

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Thursday, 23 March 2023

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Author:	Ms Alison Jones, University Secretary, 17 April 2023
Present:	Mr Jonathan Thornton (Chair), Mr Ajaz Ahmed, Mr Bernard Ainsworth, Miss Millie Avery, Professor Hazel Bryan, Mr Robert Cox, Professor Bob Cryan, Mr Mark Fisher, Mrs Virginia Lloyd, Mrs Clare Morrow, Baroness Kathryn Pinnock, Professor Isobel Pollock-Hulf, Professor Tim Thornton
In attendance:	Dr Laura Chambers, Ms Lydia Devenny, His Excellency the British Ambassador to Bahrain Mr Roderick Drummond (for item 2), Ms Alison Jones, Dr Nick Lancaster (for item 10)
Apologies:	Mr Rhys Davies, Reverend Professor Jessica Malay, Mr Krish Pilicudale

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

PAPER REFERENCE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 There were no declarations of interest.

2. MAJOR ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

[REDACTED]

Verbal report

2.1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.4



3. MINUTES

3.1 **Resolved:** that the following be accepted as a correct record:

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- The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022, including the confidential supplement.
- The minutes of the special meeting held on 27 January 2023, including the confidential supplement.
- The notes from the University Council Strategy Away Day held on 23 February 2023.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

5.1 The Chair had no items of business to raise.

6. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS

Presentation

6.1 The Vice-Chancellor updated members on a wide range of news from around the University, including:

- The University has achieved a silver award and been ranked within the top 100 Employers for the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2023.
- Film lecturer Obi Emelonye has received an honorary award at the 2022 British Urban Film Festival awards.
- The Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services has awarded the President's Medal to the University's Dr Bob Gilworth for his outstanding contribution to the careers and employability profession.
- An acclaimed book on the evolution of heavy music from the 1960s onwards by Journalism lecturer John Moores has been longlisted for the prestigious Penderyn Music Prize.
- Matthew Cain has been named a Queen's Nurse, one of the highest accolades available to the profession in this country.
- A roadmap for carbon reduction in the tertiary education sector, alongside an innovative framework for sector-wide carbon reporting, has been released by The Royal Anniversary Trust following a year-long research project with the University and other higher and further education institutions from across the UK.
- Dr Tory Milner (School of Applied Sciences) and Dr John Lever (Huddersfield Business School) have secured a grant of £58,000 from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to fund a PhD student to assist with research on restoring peatlands in the River Holme catchment.
- A careers guide to Kirklees' Top 100 Companies was officially launched at an event held at the University's 3M Buckley Innovation Centre (3M BIC).
- Dr Nicola Gray, a Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, is leading the University's input into the UNESCO Chair 'Global Health and Education' for the period 2022-2026, which is working to improve the health of children and young people through creative collaborations between health and education professionals.

- Third- and final-year Podiatry students have been helping some of the most vulnerable people in the local area by giving free foot care sessions at the Huddersfield Mission.
- Geoff McFarland, a former director of the leading British engineering company Renishaw, has been appointed a professor at the University of Huddersfield, working part-time with the Centre for Precision Technologies (CPT) to develop disruptive technologies and accelerate their applications with industry.
- Holocaust Centre North has been awarded funding of nearly £300,000 for its Homeward Bound project that will enable it to preserve digitally and expand its collection to 10,000 items.



- Latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency showed that the University of Huddersfield had maintained its outstanding reputation for investing in the quality and qualifications of its staff. The University was now in the top three in England for each of the proportion of staff with teaching qualifications, higher degrees and doctorates.

6.2 The Vice-Chancellor went on to brief members on the recent University pay offer from the Universities and Colleges Employers Association, and the associated impact on University finances. The final pay offer for 2023/24 of between 5% and 8% for staff would be implemented between February and August 2023.*

7. UNIVERSITY SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

7.1 The University Secretary briefed members on a range of governance matters which had been considered by the Governance and Membership Committee (GMC) at its meeting on 7 February 2023, including:

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- An update on progress made on completing the actions identified in the governance action plan.
- Discussion around reducing the size of Council and the potential impact this would have on Committee membership.
- An update on progressing options for a new University Council member with expertise in Human Resources.
- A briefing on Office for Students compliance matters, specifically on suicide-safer universities. A future Council Strategy Day would include a session on matters of compliance related to student suicide, sexual harassment, and broader issues concerning Prevent and Freedom of Speech.
- The application of the University Seal since the last meeting.

7.2 University Council resolved to **approve** one nomination for an honorary award as recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee and Senate.* Members were asked to keep the name of this nominee strictly confidential until formally announced by the University.

The Director of Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (RIKE) joined the meeting. The following item was taken out of order of the agenda.

INNOVATIVE

10. UPDATE ON RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ACTIVITY

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10.1 The Director of RIKE briefed members on recent research, innovation and knowledge exchange activity, including:

- A summary of the University's Research Excellence Framework 2021 performance.
- The latest Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey, and the demonstrable increases in research funding across various income streams.
- The allocation of University Research Fund monies to support early-stage research that, in turn, was used to generate further research outputs and income.
- An account of Impact Accelerator Account income, predominantly used to pump-prime further research and knowledge exchange activity.
- An overview of knowledge transfer partnership activity.
- An overview of additional business partnerships and intellectual property commercialisation opportunities.
- A summary of recent public engagement events associated with innovation and knowledge exchange, including contributing to the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival and hosting the launch event for the Kirklees Top 100 Companies.
- The allocation of International Research Fund monies to facilitate the development of partnerships with international organisations as part of the University's ambition to be within the top 300 Times and QS World ranked institutions.

10.2 Members thanked the Director of RIKE for the comprehensive summary, and congratulated the RIKE team and Executive for the range of activity in progress and the varied means of generating resources.

The Director of RIKE left the meeting.

INSPIRING:

8. STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

8.1 The Huddersfield Students' Union (HSU) President updated members on a range of SU activities, including:

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- A varied programme of student engagement activity, such as the Welcome Week held in January for new starters and the increasing variety of activities available for students throughout the year.
- Fundraising and community engagement by student groups, including raising £3,500 for the disaster appeal following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and working closely with the Canal and River Trust.
- The success of the University's sports teams, and the final planning arrangements for this year's Varsity competition on 26 April (hosted by the Huddersfield Students' Union).
- Development work for student course representatives.

- The outcomes of the annual elections for the Union's Sabbatical Officers. A report on the conduct of the elections would be considered at the June meeting of Governance and Membership Committee.
- The establishment of focus groups focusing on mental health across the campus, the outcomes of which would be fed into the development of the University's Mental Health Charter. This had included engagement with postgraduate research and international students.

8.2 Members congratulated the HSU for its continued commitment in providing students with a wide range of support and activities, and commended the partnership work between the HSU and University on the University Mental Health Charter.

9. DEGREE OUTCOMES STATEMENT

9.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reminded members of the University's responsibility to publish an annual degree outcomes statement. This provided a summary of the overall trends in awards made, outlined the regulations and policies in place that were used to protect the University's degree standards, and noted any subsequent actions needed to address any challenges identified. The report highlighted that there was a modest increase overall in the number of good degrees awarded, with teaching excellence being evidenced through awards such as the number of Global Teaching Excellence Awards, and of National Teaching Fellowships presented to academic staff at the University in recognition of their efforts.

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9.2 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor stated that targeted support was offered to specific population groups in response to attainment gaps, and this project had resulted in a marked closure of the gap between different demographic groups (particular for BAME students). The success of this project had been recognised nationally by a *Times Higher* award, and members congratulated the Executive on the outcomes of this work.

9.3 In response to member queries, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor confirmed that, based on 2021/22 data (the latest available), the University was broadly in line with the rest of the sector for the number of good degrees awarded.

9.4 Members commented that the report contained some technical detail that may be difficult for prospective and current students to understand. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor explained that the report had to cover the requirements of the Office for Students but nonetheless would review the report to simplify some of the detail included. University Council **approved** the statement, subject to this amendment.

GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY:

11. HOME AND INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS, ENROLMENTS AND RETENTION

11.1 University Council received an update on the latest applications, enrolments and retention figures for Home and International students from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

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[REDACTED]

11.2

[REDACTED]

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

12.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor presented the revised Corporate Risk Register, which had been discussed extensively and challenged by both the Senior Leadership Team and by Audit Committee. Members were informed of the proposed revisions made to the Inspiring, International, and Growth and Efficiency themes of the Register [REDACTED] and resolved to **approve** the 2023 Risk Register as recommended by Audit Committee. UC_2023_03_23_P12

12.2 University Council noted that a statement of risk appetite was being developed in line with the recommendations from the recent governance effectiveness review. This would be considered by Audit Committee prior to seeking final approval at the July meeting of University Council. The University Secretary reported that the next Council meeting would also include consideration of a revised Scheme of Delegation, which would enable members to reflect further upon current arrangements for the delegation of compliance and governance matters to University Council committees.

12.3 Members discussed the current arrangements for monitoring the Corporate Risk Register. It was agreed that the current reporting structures were sufficient, with additional detail to be provided through the minutes of Audit Committee.

13. FINANCIAL REPORT

13.1 University Council received the latest set of management accounts for the period to 31 January 2023 (as received at Estates and Finance Committee on 3 March 2022), and the Director of Finance provided members with an update on the University's financial performance.* UC_2023_03_23_P13

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS:

14. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

14.1 Members received the schedule of University Council committee dates for 2023/24, noting that the proposed dates for the two Strategy Days would be confirmed as soon as possible. UC_2023_03_23_P14

15. COMMITTEE MINUTES

15.1 The minutes of the following meetings were noted:

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Audit Committee, 2 March 2023

Estates and Finance Committee, 3 March 2023

Governance and Membership Committee, 7 February 2023

A summary of the Senate meeting held on 8 March 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS:

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 There were no further items of business.

17. AVAILABILITY OF AGENDA, PAPERS AND MINUTES

17.1 **Resolved:** to exclude the following papers from the open version under Standing order 11.8:

Agenda item 2	Update on Matters Linked to University Business in Bahrain	UC_2023_03_23_P2
Agenda item 6	Vice-Chancellor's Business	UC_2023_03_23_P6
Agenda item 7	University Secretary's Business	UC_2023_03_23_P7
Agenda item 10	Update on Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Activity	UC_2023_03_23_P10
Agenda item 11	Home and International Applications, Enrolments and Retention	UC_2023_03_23_P11
Agenda item 12	Risk Management	UC_2023_03_23_P12
Agenda item 13	Financial Report	UC_2023_03_23_P13

18. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, 6 July 2023 at 13:00 in the McClelland Suite, Schwann Building.

(* = Further details in the Confidential Supplement to these minutes, excluded under Standing Order 11.8)