

University of York Constitution and Nominations Committee

Matters for note by Council at its meeting on 24 July 2024 arising from the meeting of Constitution and Nominations Committee held on 8 July 2024

1. Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

The Committee recommended the following to Council for approval, subject to resolution of any issues raised by Senate:

- A new joint University/York Students' Union Policy and Procedures on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech;
- Rescinding of the current Regulation 10 with effect from 1 August 2024;
- Petitioning of the Privy Council to amend the University's Charter to bring it into line with the current legal definition of academic freedom.

The Committee noted:

- a. Requests for exceptions to the Policy that are escalated to UEB (Policy, paragraph 18) should also involve Council.
- b. The need to articulate and monitor the reputational risk associated with this area at management level, reporting to Council. This should be fed into the planned Council Development Session to review the University's approach to risk.

2. Updates to the University Scheme of Delegated Approvals for 2023/24

The Committee noted an annual report on updates to the University Scheme of Delegated Approvals, as approved by the University Secretary under delegated authority from Council. The Scheme would need to reflect the imminent structural changes at the University and the outcomes of current reviews of the function of various committees. Consideration should also be given to the role of Council in the approval process for (a) the Student Protection Plan and (b) Strategic KPIs.

3. Other business

The University Secretary reported on progress in relation to:

- a. EDI and Unconscious Bias training for Council members;
- b. The working group for the light touch Council Effectiveness Review;
- c. Independent membership succession.