Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2013

Present: The Chair of Council
The Vice-Chancellor
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
The Treasurer (Mr D Dickson)
Pro-Chancellor (Mrs L Wild)
Pro-Chancellor (Mr D Tecwyn)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor C Mellors)
Mr R Armitage
Mr M Burton
Professor B Fulton
Mr M Galloway
Mr B Greenwood
Ms D Jagger
Mrs M Loffill
Mrs J McAleese
Mr W McCarthy
Professor P Sells
Professor L Stewart
Ms J Unwin
Mr K Zu (GSA)

In attendance:
The Registrar and Secretary
The Director of Finance
Governance Officer, Dr P Evans
Commercial Finance Manager (for M12-13/68)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Estates (for M12-13/69)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Taylor (SU).

12-13/64 Presentation: Environment Department

Council received a presentation on research in the Environment Department from Professor Colin Brown (Head of Department), Professor Dave Raffaelli, Professor Callum Roberts, Professor Sue Hartley (York Environmental Sustainability Institute) and Dr Lisa Emberson (Stockholm Environment Institute).

12-13/65 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Members were invited to declare any potential conflicts of interest relating to the business of the meeting. With regard to agenda item seven (business and community executive report), Mr Greenwood declared an interest as a shareholder in a University spin-out company (Pro-Cure Therapeutics Ltd) and Mrs Loffill as a member of the Board of York Science Park.
12-13/66 Membership

The Chair thanked the following outgoing members for their contribution to Council:

- Professor Brian Cantor (Vice-Chancellor)
- Professor Brian Fulton (elected by Senate)
- Keke Zu (GSA President)

12-13/67 Minutes

The unreserved minutes of the meeting held 21 June 2013 were approved (C.12-13/57) and Council noted the action schedule based on the minutes (C.12-13/58).

With regard to M12-13/53 (Executive Report: HR Director), it was suggested that the minute did not adequately reflect Council’s emphasis on the importance of performance management, and it was therefore agreed that this point should be conveyed to the HR Director to support the work being undertaken in this area.

12-13/68 Budget 2013/14 and Financial Forecasts to 2016/17

12-13/69 Environment Building

12-13/70 Executive Report: Business and Community

12-13/71 Annual Feedback Questionnaire

Council considered a report summarising the feedback on effectiveness submitted by individual members via the annual questionnaire (C.12-13/62).

It was noted that the response generally confirmed a high degree of satisfaction with Council’s effectiveness as the University’s governing body. The following were however noted as actions in response to the comments made in the questionnaires and at the meeting:

- earlier circulation of the questionnaire to give members more than two weeks to respond, thereby generating a higher response level;
developing a means of showing a prior year comparison for the
table ranking effectiveness criteria (question five of the
questionnaire refers).

The Chair invited members with any further comments on Council
effectiveness to contact him directly if they wished.

12-13/72 Sustainability Assessment Indicators

Further to M12-13/51, Council received for information a further
report on the new financial sustainability KPIs required by HEFCE
(C.12-13/63)

12-13/73 Financial Performance Data

Council received for information financial performance data for the
period ended 31 May 2013 (C.12-13/64).

12-13/74 Business from Committees

Business from the following committee meetings was noted and/or approved (C.12-13/65):

(a) Policy and Resources Committee: 7 June 2013
(b) Equality & Diversity Committee: 19 June 2013
(c) Treasury Group

In response to a query about the proposed change to the
constituency of the Treasury Group, it was noted that the change
merely sought to formalise what had been the de facto operational
practice of the Group.

12-13/75 Equality and Diversity Annual Report

Council received for information the executive summary of the
annual report from the Equality and Diversity Office (C.12-13/66).

12-13/76 Schedule of Business

Council received for information its Schedule of Business for
2013/14, including the schedule of Executive Reports (C.12-13/67).

12-13/77 Unreserved Business from Senate

Council noted the following unreserved business from the meeting
of the Senate held on 9 July 2013:
(a) annual report on undergraduate and postgraduate taught outcomes and postgraduate research submission rates (C.12-13/68);
(b) Calendar of Meetings for 2013/14 (C.12-13/69).

12-13/78 Use of Seal

Council approved the use of the Common Seal of the University (details available in the Registrar’s office).

12-13/79 Dates of Meetings in 2013/14

The dates of meetings in 2013/14 were noted as follows:

- Friday 15 November 2013
- Thursday 6 February 2014 (Away Day)
- Friday 28 February 2014
- Friday 20 June 2014
- Friday 25 July 2014