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UNIVERSITY OF KENT

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Venue: Darwin Boardroom

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2022

Present: The Deputy Chair of Council (Andrew Newell), in the Chair; the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Karen Cox); Chris Barron; Xian Chan, Dan Cook; Mark Preston; Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura; Alex Perkins; Professor Iain Wilkinson, Zaid Mahmood; Ben Bradley; Mima Osmani.

Present via MS Teams: Kim Lowe, Michael Crick, Will Norman.

In attendance: Chief Financial Officer (Jane Higham); Financial Improvement Director (Peter Pentecost); Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to the Council) (Dr Sinead Critchley); Director of Education (Dr Louise Naylor) for Item 7; Director of Human Resources and Organisational Design (Martin Atkinson) for item 9; Assistant Director Governance (Sarah Megson), Governance Support Officer (Clare Cockerell), Governance Support Coordinator (Donna Butt) - Observer

Apologies: The Chair of the Council, Dame Ursula Brennan; Gabriel MacGregor; Mayuri Lakhani; Timi Okuwa; Neil Davies; Colin Carmichael; Professor Richard Reece.

5517 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Deputy Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including new members Zaid Mahmood, President of Kent Union, Ben Bradley, VP Postgraduate Experience and Will Norman, Academic & Research Staff representative.

No new declarations of interest were noted.

5518 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022, Paper **C2022/001** were **approved**.

5519 MATTERS ARISING

The Action Log: **C2022/002** was noted.
Action 5509 is in progress, 5514 and 5487 complete and closed. The remaining item, 5408 People Sub-Committee discussion was noted and addressed later in the agenda.

All other actions are in progress.

5520 VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Vice Chancellor gave a verbal update.

5521 STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor introduced the paper **C2022/003 Strategic Plan Dashboard** report, an update on progress against the Strategic Plan which was noted by Council.

5522 CURRENT PERFORMANCE

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Strategy, Planning and Performance presented paper **C2022/004 Performance Dashboard** report which was noted by Council.

Dr Louise Naylor, Director of Education presented the National Student Survey analysis and 6–12-month action plan, paper **C2022/005 KPI Education: Improve student satisfaction**, which was also noted by Council.

For the purposes of quoracy the meeting was briefly adjourned. The Secretary reported that in terms of decision-making the Standing Orders required a lay majority to be present. Council were therefore asked either to defer decision of the following items or to approve in principle subject to written confirmation of approval from lay members who were not present at the meeting, with formal ratification of those decisions at the next meeting.

Council agreed to proceed as suggested and the meeting was reconvened.

Post-meeting update:

Written approvals have been received from Dame Ursula Brennan, Mayuri Lakhani, Colin Carmichael and Gabriel MacGregor for agenda items:
Proposal for People and Culture Committee (C2022/006) and
Council Delegation to the Vice President and President 2022/23 (C2022/009).

Written approvals have been received from Mayuri Lakhani, Colin Carmichael and Gabriel MacGregor for agenda item:
Succession Planning for the Chair of Council (C2022/007).

5523 Proposal for a People & Culture Sub-Committee of Council

Paper **C2022/006 Proposal for a People & Culture Sub Committee** was noted by the Committee.

Council agreed to **approve in principle** the formation of a People Committee.

Council requested that a deep dive on Student Wellbeing be undertaken and presented at a later meeting.

5524 Succession planning for the Chair of Council role:

Paper **C2022/007 Recommendation from Lay Nominations Committee** was noted by the Committee

The Council **approved** the formation of a working group to progress this work.

5525 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None was raised.

5526 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS – noted.

Meetings in academic session 2022/23:

- 25 November 2022, 2-5pm
- 26 January 2023, 10am-4pm (Strategy session)
- 22 February 2023, 2-5pm
- 24 March 2023, 2-5pm
- 18 May 2023, 2-5pm
- 28 June 2023, 2-5pm

ITEMS BELOW THE LINE

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

- C2022/008 Terms of Reference and Membership
- C2022/009 Delegation to the Vice Chancellor and President 2022/23
- C2022/010 Council Forward Programme

The Deputy Chair thanked the Council for their contributions and closed the meeting.

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 SharePoint site at <https://livekentac.sharepoint.com/sites/council>.

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).

NN 15.03.23

CC 10.10.2022