



Minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2024

COUN24-M1

Attendance

Christine Hodgson

Kerri Akiwowo
Penny Briscoe
Graham Corfield (ab)
Andrea Davis
Tarek Hassan
Naomi Hudson
Matthew Inglis

Nick Jennings
Chris Linton
Jennifer Maxwell-Harris
Nicky Morgan
Emma Nadin
Molly Page
David Price
Surinder Sharma

John Sinnott
Luke Stott
Paul Taylor
Mark Thurston
Mike Wedderburn
Georgia Whelan
Sheryl Williams

In attendance: Jo Maher; Alex Owen; Dan Parsons; Richard Taylor; Rachel Thomson;
Luke Vulpiani

Apologies received from: Graham Corfield

24/1 Declaration of Interests

Nicky Morgan declared that her position as a director

rising

iversity and Inclusion Core Plan that was expected to come to Council in March is
in June.

Council members have been sent an online questionnaire for the Effectiveness Review which they are asked to complete as their input to the review is essential.

24/3 Chair's Report

Item 20 on the agenda, Ordinance XXXV – Staff Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, had been unstarred following a request from a member of Council.

SECTION A – Items for Discussion

24/4 University Finances

COUN24-P1

4.1 Financial Update

COUN24-P1

Council **CONSIDERED** the current financial position for the 2023/24 financial year and **APPROVED** the Q3 forecast based on the recommendation of Finance Committee.

Council noted that not having more than two years of consecutive deficits was a Council KPI but also central to the institution's financial sustainability and the fulfilment of Council's fiduciary duties.

Council considered current student recruitment, marketing activities and resource allocation. Home recruitment remains strong, with falls in international students across the Higher Education sector, although this is nuanced by country and there are some signs of recovery in Chinese market. The first year of the Private Pathway Provider at Loughborough has provided more than 200 international students on campus and it is expected 90% will become undergraduate students.

A new marketing campaign will be launched at the end of March 2024 focussed on raising the University's global profile through advertising, digital content and media coverage. The campaign will target a range of audiences, including academics, employers, policymakers and prospective postgraduate students, to encourage them to study, partner or work with Loughborough.

Council asked the University to report to Council on the University's Marketing Strategy and how this translates into student numbers.

4.1 Financial Sustainability Update

COUN24-P1a

Council **CONSIDERED** matters arising from financial sustainability considerations in the context of a decline in international students across the Higher Education Sector, alongside flat tuition fees for home undergraduates and a rising cost base.

Investment in the Strategy's Core Plans were due in-part to be funded by an increase in international students. Loughborough has significant cash reserves, which creates a stable basis for planning future sustainability. Cash reserve holding levels are considered by Finance Committee in order to ensure appropriate levels are maintained. There may be opportunities as1.39 0 To

Project Workplace; Project Digital; and Project Reputation. An additional enabling activity is themed on 'Reimagining the Research and Innovation Office'.

To date the Enabling Programme and related projects have been overseen by the Change Portfolio Board which has now been decommissioned. The Programmes will now report to the new Strategic Portfolio & Resources Committee (SPaRC), which will replace Operations Committee and have oversight of the Strategy Core Plans to ensure that all strategic change activity is considered together.

24/10 Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Recruitment

COUN24-P7

Council **RECEIVED** Cor4 (o)1a(c)4 n d htcd,(egi) (hat)1 e Seds ttrtshathi

24/12 Governance and Nominations Committee**12.1 Council Effectiveness Review****COUN24-P8**

Council **CONSIDERED** an update on the 2024 Effectiveness Review of Council.

The Effectiveness Review of Council Working Group met for the first time on 07 March to agree

13.2 Health, Safety and Environment Update

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on 06 February 2024.

The formal KPI rating remained green with no major updates needing to be reported to Council. The Water Management and Fire Safety Management risk are being actively managed and closely monitored.

24/14 University Honorary Degrees and Medals

COUN24

SECTION C – Starred Items for Information

24/21 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor Reports

Council **RECEIVED** the following reports:

21.1 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) COUNtact #JEMC /Artif3 Tw 9.II ri

