PRESENT: The Chair of the Council (Dame Ursula Brennan); the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Karen Cox); the Deputy Chair of the Council (Bob Scruton); Colin Carmichael; Martin Cook; Mark Ellis; Joshua Frost; Sarah Gibson; Kim Lowe; Dr Owen Lyne; Gabriel MacGregor; Mark Malcomson; Andrew Newell; Mark Preston; Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura; Professor Richard Reece; Patrick Stillman; Zarafshaan Tahir; Sir David Warren; Professor Iain Wilkinson; Zoe Wood.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Financial Officer (Jane Higham); Financial Improvement Director (Peter Pentecost); Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to Council) (Dr Sinead Critchley); PA/Secretary for Governance & Assurance (Claire Taylor).

APologies: Neil Davies; Martin Cook; Gill Nicholls, Nicola Williams.

The meeting was held online through Microsoft Teams in recognition of the Government requirement to stay at home to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

5377 CHAIR’S INTRODUCTION INCLUDING DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declaration of Interests
There were no declarations of interest.

5378 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 15 December 2020 which had been circulated, as Paper C2020/039, were approved without amendment and would be signed by the Chair in due course.

5379 MATTERS ARISING

Council noted that the Action Log is being re-designed and would be considered in full at the February 2021 meeting.

(reacted)

5380 IHRA DEFINITION – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura delivered a presentation on the IHRA Definition.

The IHRA had been through a staff and student consultation; and consultation with Rabbi Zalman Lewis, to consider four possible responses;

1. Not adopt IHRA definition
2. Recognise IHRA definition
3. Adopt IHRA Definition with additional text
4. Adopt IHRA Definition
Option 3; Adopt IHRA Definition with the additional wording proposed by the Home Affairs Select Committee and further text on free speech, was tabled and recommended to Council for approval.

The following areas were discussed by Council members:

• Since the original request, many other Institutions had adopted the IHRA definition with variations on the “Cambridge” amendment.

• There had been a limited response to the consultation

• The matter had not been discussed at Senate, though it was noted that this was a Council rather than a Senate issue

• The Ethics Committee had not been consulted on the proposed recommendation

• The Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance had now been invited to meet a government Minister (Lord Mann) to explain the University’s position

• While a majority of Council broadly agreed with the proposal tabled by the DVC Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance, Council agreed it would be preferable for the proposed text to be circulated before a final decision was taken

DECISION: Council agreed to re-consider the proposal at its next meeting.

ACTION – The Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance to produce a paper outlining the student and staff consultation approach, the range of responses received from all stakeholders, and the line taken by other universities; and to consult Ethics Committee again ahead of a final recommendation to Council.

5381 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVITY STRATEGY GROUP
Council nominated Sarah Gibson to join the EDI Strategy Group.

5382 UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
(Commercial in Confidence)

5383 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
None raised.

5384 DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2020/2021

Friday 12 February 2021 (half day meeting)
Friday 26 March 2021 (full day meeting)
Friday 14 May 2021 (half day meeting)
Friday 25 June 2021 (full day meeting)

All meetings will start at 10:30am and will be held via MS Teams unless otherwise indicated.

Notes

1. Papers
2. Queries
Any queries should be addressed to Dr Sinead Critchley, Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to Council), (email: S.Critchley-2002@kent.ac.uk).

CLT 26.1.2021