



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1891

## MINUTES FOR COUNCIL (BUSINESS MEETING)

Open Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023 in the Arrouaisian Room, Missenden Abbey.

### Present:

- Maggie Galliers (Independent [Chair])
- Andy Cole (Independent [Deputy Chair and Chair of Governance Committee])
- Anna Crabtree (Independent [Chair of Resources Committee])
- Professor Nick Braisby (Vice-Chancellor)
- Irene Kirkman (Independent)
- Dr Annet Gamell (Independent)
- Anthony Murphy (Independent)
- John Smith (Independent)
- Karen Satterford (Co-Opted [Chair of Student Experience Committee])
- Justin Sullivan (Independent)
- Sadie Groom (Independent)
- Dr Susan Rosser (Independent)
- Ze'ev Portner (Academic Representative)
- Emma Binnie (PSE Representative)
- Hilary Mullen (Senate Representative)
- Professor Karen Buckwell-Nutt (Senate Representative)
- Brandon Tester (Students' Union President)

### In attendance

- Professor Damien Page (Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
- Professor Rachel Cragg (Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Digital))
- Professor Paul Morgan (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience));
- Ellie Smith (University Secretary and Clerk to Council)
- Trevor Gabriele (Chief Finance Officer)
- Ian Harper (Commercial and Business Development Director)
- Professor Ric Khine (Senate Representative on Council elect) – Observer
- Sarah Williams (Head of School: Business and Law) – for Deep Dive: School of Business and Law item only
- Matt Hiely-Rayner (Director of Strategic Planning and Change) – for Thrive28 KPIs and the Risk Register items only
- Dr Emma Tomsett (Minute Secretary)

## Welcome / Apologies for Absence

- 23.153 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted the following apologies:
- Supriya Sobti (Independent [Chair of Audit Committee])
  - Jackie Westaway (Independent).
- 23.154 The Chair of Council expressed her thanks and deep gratitude to Independent Members John Smith and Anthony Murphy and Senate Representative Hilary Mullen, who were attending their final Council meeting, for their invaluable service to Council.
- 23.155 The Chair noted that Council would formally thank former Students' Union (SU) President Charlotte Leighton-Woods for her contribution to Council during the 2022-23 academic year at the annual Council dinner after the meeting.
- 23.156 The Chair welcomed the new SU President Brandon Tester to his first meeting as an official member of Council. The Chair also welcomed Professor Ric Khine (Head of School: Health and Social Care Professions) who was observing the meeting before joining Council as a new Senate Representative from 1 August 2023.
- 23.157 The Chair noted that the final date of Independent Member Supriya Sobti's term on Council had not yet been agreed. Formal thanks would be given to her at her final meeting.

## Declaration of conflicts of interest

- 23.158 No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Deep Dive: School of Business and Law

- 23.159 Council considered a presentation on the School of Business and Law from the Head of School. Council's attention was drawn to the School's portfolio; its recent achievements, including being accredited as a Chartered Association of Business Schools business school, and student number growth due to International Students; the establishment of the new School Leadership Team and a new location for the School where all staff were co-located; and the launch of the School's first Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) and plans to expand Research and Knowledge Exchange activities.
- 23.160 The School's ambitions, based around a new mission statement, included improving the School's brand awareness and reputation; gaining further professional body accreditations; increased engagement with the local community, partly through the establishment of an annual public lecture; further diversifying the School's portfolio, in part through co-curriculum offerings with other Schools; and improved student continuation, outcomes and recruitment. The School aimed to be in the top five for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey. Priorities for the School included moving to a subject cluster structure to keep its curriculum relevant and current and reviewing the quality of its partnerships and increased integration of partners into the School.

- 23.161 The School's Office for Students (OfS) action plan was focused on improved governance, including the establishment of a School partnership committee; training and development for staff; and an improved student experience.
- 23.162 Opportunities for the School included more KTPs and consultancy; internal and external collaborations; practical and applied teaching and learning; and online programmes.
- 23.163 The Chair thanked the Head of School for an extremely informative presentation. In response to queries from Council members, the Head of School advised:
- a) her main priority upon assuming her role had been to achieve consistency between part-time and full-time staff and between the School and its partners
  - b) businesses remained extremely eager to be involved with the School as they needed students with 'softer' skills, such as communications skills, which the School delivered
  - c) the School did not run a Business Economics programme and no such programme had been validated under the Curriculum 23 Change programme due to falling numbers of students selecting it at post-92 universities
  - d) the School was interested in offering a General Law programme but did not currently have the staff capacity
  - e) the School's brand would be a sub-brand that complemented BNU's existing brand.
- 23.164 The Academic Representative commented that the Head of School had faced a difficult situation when she first joined BNU and had responded with great energy and empathy; she needed continued time and resources to achieve her aims. The Head of School commented that she had received much support from the University since joining it.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

- 23.165 The Open Minutes of the Strategic meeting on 23 May 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting without amendment.

### **Matters Arising / Status of Actions**

- 23.166 Council noted the status of the actions as outlined on the action sheet. The University Secretary and Clerk to Council provided the following verbal updates:
- a) action 22.158: the University knew the lessons it had learned from last year's United Kingdom Visas and Immigration inspection, and would pull them together in a report for Council
  - b) action 23.23 had been completed.

### **Chair's Action**

- 23.167 The Chair confirmed she had signed the documents to complete the purchase of Alexandra House.

## University Matters

### Vice-Chancellor's Report

23.168 Council received a report from the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor drew Council's attention to the following points:

- a) the implications of the government's recent response to the Augar Review appeared relatively mild for BNU: the change to the fee for Foundation Years (FY) only applied to programmes in fees band D, but many of BNU's FY courses were not in that band. While the government was suggesting giving the OfS the ability to impose some student number controls (SNC), the OfS had repeatedly stated it did not have the resources to impose SNC. BNU had modelled various scenarios involving SNC and the impact was again appearing to be either low or no impact
- b) BNU remained in discussion with Chiltern Student Villages (CSV) over the sale of CSV's stake in the Phase 2 land at Hughenden, and had submitted a bid, but BNU was not comfortable with some of the CSV Board's actions, so was also taking legal advice on actions taken or proposed by the CSV Board
- c) the University Executive Team (UET) had recently been made aware of some potential slippage from the 1 September completion date for the High Wycombe estate redevelopment. BNU was in discussion with the contractors about what this slippage might be and to understand why UET was only informed so late in the process. BNU was considering whether to take a partial occupation, and there were also penalty clauses for a late handover that could be enacted
- d) a further item was discussed under Reserved Business. See Reserved Minutes.

23.169 The Chair observed that BNU's latest Postgraduate Research Experience Survey results were pleasing.

23.170 In response to a query from the SU President, the Vice-Chancellor advised that if BNU did not acquire the phase 2 land from CSV, there were two further possible outcomes. The first outcome was that the land could be purchased by another interested party, one of whom was committed to building student accommodation, but this would not be as guaranteed as if BNU owned the land. The second outcome was that CSV might decide to halt the sale. Under either option, student accommodation would not be lost, but it would become more challenging and probably more expensive.

### Financial Position Update: Management Accounts (Month 9 YTD) and Q3 Forecast Outturn

23.171 Council received an update on the University's performance in the financial year to date. The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) advised Council that the University was tracking close to the forecast position at the end of Period 9, with a positive variation to the budget. Costs were being managed to 1% of the forecast. The surplus was forecast to be £8.7m including the Overage.

23.172 The Chair of Resources Committee confirmed the Committee had examined the accounts and had accepted them.

23.173 The Chair congratulated the University for having kept to budget.

## Budget for 2023-24 and four-year forecast

- 22.173 The CFO presented the 2023-2024 budget and Financial Forecast to 2027-2028 to Council. Council was advised that:
- a) this was the first forecast that matched the Thrive 28 strategy period
  - b) income was budgeted at £99m due to growth in student numbers and educational contracts
  - c) expenditure was budgeted at £94m
  - d) the surplus was budgeted at £5.0m
  - e) core student numbers were projected as 7,099; Apprenticeships were projected to grow to 1,102; UK Partnership students were projected to grow to 17,322; and Overseas Partnership students were projected at 1,024.
- 22.174 The Chair of Resources Committee confirmed that Resources Committee had reviewed the budget in detail and commented that it was very fortunate that BNU's position was so positive. Resources Committee had had been concerned about the increase in partnership student numbers given BNU's strategic aim to move away from large volumes of partnership students, but had been advised that the increase was due to an existing 'pipeline' of students.
- 22.175 The Chair of Council also informed Council that Resources Committee had focused on contingencies as the surplus was lower. The CFO confirmed that the main contingency was £2.8m of vacancies built into the budget so if BNU was to see adverse movement it could reduce its cost base, but a £1.0m contingency on the fee income had also been built in. In response to a query, it was confirmed that one of the contingencies was based on possible action required at Oxford Business College.
- 22.176 Council agreed that the challenge was to recruit students, but also to retain them. The Academic Representative observed that students joining BNU now had experienced two years of educational disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic and would be a different type of student to those who had joined before.
- 22.177 Council approved the 2023-24 Budget and the Financial Forecast to 2027-2028.

## Students' Union (SU) President's Report

- 23.174 Council received a report from the SU President, who apologised for the lateness of the paper. The paper outlined the SU's priorities for 2023-24; the SU's concerns about the availability of student accommodation, which it was noted was a way to retain students; work between the SU and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) on standards of customer service across BNU; and the priorities of the SU Sabbatical Officers, which included continued work on supporting students with the cost of living, on addressing digital poverty, on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), on engagement with Nursing students and on the international student experience.
- 23.175 The Chair thanked the President for his apology and observed it was very helpful to receive papers on time, but commended the paper's content, and particularly the SU's work on EDI. She had been delighted to observe more diversity amongst the winners at the last SU Awards.
- 23.176 In response to a query, the President informed Council that the SU's Representation Team had identified some minor feedback regarding placements from BNU staff members that had not

seemed ideal and had discussed this with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience). The Pro Vice-Chancellor commented that there seemed to be a theme around responsiveness in communications: the University expected staff to make clear how they should respond to student communications and to encourage students to follow up if they did not receive a response.

- 23.177 In response to a further query from a Council member, the SU President advised Council that the 2023-24 SU Vice-President Education and Welfare (High Wycombe) had good networks with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students which had boosted BAME student engagement and the SU was also getting more BAME leaders on its committees.

#### OfS Compliance Annual Report 2022-23

- 23.178 Council noted a report on the University's compliance with the Office for Students' (OfS) Ongoing Conditions of Registration. The University believed it remained compliant with the Ongoing Conditions of Registration, but the University Executive Team kept under review the status of conditions B1, B2 (1) and (2) and B4, as the University considered the draft findings of the OfS investigation into its Business and Management programmes.

- 23.179 The University Secretary and Clerk to Council (USCC) confirmed that Audit Committee reviewed the status of the University's OfS Compliance Tracker at every meeting. The USCC also confirmed to Council that

- a) BNU had submitted its Variation to its Access and Participation Plan which had been approved by the OfS
- b) it had a Student Protection Plan in place and was awaiting new guidance from the OfS about how this should be updated
- c) BNU was compliant with the D Conditions having submitted its Financial Statements to the OfS on time
- d) all fees to external bodies had been paid on time.

- 23.180 The USCC advised Council that BNU had submitted eight Reportable Events in the past academic year, including four which had been reported under an F3 Notice, Schedule 1 from the OfS.

- 23.181 The USCC also highlighted some other actions by the OfS during 2022-23, including the consultation on sexual harassment and misconduct, on the National Student Survey and the proposed name change of Newman University.

- 23.182 The USCC and University Secretariat Manager had recently attended the first meeting of a sector compliance forum, which would be very helpful to BNU moving forward. It had been pleasing to note that BNU was on a par or slightly ahead of other providers, some of whom had yet to provide a single report on compliance to their Council.

- 23.183 The Chair thanked Independent Member John Smith for being instrumental in recognising that OfS compliance had not been mapped well two years ago, which had led to the present report.

#### Degree Outcomes Statement 2022-23

- 23.184 Council considered the Degree Outcomes Statement (DOS) 2022-2023. The Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Digital) advised Council that the DOS had been considered by Senate in June and recommended to Council for approval. It was a public-facing document so did not contain a detailed action plan but only the headline narrative. BNU had some gaps in achievement between student groups that were not improving and had accordingly developed a detailed action plan. BNU was also considering how to address the significant gap between BNU and Partner outcomes.
- 23.185 In response to a query from a Council member about whether any of the issues raised in the DOS would cause concern relating to the government's recent enunciation about degrees that gave poor student outcomes, the Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor commented that BNU had worked hard to ensure that degree outcomes were not inflated as it had developed its new degree algorithm. The University's data did not place it in a category where the OfS might question its Good Honours rates.
- 23.186 In response to a query about the regulatory concerns and issues around reassessment raised by BNU's External Examiners, the Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor clarified that External Examiners had questioned BNU's policy of allowing students to undertake reassessment on every assignment. BNU was now changing that position, and some amendments might be needed to the DOS.
- 23.187 The Chair asked if the changes introduced under the Curriculum 23 Change Programme would present any difficulties to students. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor informed Council he had met with all Heads of School to set a target of an 80% first-sit pass rate for all student assessments for each School. A plan was now being developed to upskill staff to support students to write their assessments earlier than the due date.
- 23.188 In response to a query about the development of principles for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Digital) advised Council that BNU was focused on how it could embrace AI and educate students to use it appropriately. The Chair noted that a discussion on AI might come to a future strategic Council meeting. The Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor assured Council that BNU's academic misconduct software was able to detect the improper use of generative AI in assignments.
- 23.189 Council approved the Degree Outcomes Statement 2022-2023.

#### KPIs

- 23.190 Council received a report on the Thrive 28 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relating to student outcomes: Continuation and Graduate Outcomes (GO). The Director of Strategic Planning and Change (SP&C) informed Council that in both cases performance had declined slightly since the start of the Thrive 28 period, but context was important to understand this. BNU was outperforming its peers in the latest GO survey, but the KPI had been given a Red rating as current performance was below target. The Continuation KPI had been given an Amber rating because while BNU was still above all baselines, some of BNU's internal data suggested there could be challenges ahead and Partner performance had also pulled BNU's overall performance down.

- 23.191 The Director of SP&C also advised that there was some positive news around GO: performance for provision delivered by BNU had improved and was now substantially above benchmark for the first time.
- 23.192 It was also noted that the data for the Continuation metric lagged as the current data was for 2021. BNU had taken many actions since then which should have a positive impact on this KPI in the future, such as the introduction of predictive analytics. However, it was also understood that cost of living and other pressures
- 23.193 In response to Council's queries, the Director of SP&C clarified that:
- a) UET owned the KPIs collectively, and actions and goals were owned individually
  - b) he anticipated a post-Covid cohort would not continue to the same rate as pre-pandemic cohorts
  - c) while partners sometimes pulled down BNU's performance, in some cases they also lowered the benchmark BNU was measured against
  - d) the changes to the Access and Participation Plan being introduced by the OfS mean that BNU would evaluate the impact of its actions.
- 23.194 The Vice-Chancellor commented that student retention was challenging across the sector, but BNU had an advantage in that it had already invested in predictive analytics which identifies students at risk of non-continuation. However, retention was likely to remain difficult as students were having to work longer hours to support themselves and were often struggling to find affordable accommodation.
- 23.195 In response to further queries, the Vice-Chancellor confirmed
- a) the University's Communications team did a lot of messaging to students to support their retention: if findings from data analytics were framed in the right way, they helped and encouraged students
  - b) many students used a shuttle bus to travel to the Uxbridge campus, but UET would consider if further help was needed when London's Ultra Low Emission Zone was expanded in late August
  - c) the Student Outcomes Action Plan did not require further resourcing, but BNU would review the resourcing and effectiveness of the Retention and Engagement team.
- 23.196 In response to a comment from the SU President about the Digital Poverty Working Group, the Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor assured Council that BNU's Education Committee was considering the effectiveness of this group.

## **Audit Committee Update**

### Chair's Summary Report

- 23.197 Council received the summary of the work of the Audit Committee since the previous meeting of Council, including the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023. The University Secretary and Clerk to Council (USCC) confirmed that the Chair had approved the summary. The USCC drew Council's attention to the following points:



- a) the Committee's receipt of Internal Audit Reports and their assurance levels
- b) the Internal Audit Follow-Up report had shown good progress on actions
- c) the Committee had reviewed the Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24 and had requested the plan incorporated more work on partnerships, which had been done
- d) the Committee had received confirmation that BNU was meeting its Financial Covenants
- e) the Committee had received the OfS Conditions Tracker and noted the timeline to produce the next Financial Statements
- f) the Committee had recommended the revised Financial Regulations for Council approval.

23.198 The Chair of Council informed Council that the Chair of Audit Committee had attended an OfS meeting at which the OfS had made it clear that providers with partners needed to ensure all partnerships were in order. This indicated that the OfS would be intervening in this area.

### Financial Regulations

23.199 Council considered the University's new Financial Regulations, including a revised Scheme of Delegation, which had been approved by Audit Committee. However, Audit Committee had noted it did not have the authority to approve Appendix A: Delegated Authority Limits, which Council was now asked to approve. Council discussed the Regulations from which the following points emerged:

- a) The bad debt write-off levels to be checked to confirm they are correct for Council and Resources Committee

**Action: Chief Finance Officer**

- b) The allowances for Council members only allowed members to claim travel expenses, but it had been agreed that student members could claim childcare expenses etc. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed he would amend this point

**Action: Chief Finance Officer**

- c) the Chair asked that the Students' Union confirm if the new Regulations would cause any difficulties for the SU if they followed them, although the CFO commented that he believed the SU had their own Regulations.

**Action: Chief Finance Officer / Students' Union**

23.200 Subject to the completion of the above actions, Council approved the Financial Regulations including Appendix A: Delegated Authority Limits.

### Risk Register: revised format

23.201 Council considered a revised format for the University's Risk Register. The Director of Strategic Planning and Change informed Council that Audit Committee had recommended the new risk register format to Council for approval. The Director informed Council that:

- a) the new format had been well received by Audit Committee; it was proposed that BNU adopted a new top-level strategic risk register containing more focused risk items and operating with a more dynamic approach that saw risks elevated onto the register, mitigated and managed, and eventually removed
- b) the items on the risk register would pertain more closely to a specific risk, such as the risk of a breach to cyber security as opposed to the broader risk that corporate systems and IT were not

adequate. This would expose more smaller, granular risks to Audit Committee rather than just providing broad reporting on overall risks.

23.202 The Chair commented that the new format seemed more informative.

23.203 Council approved the revised Risk Register format for immediate use.

## **Governance Committee Update**

23.204 Council received the summary of the work of the Governance Committee since the previous meeting of Council, including the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023. The Chair of Governance Committee informed Council that the Committee had reviewed the induction plan for new members for 2023-24; the schedule of reviews of members; and the revised Council Committee Constitutions and Terms of Reference document.

23.205 Council then completed the following actions:

- a) Council approved the appointment of two new Independent Members for a first term of office from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027 following their recommendation by Governance Committee: Brian Lewis and Marek Pruszewicz. The new members had been interviewed by the Chair of Governance Committee, the Chair of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, the University Secretary and Clerk to Council and Senate Representative Hilary Mullen. Council noted that Mr Pruszewicz was finishing his term as a governor at Oxford Brookes University so there was no conflict of interest.
- b) Council approved the addition of both Students' Union (SU) Vice-Presidents (Education and Welfare) as permanent student members of Senate from the 2023-2024 academic year onwards, following a one-year trial in the 2022-23 year.
- c) With great regret, Council approved the immediate ending of Independent Member Steve Kennett's term on Council following recommendation by Governance Committee. Council noted that Mr Kennett had experienced serious health difficulties that had undermined his ability to fulfil his role on Council.
- d) Council approved the updated Council Committee Constitutions and Terms of Reference. It was agreed that a note on quoracy for the Student Experience Committee would be added.

### **Action: University Secretary and Clerk to Council**

- e) Council noted that Professor Ricardo Khine (Head of School: Health and Social Care Professions) had been elected as the new Senate Representative on Council from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2025, replacing Hilary Mullen
- f) Council noted the reappointments of Karen Satterford and Anna Crabtree as Chairs of Council's Student Experience and Resources Committees respectively for a second term from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2025
- g) Council noted the recruitment for new members of the Missenden Abbey Board of Directors and the Specialist Co-Option to Audit Committee remained ongoing. Council was informed that Governance Committee had held a thorough discussion on other approaches to the recruitment of the Specialist Co-Option
- h) Council noted recruitment for a new Student Co-Opted Member of Council from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 was ongoing. Council was advised that the recruitment process would recommence in September. The Students' Union would be involved in the recruitment process.

- 23.206 Council also noted the Annual Update on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the University's new Equality Strategy.
- 23.207 The Chair of Council advised that the current Chair of Audit Committee would be standing down and it had been agreed that all Council members would be invited to express interest in assuming the role to the University Secretary and Clerk to Council. The USCC confirmed that the approval of the new Chair could be done by correspondence. It was noted that this was a matter of urgency.
- 23.208 In response to a query, the USCC confirmed that co-options to the Vice-Chancellor's Remuneration and Staff Reward Committees would be sought in the future.

## **Resources Committee Update**

- 23.209 Council received the summary of the work of the Resources Committee since the previous meeting of Council, including the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2023.

### Tuition fees for 2024-205 for non-controlled provision

- 23.210 Council approved the 2024-25 tuition fees for non-controlled provision following their recommendation by Resources Committee. The Chair of Resources Committee informed Council that the Committee had questioned whether a 1% increase in fees was sufficient, but had agreed to recommend them having been advised it could impact BNU's competitiveness if they increased them too much and, given the fees could be capped in the future, BNU again did not want to increase them to a point that was too high in the future.

### Annual Treasury Management Report

- 23.211 Council approved the Treasury Management Report as recommended by Resources Committee. In response to a query from a Council member, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed it had been agreed at Resources Committee (RC) that he would review the Treasury Management (TM) policy and bring proposals to RC about how to optimise the interest receivable on cash reserves.
- 23.212 The Chair of Resources Committee informed Council that the Committee had been notified of a breach of the TM policy in May as BNU had held a substantial amount of cash in one account for a longer period than the policy permitted. The Committee had asked the CFO to review the policy to establish if the limits were appropriate as well as looking at new investments. It was noted that, while concerning, the breach was in some ways positive as it reflected BNU's overall positive financial position. The Chair of Council commented that Council must view any breach as something the University should not do.

### High Wycombe Development Oversight Group

- 23.213 Council noted the reserved minutes of the High Wycombe Development Oversight Group meetings held on 8 March, 19 April, 15 May and 21 June 2023.

## **Student Experience Committee Update**

## Chair's Summary Report

- 23.214 Council received the summary of the work of the Student Experience Committee (SEC) since the previous meeting of Council, including the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2023. The Chair of the Committee advised Council that the University's Student Experience Forum had been established and SEC would be monitoring the Forum's agendas to ensure the two bodies were complementing each other and not duplicating effort. The Committee had also noted the results date for the National Student Survey; considered the results of the latest Graduate Outcomes Survey and noted positive progress on participation in the SU's Big Deal activities.
- 23.215 The Chair of Council asked if BNU and the SU had mapped where different student feedback should be taken now that there were several places where students could take their feedback. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University's expectation was that all operational issues should go to the Forum unless the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) could resolve them, and that SEC would have now have an oversight view giving assurance to Council on how the University was managing the student experience.

## **Starred Items**

- 23.216 These items would only have been discussed if comments had been received by the Chair, Clerk to Council or Minute Secretary in advance of the meeting; no comments had been received. Council noted the starred items listed below without comment:
- a) the minutes of the most recent meetings of the University's Senate (7 June 2023), Education Committee (10 May 2023) and Research and Enterprise Committee (25 May 2023)
  - b) the University's Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) Annual Statement 2022
  - c) a report on the use of the University's Seal and Coat of Arms since the previous meeting of Council.

## **Reserved Business: Oxford Business College**

- 23.217 This item was considered under Reserved Business. See Reserved Minutes.

## **Any other business**

- 23.218 The Chair and Vice-Chancellor thanked all retiring members for their contributions to Council; further remarks would be made at the following reception.
- 23.219 Retiring member Mr Murphy commented it had been a pleasure to work with the University and his Council colleagues and commended the University Secretary and Clerk to Council and Minute Secretary for their exemplary levels of service and professionalism.

## **Date of next meeting**

- 23.220 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10 October 2023.