



Minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2024

COUN24-M2

Attendance

Christine Hodgson

Kerri Akiwowo
Penny Briscoe
Graham Corfield
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 (ab)
Mark Thurston
Mike Wedderburn
Georgia Whelan
Sheryl Williams

In attendance: James Henry (item 24/32 only); Jo Maher; Veronica Moore (item 24/36 only);
Jennifer Nutkins; Alex Owen (item 24/32 only); Dan Parsons; Richard Taylor;
Rachel Thomson; Luke Vulpiani

Apologies received from: Paul Taylor

24/29 Declaration of Interests

John Sinnott declared an interest in items relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme, for which Leicestershire County Council is the administering authority; LUSEP in which the Council has invested; and East Midlands Freeport for which the Council is the accountable body.

24/30 Minutes & Matters Arising

30.1 Minutes

COUN24-M2

Council **CONFIRMED** the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2024.

24/33 Higher Education External Environment

COUN24-P37

Council **CONSIDERED** an update on the external environment in which the University operates and particularly noted the points below.

A recent report on Higher Education finances by the Office for Students indicated a deteriorating financial position for the sector. Over 60 University currently have some form of severance scheme and

24/35 Sporting Excellence and Opportunity Core Plan

COUN24-P39

Council **APPROVED** the Sporting Excellence and Opportunity Core Plan.

The focus of the Core Plan is on leveraging Loughborough's excellence in sport to benefit the whole organisation. Sport, Health, Wellbeing is a separate strategic theme, however, there will be crossover with the Sporting Excellence and Opportunity Core Plan. The Core Plan board will own the KPIs, which will be reported to the Strategic Portfolio and Resources Committee and then to Council.

The Core Plan is themed around five strategic priorities: ecosystem, environmental sustainability, women's sport, para sport and disability sport, and the power of AI and digital. The five strategic priorities each have a corresponding vision and key performance indicator, which provides a focus for the key actions that the University will undertake and its measures of success.

The Core Plan's focus on Para and Disability Sport could be used as a driver to help make campus more disability-accessible. Work is currently being undertaken to ensure student accommodation has fully-accessible disability rooms and there are opportunities to take a fabric-first approach to new builds for disabled access.

The Core Plan seeks to leverage support to increase commercial income and provide a driver to deliver world leading research. There are significant opportunities in women's sport and women's health, which are currently underrepresented in global sport education and research. There are also opportunities in public health and working with the NHS, as well as making women's sport more inclusive by involving different communities.

other objectives in the Core Plan and as data collection and analysis is improved targets and KPIs will be revised in a phased way. Council asked about social mobility and socio-economic diversity, which is not a current area of focus. The Core Plan aligns with the University's Access and Participation Plan for students which sets out how the University will improve opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed and progress from Higher Education.

Council asked for assurance that there is appropriate resourcing of the EDI Core Plan. The executive is confident that there are appropriate resources, including human resource, to deliver the Plan. It was noted that Staff Networks have played an important role in supporting EDI to date and that these roles are voluntary and require support to be sustainable. The Plan creates formal EDI leadership roles for each Academic School and Professional Service with agreed selection processes, role titles, roles descriptors and (where appropriate) workload allocation.

Council thanked all those who had worked on the revised Core Plan, particularly Veronica Moore and Surinder Sharma.

24/37 International Opportunities for Sport Education in Saudi Arabia

COUN24-P41

Council **CONSIDERED** and **COMMENTED** on the progress to date and **ENDORSED** the development of a full business case for consideration in the autumn.

Council's consideration of the matter noted the following:

An extraordinary meeting of General Assembly called by the Vice-Chancellor to discuss potential opportunities in KSA was held on 6 June 2024. As part of this meeting, a UCU resolution not supportive of an in-country presence in KSA had been voted on, supported, and was submitted to Council under General Assembly's powers in Statute XV.5.

Senate had considered the item on 12 June and after discussion and a vote (Yes: 29, No: 6, Did Not Vote: 6) had endorsed the development of a full business case for further consideration.

As noted in the Chair's verbal report, a letter from some Staff Networks raising concerns about a potential partnership in Saudi Arabia had been circulated to Council members. It was noted that some people with some protected characteristics had particularly expressed reservations about a potential partnership.

There are different operational models under consideration and a concrete proposal was still to be developed. Loughborough is not intending to make any significant capital investment and will retain control over academic quality and standards.

There have been a number of ministerial visits from different parties, discussing various issues including sport, research in the region and University funding.

SECTION B – Starred Items for Approval

24/44 *Loughborough Students' Union

44.1 *Annual Report

COUN24-P

24/46 *Joint Committee for Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience**COUN24-P50**

Councill **APPROVED** a Joint Committee for the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience.

24/47 *Access and Participation Plan**COUN24-P51**

Council **APPROVED** the Access and Participation Plan.

24/48 *Student Complaints Annual Report**COUN24-P52**

Council **APPROVED** the Student Complaints Annual Report 2022/23.

24/49 *Sport Committee Composition and Terms of Reference**COUN24-P53**

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24/53 *Ordinance XXV – Honorary Titles

COUN24-P57

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XXV – Honorary Titles. Second Hearing.

24/54 *Ordinance XLIII –

Professor Lauren Sherar as Acting Dean of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences from 1 August 2024, until a full, external selection process is completed during the 2024-25 academic year.

24/59 *Office for Students

59.1 Prevent Duty

COUN24-P64

Council **NOTED** that the Office for Students has concluded the 2022/23 process for monitoring the University's compliance with its Prevent duties.

59.2 Reportable Events

COUN24-P65

Council **NOTED** that there have been no reportable incidents since the last meeting of Council and no events which needed to be considered if it qualified as a reportable event.

24/60 *Annual Report on Philanthropy

COUN24-P66

Council **RECEIVED** the annual report on Philanthropy.

24/61 *Capital and Work Progress Report 2023/24 (k)ng 12 0 0m P Fr6 444.004 Pi Re38rt

COUN24-P74	Infrastructure Committee – 17 April 2024
COUN24-P75	Strategic Portfolio and Resources Committee (Operations Committee) – 11 March 2024, 09 April 2024 and 29 April 2024
COUN24-P76	Remuneration Committee – 21 March 2024
COUN24-P77	Research and Innovation Committee – 23 April and 03 June 2024
COUN24-P78	Senate – 13 March 2024

24/64 Any Other Business

The Chair thanked John Sinnott, Chris Linton, Molly Page and Georgia Whelan whose terms of office as Council members were finishing.

24/65 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 17 October 2024, all-day, Away Day, Loughborough University London

Future Meetings

Thursday 21 November 2024, 9:00-12:00, Online

Thursday 27 March 2025, 9:00-12:00, Loughborough University London

Thursday 03 July 2025, 14:00-17:00, Loughborough Campus