

Minutes marked Commercial in confidence or confidential have been redacted from the web version

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2021

Present: The Chair of the Council (Dame Ursula Brennan); the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Karen Cox); the Deputy Chair of the Council (Andrew Newell); Chris Barron; Colin Carmichael; Xian Chan; Daniel Cook; Martin Cook; Michael Crick; Neil Davies; Aisha Dosanjh; Kim Lowe; Dr Owen Lyne; Gabriel MacGregor; Mayuri Lakhani; Mark Malcomson; Professor Gill Nicholls; Tobi-Temple Obaremo; Timi Okuwa; Alex Perkins; Mark Preston; Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura; Professor Richard Reece; Professor Iain Wilkinson.

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: Nicola Williams

The meeting was held online through Microsoft Teams in recognition of the University's Future of Work guidance to mitigate the spread of Covid-19

5452 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed new members to Council:

Lay Members: Daniel Cook, Xian Chan, Michael Crick, Mayuri Lakhani, Timi Okuwa.

Student Representative: Thomas Freeston.

5453 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 25 June 2021, Paper **C2021/004**, and 5 October 2021 **C2021/014** were **approved**.

5454 MATTERS ARISING

The Action Log: Paper **C2021/015** was noted.

- Remaining items were noted, with dates to be added to the status column as detailed in the Council Forward Programme.

ACTION: Secretary to update Action Log status column with dates.

- Council members agreed a Glossary of Abbreviations would be useful for future meetings.

ACTION: Secretary to share a Glossary of Abbreviations.

5455 VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S UPDATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Vice Chancellor gave a verbal update on the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) and Advance Research and Invention Agency bills progressing through parliament; on the Skills and Post-16 Education bill and Post-18 Education and Skills policy update; National and Local UCU ballot on USS pension, and on pay and conditions; changes at OfS; and on Covid-19.

Council congratulated Emeritus Professor Abdulrazak Gurnah, winner of the 2021 Nobel prize in Literature and noted a celebration would take place in the New Year.

5456 REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Items considered to be Commercial in confidence have been redacted from these minutes.

Council **noted** the Chief Financial Officers report.

Council **approved in principle** the

- a) Annual Review and Financial Statement Paper C2021/017
- b) Letter of Representation Paper C2021/018
- c) Going Concern Assessment Paper C2021/019
- d) Report of External Auditors Findings Paper C2021/020

and **delegated authority** to the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee, Chair of Audit Committee, Chair of Council, Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor to sign the final versions.

e) Kent Vision Additional Funding Request Paper C2021/021

The DVC for Education and Student Experience presented this item.

Council **approved** the request of further funding for Kent Vision.

5457 DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Professor Claire Peppiatt-Wildman, (Director of Division of Natural Sciences), joined by the Divisional Senior Leadership team presented to Council.

Council noted the presentation 'A short history of the Division of Natural Sciences and the next frontier', and thanked the Division of Natural Sciences for their presentation.

5458 KPIs

The DVC for Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance, joined by the Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, presented paper **C2021/024**.

Council noted the report.

5459 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY 2021

The DVC for Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance, joined by the Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, presented paper **C2021/025**.

Council noted the report.

5460 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2021/22

The Chair of Audit Committee, the Director of Governance and Assurance, joined by Charmaine Leech, Risk Consultant, presented paper **C2021/026**.

Council **approved** the Risk Management Framework and the projects direction of travel.

5461 ANNUAL REPORT OF SENATE 2020/21

The Vice Chancellor, joined by the Head of Academic Governance, presented paper **C2021/027**, which was **noted** by Council.

The following points were highlighted:

- Council noted Senate governance structure and membership had been refreshed following the outcome of the Senate Effectiveness Review.
- Minutes from Senate were shared with Council as a 'Below the line' item, and an Annual Report provided to Council to give assurance and understanding of Senate's responsibilities
- The Vice Chancellor thanked the Head of Academic Governance and Director of Governance and Assurance for their continued support to Senate
- It was noted the Education Standards Committee and Education and Student Experience Board were monitoring any impact on students due to Covid-19

5462 LAMBETH CONFERENCE 2022

Council considered paper **C2021/028** and requested a further update at its next meeting.

5463 ANIT-RACISM STRATEGY

The DVC for Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance presented paper **C2021/029**.

Council **noted** the strategy report.

5464 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 27 January 2022 10:00-16:00 (Strategy session)

Wednesday 23 February 2022 14:00-17:00 (preceded by optional tour 12:30-13:30)

Friday 25 March 2022 10:00-16:00
Tuesday 17 May 2022 14:00-17:00 (preceded by optional tour 12:30-13:30)
Wednesday 29 June 2022 10:00-16:00

5465 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair and Council members thanked Council Lay Member, Martin Cook, for his contribution to Council and wished him well as he would be departing at the end of the year. The Chair advised that a farewell event to say thank you in person would be arranged in the New Year.

ITEMS BELOW THE LINE

Council **approved and/or noted** as appropriate the following papers:

C2021/030 Student Protection Plan

C2021/031 Modern Slavery Statement

C2021/032 Safety, Health and Environment Executive Committee (SHEEC)

C2021/033 Kent Union Code of Practice

C2021/034, C2021/035 and C2021/036 Minutes of meetings of the Audit Committee

C2021/037 Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee

C2021/038 Minutes of the meeting of the Ethics Committee

C2021/039 Minutes of the meeting of the Redundancy Review Committee

C2021/040 Report of the meeting of Senate

C2021/041 Prevent Duty

C2021/042 Council Forward Programme 2021/22 (as at 19 November 2021)

Notes

1. Papers

Copies are available on the Council eboard portal (Diligent Boards) or on request from the Secretary. Approved Minutes and many of the papers are published on the University website at <https://kent.ac.uk/governance/council/index.html>.

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 30.11.2021