

COURT**Minutes of the Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 14 December 2022**

Members:	Professor Shirley Congdon (Chair) Terry Hartwell Professor Zahir Irani Professor Udy Archibong Andrew Lang Riley Power and 26 other Court members	Vice-Chancellor Pro-Chancellor and Treasurer Deputy Vice-Chancellor Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Chief Finance Officer University Secretary
In attendance:	Hannah Ward Professor Prathivadi Anand Professor Andrew Wilson Professor Anant Paradkar Dr Lucy Eddy Professor Ifiok Otung Bharti Mistry	Events and Partnerships Manager Professor of Public Policy & Sustainability Professor of Faculty of Life Sciences Professor of Pharmaceutical Engineering Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Professor in Space Engineering Secretary
Apologies:	Professor Karen Stansfield Marian Hilditch	Dean of the Faculty of Health Studies Academic Registrar

The meeting was hosted virtually and the recording is available online using the following link:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/9ff06289-9be7-4301-8d95-6f9b3d6bfac3>

3.22-23 Welcome address and update by the Vice-Chancellor

- 3.1 The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all to the meeting and reminded Court Members that the University's vision was one of inclusion, equality and opportunity, where people want to and can make a difference.
- 3.2 The Vice-Chancellor updated on the following:
 - The University's four Supporting Strategies,
 - That the International Student Barometer 2021, had ranked the University best in the world for its Careers and Employability Services and for how it welcomed students from abroad.
- 3.3 The Vice-Chancellor reported on some success stories of the University including:
 - The launch of Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI;
 - That Professor Sherif El-Khamisy had made a major breakthrough in understanding how the so called 'DNA breaks' occurred;

- That University archaeologists would lead part of a major national 'Discovery Project' which was an ambitious £14.5M initiative, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council;
- That a final year University law student had won a smart car, donated by Proctor & Hobbs Solicitors, after winning a Mock Trial competition;
- The University would be working more collaboratively with football clubs and a new long-term partnership had been agreed between the University and Bradford City AFC;
- That a University Sustainability Plan was being developed;
- The Turing Scheme – that allowed University students to undertake work placement overseas;
- Being awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for world-leading work in developing archaeological technology and techniques;
- The School of Management being named the Business School of the year at the Times Higher Education Awards 2021;
- The University's continued commitment to social mobility, being ranked first in the Social Mobility Index;
- Revolutionary product – Effershine;
- The appointment of a new Chair of Council – Eileen Milner;
- Bradford being named the UK City of Culture 2025; and
- That a strategic growth plan was under development that would consider the shape and size of the University.

4.22-23 **Highlight report of the University's financial position**

- 4.1 The Pro-Chancellor and Treasurer and the Chief Finance Officer introduced the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2022.
- 4.2 The Chief Finance Officer stated that the audited results demonstrated significant progress in the strengthening of the University's financial position.
- 4.3 The Financial Statements were available on the University's website:
<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/governance/policies-and-statements/financial-statements/>

5.22-23 **Questions to the Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer**

- 5.1 Question: Cancer Pharmacology had transformed treatment for a lot of cancer patients in West Yorkshire. It was questioned if there were plans for the Cancer Pharmacology clinical trials to continue.
- 5.2 The Vice-Chancellor replied that this was one of the areas the University wanted to focus on and would be bringing a strategic plan forward to enhance and see growth.
- 5.3 Question regarding the University's sustainability ambitions, if there were any plans to set a net zero target as part of those plans to reduce the carbon footprint.
- 5.4 The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the University was not in the position to do so at the moment but would be looking into it.

- 5.5 The Vice-Chancellor added that the University would be developing a climate action plan which would be monitored.
- 5.6 Question asked on sustainable practise and highlighting the importance of this in media, TV, film and production.
- 5.7 The Vice-Chancellor replied that this was part of looking at the future, shape and size of the University, including Generation Alpha, which was the group of people born between 2010-2024. The sentiment that had been coming forward from those children 8 and above was that those were the things they cared about and would like to focus on the environment

6.22-23 **Presentations on Research Projects in the University**

- 6.1 Andrew Wilson who had been awarded a Queen's University Anniversary Prize for the University's work in the Digital Heritage was welcomed to the meeting. Professor Wilson presented on 'Virtual Bradford', with a potential to offer sustainability and net zero.
- 6.2 Professor Anant Paradkar presented on his research on effervescent products to develop Effershine and Effershield products, which were trade names of the same technology which could remove the need for millions of single-use plastic bottles and tubes in the manufacturing of effervescent products.
- 6.3 A question was asked regarding the support received from the broader University in bringing the research innovation to a commercial position and what could be learnt in helping researchers to have successful innovations that could go to market and be commercially successful.
- 6.4 Professor Paradkar replied that the support and guidance received in patenting the product and the support from the IRC team was only possible in this University. Internal funding was made available at the initial stages. As an academic, he felt he had been fully supported by the Faculty and by the Research and Knowledge Transfer Team.
- 6.5 Question was asked about scalability and how this technology could be used by other producers. Bradford was home to one of the world's leading cleaning product companies called Astonish and it was questioned whether they had been approached to participate with this expansion and whether the University could leverage that kind of activity for the benefit of the University and consumers at large.
- 6.6 Professor Paradkar replied that there were many technologies that were taking this on a very high level.
- 6.7 Dr Lucy Eddy presented on FunMoves, which empowered schools to identify fundamental movement skill difficulties, reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for children.
- 6.8 Professor Ifiok Otung presented on the Bradford-Renduchintala for Space AI and the research that the newly inaugurated Centre was delivering. The University is aiming to be the first UK

University to build and launch a miniaturised satellite into orbit having significant onboard computational capability based on neuromorphic processing technology,

6.9 There was a question regarding opportunities and skills that were required for this technology to be harnessed and what specific actions would need to be taken now so that the University did not lose to others as it would be good for the University of Bradford students to benefit from this.

6.10 Professor Otung replied that:

- The University had been working with Bradford Council.
- The University had accepted to take the lead for the RF cluster for the Yorkshire region.
- They had been looking at how the University could contribute for the Bradford City of Culture, especially in the area of AI.
- Would definitely want the young people of Bradford and the region to be inspired.
- Part of this project would be to launch the pocket cube satellite and this would be used when University went in to Schools.
- There was the intention to have local activities to tell young people what training they would need if they would like to contribute in what the Centre would be doing and if they would like to build their career, not just in space technology, but in engineering in general.

7.22-23 **Vice Chancellor closing comments and event close**

7.1 The Vice-Chancellor thanked all the researchers for their presentations and thanked members of Court for their attendance.

Secretary: Bharti Mistry

Date: December 2022