

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Minute of the 109th Annual Meeting of Court
Friday 7 December 2018

Sir Paul Nurse FRS (Chancellor)

Professor H Brady (Vice-Chancellor), Mr D Burn (Chair of the Board of Trustees), Professor N Canagarajah (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Professor Richard Hodder Williams (Pro-Chancellor), Dr R Holmes (Pro-Chancellor), Professor J Iredale (Pro Vice-Chancellor) Dr E Lithander (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Professor G Orpen (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Mr A Poolman (Treasurer), Mrs M Prior (Pro-Chancellor), Ms L Robinson (Acting Registrar), Professor J Squires (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Mr J Sutherland (Clerk)

Prof J Adams	Dr D Damen	Mr M Liversidge
Dr E Albone	Cllr C Davies	Mr R Logan
Dr A Alkharusi	Mr C Didcote	Prof A Lopez Bernal
Dr M Allinson	Dr H Donoghue	Dr M Lunnon
Mr G Ash	Dr R Dufton	M B Mac Ruairi
Ms K Ashley	Mr R Ellis	Prof G Macdonald
Mr M Ashmead	Prof S Ellwood	Prof J Marklof
Mr M Austin	Ms S Emerson	Mr D Marsh
Ms N Ayub	Prof R Evans	Ms N McCabe
Dr K Barnard	Mr S Face	Mr T Metcalfe
Mr J Barnbrook	Dr N Farwell	Ms S Milestone
Professor S Barnes	Prof R Flecker	Dr T Mitchell
Miss R Barry	Prof B Foster	Mr G Mullan
Dr E Beech	Mr A Franks	Prof I Nabney
Prof Sir M Berry	Colonel J Frere	Cllr A Negus
Mr S Biswas	Dr A Ganapathy	Prof D Newbery
Mrs A Bradford	Cllr B Garner	Prof A Nix
Mr C Brasnett	Prof J Golding	Sir P Norris
Mrs J Bridgwater	Dr S Goldsmith	Mr S O'Connor
Prof P Broadfoot	Mrs J Goldstein	Ms A O'Grady
Prof J Bryce	Dr S Gray	Prof R Pancost
Ms C Buchanan	Prof C Grierson	Prof C Pantazis
Mrs S Budd	Mr R Griffiths	Mr A Parsons
Mr C Burns	Mr C Gunter	Prof M Partington
Mr S Chadwick	Mr M Halani	Miss S Paterson
Mr C Chapman	Dr M Hamlin	Ms S Patterson
Mr S Chapman	Prof P Henderson	Dr H Phillips
Prof M Cini	Dr I Hers	Mr J Phillips
Cllr J Clark	Prof S Heslop	Prof B Pickering
Dr S Clarke	Prof R Hodder-Williams	Mr R Piper
Prof D Clarke	Dr R Holmes	Prof P Powell
Mr D Clarke	Dr J Howarth	Dr S Quadflieg
Dr A Cole	Miss A Howden-Richards	Mr C Quinlan
Dr A Coles	Ms K Humphries	Dr A Raffel
Miss J Cook	Prof P Ireland	Mr S Ramsden
Ms P Coonerty	Dr B Ivo-Cruz	Prof R Richardson
Mr S Cooper	Mr M Jeans	Mr R Rossington
Mr R Cowap	Mr R Kerse	Mr A Scott
Mr S Crew	Dr J Khawaja	Cllr I Scott
Mx J Cross	Prof U King	Mr C Scowen
	Prof A Linthorst	Mr B Shipp

Ms N Smith
Dr V Smith
Cllr P Smith
Ms V Stace
Prof J Steeds
Cllr C Stevens
Mr D Stinchcombe
Prof G Stirrat
Prof J Tavaré

Dr J Thompson
The Rev Dr S Thorn
Mr R Tucker
Prof J Vincent
Mr K Walton
Mr C Warren
Prof P Warren
Mrs J Wathen
Dr J White

Mrs A Wilson
Dr C Wilson
Mrs L Wilson
Dr S Wilson
Mrs S Wilson
Prof D Wilson
Mr K Woolley
Dr M Woolley
Dr L Yalagala

1. Welcome by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

- 1.1 RECEIVED: opening remarks from the Chancellor, and the Vice-Chancellor's address (**Agenda item 1**).
- 1.2 The Chancellor welcomed members of Court to the meeting.
- 1.3 With regard to Conflicts of Interest, the Chancellor advised Court members that it was good governance practice to ensure that any member who had a material interest in a matter under consideration at a meeting should declare that interest at the start of the meeting, if not already recorded. At the discretion of the Chair, the member concerned may, therefore, be requested to withdraw from the meeting during the relevant discussion or decision and this will be formally recorded in the minutes.

2. Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor address

RECEIVED and NOTED: a presentation from the Vice-Chancellor, "Re-imagining the Civic University" **Agenda item 2** and PRESENTATION (**on file**).

- 2.1 The presentation focused on the University's key ambitions in the areas of education and the student experience, research innovation and partnerships, our staff and ways of working, internationalisation and global relations, and in infrastructure and sustainability. In particular, it highlighted the challenging external context and the importance of the future relationship between the university and the city.
- 2.2 RECEIVED and NOTED: a presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, "Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus" **Agenda item 2** and PRESENTATION (**on file**)
- 2.3 The presentation highlighted the progress currently being made in the development of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus.
- 2.4 Members of Court were invited to ask questions of the Vice-Chancellor and the University's Executive Team. In response to those questions, the following issues were highlighted:
- There was a recognition that whilst the University and its students significantly contributed to the wider local economy, the impact of University expansion had also led to increasing pressure on the city's housing market and levels of rent, and in some areas a negative effect of noise pollution, and waste and recycling issues. The University was clear about the importance of growing in partnership with the City and was committed to working with the City Council and the Bristol Students' Union to address all of those and other issues, in order to successfully achieve their collective ambitions for the city.
 - With the development of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, it would be important to retain the vibrant and diverse community which the University had already established across the different 'campuses', in particular ensuring that the transport

links worked effectively between the various sites. This would make it clear to students and members of the public alike that the University of Bristol was 'one University'.

- The creation of a college for Emeritus Professors would be shaped in partnership with the Emeriti and developed in parallel with future changes to the role and responsibilities and membership of the University Court (*for more information about the future of Court please see agenda item 7.1*).
- In response to a concern about workload pressure on staff in relation to the permanent introduction of Saturday Open Days, the University confirmed that it recognised the contributions made by staff at University Open Days and that this was reflected in the workload allocation model adopted by Academic Schools.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2017

3.1 **APPROVED** (reference: **Agenda item 3**).

4. Report of the Nominations Committee of Court

4.1 RECEIVED (reference: **Agenda item 4**).

4.2 Mr Jack Boyer left the meeting for this item.

4.3 The Chair of the Nominations Committee of Court, Sir Roger Holmes (Pro Chancellor), introduced the item and proposed the motion. Dr Moira Hamlin, member of the Nominations Committee of Court and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, seconded the proposed motion.

4.4 **APPROVED:** the appointment of Mr Jack Boyer, Ms Jessica Cecil, Mr Nicholas Joicey, and Ms Linda Fletcher as lay members of the Board of Trustees, each for an initial three-year term from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.

4.5 **NOTED:** the rest of the report.

5. Changes to Charter, Statutes and Ordinances

5.1 RECEIVED (reference: **Agenda item 5**).

5.2 **NOTED:** the changes made to the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances in the preceding academic year, from 1 January 2018 until 30 November 2018.

6. Annual Report and Financial Statements 2017/18

6.1 RECEIVED (reference **Agenda item 6**) and PRESENTATION (**on file**).

6.2 The University Treasurer, Mr Andrew Poolman, introduced the item.

6.3 The Chief Operating Officer, Mr Robert Kerse, then presented to Court.

6.4 **NOTED:** the University Annual Report and Financial Statements 2017/18.

6.5 **NOTED:** that the University Borrowing Limit as reported by the Board of Trustees was £535m

6.6 Members of Court were invited to ask questions of the Chief Operating Officer. In response to those questions, the following issues were highlighted:

- In response to a query regarding pressures on pensions and in particular the UBPAS shortfall, the Chief Operating Officer emphasised the importance of, and his

commitment to, working towards a long-term sustainable solution which ensured there were sufficient assets to continue to pay staff pensions into the future.

- Court members noted that the University had invested a significant amount of money (circa £3.5m more over the last two years) in the development of its Student Wellbeing Service and in the establishment of Wellbeing Advisors across Academic Schools. This investment coupled with the support provided by the University-owned GP practice made it very clear that the University was committed to improving student mental health and wellbeing.
- In response to an observation about the growth in turnover of a relatively small surplus for 2017/18, the COO highlighted to Court members the level of investment that is being made and the challenging financial environment for UK HEIs. Members noted that cash from operating activities had decreased slightly in 2017/18 as a result of the University investing more in staff and other activities for long-term sustainability. In addition to those investments, the University was required to pay interest on its loans, undertake refurbishment of the existing estate, purchase research equipment, and keep some cash aside as a buffer for future investment.

7. The Chair of the Board of Trustees' Review of the Year 2017/18

RECEIVED: an oral report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees (reference: **Agenda item 7**).

7.1 Members of Court were invited to ask questions of the Chair of the Board of Trustees. In response to those questions, the following issues were highlighted:

- Members of Court broadly supported the proposals in respect of Court, and many took the view that the changes would help the University to better harness Court members' experience and skills and to use them to the University's advantage.
- In addition, Members welcomed the emphasis in the proposals being given to ensuring an international membership of Court and felt that the Alumni Forum would also provide for greater engagement.
- There was broad support for the establishment of an Emeritus College alongside the development of a reformed Court.
- Some members of Court, whilst broadly supporting the proposals, raised some points of clarity about the future appointment process for lay members of the Board, the future inclusivity and diversity of representation within the Court (particularly in relation to gender), and the future appointment process for each membership category in the re-imagined Court. The University confirmed that a Task and Finish Group would be created (whose membership would be representative of both the Board and the Court) in order to scrutinise and take forward the detail around these specific issues. Members of Court who were interested in supporting the work to define and refine the processes were invited by the Clerk to put their names forward.
- Members emphasised to the University the importance of delivering targeted and coordinated communications to all members of the University (staff, students, Court and the Board) as the changes around Court evolve and develop.

Proposals in respect of Court

7.2 RECEIVED: (reference **Agenda item 7.1**).

7.3 The Chancellor introduced the paper and thanked members of Court for their contributions to the consultation process.

7.4 After a request to amend the motion, the Chair of the Board considered and then confirmed that the proposal was from the Board of Trustees and had been informed by

a consultation process conducted over several months. He emphasised that he would therefore not amend the proposal prior to it being put to the vote.

7.5 The Chair of Court therefore ruled that the Board of Trustees proposal should remain unaltered prior to the vote and the debate should be concerned with exploring the benefits and disbenefits of the proposals.

7.6 In discussing the proposal, the following comments were made:

- Court members requested further clarification, once the Task and Finish Group had been created, as to the appointment process for members of the reformed Court.
- Training/induction sessions for future new members of Court would be very beneficial.
- Members urged the University to press forward with the establishment of an Emeritus College.
- Given that academic staff and members of Senate would no longer be represented on Court, it would be important for transparency purposes to ensure that the future role of Court and the work that comes out of Court is well-communicated to them.
- Gender diversity in the future Court (and Nominations Committee) membership should be an important focus for the University.

7.7 After detailed consideration, on a show of hands, Court **CONSENTED TO** the Proposed Amendments as set out in the paper. The proposal was therefore passed by a simple majority.

7.8 **NOTED:** that the Board of Trustees would now consider next steps.

8. Closing remarks and date of next meeting

8.1 **NOTED:** that the next meeting of Court was scheduled for Friday 6 December 2019.