



MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 13th February 2025

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO
1.	<u>Apologies & Absences</u> For a record of attendance, apologies and absences, see attached list.		
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> All the staff members of Council and all the staff attendees declared that they were members of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). Lesley Thompson declared that her husband was in receipt of a pension from USS.		
3.	<u>Student Story</u> <i>Item confidential</i>		
3.	<u>Minutes and Actions</u> (i) <u>Minutes</u> Council received and approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 th November 2024 and the extraordinary meeting held on 9 th January 2025. (ii) <u>Actions List</u> Council received and noted the actions.		
4.	<u>Matters Arising</u> None.		
PART A – REPORTS & APPROVALS			
5A.	<u>Finance Report</u> (i) <u>Management Accounts</u> <i>Item commercial in confidence</i> (ii) <u>Annual Financial Return Revisited</u> <i>Item commercial in confidence</i>		

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6A.	<p><u>Financial Sustainability Plan 2.0 Update</u></p> <p>(i) <u>FSP2.0 Update</u> <i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p> <p>(ii) <u>Consultation Update</u> <i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p> <p>(iii) <u>Student Retention Update</u> <i>The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) attended the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p><i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p>		
7A.	<p><u>Recruitment & Admissions Report</u></p> <p><i>The Director of Global Student Recruitment & Admissions attended the meeting for this item</i></p> <p><i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p>		
8A.	<p><u>Vice-Chancellor's Report</u></p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor began by recognising what a difficult environment it was in the University at the moment and wished to thank the professional and dedicated staff for what they were doing day to day.</p> <p>Members received an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate Fees – Council was reminded that the Secretary of State for Education had announced in November 2024 that from September 2025 the maximum cap for tuition fees and maintenance loans for students would be increased in-line with inflation and Council at its meeting on 28th November 2024 approved the charging of the upper fee limit for all new undergraduate home entrants to Keele from the 2025-2026 academic year onwards. The position for returning students needed to be confirmed and Council approved that the University would charge the upper fee limit of £9,535 for returning students from the 2025-2026 academic year onwards. It was confirmed that this was in accordance with Keele's Student Terms and Conditions. As had been noted at the previous meeting, the increased fee income would be more than offset by the increase in employer contributions and the decrease in the fee cap for Foundation Year programme students. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership with Telford College and NHS – an innovative and new landmark partnership between the University, Telford College and the NHS had been formed to develop a suite of healthcare courses for Telford College, starting with a Nursing Associate apprenticeship launching in September 2025. Keele would have dedicated teaching space in Telford College's new Clinical Skills Centre at its Wellington campus, which would be used for both onsite, satellite and remote delivery by Keele staff. Students who successfully completed the apprenticeship would have the option to progress onto an 18-month degree apprenticeship at Keele to become a registered nurse. <i>Item commercial in confidence</i> People and Planet 'Green' League – Keele had risen 14 places from 59th in 2023-2024 to 45th in 2024-2025. Launch of Keele in Town – the new teaching, learning and community space in the heart of Newcastle-under-Lyme had officially opened and provided a gateway for staff and students to collaborate with local residents, community groups and businesses. Keele Leadership Series – the second event of the series had been held and enabled the 50 plus leaders from across the University that attended to gain insights into how inclusive behaviours impacted employees to feel more valued and engaged and opportunities to build a culture of inclusion and belonging and had been led by EAB. Winter Degree Ceremonies – It had been a pleasure to see our graduates celebrate on 22nd and 23rd January 2025 and the Vice-Chancellor personally thanked all those involved for their part in making the ceremonies a success. Launch of 2025 National Student Survey – the NSS launched on 3rd February 2025 and colleagues in Schools had been working hard to prepare for it and would be encouraging all finalists to take part. This year five Schools had been the focus of targeted preparations aimed at improving their NSS scores. Keele Colleagues recognised in New Year Honours – Council members congratulated Professor Mark Ormerod on being awarded an OBE in the 2025 New Year Honours list for services to education and sustainability and Professor Elaine Hay was awarded an MBE for services to medical research. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlands Innovation Talent Project – Midlands Innovation, which is a partnership of eight universities including Keele ran an externally-funded TALENT Programme, launched in 2020 and concluding in February 2025, aimed to advance the status and opportunities for technicians in UK. The Vice-Chancellor had attended the closing event in London and wished to thank Emma Colley who had played a key role in the successful programme. The Vice-Chancellor also provided updates on sector activity. 		
9A.	<p><u>KPI Framework & University Risk Register</u></p> <p><i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p>		
11A.	<p><u>International Partnership</u></p> <p><i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p>		
12A.	<p><u>Student Reports</u></p> <p>(i) <u>Report of the Students' Union (SU)</u> The SU Experience & Community Officer presented their report, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing projects Campus accessibility improvements Launch of a free contraception service Proposed improvements to the Course Representative system Student voice initiatives Fundraising efforts The CEO updated on the financial challenges facing the SU, which were being overseen by BRC. <p>(ii) <u>Report of the Keele Postgraduate Association (KPA)</u> The President of the KPA presented their report, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wellbeing workshop Postgraduate Freshers' Day International postgraduate students' engagement with the KPA KPA Bursary awards An update on the incorporation process and it was reported that the new Constitution would be presented to the Nominations & Governance Committee in March 2025. 		

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13A.	<p><u>Secretary's Report</u></p> <p>The Secretary to Council presented her report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council approved amendments to the Schedule of Delegation to include recent changes to the UEC structure, updates to the names of the panels and regulations used for student exclusions, appeals and complaints and moving the entry for the delegations in place for the Home Office Establishment Licence Holder from a non-public annex to the main schedule. ▪ Council received an update on the appointment process for a new Vice-Chancellor. ▪ Council received an update on the Chancellor appointment process. ▪ <i>Item commercial in confidence</i> ▪ It was noted that two Chair's actions had been taken since the previous meeting. ▪ It was noted that three documents were signed under Seal since the previous meeting. ▪ Council was presented with information on training and some useful resources. 		
PART B – COMMITTEE REPORTS			
14B.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p>Council received updates on the recent meetings of the Senate, Business Review Committee and the Futures Sub-Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that details of the projects the Futures Sub-Group was reviewing would be brought to the Away Day.</p> <p>It was also agreed that an item would be brought forward to Council on the hotel.</p>		
PART C – THEMED DISCUSSION ITEM			
15C.	<p><u>International Update</u></p> <p><i>The Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) attended the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p><i>Item commercial in confidence</i></p>		
PART D – ANY OTHER BUSINESS			

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16D.	<u>Other Business</u> <i>Item commercial in confidence</i>		
17D.	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> The date of the next meeting would be 2 nd May 2025.		

ATTENDANCE LIST – 13th February 2025

Mike Farrar	Pro-Chancellor
Simon Greenhalgh	Deputy Pro-Chancellor
Sally Bucknell	Deputy Pro-Chancellor
Richard Callaway	Deputy Pro-Chancellor
David Hall	Honorary Treasurer
Professor Trevor McMillan	Vice-Chancellor
Professor Mark Ormerod	Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost

MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY STAFF

Dr Abbie Roberts	Senate Member
Dr Chrystelle Egger	Senate Member
Dr Shalini Sharma	Senate Member
Emma Colley	Appointed by the Professional Services Staff

LAY MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

Ruth Bagley

Jane Burns

David Brown

Tim Forman

A Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal
Sherree Schaefer
Dr Lesley Thompson

STUDENT MEMBERS

Sophie Borman	SU Experience & Community Officer, Students' Union
Anne George	President, Keele Postgraduate Association

SECRETARY TO COUNCIL

Clare Stevenson	Secretary to Council
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IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Mark Bacon	Chief Operating Officer
Frances Hewison	Chief People Officer
Pascale Vermassen	Chief Financial Officer

SECRETARIAT

Fiona Dumbelton	Governance Secretariat Manager
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Key A = Absent