

Minutes currently confidential to Council marked Commercial in confidence or confidential have been redacted from the website version

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

MEETING OF COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2023
Darwin Boardroom**

Present: The Deputy Chair of Council and Chair of Finance & Resources Committee, Andrew Newell; Chair of Audit Committee, Mark Preston; The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karen Cox; Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy and Performance (S&P); Professor Richard Reece, Deputy Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (ESE); Zaid Mahmood; Mima Osmani; Alex Perkins; Professor Iain Wilkinson; Ben Bradley; Chris Barron; Gabriel MacGregor; Michael Crick; Xian Chan; Dan Cook; Kim Lowe; Dr Will Norman.

Via MS Teams: Mayuri Lakhani.

In attendance: Chief Financial Officer (Jane Higham); Financial Sustainability Director (Peter Pentecost); Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to the Council) (Dr Sinead Critchley); Head of Secretariat (Natasha Neill); Director of MORA (Simone Davies) and Director of Strategic Planning and Performance (Anita Jackson) for items 7-10; Head of Legal Services (David Emanuel) for item 10.

Via MS Teams: Governance Support Officer (Clare Cockerell).

Apologies for absence: The Chair of the Council, Dame Ursula Brennan; Neil Davies, Colin Carmichael.

5549 Chair's Introduction

The Deputy Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies for absence.

No new declarations of interest were noted.

5550 Minutes for approval

- **C2022/039 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2022 – approved.**
- **C2022/040 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 – approved.**
- **C2022/041 Minutes of the sub-group meeting held on 6 December 2022 – approved.**
- **C2022/042 Notes of Strategy Day held on 26 January 2023 – approved [confidential]**
- **C2022/043 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2023 – approved.**

A query was raised regarding publication of redacted minutes on the Governance website; the Secretary outlined the issues experienced following a University wide transfer of material from public facing websites to the staff intranet and agreed to liaise with Information Services on an estimate of a likely date for resolution.

5551 Matters Arising

The action log, **C2022/044** was noted.

[confidential]

5552 Vice Chancellor and President's Communications

Council noted a verbal update from the Vice Chancellor on

- Cost of living impact on students
- Higher Education Freedom of Speech Bill
- Industrial Action
- USS pensions evaluation
- Horizon Europe
- Staff wellbeing.

[confidential]

5553 Strategic Plan progress report

Council noted **Paper C2022/045**, the Strategic Plan progress report.

[confidential]

Council **agreed** to adopt the new reporting format.

5554 Current Performance

Council noted **Paper C2022/046**, the Performance Dashboard report.

[confidential]

5555 KPI Deep Dive: Sustainability – Size and Shape

Council noted **Paper C2022/047** on Student Recruitment and Continuation.

[Commercial in confidence]

The Secretary reported that in terms of decision-making the Standing Orders require 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.

5556 University of Kent International College

Council noted **Paper C2022/048**, a proposal to enter into a joint venture with Oxford International Education Group (OIEG).

[confidential]

The Finance & Resources Committee recommended to Council the proposed collaboration and joint venture with OIEG to establish the University of Kent International College.

Council were also asked to consent to the following delegated authority for the approval of any final changes to the Collaboration Agreement to the Vice Chancellor and either the Chair of Council or the Deputy Chair of Council/Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee, and for the relevant University Officers to execute the final agreement as a deed on the behalf of the University.

Council **approved** the proposed collaboration and joint venture Oxford International Education Group (OIEG) and agreed to consent to the delegation authority for approval as outlined subject to written consent from absent Lay Members.

Post-meeting update:

Written approvals have been received from: Colin Carmichael and Neil Davies.

5557 Annual Report on Appeals and Complaints

Council noted **Paper C2022/049**, the Annual Report on Appeals and Complaints.

[confidential]

Council discussed the nature of the complaints, relevant learning and subsequent recommendations.

5558 Any Other Business

No further items of business were raised.

There being no further business, The Deputy Chair thanked those present for their contributions to the discussion and closed the meeting.

ITEMS BELOW THE LINE

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

- **Paper C2022/050** Minutes of People Committee meeting of 19 January 2023
- **Paper C2022/051** Report of Remuneration Committee meeting of 20 January 2023
- **Paper C2022/052** Minutes of the meeting of the Redundancy Review Committee of 7 February 2023
- Minutes of the Audit Committee meetings
 - **C2022/053** 22 November 2022 (*a joint meeting with FRC*)
 - **C2022/054** 6 December 2022
- Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meetings
 - **C2022/055** 22 November 2022 (*a joint meeting with AC*)
 - **C2022/056** 6 December 2022
 - **C2022/057** 6 February 2023
- **Paper C2022/058** Council Forward Programme 2022/23

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).