

Summary Report of Council 4

The University Council held a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on 7 July 2021, and welcomed Mr Inshaal Ahmad, the new UBU Student Affairs Officer to his first meeting of Council.

Council noted that this was Michael Bell's final Council meeting. Council recorded its appreciation for Mr Bell's commitment to the work of Council and the University over a 10-year period and noted there would be an opportunity to mark his departure at an event in September. Council also recorded its thanks to Jo Beaumont who was stepping down from the role of non-academic member of staff on Council on 31 July 2021 and to Dr Pam Bagley, Deans' representative on Council who was retiring from the University in August.

This paper provides a high-level summary of the business considered by Council, which will be published on the University website. This is not a formal record of the Council meeting but presents an update on matters discussed by the University's governing body.

Baroness Ann Taylor
Chair of Council

1 Report from the Chair of Council

On behalf of Council, the Chair recorded her thanks and appreciation to the Executive Team, and the wider University, in their response to the pandemic and their ability to adapt to change during this challenging period. Council commended the collective efforts of the University community, noting that the University had effectively managed the complexity and uncertainty of the pandemic in 2020/21 and was well placed to build on progress in the next academic year.

The Chair also drew attention to the Council residential that would take place on 14-15 October, and noted that to the extent permitted, all Council meetings in 2021/22 would be conducted as face-to-face meetings, and that the first meeting of each Committee of Council would be conducted on campus, with subsequent meetings being arranged as virtual meetings on MS Teams.

2 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on key matters affecting the University, including an update on the transition back to campus and preparations for the 2021/22 academic year, noting the commitment to provide students with a full on-campus experience from September 2021. External engagement activities were also highlighted.

In addition, Council noted that the new West Yorkshire Mayor had been invited to visit the University to discuss how the University could work collaboratively with, and actively support, the Mayoral Manifesto for West Yorkshire.

3 Report from Bradford Union of Students (UBU)

Council received a presentation from the UBU Student Affairs Officer and the UBU Education Officer on the challenges that the Students' Union faced post-pandemic and UBU plans for the next

academic year. Council was pleased to note that the Union would continue to work in partnership with the Executive to support students in their transition back to campus.

4 Key Performance Indicators

Council considered and **approved** the final set of key performance indicators that would be used for ongoing reporting to Council, Senate and Committees from the 2021/22 academic year onwards.

5 Finance Reports

Council considered a suite of finance reports, including the late financial forecast 2020/21, the 2021/22 delivery plan, budget, and financial estimates to 2022/24; and the cashflow forecast, noting that these reports had been subject to scrutiny and challenge by the Finance Committee and Executive Board, who concluded that the budget and forecasts were credible and robust.

Council was assured of the future financial sustainability of the University and **approved** the revenue budget for 2021/22 and the approach to managing the capital investment programme.

Council congratulated the Executive and the Finance Committee on delivery of a strong financial position for 2020/21 which was a reflection of the University's financial strength and resilience and noted that the University would continue to review and monitor its financial position carefully in order to maintain a financially sustainable position going forward and deliver on its financial strategy.

6 Student Recruitment

Council considered a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Innovation and Quality on applicant, offer and acceptances across all markets for September 2021, noting the innovative approaches to advertising, event delivery and outreach that had been developed. Council was also reassured that mechanisms were in place to deliver a resilient and fit for purpose service during the Clearing period.

7 Corporate Risk Register

Council **approved** the University Corporate Risk Register, noting that it had been considered by the Risk Oversight Group and Executive Board, and endorsed by the Audit Committee. The revised definition of the legal and regulatory corporate risk was also **approved**; this would be incorporated into the Corporate Risk Register.

Standing Items

8 Report from University Secretary

Council received a report from the University Secretary on the ongoing work related to areas of governance pertinent to Council and the University. Following consideration of the report, Council **approved**:



- the University position on definitions of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.
- the revised Senate Terms of Reference.
- the draft role description and person specification for the Chair of Council.
- the proposed changes to Ordinance 16 and the proposal to convert Regulation 28 into a university procedure.

9 Business from Committees of Council, and Senate

Council noted summary reports from Senate; Audit Committee; and Finance Committee on issues discussed since the last meeting of the Council.

10 Council received the following reports, for information:

- Minutes from the Council meeting held on 12 May 2021.
- Prevent Duty update.
- USS Pension Scheme update.
- Annual report of student complaints 2019/20.
- Workforce data report, quarter 3, 2020/21.
- Health and Safety report, quarter 3, 2020/21.
- Draft Council 4 agenda.
- Council terms of reference and membership 2020/21.
- Council schedule of business for 2020/21.

11 Meeting dates for 2021/22- these would be in-person meetings (COVID rules permitting)

Council 1: 21 September 2021

Council residential: 14-15 October 2021

Council 2: 24 November 2021

Council 3: 16 February 2022

Council 4: 11 May 2022

Council 5: 6 July 2022

Jacqui Holgate, Assistant Head (Governance)
July 2021