

**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 18 May 2023  
Darwin Boardroom**

**Present:** The Chair of Council, Dame Ursula Brennan; The Deputy Chair of Council and Chair of Finance & Resources Committee, Andrew Newell; The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karen Cox; Xian Chan; Michael Crick; Neil Davies; Mayuri Lakhani, Kim Lowe; Gabriel MacGregor; Mark Preston; Professor Richard Reece, Deputy Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (ESE); Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy and Planning (S&P); Zaid Mahmood, President Kent Union; Ben Bradley, Vice President Postgraduate Experience; Mima Osmani, Student Representative; Dr Will Norman, Academic Staff Representative; Alex Perkins, Non-Academic Staff Representative; Professor Iain Wilkinson, Academic Staff Representative.

**In attendance:** Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation (R&I) (Professor Shane Weller), Chief Financial Officer (Jane Higham); Financial Sustainability Director (Peter Pentecost); Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to the Council) (Dr Sinéad Critchley); Head of Secretariat (Natasha Neill); Catherine Morris, Environmental Sustainability Manager (for item 10 only).

**Apologies for absence:**

Colin Carmichael, Daniel Cook and Chris Barron.

**5572 Chair's Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted apologies for absence had been received from Colin Carmichael, Daniel Cook and Chris Barron and highlighted the confidential nature of the items due for discussion.

The Chair confirmed that due to the apologies received, the meeting was not quorate as the Standing Orders required a lay majority to be present. Council would therefore be asked to approve items on the agenda in principle, subject to written confirmation of approval from lay members who were not present at the meeting.

No new declarations of interest were noted.

**5573 Minutes for approval**

**Paper C2022/075**, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2023 were approved.

**5574 Matters Arising**

**C2022/076 Action Log** was noted, with all actions recommended to close confirmed by Council.

The CFO updated Council that regarding action 5564, the meeting to discuss the digital transformation KPI had been postponed due to a last minute scheduling conflict, but an alternative date was due to be confirmed shortly.

## 5575 Communications from the Chair

The Chair highlighted **Paper C2022/077**.

**[confidential]**

**Council RATIFIED the resolution.**

*Post-meeting update:*

*Written ratification was received from Daniel Cook and Colin Carmichael.*

## 5576 Vice Chancellor and President's Communications

Council noted a verbal update from the Vice Chancellor on

- House of Lords inquiry regarding the Office for Students
- Lifelong Learning Bill
- Higher Education Freedom of Speech Act
- Economic impact of international students
- Financial sustainability of Higher Education
- Local elections at Medway and Canterbury Council
- Opening of Kent Medical School
- Financial update
- Closure of Brussels School of International Studies
- Industrial action

**[confidential]**

## 5577 Strategic Plan and Current Performance Dashboard report

The DVC S&P presented **Paper C20222/078**, the Dashboard report which was noted by Council.

**[confidential]**

Council **APPROVED** the formation of a Sub Group formed of the Chair of Council, Chair of Audit Committee and Chair of Finance and Resources Committee **[confidential]**.

*Post meeting update:*

*Written approval was received from Daniel Cook and Colin Carmichael.*

## 5578 KPI Deep Dive: Research & Innovation: REF2028; Income; Citations

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation introduced **Paper C2022/079** and provided a short presentation which was noted by Council.

**[confidential]**

*The DVC R&I left the meeting.*

*Catherine Morris, Environmental Sustainability Manager, joined the meeting.*

#### **5579 Sustainability Annual Report**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience was joined by the Environmental Sustainability Manager in introducing **Paper C2022/080** and providing a short presentation on the first sustainability annual report.

**[confidential]**

Council noted their thanks for an engaging and captivating presentation and the fantastic work identified within the report.

*Catherine Morris, Environmental Sustainability Manager, and DVC ESE left the meeting.*

#### **5580 Appointment of the Chancellor**

The VC presented **Paper C2022/081**, on the establishment of a Joint Committee of Council and Senate to support the appointment of the next Chancellor.

**[confidential]**

Council **APPROVED** the formation of the Joint Committee of Council and Senate.

Council also noted their thanks for all that the current Chancellor had achieved during his tenure.

*Post meeting update:*

*Written approval was received from Daniel Cook and Colin Carmichael.*

#### **5581 Election procedures**

The Director of Governance and Assurance presented **Paper C2022/082**, on the procedures for the election of staff members to Council and Sub-Committees. The paper was noted by Council and following discussion, it was agreed that the document would be revised and recirculated for approval.

**[confidential]**

#### **5582 Any Other Business**

No further items of business were raised.

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

#### **5583 Dates of Future Meetings**

The dates of future meetings were noted as

- 28 June 2023, 2-5pm

With the forthcoming meetings in academic session 2023/24

- Friday 6 October 2023, 2-5pm
- Tuesday 28 November 2023, 2-5pm
- *Friday 15 December 2023, 2-5pm (if required)*
- Thursday 25 January 2024, 10am-4pm
- Friday 22 March 2024, 2-5pm
- Friday 17 May 2024, 2-5pm
- Friday 28 June 2024, 2-5pm

#### **5584 Below the Line items**

**Paper C2022/083** Recommendations of Lay Nominations Committee were approved.

**Paper C2022/084** Minutes of the meeting of the Redundancy Review Committee of 13 April 2023 were noted.

**Paper C2022/085** Revised Terms of Reference for People Committee were approved.

**Paper C2022/086** Council Forward Programme 2022/23 was noted.

*Written approval was received from Daniel Cook and Colin Carmichael.*

#### **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](mailto:S.Critchley-2002@kent.ac.uk)).