and agreed to delegate responsibility for formal confirmation of the appointment to the Chair of Council, advised by the Joint Committee.

23/58 Audit and Risk Committee

COUN23-P72

Council **CONSIDERED** a report from the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 20 September 2023.

- The CFO and Head of Legal Services had provided an update on the work being undertaken regarding Safer Partnerships and Trusted Research, to give assurance on risk management in these areas, which are key focus areas for the University strategy.
- The internal auditors had noted that the work and investment in Project Compliance was beginning to have a positive impact on the University's oversight of its compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.
- The Internal Audit Report on the Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park highlighted that there is work to be done to fully embed compliance culture across the University and Council noted the risks highlighted in the report. ARC was pleased to note that an immediate review of internal structures, processes and procedures in this area had been commenced.

23/59 Health, Safety and Environment Report

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Provost on the meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on 04 October 2023. Monthly Health and Safety Bulletins are available on the BI bookshelf.

- Whilst there are a number of on-going issues that the Committee has considered, it was likely that when Council received the formal KPI rating in November it would be green.
- The November meeting of Council will receive a full update on Health, Safety and Environment Committee KPIs but the Provost believed the risk was green.

23/60 Matters for Report by the Vice-Chancellor

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

- Loughborough achieved triple gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework. This is the highest possible achievement and the University was part of only 15% of Higher Education Institutions which achieved this accolade.
- A number of new senior staff have now started including, Jo Maher as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Sport; six Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellors to lead on the Strategy's three core themes; a new Commercial Director; a new Director of Sport and a new Director of the Research and Innovation Office.
- 12 Special Envoys, who are existing members of staff, have been appointed to take a leadership role for a particular region in order to assist in the delivery of the international strategic aim.
- Loughborough University students had a very successful event and performance at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest. The University's Chancellor Seb Coe was voted in as World Athletics President for another term.
- The University has made a big impact on national policy with our research around reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) which has been in the news recently.
- The Global Sport University Network convened for the first time at Loughborough University.
- Publicity around the NFL Academy had provided the University with the equivalent of £14.3 million of media exposure.

- There is good news around pensions as agreement has been reached between Universities UK and UCU on the USS pension scheme, which will see reduced contributions and benefits restored to previous levels.

SECTION B – Starred Items for Approval

23/61 *Ordinance XVII Conduct and Discipline of Students

COUN23-P73

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

23/62 *Ordinance XXIII Traffic and Parking in the University

COUN23-P74

Council **APPROVED** further amendments to Ordinance XXIII Traffic and Parking in the University. First hearing.

SECTION C – Starred Items for Information

23/63 *Student Recruitment and National Student Survey

63.1 *Student Recruitment

COUN23-P75a

Council **NOTED** the position regarding undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment to the University for October 2023.

- International postgraduate recruitment for October 2023 entry had been more challenging than the position in July had indicated. The London campus has a January intake so the position will not be known until that recruitment cycle is complete.
- The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience and the CFO are looking at the University's provision to ensure it is offering the right courses at the right tuition fee level.
- The University continues to consider how to diversify the country of origin of its international students to mitigate reliance on particular markets.

63.2 *National Student Survey

COUN23-P75b

Council **NOTED** the outcomes of the 2023 National Student Survey.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience was commended for the work she had led on improving NSS results from 2022; work is on-going to further improve satisfaction-levels around assessment and feedback.

23/64 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor Reports

Council **NOTED** the following reports:

64.1 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

COUN23-P76

64.2 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

COUN23-P77

64.3 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sport)

COUN23-P78

23/65 *Membership of Council Committees

COUN23-P79

Council **RECEIVED** the updated membership of Council Committees.

23/66 *Year's Forthcoming Council Business

COUN23-P80

Council **NOTED** the overview of the year's forthcoming business.

23/67 *Office for Students Reportable Events

COUN23-P81

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.

23/68 *Common Seal

COUN23-P82

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

23/69 *Senior University Appointments

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

Professor Jo Maher, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sport) for 5 years from 01 September 2023 until 31 August 2028.

Professor Elizabeth Peel, Acting Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities while the recruitment of a new Dean is undertaken.

23/70 *Reports from Committees

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

COUN23-P83	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee – 10 July 2023
COUN23-P84	Finance Committee – 16 June 2023
COUN23-P85	Governance and Nominations Committee – 28 June 2023
COUN23-P86	Human Resources Committee – 24 May 2023
COUN23-P87	Infrastructure Committee – 22 June 2023
COUN23-P88	Operations Committee – 5 June, 3 July and 18 September 2023
COUN23-P89	Remuneration Committee – 29 June 2023
COUN23-P90	Research and Innovation Committee – 6 June 2023

23/71 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 23 November 2023, 9:00AM-12:00PM, Online

Future Meetings

Thursday 21 March 2024, 14:00-16:30, Loughborough University London

Thursday 27 June 2024, 13:30-17:00, Loughborough Campus

Thursday 17 October 2024, 9:00AM, All-day, Away Day and Meeting, Loughborough Campus

Author – Luke Vulpiani

Date – October 2023