

Minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2023

COUN23-M2

Attendance

Christine Hodgson

Kerri Akiwowo

Naomi Hudson

David Price

The Strategy is making a difference by building infrastructure and strengthening areas where the institution had scope for development. Recent investment has focussed on the Research and Innovation Office and the appointment of a Director of Global Engagement to support the internationalisation theme.

Six Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellors have been appointed from existing staff to support the three strategic themes. Several regional envoys have also been appointed to support the internationalisation theme.

A Project Management Board has been constituted for the strategic recruitment of academic staff, budgeted for a 5-year period. Increasing the current number of academic staff will support the future Research Excellence Framework and support underrepresented groups at the early stages of their academic career.

The Strategy's achievements are listed in the paper and are being communicated proactively through termly meetings of General Assembly, which will operate as townhalls for all staff. Work is also being undertaken on communicating the Strategy digitally.

A member of Council commended Project Expectations on changes to the Performance Development and Review appraisal process which had brought significant and tangible benefits to staff and made the process more accessible.

28.2 Partnerships Core Plan

COUN23-P33

Council **APPROVED** the Partnerships Core Plan.

Council **APPROVED**

The Students' Union asked to be included in discussions about potential partners so that the student view can be taken into account.

28.3 Key Performance Indicators

COUN23-P34

Council **RECEIVED** an update on Key Performance Indicators.

The KPI framework remains transitory as the Core Plans are developed and come on stream.

The June update to Council constitutes a minor technical update, including adding the KPIs for the Education and Student Experience Core Plan. The target for Carbon Emission Reduction has been edited to provide differential targets for Scope 1 & 2 (Net Zero by 2035) and Scope 3 (Net Zero by 2045). Annualised targets are yet to be set.

Council will receive a major KPI update in November 2023 which will include the addition of the remaining core plans, data updates and confirmation of the underpinning support measures, particularly financial and staff.

Council asked that KPIs should be precise and measurable. It was noted that the Education and Student Experience KPIs are supported by a basket of metrics, including data from the Teaching Excellence Framework, in order to provide assurance to Council.

23/29 Finance

29.1 Financial update 2022/23 and budget for 2023/24

COUN23-P35A

Council **RECEIVED** a financial update for 2022/23.

Council **APPROV**

recommending its approval to Council. If there are no material changes the budget will not come back to Council, if there are material changes the budget will come back to Council.

29.2 Financial Strategy and KPIs

COUN23-P35B

Council **APPROVED** the revised Financial Strategy and KPIs based on the recommendation from Finance Committee.

The Financial Strategy has been developed to support the University Strategy but must also comply with regulatory and funder requirements.

Under the Financial Strategy the Chief Financial Officer will be required to provide a robust, solvent and sustainable financial position that supports ongoing activities and makes provision for continued investment in excellence, within the constraints imposed by funding uncertainty and a difficult macroeconomic climate.

30.2 Office for Students Regulatory Compliance

COUN23-P37

Council **RECEIVED** assurance on the University's compliance with its Office for Students regulatory duties.

The Chief Operating Officer reported that all conditions of registration are rated green and that there is currently minimal risk of the University breaching any of the conditions. For Condition A1, most, but not all, targets in the Access and Participation Plan for 2021-22 were met.

For the B Conditions related to quality and standards, Council will receive a paper in November outlining the processes for the assurance of academic quality and standards.

There are two significant expected future regulatory conditions:

- i. Freedom of Speech – new legislation has been passed and a Freedom of Speech Czar appointed by the government. Loughborough will review policies and procedures as appropriate in light of the new legislation.
- ii. Sexual harassment – it is not expected that this should cause any significant issues and Loughborough remains committed to dealing with any reports through its disciplinary procedures.

The results of the National Student Survey will be released in August.

The Office for Students has recently taken on the role of designated quality body for Higher Education after the Quality Assurance Agency withdrew from the role.

23/31 Effectiveness Review of Senate

COUN23-P38

Council **CONSIDERED** a report on the Effectiveness Review of Senate...

Professor Steve Christie, Chair of the Senate Effectiveness Review working group, reported on the outcomes and recommendations of the Effectiveness Review, particularly as they were relevant to Council.

Senate is the sovereign body for academic matters. The responsibility of Council is to assure itself that there are measures in place to secure academic quality and standards.

Council receives assurance on academic standards in November each year and will receive a detailed document in November 2023 related to the Office for Students conditions of registration and how council can take assurance on academic matters.

Every meeting of Council receives a report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience with an update on matters relating to academic standards, which also provides assurance for Council.

The Senate Effectiveness Review highlighted that lay member of Council would welcome more information about how academic standards are assured. It was agreed that Council induction would be reviewed to ensure lay members were briefed on the assurance of academic standards when assuming their role.

Some Council members had visited Schools prior to this meeting of Council and this had been a valuable experience. It was suggested a School visit could be incorporated into the standard induction process for lay members.

23/32 Governance & Nominations Committee

32.1 Appointment of new lay member.

COUN23-P39

Council **APPROVED**, on the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, the appointment of Mark Thurston as a new lay member of Council from 01 August 2023. Mark will also be a member of Infrastructure Committee.

*32.2 Finance Committee Lay Composition .

COUN23-P40

Council **APPROVED** a change to the lay composition of Finance Committee; one of the existing Council lay seats will be replaced with a non-Council lay seat.

23/33 Health, Safety and Environment

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Provost on the meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on 17 May 2023.

23/35 Matters for Report by the Vice-Chancellor

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor who reported the following items:

Jo Maher has been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sport. Jo is currently principle of Loughborough College and has significant experience in sport, including working with the Women's Football Association.

A number of other new appointments have been made, including a Commercial Director, Director of Sport and Director of the Research and Innovation Office.

The Vice-Chancellor visited the Middle East - including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the Emirates - meeting universities, government department, trade commissioners, ambassadors and others. There are opportunities for Loughborough in these territories, particularly in terms of sports leadership and sports governance.

The Vice-Chancellor will visit China later in year.

Loughborough has had success in recent University Guides:

- In the Complete University Guide 2024 Loughborough was ranked seventh in the UK and the top University in the Midlands.
- In the QS rankings Loughborough has attained its highest ever ranking of 212 and is close to meeting the KPI of being top 200 in the QS.
- In the THE Impact Rankings Loughborough was top in the UK and 15th globally for Sustainable Development Goal 7 - Affordable & Clean Energy, and top 10 in the UK and 61st in the world for Sustainable Development Goal 8 - Inclusive and Sustainable

23/38 *Ethical Policy Framework**COUN23-P44**

Council **APPROVED** the updated Ethical Policy Framework for 2023/24.

23/39 *Ordinance VIII Composition and Election of Academic Staff to Council (first hearing)**COUN23-P45**

Council **APPROVED** an amendment to Ordinance VIII relating to the Composition and Election of Academic Staff members to Council.

23/40 *Ordinance (r)7J -0.u -1.73 Td D 28 >>BD31.73 Td D 28 >>BD31.73 Td D42 /TT1 aPP3 (

42.2 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)

COUN23-P50

42.3 *Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation)

COUN23-P51

23/43 *Office for Students

43.1 Prevent Duty

COUN23-P52

Council **NOTED** that the Office for Students has concluded the 2021/22 process for monitoring the University's compliance with its Prevent duties..

