

Council

1 February 2022

Present:

Joe Docherty (Chair), Joanna Barker, Jonathan Bewes, Kay Boycott, Camila Caiado, Leslie Ferrar, James Grierson, Alison Hastings, Denise Lievesley, Antony Long, Colin Macpherson, Amir Michael, Cheryl Millington, Rebecca Morris, Liadi Mudashiru,

- c) **University Secretary Appointment:** The Chair thanked Council members who had volunteered to be part of the appointment panel and confirmed that the timeframe for applications to be received had begun and would close in mid-February.
- d) **Council Meetings:** The remaining meetings for the academic year were scheduled to take place in person and would include a pre-Council event the evening prior to the meeting. Council Committee Chairs were asked to use their discretion in determining if their remaining meetings were to be held in-person or virtually.

63. Vice-Chancellor's Report (C/21/49)

Received: A report updating Council on key matters addressed by the Vice-Chancellor and the University Executive Committee (UEC) since the Vice-Chancellor's Report on 7 December 2021.

Noted:

- a) The Vice Chancellor was pleased to be attending her first Council meeting and thanked Council members for time provided and knowledge shared since her appointment was announced. Special acknowledgement was given to the Chair of Council and to the Provost, who had served as Interim Vice Chancellor. The Students' Union had been very welcoming, and the Vice Chancellor looked forward to working with the President and the Union.
- b) The Vice Chancellor's eam (')2.7 (s)-2 ()0.6 (e)]TJ f (mly Tw (Tw [(apTc 0.004 (u)-ioTc 0.004 (u)-i-3.

- ii. The proposal had been reviewed and endorsed by Provost's Board, University Executive Committee, and Senate.
- b) The appointment of an Interim Head of Department for twelve months in lieu of the standard three-year period was proposed to help facilitate the transition and provide an opportunity for a permanent Head to be identified from existing staff and new hires joining the University during that period. The proposal had been endorsed by the Board of Studies and Senate.
- c) Alignment of staff with the two new Departments would be determined in collaboration between the employee, Head of Department and Human Resources, over a period of transition.
- d) The proposed split aligned with the Strategy as a move which would facilitate better external recognition that could be leveraged for accreditation, research, as well as staff and student recruitment.

Approved:

- a) The establishment of a Department of Economics and a Department of Finance, from the

Noted:

- a) As previously noted, the Committee had met with the Auditors regarding the audit and associated findings in preparation of the Annual Report.
- b) The Committee had undertaken a “deep dive” on reputational risk that provided assurance the risk was managed; further discussion of the risk at Council had been recommended.
- c) There had been a high volume of internal audit work completed that included the identification of a number of recommendations related to Colleges, linked to the College Handbook. The Committee was reviewing timelines to help ensure actions were being managed.

74. Governance and Nominations Committee Report (C/21/59)

Received: The report of the matters considered by Governance and Nominations Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2022.

Agreed:

- a) As the paper outlining amendments to the strategic risk related to governance and management and its continued priority and focus following completion of the Council Effectiveness Review had not been circulated prior to the meeting, members would provide feedback / approval to the University Secretary via Email following the meeting. **ALL**

75. Finance Committee Report and Financial Items (C/21/60)

Received: The report of the matters considered by Finance Committee at its meeting on 25 January 2022.

Noted:

- a) The increased Local Exhaust Ventilation funding request would be used to address legacy issues and ensure the University is aligned with current requirements. However, requirements continue to evolve, and any new future requirements would need to be addressed and funded accordingly.
- b) The acquisition of Boldon House presented an opportunity to accommodate a large number of staff in one location and thereby freeing space on campus for other use. The assumption was that the space would be utilised by Professional Services staff but required further work to confirm.

Agreed: y e f E 0 0 1 3 9 7 6 2 1 6 5 (m (b e r) - 6 (o e 3 4 . 9 (o 3 0 4 - e n) 1 0 . 5 w e .) - 6 . 7 1 a 6 (h a) 0 1 . 9 (o l) 2 . 6 (d 4 . 9 4 6 0 T a