

## Council – Strategy Meeting

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### Open Minutes

Date of meeting: **Tuesday, 12 February 2019**

Duration of meeting: **4.00pm to 7.00pm**

Location: **S3.02A, South Wing, High Wycombe Campus**

### Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Category of membership</b>
Michael Hipkins	Chair	Independent Member
Irene Kirkman	Deputy Chair	Independent Member
Joanna Boardman		PSE Elected Member
Nick Braisby		Acting Vice-Chancellor / Vice-Chancellor
Anna Crabtree		Independent Member
Tim Marshall		Co-opted Member
Ken McCrea		Co-opted Member
Anthony Murphy		Independent Member
Jenny Newton		Independent Member
Lauren O'Shea		Students' Union President
Cheryl Pitt		Academic Elected Member
Susan Rosser		Independent Member
Bob Shennan		Independent Member
John Smith		Independent Member
Megan Staples		Student Representative
Phil Wood		Senate Nominee

### Officers

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Category of membership</b>
Ellie Smith	Secretary	Clerk to Council
Marcus Wood	Minute Secretary	

### In attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Julie McLeod	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
Sean Mackney	Pro Vice-Chancellor

Rod Mercer	Director of Finance
Alexandra Bode-Tunji	Director of Human Resources

## Apologies

Name	Role	Category of membership
Gurdeep Chadha		Independent Member
Baljit Dhillon		Independent Member
Florin Ioras		Senate Nominee
Maggie James		Independent Member
Lise Llewellyn		Independent Member

## Welcome / Apologies for Absence

19.01 The Chair welcomed Council members to the meeting. There were five apologies for absence noted.

## Formal Business

There was one item of business which was considered under Reserved Business (Minute 19.02-19.05). Members of the University Executive Committee, excepting the Director of Human Resources and Academic Registrar, were not present during consideration of this item. See Reserved Minutes.

## Strategic Business

19.06 The Chair welcomed other members of the University Executive Team to the meeting at this point.

19.07 Council and others in attendance congratulated Professor Nick Braisby on his permanent appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

## Scenario Planning

A copy of the presentation was saved with the minutes.

## Review of Post-18 Education and Funding

19.08 Council received an update from the Vice-Chancellor in relation to the ongoing Augar review, which was anticipated for publication towards the end of the month. It was considered that this may recommend a reduction in the full-time undergraduate annual tuition fee (currently £9,250) and a possible capping of student numbers by A-Level entry grade profile.

19.09 Both recommendations would have a significant impact for all higher education providers, while the capping by grade profile would harm prospects for widening participation in particular. The sector continued to lobby government on the impact of the changes and some reassuring comments from the Higher Education minister were noted.

19.10 Council members then engaged in a scenario planning exercise with the following four scenarios explored:

- a) Scenario One: Investing in the future of community (Economic Growth, Socialist Government)

- b) Scenario Two: Enterprise and Innovation for a Greater Britain (Economic Growth, Capitalist Government)
  - c) Scenario Three: Pulling out of Trouble Together (Economic Contraction, Socialist Government)
  - d) Scenario Four: Greater Freedom for Future Prosperity (Economic Contraction, Capitalist Government)
- 19.11 Details of all four scenarios, including the outcomes of a previous exercise undertaken by UET were subsequently shared with members. A copy of the paper was saved with the minutes.

### **Brexit Action Plan**

- 19.12 Council received a verbal update from members of the University Executive Team on the University's preparations for the UK's scheduled withdrawal from the European Union on 29 March 2019 ("Brexit"):
- **Student recruitment:** The University has a number of EU students, particularly on its nursing provision, including a number of students from Ireland. A communication has been drafted for applicants in relation to continuity of funding post-Brexit;
  - **Erasmus+:** The Government has recently clarified that it would not automatically underwrite the existing agreement should the UK exit the EU without a deal;
  - **Research & Enterprise:** The University is a partner in various Horizon projects and in other EU research projects, e.g. Erasmus. It is reassuring partners where there are guarantees. Consideration is also being given to the setup of a private company within the EU to enable future participation;
  - **Partnerships** were not considered to be affected as the University is prioritising international partnerships or partnerships within the UK;
  - **Citizens' Rights:** The University employs 70 staff from various EU states. HR has written to all those affected with regard to their status and will provide guidance on the application process for permanent settlement within the UK post-Brexit;
  - **Finance** has written to all major suppliers to the UK and provided them with a Brexit impact tool to judge impact. Banking arrangements were deemed to be low risk as the University has a relatively small number of transactions in Euros and has not taken advantage of the single European payment process;
  - **Data:** IT contracts are being reviewed to check where the University's data is held to ensure continued access post-Brexit. It was noted that Microsoft has a major data centre in Ireland but has yet to respond on its arrangements for UK customers;
  - **Staff travel:** Staff are being advised of the potential risk to travel over the period of Brexit itself (i.e. end of March) and guidance is being issued.

### **Staff Engagement Survey: Initial findings**

- 19.13 Council received a presentation from the Director of Human Resources on the recent staff survey undertaken. Actions had been identified to focus activity on the three lowest scoring areas from the survey; these coalesced around the need for leadership and vision, and included the Bucks Leadership Programme.
- 19.14 A copy of the presentation was saved with the minutes.

## University Strategy 2016-21

19.15 The Vice-Chancellor presented an update on the Strategic Plan to date including RAG ratings against items. These showed the University to be on track on most items but with further work necessary around Reputation and impact – particularly the University’s international profile and role as an anchor institution – work on learning analytics to support retention activities, and organisational effectiveness work in respect of digital infrastructure, generation of a surplus and the University’s brand identity.

19.16 In particular it was noted that:

- The market for Apprenticeships continues to be challenging with apprenticeship income £2m adverse to budget. A detailed report will be presented to Resources Committee in March.
- A model for Industry Boards has been established and these and other advisory panels are intended to be established via Bucks Business First. These would ensure that programmes are relevant to industry requirements. A report would be presented to Council in due course.

**Action: Secretary**

19.17 A copy of the presentation was saved with the minutes.

## BEST / UCAV

This item was considered under Reserved Business (Minute 19.18-19.22). See Reserved Minutes.

## School Developments: Aviation & Security

19.23 Council received a presentation from the Head of School for Aviation & Security and the student Chair of the SU Aviation Society on recent developments within the School.

19.24 In particular, it was noted that the School has been successful in its tender to Thames Valley Police for policing apprenticeships starting in 2020.

19.25 A copy of the presentation was saved with the minutes.

## Date of next meeting

19.26 The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, 18 March 2019, from 4pm in UX3.07 at the Uxbridge Campus.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr Michael Hipkins (Chair of Council)

Drafted (Minute Secretary): 15-Feb-2019  
Checked (Clerk to the Council): 18-Feb-2019  
Checked (Vice-Chancellor): 21-Feb-2019  
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