

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Minutes of the Ninety-Ninth Annual Meeting of the University Court

Friday, 12 December 2008

Present:

The Rt.Hon. The Baroness Hale of Richmond (Chancellor) presided:

Professor Dame Carol Black (Pro-Chancellor), Mr JS Foulds (Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council), Sir James Tidmarsh (Pro-Chancellor), Dr JM Woolley (Pro-Chancellor), Professor EJ Thomas (Vice-Chancellor), Professor D N Clarke (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Mr Derek Pretty (Registrar), Professor MG Anderson (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Professor L Hall (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Professor A Waterman-Pearson (Pro Vice-Chancellor), and Mr JGH Wadsworth (Treasurer).

Cllr PJ Abraham	Mr D Clarke	Mr S Face	Mr A MacDonald
Dr E Albone	Dr Stella	Mrs R Fletcher	Prof A Marsh
Ms AJ Alden	Clarke	Mr P Finch	Alderman W Martin
Mr PJJ Allen	Prof D	Mrs P French	Professor D Martin
Dr M Allinson	Clements	Lady Gass	Mr R Massie
Mr G Ash	Dr A Collins	Mr P Golding	Mr J Medcraft
Mr M Ashmead	Mr P Coombs	Dr S Goldsmith	Lady Merrison
Dr I Ashwell	Mr I Crawford	Mr A Gordon	Mr A J Mezzetti
Mrs M Avery	Mr R Cross	Mr F	Mr J Miotla
Mr R Avery	Dr M J	Greenacre	Mr G Morton
Mr R Babington	Crossley Evans	Mr G Gregory	Mr R Morton
Prof K Bailey	Mr C Curling	Cllr R Griffey	Mrs B Moul
Professor G Balint-	Dr M Damian	Mrs P	Mr G Mullan
Kurti	Mrs C Davies	Hammond	Dr J Mumford OBE
Cllr T Ball	Mr WGR	Dr R Hammond	Mr J Napier
Mr N Barnett	Davies	Mr R Harding	Mr S R Neck
Professor G Banting	Mr A Davis	Professor A	Dr D Newbold
HH JP Batterbury	Professor R	Harrison	Mr W J Nicholas
Prof Sir John Beringer	Deem	Professor R	Mr A Nield
Mrs A Bernays	Mr C Densham	Hodder-	Dr Noyes
Professor Sir Michael	Mr C Didcote	Williams	Mrs P Nunn
Berry	Prof D Dineley	Professor R	Mr I O'Brien
Dr D Birdsall	Prof R Dixon	Hutton	Professor C Orchard
Mr S Biswas	Mr A Dixon	Professor B	Mrs A Parr
Commander G Bond	Dr H Donoghue	Jackson	Mr EJC Parsons
Dr F Bowie	Professor W	Ms R Jackson	Prof M Partington
Prof E Braun	Doyle	Dr M Kellaway-	Ms S Paterson
Mr AR Brown	Dr F Duckworth	Marriott	Mr O Peachey
Cllr D Brown	Mr Robert	Ms H Klein	Prof G Pearson
Mrs L Brown	Duffton	Councillor B A	Prof B Pickering
Dr G Brown	Mr R Eachus	Knott	Mr B C Pont
Mr P Burling	Mrs S Eachus	Professor S	Mrs M Prior
Mr D Burn	Prof D Easty	Knox	Prof D Quinton
Mrs A Burnside	Prof G Eglinton	Prof N Lieven	Ms T Rawlinson
Mr A G Cadogan	Cllr S Emmett	Dr J Littler	Mr J Richards
Professor R G	Professor R	Professor A	Prof W Richardson
Chambers	Evans	Longega	Ms L Robinson
Mr C Chapman	Mr W Evans	Dr S Lyne	Prof P Rogers

Mr T Ross
Mr J Rossington
Prof G Sanford
Mr I Scott
Mr C Scowen
Mr DM Selwyn
Prof Severn
Prof IA Silver
Mr L Smith
Dr V Smith
Cllr D Speirs

Prof J Steeds
Ms A
Stephenson
Prof FS Stone
Dr M Symes
Mr B Taylor
Ms D Tetlow
Professor EJ
Thomas
Prof R Thomas
Dr J Thompson

Dr S Thorn
Mr M Timmins
Mr R Tucker
Mr K Walton
Prof P Warren
Dr BMQ
Weaver
Mr T Webb
Mr R Wedden
Mr A J
Westcott

Mr P Wheatley
Prof N Williams
Mrs P Willoughby
Mr BAJ Wilson
Mrs LJ Wilson
Cllr Dr M Wright
Mr E Wright
Mr T Wright
Dr G Yu

The Chancellor welcomed members to the meeting and reported receipt of apologies for absence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Death of Sir Derek Higgs

The Chancellor and Members of Court paid tribute to the late Sir Derek Higgs who died in April 2008 of a heart attack. A long-serving member of the University's Council, Sir Derek had been a Pro-Chancellor of the University since 2003 and had been awarded an Honorary Degree in 2005. He had been unstintingly supportive of the University for many years and would be sadly missed. Court observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect to Sir Derek and asked that its condolences be passed on to Sir Derek's family.

MINUTES

1. The minutes of the annual meeting held on 7 December 2007, which had been printed and circulated, were CONFIRMED.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 3e – Review of Payment of Lay Council Members

RECEIVED: A report by the Registrar setting out key arguments associated with the appropriateness of remunerating lay members of governing bodies of universities.

Court, at its meeting on 7 December 2007, noted that the University had, in response to national debate, agreed to establish a sub-committee of its Remuneration Committee to review the issues surrounding this matter. The Registrar's paper summarised the main issues highlighted by the sub-committee's review.

The key conclusions set out in the paper were:

- (i) Although a small number of UK universities had been granted authorisation to make payments to its lay members, to date none had opted to do so.
- (ii) Payment of lay members would require a Charter or Statute change.
- (iii) It would be unlikely that the DIUS or HEFCE would oppose payment; the Charity Commission would, however, oppose payment unless very clear arguments and specific evidence to support the need could be presented.
- (iv) A small number of universities were considering payment of their governing body Chairs because it required such a significant time commitment. Similarly, a small number were considering payment specifically for the purposes of promoting diversity of membership of their governing bodies.

(v) There was no obvious evidence that non-payment of lay members had led to a shortage of suitably qualified members elsewhere or at the University of Bristol.

(vi) The University of Bristol still had some way to go before it could boast a fully diversified Council.

NOTED: That the University's Remuneration Committee, next year, would be asked to consider whether it wished to advise Council:

(i) To look more closely at whether the frequency, timing and location of meetings created barriers to diversity and, if so, whether changes to present arrangements were needed.

(ii) To decide whether the University should seek authority to compensate for some loss of earnings for those members of Council who are self-employed and/or suffer loss of earnings as a result of attendance at Council.

(iii) To decide whether there should be more overt recognition of the benefits that the University derives from the extensive voluntary time committed and value added by its lay members.

(iv) To make provision for the payment of the Chair of Council, should it be necessary to do so to attract an appropriate candidate in the future.

Council would be asked to approve a final recommendation from the Remuneration Committee during 2009.

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

2. RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION: A list of changes in membership since 8 December 2007.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCIL TO COURT

3. RECEIVED: The Annual Report from Council to Court 2007/08.

The Chair of Council, Mr Jim Foulds, presented the Annual Report for the session 2007/08 and highlighted to Court some of the principal initiatives taken by Council during the year.

In closing, Mr Foulds thanked all Council Members for their input to, and support for, the University and for their willingness to invest a lot of their personal time and commitment and to give freely of their knowledge, skills and experience. He also expressed thanks to the University's Planning Team which had, and would continue to, support much of the work undertaken by both Council and the Vice-Chancellor and his team.

Mr Roy Avery, Convocation, requested that future Annual Reports included, where appropriate, information about the work of the University's activities which were less easily photographed, including the University's counselling service; the inter-faith chaplaincy; and the Careers Service. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University did value these important services and that compilers of the Annual Report would be mindful of this request when producing future Annual Reports. (A transcript of Mr Foulds' address is attached to the minutes at Annex A).

RESOLVED: *that the Annual Report be received.*

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

4. RECEIVED: The University's audited Financial Statements for the session 2007/08.

The Chancellor welcomed Mr James Wadsworth to his first meeting of Court in his capacity as University Treasurer. She also expressed thanks to Mr Ian Crawford, Finance Director, who would be retiring from the position at the end of December 2008. Mr Crawford had served as Finance Director for over 17 years. Mr Crawford had demonstrated exceptionally strong leadership throughout his time at the University and he had built a strong and dedicated finance team. The University was extremely grateful to Mr Crawford for his excellent management of the University's finances over many years.

The Treasurer presented the University's audited Financial Statements for the session 2007/08 and the Finance Director, Mr Ian Crawford, gave a presentation on the University's finances.

The Finance Director opened by asking members of Court to consider the figures in the context of the rapidly changing economic climate. The figures included within the financial statements covered the year to July 2008, however, the internal and external economic environment had changed rapidly since July and would continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Mr Crawford outlined the University's operating performance over the past year. Both income and expenditure had showed continued growth and reflected the University's financial strategy of investing both in recurrent operations and in the creation of a surplus for capital investment. The budgeted surplus had been set at ca. £2 million and had anticipated challenging cost increases in relation to staff costs and utilities. The outcome was that the surplus considerably exceeded target at ca. £5.5 million, generating cash from operations of ca. £26m; an increase of £7 million on the previous year.

The surplus and the resulting cash generation was crucial for the University to fund the maintenance and enhancement of its infrastructure and estate, to support the University's borrowings and to set the borrowing capacity.

The balance sheet valued the University's net worth at £538 million, although a modest increase over the previous year, there were significant changes in the detail. Fixed assets (land, buildings and equipment) and current assets (cash) had grown significantly. This continued investment in infrastructure and growth in cash had been financed from an increase in long-term liabilities (borrowings) following the restructuring and drawdown of loans.

Mr Crawford highlighted the University's current exposure to external markets. He referred specifically to endowment assets which stood at £46 million but had reduced in value more recently to ca. £41 million as a direct result of turmoil in the financial markets. The level of cash held by the University at the year end stood at £140 million.

The University had in place a robust counter party investment policy to de-risk cash investments which had been reviewed during the year. The University had limited its investments to AA rated institutions and considered that these investments were appropriately spread between institutions. The University had found it difficult to identify appropriate banking institutions with which to place its investments and had, therefore, invested in some treasury bills and gilts. The University had opted to remove management of its funds from an Icelandic subsidiary before the Icelandic banking crisis had occurred and had, therefore, protected the University from any associated losses or liquidity problems.

The University's pension assets at the year end had stood at £131 million, although they were reducing in line with the markets and were currently valued at £111 million.

The University's gross borrowing stood at £202 million, consisting of £190 million sterling facility which was fixed for a 30-40 year term, and a £12 million equivalent facility in Euros which was a floating three-year credit facility. Within the sterling facility, the University still had £60 million

which could be drawn down over the next two years, and it was carefully considering the necessity of undertaking this, and the appropriate timing of doing so.

The University's net debt (gross borrowing, less cash) stood at £63 million. Its authorised net debt level was £150 million (authorised by HEFCE and the University Council).

Currently a surplus of £6 million and cash from operations of £21 million was budgeted for 2008/09. As a reflection of the current global economic situation, postgraduate taught fee income was expected to be significantly less than budget this year. Implementation of the final element of a national pay agreement would add substantially to staffing costs (an issue that was negatively impacting upon all UK universities); an anticipated increase in pensions costs, and a potential fall in income associated with the latest Research Assessment Exercise (the financial implications of which would not be known until March 2009) were other major factors which might result in a significant strain on the University's income and cost base.

The volatility of the financial markets had, and would continue to have, an impact upon the University's income and investments. Furthermore, a high proportion of the University's income was government-backed and although historically this had provided a certain level of stability, it could also present a level of risk should public funding need to be diverted further to support the UK's financial markets.

The Finance Director assured Court that the University was taking a cautious rather than an optimistic approach towards its financial planning. It was already investing considerable effort into controlling its cost base and it was reviewing and moderating the timing of its commitment to its capital investment programme. Although the capital investment vision remained unaltered, it would be essential to moderate the planned timing of this programme in order to protect the University's long-term financial base.

Mr Keith Walton, Convocation, asked Mr Crawford to outline how the recent major shift in exchange rates had affected the University in terms of its Euro denominated loans. Mr Crawford clarified that the drop in value of sterling against the Euro had impacted upon the University but that the actual value of the outstanding loans had not risen considerably because the University had taken steps to re-pay these loans gradually over the past few years. The University had good reason for holding the Euro loans in that it received a significant Euro income (ca. £5 million per year) and the borrowing presented a natural hedge.

Mr Walton then asked Mr Crawford to comment upon how the University was managing/monitoring credit risk associated with its investments. Mr Crawford confirmed that the University's counter party policy was robust. But that in addition, it made use of a number of alternative indicators, for example, analysis of the credit default swap market, which priced the risk of bank debt. He confirmed that this indicator had initially alerted the University to the problems and risks associated with the Icelandic banks. He also re-iterated that the University endeavoured to spread this risk between a large number of banks. Finally, he commented that the UK banking regulations had become far more robust and offered a much higher degree of protection for the investor than it had previously.

Mr Sean Emmett, Bristol City Council asked Mr Crawford to outline the extent to which the University could be confident that its pensions provision would be adequate in the face of further stock market changes, Mr Crawford explained that the pension scheme in question, the University of Bristol Pension Assurance Scheme, was overseen by independent pension trustees and that the trustees had recently reviewed the relationship and the associated covenants in terms of pension scheme deficit. An agreement had now been reached between the University and the trustees that provided the deficit remained below 1/10th of the University's net worth, no further action would be required.

Mr Crawford also drew members' attention back to the additional pension scheme linked to the University, the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). This was a national pension scheme and because it was not a directly University-controlled scheme, it had not been included within the balance sheet. At March 2008, this scheme had assets of ca. £30 billion, however, this figure had dropped considerably (by several billion) since that valuation. Mr Crawford emphasised the importance of considering pensions investments on a long-term basis and suggested that the University took some comfort that the overall performance of both equities and bonds should improve in the longer-term. Both Mr Crawford and the Treasurer stated that due to the sensitivity of valuation assumptions and the current volatility of the financial markets, it would be extremely difficult to predict the actuarial position of either scheme in the short-term.

RESOLVED: *that the Financial Statements be received.*

UNIVERSITY VISION AND STRATEGY

5. RECEIVED: A draft version of the University Vision & Strategy. The presentation of the Vision and Strategy to Court represented the culmination of a long and wide-ranging period of consultation with key constituencies. The document essentially stated the University's values, its overarching mission and vision, its priorities under a number of important, central areas of activity, and information about how the University would measure its progress against its priorities and objectives. Senate and Council had approved the document at their meetings on 1 December 2008 and 27 November 2008 respectively, subject to any comments made by Court. Members of Court raised the following key comments in relation to the document.

Mr Clive Scowen, Convocation, expressed appreciation that the University had stated "We seek and are inspired by truth, which we pursue for its own sake" as a key institutional value. He suggested that the University should be applauded for this. Mr Scowen also noted that although the document recognised the value of offering a rewarding extra-curricular experience that provided for students' health, well-being and personal development, no reference had been made to students' spiritual needs. The Vice-Chancellor assured Court that the University was committed to fulfilling students' spiritual needs, particularly through the work of the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and agreed that the Vision and Strategy document should be amended to reflect this commitment.

Mr John Richards, Convocation, suggested that although the document was appropriately positive, it might also be helpful if the Vice-Chancellor could outline any areas/issues that the University was 'against' or that it had deliberately excluded from its Vision and Strategy. The Vice-Chancellor explained that the University did have a very clear understanding of what its core business was and that this, together with its strategic decision to position itself as both a global and a local University, had largely driven the development of this Vision & Strategy. He also confirmed that the University was firmly opposed to: massive expansion; dilution of its brand; erosion of excellence; not being inclusive or diverse; and not working with and supporting our city.

Hannah Klein, Convocation, commented that the paragraph on extracurricular activities had neglected to refer to those societies which concentrated on students' academic and intellectual development, for example the Debating Society and the International Affairs Society. Ms Klein was also concerned that these societies currently felt that they were not receiving the support that they deserved from the University, with the Debating Society often struggling to find suitable accommodation for its events, and the International Society finding that on occasion, the University had prevented it from inviting 'controversial' speakers into the University. In response to this, the Vice-Chancellor assured Court that such societies were valued and regarded highly by the University. He, therefore, agreed that it would be appropriate to amend the Vision and Strategy to make reference to them. He did, however, wish to clarify that on no occasion had he attempted to prevent any speaker from visiting the University because of their controversial

views. He affirmed that the University was very much in support of the principle of freedom of speech, although he acknowledged that from time to time, security concerns might overwhelm the desire for freedom of speech and in the interests of safety, it might be necessary to prevent certain speakers from visiting the University.

Professor Peter Warren, Representative of the British Academy and Emeritus Professor, commented that the University had a very long and splendid history of delivering high quality 'lifelong learning' programmes to the local community. He asked the Vice-Chancellor to outline the University's intentions in terms of maintaining these opportunities. In response the Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University was committed to delivering a lifelong learning programme. He did, however, report that some of the traditional funding routes for this type of education had now been cut off from the University and it would, therefore, be forced to consider how it could deliver this most efficiently and effectively, to those who needed it most, and at a level that the University could afford. The Vice-Chancellor agreed that this could be clarified within the Vision and Strategy document.

Members of Court were invited to send detailed comments on the document to the Clerk to Court by Wednesday, 17 December 2008. A final version of the document would be published early in 2009.

The Chancellor expressed thanks on behalf of Court to Helen Galbraith, Head of Planning, for the excellent work that she had done in ensuring that all sections of the University community had been consulted, and for researching and compiling the Vision and Strategy. The Chancellor acknowledged that this had been a challenging but very important and worthwhile task.

ELECTION OF SIX LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6. RECEIVED: brief background information about the six people nominated by the Nominations Committee of Court (Mrs Alison Bernays, Mr George Morton, Ms Anne Stephenson, Mr Tim Stevenson, Mrs Cathy Waithe and Mr James Wetz).

The Chair of the Nominations Committee of Court, Sir James Tidmarsh, presented this item, advising Court that there was currently one vacancy on Council for a lay member, and that Mr Robert Dufton, a current member of Council had indicated to the Nominations Committee that his current work commitments meant that he did not feel able to undertake a further term of office at this stage. In view of this, the Nominations Committee had opted to put forward six names for consideration by Court. Four were existing members and two were new members.

Mr James Wadsworth proposed the collective motion that each of the six candidates be elected. The Vice-Chancellor seconded the motion. The individual names of nominees were put to the vote and it was RESOLVED that all six candidates should be invited to serve as follows:

Mrs Alison Bernays (re-election to 31 December 2009)
Mr George Morton (re-election to 31 December 2011)
Mrs Anne Stephenson (election to 31 December 2011)
Mr Tim Stevenson (re-election to 31 December 2010)
Mrs Cathy Waithe (re-election to 31 December 2011)
Mr James Wetz (election to 31 December 2010).

The Chair of Council asked that thanks be given to Mr Robert Dufton for the excellent work that he had undertaken in his capacity as a lay member of Council. Court was pleased to note that Mr Dufton would continue links with the University in future through his work with Convocation.

ELECTION OF TREASURER

7. Mr Jim Foulds proposed Council's nomination of Mr James Wadsworth as Treasurer. The Vice-Chancellor seconded the motion.

It was RESOLVED: *that Mr James Wadsworth be appointed Treasurer for a period of one year to 31 December 2009, in accordance with Statute 8.*

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

8. Council's nomination of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Auditors for the current year was proposed by Mr James Wadsworth and seconded by the Vice-Chancellor.

It was RESOLVED: *that Messrs PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be reappointed as Auditors to the University for the current year.*

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

9. **Changes to Statutes and Ordinances made during the year ending 31 July 2008**
RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION: a report of Statute and Ordinance changes made in the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008.

The report outlined in detail, amendments that had been made to the following Statutes and Ordinances (a report detailing the approved amendments is attached to the minutes at Annex B):

(i) Ordinance 3

At its meeting on 8 February 2008, Council agreed to amend the provisions in Ordinance 3 regarding the timing of elections and the staggering of the terms of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair in order to recast them as the normal expectations, rather than strict legal requirements. It was felt that this resulted in a more practicable process. Members of Court were invited to note that although the Chair and Vice-Chair were elected for three-year terms in accordance with this Ordinance, Council was asked to reconfirm these reappointments on an annual basis, as required by Statute 16.

(ii) Ordinance 19

An amendment was made to Ordinance 19 to permit the Faculty of Medical and Veterinary Sciences to register students for the award of Doctor of Medicine (MD). This required the addition of the Doctor of Medicine to the list of Postgraduate Research Awards provided by the Faculty.

(iii) Ordinance 24

In May 2008, Council approved extensive changes to Ordinance 24: University of Bristol Union. The Students' Union's internal governance review had resulted in substantial changes to the Union's Constitution (approved at its Annual General Meeting on 7 February 2008). The amendments to Ordinance 24 were necessary to enable the changes to the Union's Constitution to come into effect, as they were not consistent with the existing version of Ordinance 24.

The key amendment was to the Union's governance structure; namely, the replacement of the Union Management Committee with a new Board of Trustees. The new Board will have a student majority but will also have a number of co-opted non-student Trustees and a nominated trustee or trustees from the University Council. The Board will assume responsibility for the legal, financial and management responsibilities of the Union. The revised Ordinance also affirms the existence of an Executive Committee that will meet more regularly than the Board and which will have delegated powers from the Board for day-to-day management issues.

The amendments were drawn up jointly by the Union's Sabbatical Officers and the University's Secretary's Office in consultation with the Deputy Registrar, a Professor of Law, the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee and a lay member of University Council.

Mr Clive Scowen, Convocation, requested that further consideration be given to the drafting of Ordinance 24. He suggested that although there were no substantive changes to be made, the wording appeared to be ambiguous in places. The Chancellor invited Mr Scowen to submit his comments to the University's Director of Legal Services, Ms Sue Paterson, on a re-draft of the relevant sections of the Ordinance.

APPOINTMENT OF PRO-CHANCELLOR

10. In accordance with Statute 4, Court is required to appoint Pro-Chancellors on the nomination of Council.

RECEIVED: A paper outlining proposals for the re-appointment of Mr James Foulds, and the appointment of Mrs Alison Bernays, as Pro-Chancellors of the University.

Mr James Foulds

Members had received a letter dated 5 November 2008 from the Chancellor outlining an administrative error that had occurred in relation to Mr James Foulds' appointment as a University Pro-Chancellor. The letter stated that, in undertaking a full audit of terms of office of University Officers and members of Court, Council and Council Committees, it had come to light that Mr James Foulds' term of office as Pro-Chancellor had ended in December 2007. The special resolution to re-appoint Mr James Foulds as Pro-Chancellor, as required by statute 4.2, had not been moved at the 2007 annual meeting of Court. The Chancellor had, therefore, proposed that the required resolution be moved at the 2008 annual meeting of Court, reappointing Mr Foulds from December 2007 to December 2010. There was no need to retrospectively ratify any of Mr Foulds' actions as Mr Foulds' work had been carried out in his capacity of Chair of Council rather than as Pro-Chancellor.

Mrs Alison Bernays

Council, at its meeting on 27 November 2008, agreed to recommend to Court that it appoint Mrs Alison Bernays as Pro-Chancellor for a period of three years to December 2011. The paper set out brief biographical details for Mrs Bernays, which included:

Mrs Alison Bernays previously ran Oldown Country Park with her husband and before that worked for BBC Television. She is Chairman of the Governors of Badminton School, Bristol and a Governor of Colston's School. She was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Lay Panel for Judicial Appointments. She is married with three daughters. Mrs Bernays has been a member of Council since 2000, and Vice-Chair of Council since the beginning of 2007. She is Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, and a member of the Personnel and Staff Development Committee, and the Nominations Committees of Court and Council.

It was RESOLVED: *that Mr James Foulds be re-appointed as Pro-Chancellor until December 2010 and the Mrs Alison Bernays be appointed as Pro-Chancellor until December 2011.*

Business raised under Statute 12(4): Supporting the End Child Poverty Campaign

11. In accordance with Statute 12(4), Councillor Speirs had given written notice to the Secretary of his wish to bring forward this business item to this meeting of Court. Councillor Speirs had obtained the written support of 12 other members of Court.

RECEIVED: A paper outlining Councillor Speirs' proposal that Court resolve that Council be advised to affiliate to the End Child Poverty Campaign as an Associate Member. In support of the motion, Councillor Speirs' stated his view that the University had a vested interest in affiliating to and supporting this campaign because it was consistent with the University's values in terms of equality and opportunity. He explained that when children's life choices were limited, for example, as a result of poverty, it was difficult for them to reach their

full potential. He suggested that the University of Bristol would want every child to be able to reach their full potential and to have an opportunity to apply to and benefit from studying at Bristol.

The motion was seconded by Mr N Barnett, Convocation.

Alderman Bill Martin, Bristol City Council, supported Councillor Speirs' motion stating that he felt that provision of equality of opportunity was central and core to the University and its values.

Mr Andrew Dixon, Staff member of Court, expressed concern that, although the Campaign was clearly important and extremely worthwhile, it was not necessarily appropriate for a Higher Education institution to become involved in an activity such as this which was outside of its core business. Furthermore, he was concerned that supporting this charitable cause might result in Court being inundated with proposals from other causes in future years.

The Chair of Council suggested that although the majority of Court members would be supportive of the Campaign, it would be important to distinguish between the role of Council and Court, and individuals' personal views. Mr Foulds felt that as Council and Court's roles were essentially those of governance, it would not be appropriate to support this motion today.

In light of the opposing views, the Chancellor asked for a vote by show of hands. The final count showed:

Number of members in favour of advising University Council to affiliate to the End Child Poverty Campaign as an Associate member.	22
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Number of members against advising University Council to affiliate to the End Child Poverty Campaign as an Associate member.	66
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The motion was therefore not carried.

The Chancellor thanked Councillor Speirs for bringing this interesting debate to Court.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. A query was made about when Court might have a further opportunity to comment upon / receive progress reports on the student residences strategy. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that Court would be updated on the status and progress of the project at its meeting in December 2009. He explained that it would, however, be necessary for key decisions to be made in relation to the project before that date. The Chair of Council stated that the momentum of the project in planning and financial terms was such that some decisions in principle would need to be taken by Council during the year.

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

13. It was noted that the most likely date for the next annual meeting would be Friday 11 December 2009. Details would be confirmed in the meeting notice to be issued to members in November 2009.