

Council

MINUTES AND ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

27 February 2020

10:00-17:00hrs

Tremough Board Room, Penryn

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Council Meeting

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1.	Chair's Introduction CNL/20/03)
2.	Minutes of the Meetings of 11 December 2019 (CNL/20/04) and Matters Arising - Students' Guild Termly Report (CNL/20/05)
3.	Vice-Chancellor's Report (CNL/20/06)
4.	Dual Assurance Report
5.	Draft Students' Guild Accounts 2018/19 CNL/20/07)
6.	Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union Consent to Charitable Organisations Incorporation (CNL/20/08)
7.	Admissions Report 2020 Offers and First PGT Deposit Review (CNL/20/09)
8.	Access Agreement Monitoring Return 2018/19 (CNL/20/10 & CNL/20/10A)
9.	Management Information Pack (CNL/20/11 & CNL/20/11A)
10.	TRAC: Costing Our Activities (CNL/20/12)
11.	USS and the 2 nd Joint Expert Panel Report: UUK First Consultation – Draft Response (CNL/20/13)
12.	Funding Proposal: Forum Food Court (CNL/20/14)
13.	Funding Proposal: Learning Spaces Upgrade and AV Refresh (CNL/20/15)
14.	Research & Impact Strategy 2020-2025 (CNL/20/16)
15.	Researcher Development Concordat (CNL/20/17)
16.	Matters Bought Forward from Part II (CNL/20/18)
17.	Chair's Closing Remarks

Attendees

Present

Sarah Turvill	Pro Chancellor and Chair
Professor Sir Steve Smith	Vice-Chancellor
Jo Binding	Independent Member
Gerry Brown	Independent Member
Dr Sarah Buck	Pro Chancellor
Graham Cole	Independent Member (morning session only)
Nicholas Cheffings	Independent Member
Andrew Greenway	Independent Member
Patrick Hoyle	President, Students' Guild
Professor Mark Goodwin	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global)
Professor Andrew McRae	Senate Representative
Salam Katbi	Independent Member
Professor Janice Kay	Provost
Professor Caroline MacEwen	Independent Member
Sir John O'Reilly	Independent Member
Alison Reed	Independent Member
Joe Rigby	Exeter President, Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union
Professor Wendy Robinson	Senate Representative
Alison Rose	Professional Services Representative
Dr Anni Vanhatalo	Senate Representative
Glenn Woodcock	Independent Member

Apologies

Richard Atkins	Pro Chancellor
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Secretary

Mike Shore-Nye	Registrar and Secretary
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In attendance

Andrew Connolly	Chief Financial Officer
Joff Cooke	Chief Executive Officer, Students' Guild
Jacqueline Hodges	Deputy Secretary to Council (Minutes)
Professor Tim Quine	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

With

Dr. Michael Wykes	Director, PPBI (Item 9)
Drs. Astrid Wissenberg	Director, Research Services (Items 14 & 15)

1. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Council members to the meeting and noted apologies from Richard Atkins.

A minute's silence was held to remember former Council member Kiron Farooki who passed away in January. Plans were to be considered for a memorial in her name.

ACTION: Consider options for a memorial in memory of Kiron Farooki (Registrar & Secretary)

The Chair noted that the Standing Committee of Council had met in January and approved the TRAC return. Council had been represented by Gerry Brown, Alison Reed and the Pro Chancellors on the Committee.

The Register of Interests was considered, with the Registrar and Secretary declaring an interest in the implementation of JEP2 discussion and committed to abstaining from the debate.

The Exeter President of the Students' Union declared a conflict of interest as a Trustee of the SU.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11 DECEMBER 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the December meeting were approved without amendment. It was noted that actions were also on track.

i. Students' Guild Termly Report (CNL/19/164)

The President, Exeter Guild reminded Council members of two recommendations in his termly report, presented to December's meeting.

3. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (CNL/20/05)

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on current issues across the University and HE sector. Noting earlier comments, he reasserted that the student experience was a managerial responsibility that was taken very seriously and discussed every week at the VCEG meeting.

Pro-Vice Chancellor recruitment was discussed, with the Vice-Chancellor noting that the Council's approval would soon be sought to appoint Professor Zhongdong Wang as the new PVC for CEMPS. Student representatives confirmed they had participated in the focus group panels for the appointment and praised the calibre of the appointee. Support was also offered from independent members involved in the process. Subject to Council's approval of the appointment, the expected start date was anticipated to be 1st July, taking on the post on from 31st July.

Discussion was held regarding the industrial relations and political climate within the sector. The impact on teaching from recent industrial action was discussed. Student representatives shared poll findings of student perceptions of the strike action, noting that whilst the cause was still supported, support for the industrial action amongst both Exeter and Cornwall based students had dropped significantly since the last action in November. Student occupations were also discussed. The work of the Fair Employment for All Working Group was discussed and it was confirmed that a meeting had taken place with the unions where a formal offer was put forward to end casualisation, however this offer had been rejected by union

representatives. Council also received an update on financial negotiations in relation to pensions.

The Vice-Chancellor provided a horizon scan of the current political landscape. Issues discussed included the future of the Augar Review, Brexit, freedom of speech, quality, research funding and the demographic upturn.

An update was also provided regarding the University's response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The Registrar and Secretary confirmed that Gold and Silver business continuity groups were in place and planning well underway. He provided an update on the current situation, particularly in relation to staff and students in and returning from high risk areas and detailed the anticipated significant areas of impact and where additional funding had been released to support mitigations. It was confirmed that engagement was also taking place with the students' unions regarding messaging to students and community support.

Council discussed the plans and raised questions about the visa situation, immediate plans in the event of an outbreak on campus and digital delivery of teaching and learning support.

4. DUAL ASSURANCE REPORT

Council members provided a verbal update on any issues arising from their portfolios of responsibility.

ACTION: Update on academic leadership and plan for how will achieve climate emergency work (Janice/Mike)

5. DRAFT STUDENTS' GUILD ACCOUNT 2018/19 (CNL/20/06) AND DRAFT STUDENTS' UNION ACCOUNTS 2018/19 (CNL/20/07)

The Guild CEO presented a summary of the Guild's annual accounts. He explained it had been a challenging year for the Guild due to a historic VAT issue on catering, the ongoing significant pensions issue and a hit on commercial revenue during the accounting year.

The University's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) observed that the Guild had made a loss for the year and had a negative balance sheet. Year-end cash balances had increased over the year and ended at £960k with £3000 at year end for reserves. It was highlighted that the narrative report in the accounts mentioned repositioning work, however cash was held by clubs and societies.

Council discussed the importance of the Guild to the University and next steps to address its financial situation.

ACTION: Write to the CEO and Trustees of the Guild seeking further detail on the pensions and operational issues and plans to address (Vice-Chancellor)

ACTION: Report back to Council including detailed analysis of funding support provided by the University, benchmarked against comparable of institutions (Guild CEO)

Council noted the Students' Unions had performed well over the previous financial year.

6. FALMOUTH & EXETER STUDENTS' UNION CONSENT TO CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATION (CIO) CONSTITUTION (CNL/20/08)

The Students' Union (SU) CEO presented a paper proposing the incorporation of the SU. Council discussed the driving factors behind the change and the implications of the change on staff pensions.

The CEO explained that legal discussions were still taking place on the final draft.

DECISION: Council approved the constitution in principle with mandate given to the Registrar and CFO to work with the University's General Counsel to approve the final version on behalf of Council.

7. ADMISSIONS REPORT: 2020 OFFERS AND FIRST PGT DEPOSIT REVIEW (CNL/20/09)

The DVC (Education) presented a report outlining the current admissions position for 2020 entry.

Council discussed the financial implications of the position, state school admissions, the effect of Brexit on EU student admissions and the demographic upturn.

8. ACCESS AGREEMENT MONITORING RETURN 2018/19 (CNL/20/10 & CNL/20/10A)

The DVC (Education) explained that the return was a statutory reporting requirement of the Office for Students, providing an update on progress made against the University's 5 year widening participation plans.

DECISION: Council approved the Access and Participation Monitoring Return 2018/19 for submission to the Office for Students

9. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PACK (CNL/20/11 & CNL/20/11A)

The Director, PPBI presented the latest Management Information (MI) pack, explaining that the format of the report was still in development and would continue to evolve. The latest version had been developed in response to Council's previous feedback and now ensured the student and staff voice and digital were better represented.

10. TRAC: COSTING OUR ACTIVITIES (CNL/20/12)

The CFO presented a paper which provided a narrative on the University's approach to TRAC and its direction of travel. He explained the history of TRAC within the sector and how the University was developing its processes to provide deeper analysis and insight into financial performance.

11. USS AND THE 2ND JOINT EXPERT PANEL REPORT: UUK FIRST CONSULTATION – DRAFT RESPONSE (CNL/20/13)

The CFO provided an update on the first of three consultations on the USS pensions scheme.

12. FUNDING PROPOSAL: FORUM FOOD COURT (CNL/20/14)

The Registrar & Secretary presented the investment case for a proposal to repurpose space previously occupied by the Natwest bank within the Forum as a food court and redevelop the Terrace area above as a bookable events and informal learning space.

ACTION: Staff space on campus provision proposal to be considered at a future meeting (Registrar & Secretary)

DECISION: Council approved the investment

13. FUNDING PROPOSAL: LEARNING SPACES UPGRADE AND AV REFRESH (CNL/20/15)

The Registrar & Secretary presented a business case for investment into upgrades of campus learning spaces.

DECISION: Council approved the investment

14. RESEARCH & IMPACT STRATEGY 2020-2025 (CNL/20/16)

The DVC (Research and Impact) presented the strategy and explained that it was part of a three part reporting process. Council had considered the vision for the strategy at its previous meeting and the implementation plan would follow at April's meeting.

The guiding principles of the strategy were explained.

15. RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT CONCORDAT (CNL/20/17)

The Director, Research Services explained the purpose of the Concordat ; noting that forty two organisations had signed up to date. The Concordat focused on research staff only but would also have wider benefit to staff in technical support, totally approximately 1000 staff. The University was said to be in a good position having received reaccreditation under its previous Concordat. It was acknowledged that there was still more improvement to be made, particularly for early career researchers and this continued to be addressed. The current plan linked to the new strategy and could be reflected in REF environment statements.

DECISION: Council approved signing up to the Concordat publically in March 2020.

16. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PART II (CNL/20/18)

Council approved the following papers

- Affixing the Seal (CNL/20/22)
- Report from the Nominations Committee (CNL/20/27)
Term of Office of ERBS Trustee renewal

Council noted the following papers

- Knowledge Exchange Concordat (CNL/20/19)
- Delegation Framework (CNL/20/20)
- Draft University Terms and Academic Calendar 2020-21 (CNL/20/21)
- Affixing the Seal (CNL/20/22)
- Capital Investment Group: December 2019 (CNL/20/23)
- Standing Committee of Council minutes: 22 January 2020 (CNL/20/03)
- Draft Senate Minutes: 6 November 2019 (CNL/20/24)
- University of Exeter Honorary Degrees - 2021 Nominations (CNL/20/25)
- Student Experience Advisory Board: 7 November 2019 (CNL/20/26)
- Report from Council Nominations Committee: 11 December 2019 (CNL/20/27)

17. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked Cornwall-based colleagues for their support for Council's visit. The call for nominations for Honorary Graduates made available under part ii of the agenda was highlighted.

Video conferencing capability was discussed, with further request made by Council members for improved connectivity on campuses. The challenge was set that improvements should enable Council members to attend 50% of meetings in the next year via video conference from home to support the University's mission in response to the climate emergency.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

REGISTER OF INTERESTS 2019/20

Members

Sarah Turvill	Willis Towers Watson (Director of UK Subsidiary; Pensioner); Yarmouth (IOW) Harbour (Commissioner); Grays Inn (Bencher)
Sarah Buck	BSW Consulting (Consultant; part-time); Institution of Structural Engineers (Ethics Committee member); Joint Board of Moderators (Accreditation Visits)
Richard Atkins	Department for Education (Engaged as FE Commissioner)
Professor Sir Steve Smith	UUK (Board Member); Russell Group (Board Member); UCAS (Chair of Board); Heart of the South West LEP (Board Member);
Professor Janice Kay	Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (Non-Executive Director); Advance HE (Board Member); Office for Students (Deputy Chair Teaching Excellence Framework); Office for Students (Chair – Teaching Excellence Framework (Subject Level Pilot))
Professor Mark Goodwin	<i>Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP (Board Member)</i>
Jo Binding	National Union of Students (Trustee, Chair of Finance Committee); The Student View (Chair of Trustees)
Gerry Brown	NovaQuest Capital (Chairman); IQVIA (Shares)
Nicholas Cheffings	Hogan Lovells International LLP (Consultant to the firm); PRIME Commitment Ltd (Chair); Making the Leap (Chair); CareTech Charitable Foundation (Trustee); ISLP-UK (Trustee); British Paralympic Association Parallel Club (Chair)
Graham Cole	Coldharbour Technology (University of Exeter working with Coldharbour)
Andrew Greenway	None
Patrick Hoyle	Exeter University Students' Guild (President)
Salam Katbi	Department for Education (South West Regional Co-ordinator for Prevent)
Professor Caroline MacEwen	<i>Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (Chair); Tayside Health Board (Consultant Ophthalmologist); Scottish Government/CMO (Clinical Lead); NHS Education for Scotland (Associate Postgraduate Dean); NHS Improvement (Clinical Lead GIRFT Programme); Moorlands Eye Charity (Trustee)</i>
Professor Andrew McRae	<i>None</i>

Sir John O'Reilly	<i>A*STAR (Board Member and Chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council); ERA Foundation Ltd (Chairman); University of Huddersfield (wef 010918 - Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Visiting Professor); Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 (Board Member); UCL (Visiting Professor); Royal Academy of Engineering (Member, Enterprise Committee & Selection Committee for Enterprise Fellowships); UCL (Visiting Professor)</i>
Alison Reed	British Airways plc (Director); NewDay Ltd (Director); CGI Group Inc (Director)
Joe Rigby	None
Alison Rose	None
Professor Wendy Robinson	None
Anni Vanhatalo	None
Glenn Woodcock	<i>Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge (Policy Fellow Alum); City Science Corporation Limited (Chairman and Shareholder); Cloudsoft Corporation Limited (Shareholder); Exeter City Futures Community Interest Company (CEO and Founder); Exeter College (Governor); Global City Futures Limited (Director); Grenadier Paternoster Limited (Director); Low Carbon Limited (Director); Low Carbon Foundation (Director); Low Carbon Oxygen Limited (Director); Oxygen House Limited (Director); Oxygen House Group Limited (Director); Queen's Drive Exmouth Community Interest (Director); Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce (RSA) (Fellow); Sparx Limited (Director); Dartington Hall Trust (Trustee of Board)</i>

In attendance

Andrew Connolly	Peninsula Innovations Ltd (Director); University of Exeter Consulting Ltd (Director); Falmouth Exeter Plus (Director)
Joff Cooke	Gradsouthwest (Spouse co-owner and Director of Business)
Neil Gow	Sainsbury Laboratory (Trustee Director, Head of Scientific Advisory Board); Westerdijk Institute (Member of Scientific Advisory Board), Editor in Chief, The Cell Surface; Editor, Cellular Microbiology); British Society for Medical Mycology (President 2018-2021)
Professor Tim Quine	University Vocational Awards Council (Board Member); Tianjin University (Honorary Professor)
Imelda Rogers	None
Mike Shore-Nye	Ted Wragg Multi Academic Trust (Institutional Member); Exeter Science Park (Director; Exeter College (Spouse as

	student); Northcott Theatre (Trustee), Member of the Working Group for the Implementation of JEP2
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Other Committees

Bettina Rigg	Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP (Employee-partner); Writtle University College (Governor)
David Dupont	Diabetes UK (Member of Clinical Studies Group researching Type 1 Diabetes); Operation Imprezza (Charity Trustee Director); Pennon Group Plc (Shareholding)
Simon Enoch	Jurit LLP (Consultant); Nescot (Governor); 100% IT Ltd (Director)