Academic and Governance Services

Council

18/51 A meeting of the Council was held in the Meadow Suite, Park House, on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 10.00 am.

The President
The Vice-President (Mrs K. Owen)
The Acting Vice-Chancellor
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor M. Fellowes)
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Mr V. Raimo)
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor P. Yaqoob)

Mr T. Beardmore-Grey
Mr D. Bentley
Professor J. Board
Professor L. Butler
Mr K. Corrigan
Mr J. Dabydoyal
Mrs P. Egan
Professor C.L. Furneaux
Ms H. Gordon
Professor J.R. Park
Mr S.C.C. Pryce
Dr B. Rawal
Mr S.P. Sherman
Ms S.M. Woodman

The Chief Strategy Officer and University Secretary

In attendance:

The Chief Financial Officer
The Director of Quality Support and Development

Apologies were received from Dr P. Erskine, Mr R.E.R. Evans and Ms M. HlOf.

18/52 The President thanked members for attending the dinner and did d a (r) (.)Tj10.6 (rs f)1.rs di/nge1h

18/53 The minutes (18/31-18/50) of the meeting held on 9 July 2018 were confirmed and signed.

Items for note

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allegations of ‘grade inflation’. He affirmed the University’s confidence in the rigour of its awarding and quality assurance processes, and in its academic standards. The University was concerned to provide the Council with the information and data which would best enable it to assure itself of the University’s academic standards and the quality of education, and to fulfil its responsibilities in this area in accordance with Ordinance A2 and the OfS’s requirements.

The paper was considered in group discussions, which then fed back to a concluding plenary session. Key points in the discussion were:

(a) The Council was satisfied that the University had robust quality assurance processes and that awards were being made in line with sector standards. It was suggested that there might be opportunity to streamline processes, while maintaining rigour and resilience.

(b) The Council would benefit from a better understanding of the criteria applied by the OfS in reviewing universities and where its focus lay.

(c) In relation to the Annual Learning and Teaching Report, it might be helpful:

   (i) To highlight areas in which the University was doing particularly well and any areas which required attention, and how the latter were being addressed;
   (ii) To include data analysed by School or subject area, showing performance over a period of years;
   (iii) To include classification data over an extended period (possibly up to 30 years) in order to have a longer perspective on grade inflation/improvement;
   (iv) To include data on academic and graduate outcomes for widening participation students in comparison with non-widening participation students, and to provide a commentary on enabling initiatives;
   (v) To track data on degree outcomes against entry qualifications and to identify ‘added value’;
   (vi) To include a commentary on grade inflation/improvement;
   (vii) To include data and commentary on graduate outcomes, including career destinations and income information;
   (viii) To identify additional spending on teaching and learning, including where and how much had been allocated;
   (ix) To include a summary of periodic reviews conducted in the relevant period, the issues identified, and the actions being taken;
   (x) To identify any concerns raised by External Examiners and a commentary on how such comments had been addressed;
   (xi) To provide further information on peer observation and how risks around the quality of teaching and the student experience in the classroom were

The Council received a draft Report to the Audit Committee on the audit for the year ended 31 July 2018 from Deloitte.

Mr Beardmore-Gray noted that the University Executive Board needed some time to consider the Auditor's Report, and that the Audit Committee would review the Board's response in the spring. [Redacted, sec 43].

[Redacted, sec 43].

Mr Beardmore-Gray commended the rigour of the audit process and considered that the University had learnt much of value from the process.

18/66 Draft Letters of Management Representations to the University's Auditors (Item 7.4)

The Council received and approved the Draft Letters of Management Representations, which had been submitted previously to the Audit Committee.

18/67 Letter (C)5 (o)16.59(em)12.t2slrem (Item

5. “That it be noted that the external auditor Deloitte proposed an unqualified audit opinion on all of the Financial Statements for Group and subsidiaries.”

6. “That it be confirmed that in all material respects the University has conducted its affairs during the year ended 31 July 2018 in accordance with its status as a charity and that the Acting Vice-Chancellor be authorised to sign the Annual Assurance Return to the Office for Students to this effect.”

18/70 Report of the Appointments and Governance Committee (Item 8)

The Council received the Report of the meeting of the Appointments and Governance Committee held on 22 October 2018.

The President noted the continuing commitment of the Council and thn]TJ0 -1.196 4 (e Ap)3(d)-.8

(f) Mr Sherman be a co-opted member of the Audit Committee from 1 August 2019;

(g) The vacancy on the Student Experience Committee (Mr Corrigan) be filled following the recruitment of new lay members."

2. "That the

"That the Report of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, now submitted, be approved."

18/72 <u>Oral report on Admissions for 2019-20</u> (Item 10)

The Council received an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) (Mr Raimo) on admissions for 2019-20.

He reported that just over [Redacted, sec 43] PhD applications had been received to date against an intake target of about [Redacted, sec 43] students, which represented a [Redacted, sec 43] in applications relative to the same time last year. International applications comprised [Redacted, sec 43].] . Tw 0.609 0 Td [(PhD)4.9 (d)-122 (a)-1.2 (c

1. “That the draft revised membership and terms of reference, now submitted, be approved.”

2. “That the Report of the meeting of the Student Experience Committee held on 9 November 2018, now submitted, be approved.”

18/74 Report of the Senate (Item 12)

In respect of the National Institute for Research in Dairying (NIRD), the President explained that he had approved, on behalf of the Council, changes to the membership of the NIRD Trust which now comprised Mr Steve Sherman (Chair), Professor Richard Bennett (Research Dean), and, subject to his agreement, [Redacted, sec 40] (external member). The President had also approved the establishment of a NIRD Negotiating Committee, which would negotiate between the University and the Trust on matters of governance which had been brought to the attention of the Acting Vice-Chancellor. There had been concern that the Trust had not been sufficiently independent of the University, and this concern had been accentuated by the increase in the value of the Trust's land assets.

Resolved:

"That the Report of the meetings of the Strategy and Finance Committee, held on 22 October and 15 November 2018, now submitted, be approved."

18/76 Report of the Remuneration Committee (Item 14)

The Council received the Report of the meeting of the Remuneration Committee, held on 22 October 2018.

The Council noted that the Committee had received detailed reports on the annual performance of the University's senior officers, which provided for greater transparency in remuneration arrangements and aligned more closely with practice in the external corporate environment. It had been agreed that there would be no consolidated pay increases for senior staff this year, although a series of non-consolidated payments were agreed.

Resolved:

"That the Report of the meeting of the Remuneration Committee, held on 22 October 2018, now received, be approved."

18/77 Dates of further meetings of the Council in the Session 2018/19