

Constitution and Nominations Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2022

Meeting Attendance

Members present:	Denise Jagger (Chair and Pro-Chancellor) Professor Charlie Jeffery (Vice-Chancellor & President) Professor Saul Tender (Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost) Chris Thompson (Pro-Chancellor and Treasurer) David Watson (Chair of Audit & Risk Committee) Pierrick Roger (SU President) Professor Richard Ogden (for M22-23/08-11 only)
In attendance:	Dr Adam Dawkins (University Secretary) Joan Concannon (Director of External Relations) Dr Philip Evans (Secretary)
Apologies:	Philip Carpenter (Pro-Chancellor)

Section 1: Additional Paper

Chancellor Appointment (CNC.22-23/02[a])

- 22-23/01 The Committee **considered** an additional paper from the University Secretary in respect of the appointment of the next University Chancellor, noting that it had been added to the agenda in order to expedite the appointment through onwards recommendation to Council and Court.
- 22-23/02 The Chair of Council, University Secretary and Director of External Relations **reported** that:
1. the recommendation to appoint Dr Heather Melville as Chancellor was the successful culmination of a six-month process led by the Chancellor Search Committee (CSC);
 2. Dr Melville was highly committed to the role [REDACTED];
 3. preliminary discussions had been held with Dr Melville as regards the communication plan for her appointment and installation ceremony (planned to take place at the time of graduation ceremonies in January 2023);
 4. the appointment remained highly confidential until the formal ratification process through Council and Court had been completed.
- 22-23/03 **Resolved:**
To recommend for Council endorsement to Court the appointment of Dr Heather Melville as the University's seventh Chancellor for an initial five-year term
[REDACTED].

Section 2: Standing Items

Terms of Reference and Membership (CNC.22-23/01)

- 22-23/04 The Committee **noted** its Terms of Reference and membership for 2022/23.

Minutes of the last meeting (CNC.22-23/02)

22-23/05 The Committee **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022 as an accurate record.

Court Review 2022/23 (oral report)

22-23/06 The University Secretary **reported** that:

1. a scope for the planned review and proposed membership of a review group would be submitted to the next meeting for consideration;
2. he had already held informal discussions with a number of counterparts at other universities to ascertain their current Court structures and processes;
3. the review would consider the full spectrum of possible options [REDACTED]

Chair of Council Succession (oral report)

22-23/07 The University Secretary **reported** that:

1. work had commenced with Human Resources and recruitment consultants [REDACTED] on the recruitment of the next Chair of Council with a strong focus on achieving a diverse list of possible candidates for the role;
2. the recruitment would be managed in accordance with CUC requirements for an open and transparent process, and would include an invite to existing Independent Members to stand;
3. the intention was to make an appointment by May 2023 in order to allow a handover period from the current Chair.

Section 3: Honorary Degree Nominations

New Nominations (CNC.22-23/03)

22-23/08 The Committee **considered** 28 new nominations which had been received in response to the call from the Director of External Relations issued in June 2022.

22-23/09 The Chair of Council and Director of External Relations **reported** that:

1. following a brief pause in the annual nomination process due to the Covid pandemic and also by having a sizable list of approved (but not yet awarded) honorary degree recipients, the call for new nominations had focused on producing a replenished 'pipeline' of candidates for graduation ceremonies in 2023 and beyond;
2. while it was desirable for candidates to have an existing link with the University, or to have the potential for such beneficial links to be established, there might also be candidates whose achievements and high esteem were in themselves sufficient to merit such an award and who would act as inspiring role models to graduating students;
3. honorary degrees sought to recognise extraordinary individuals who aligned with the University's vision, values and excellence; in addition to matching the published criteria, nominees should show distinction beyond their paid role; represent the diverse communities and cultures within the University, the City of York and beyond; and reflect the interdisciplinary approach of the University;
4. as the list of candidates was generally strong, the Committee would consider candidates on an exceptions basis, with discussion focused on areas of doubt, risk or insufficient information; some candidates would also be considered together in cases where they had been submitted as a pair or where they fell in a similar category such as Sport or Medicine;
5. the incoming Chancellor would be asked to nominate three candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded at the Installation ceremony; these nominations would be submitted to the Committee for onward recommendation to Council, or Chair's Action on its behalf;
6. in future the paperwork relating to honorary degrees would be reduced in volume by re-modelling the nomination form and moving from alphabetical presentation to nominations grouped by category, in order to help the Committee navigate the material more easily and

identify priorities or preferences where there were several nominees in a single category
[ACTION: Director of External Relations]

22-23/10

Resolved:

[REDACTED]

Date of Next Meeting

22-23/11 The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Tuesday 22 November 2022 (13:30-15:00).
Secretary's note: this was subsequently cancelled, with a written circulation in lieu of a meeting.