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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL THURSDAY 9th July 2019

PRESENT:

Revd Canon Peter Winn (in the Chair), Mr Charles Mills (Vice-Chair), Dr John Bennett, Sr Dr Mary Charles-Murray SND, Cllr Jane Corbett, Mr Feidhelm Doolin, Revd Canon Chris Fallon, Dr Simon Hulme, Dr Joan McClelland, Fr Chris McCoy, Mr John Norbury, Professor Gerald Pillay, Mr Ultan Russell, Mrs Diane Shaw, Mrs Maggie Swinson, Professor Ian Vandewalle, HH Judge Graham Wood QC (17 members)

By invitation:

Ms Laura Gittins (Clerk to Council)
Mr Derrick Dykins (Company Secretary)
Professor Atulya Nagar (Dean of Science) for item 9
Mr Haris Rashid (President Elect, Students' Union)

No Conflicts of Interest were reported.

The Chair welcomed Mr Rashid and noted that Mr Rashid, Dr Penny Haughan, Fr Michael O'Dowd and Dr Caroline Wakefield would be joining University Council after the summer. He also acknowledged the work of those who were leaving Council; Professor Ian Vandewalle, Ms Diane Shaw and Mr Mike Gilbertson.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Mrs Jane Beever, Rt Revd Paul Bayes (Bishop of Liverpool), Mr Mike Gilbertson, Sr Maureen McKnight SND, Dr Arthur Naylor and Revd Canon Professor Kenneth Newport.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2019 were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

3. **Matter Arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising that were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

4. **Vice Chancellor's Notes to Council**

Members had received the Vice Chancellor's Notes to Council, which included a summary of the Augar Review (from London Economics) and the Project 2020 Action Plan which is part of the University's 10-point plan to improve recruitment, retention and attainment. The Vice Chancellor focused mainly on the Augar Review and the University's initial response, which includes its efforts to diversify its provision via the 10-point plan. He noted that the University remained in a good position financially and, unlike

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other HEIs, has not had to resort to restructuring. The University had recently realigned its departments in Arts & Humanities and Education into Schools creating a large Faculty of Liberal Arts, Education and Social Science (LAESS). Fr McCoy queried how this had been received by staff; the Vice Chancellor said that generally the changes had been well received, adding that these were needed to ensure that subjects were properly integrated.

On collaborations, the Vice Chancellor advised that the Federation of Hope partnership would not now be progressing, though provision at St Mary's College was expected to continue.

The University's 175th Anniversary celebrations were ongoing with a view to underlining the differences between the University and so-called post-92 universities. Cllr Corbett praised the efforts of Professor Davismoon for his efforts in the local community. She asked that Associate Professor Chandy in the Business School consider links with the City via the Blueprint for Better Business programme.

Professor Pillay noted the University's success in acquiring AACSB accreditation

Action: Mr Dykins to forward Cllr Corbett's details to Associate Professor Chandy

5. Secretary's Business

Members had received the Calendar of Meetings and Other Events for information.

6. Senate

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2019

Members had received the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2019, which were presented by Professor Pillay in his capacity as Chair. An update on recent changes to the membership of Senate and its Committees was included.

(ii) The Code of Student Conduct

Members had received the Code of Conduct which is intended to replace the current Code of Student Discipline. Ms Gittins said that the previous Code did not align with best practice from the OIA nor with current practice within the sector. The new code no longer involved University Council at the final appeal stage and members were advised that they would be approving a divergence from the current constitution of the University. However, Ms Gittins explained that there were certain areas where practice did not fully align with the constitution, and she would be redrafting this over the coming year to ensure full alignment with University process.

The Code of Student Conduct was unanimously **APPROVED** by Council.

The divergence and amendment to the Articles of Association (Constitution) were unanimously **APPROVED** by Council.

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(iii) Access and Participation Plan

Members had received the Access and Participation Plan, which was a key OfS document covering the next five years. It was based on University data which had been sent by the OfS and had already been approved by Chair's Action due to the need to submit the final document within very tight deadlines. Members commended the report and the quality of data and how this tied into the Equality and Diversity Report. It was noted that the key would be the implementation of the action plan.

(i) Annual Partnerships Report 2017/18

Members had received the Report which provided a comprehensive overview of all partnerships for the last academic year.

7. Finance & General Purposes Committee

(i) Minutes of 11th June 2019

Members had received the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2019 which were presented by Mr Norbury as Chair. Appended to the minutes was a letter from the OfS concerning financial viability in HEIs, and the University response to the letter. Members agreed that the response was appropriate and reassuring. Members were also provided with a summary of the Augar Review and its potential impact on the University.

Mr Norbury highlighted the proposed sale of University owned property at 42 Canterbury Street. Members queried whether there would be conditions attached to the sale to avoid development on the land. Ms Gittins said that the valuation was not yet finalised and would be presented to Council before any sale were to go through.

Members requested a review of the sale of 42 Canterbury Street to provide caveats to avoid the land being developed.

(ii) Draft Budget 2019/20

Members had received the draft budget for 2019/20, which aimed for a surplus of 3% which, given the current climate with a reduction in income and an increase in costs, was commendable.

The draft budget was unanimously **APPROVED** by Council.

(iii) Treasury Management Policy

Members had received the revised Treasury Management Policy which now included a new section relating to Ethical Banking and Investments.

The Treasury Management Policy was unanimously **APPROVED** by Council.

8. Audit and Risk Management

Minutes of the meeting of Audit Committee 18th June 2019

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Members had received the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2019, which were presented by the Chair, Mr Charles Mills. He highlighted several items, including the External Auditor fee and the inclusion of student mental health provision on the Risk Register. He also noted that all work was completed on the internal audit reports.

9. Staffing Committee

Minutes of the meeting of Staffing Committee held on 28th May 2019

Members had received the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2019 which were presented by the Chair, Mrs Swinson. There was no recent update on pay negotiations though it was likely that the final offer would be rejected. Mrs Swinson noted that unlike schools, universities would not be receiving any financial assistance to support pension funds placing a financial burden on the University. On sickness and absence, it was noted that bereavement under Mental and Behavioural disorders were contributing significantly to figures, and Personnel were considering how better to support staff through bereavement.

Members had also received the REF Code of Practice which was presented by Professor Atulya Nagar. He explained that REF 2021 is the periodic audit of the quality of research countrywide and staff in all HEIs who have research as part of their contract have to be considered in the exercise. This year it was hoped that 100% of staff would submit next November and that the University will perform even better than in the last review. Currently, approximately 15% of staff did not have research in their contracts. The Code of Practice is an extensive document that each HEI must produce based on REF rules, and described the process that will be used to determine submissions. The document was widely consulted upon and capture the University's ambitions for REF. Ms Swinson noted that Staffing Committee had spent considerable time on the document and that it had been thoroughly scrutinised. Professor Nagar said that the document had been submitted to external advisors for comment and feedback had been positive. Cllr Corbett queried whether there were any research links with the City of Liverpool; Professor Nagar said that impact was an important element of REF and that there were some local partnerships involved, such as Airbus and the Archdiocese. The Vice Chancellor noted that it is Hope which provides social workers and teachers to the City, not the University of Liverpool. Cllr Corbett said that more needed to be done to raise the profile of the University in the City. Fr McCoy suggested that the role of the University as a civic institution be included as a possible topic for the annual reflective meeting.

The Code of Practice was unanimously **APPROVED** by Council retrospectively.

10. Council Standing Committee on Health and Safety

Minutes of the meeting of Council Standing Committee on Health and Safety 6th June 2019

Members had received the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2019 which were presented by the Chair, Sr Charles-Murray. She said there were no significant issues to report and noted amendments to the membership of the Health & Safety Consultative Committee to include IT services. Plas Caerdeon had also recently undergone a Health

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& Safety audit. Professor Pillay noted that a new head who was a former teacher had recently been appointed, and had addressed academic staff during the recent Learning & Teaching Day.

11. University Council Effectiveness Review

Members had received for information the action plan which was based on recommendations from the review.

12. Equality and Diversity Annual Report

Members had received for information the Annual Report, which was commended.

13. Students' Union (SU) President's Report

Members had received the President's Report. Mr Doolin noted the appointment of the new General Manager who was previously the Advice worker, with plans in place to recruit his replacement as Advice worker. He confirmed that all students involved in giving advice at the SU were studying Law at the University. Mrs Swinson queried the future of the National Union of Students (NUS); Mr Doolin said that the NUS had agreed a set of measures to reduce staffing to improve its financial viability.

Mr Russell commended the work of the SU and Dr Bennett complimented the work of Mr Skilbeck in supporting the work of the Learning & Teaching Committee. The Chair thanked Mr Doolin for his service over the year at the SU and wished him well in his future endeavours.