

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL WEBINAR

Held on 18th August 2020 (held virtually)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO
1.	<p><u>Apologies & Absences</u></p> <p>For a record of attendance, apologies and absences, see attached list.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>		
3.	<p><u>Update</u></p> <p>Prior to the formal element of the webinar, Council received an update on key developments.</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>Item commercial in confidence</p> <p><u>Vice-Chancellor's Update</u></p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blackwell's book shop was to close on campus. ▪ Santander was also to close on campus, as was the case for all of its branches on university campuses. Thought was being given to how the space could best be reused. ▪ Newcastle Borough Council would be submitting two bids worth £25m each to regenerate the borough and the Vice-Chancellor had been appointed Chair of the board for the Newcastle Town Deal. ▪ Considerable work continued to prepare the campus for September. ▪ Discussions were taking place with Public Health England regarding a Covid-19 test centre on campus. ▪ If a second wave took hold, the University would move back up the five stage planning framework and face to face teaching would move to the end of the year. If a further lockdown was implemented overnight as has been the case when localised, there would not be the opportunity to advise students to return home like there was last time as travelling out of the area 		

	wouldn't be permitted so the continuation of on-campus services and facilities would be even more crucial.		
4.	<p>This item was considered as a formally constituted, virtual meeting of the full Council. It was Chaired by the Pro-Chancellor, more than seven days' notice of the meeting was given and it was quorate throughout.</p> <p><u>Covid-19 Council Delegation Extension Proposal</u></p> <p>Council received a paper from the Secretary and a covering email from the Chair proposing that the current delegation from Council, the Business Review Committee and the Nominations & Governance Committee to the Senior Council Members Group be extended for a further fixed period to 1st January 2021.</p> <p>The proposal had come from the Senior Council Members Group, which felt that with the significant levels of uncertainty we faced in the autumn with the return of many staff and students to campus, the possibility of a second wave of the outbreak and new Government guidance being issued on a regular basis (usually at short notice), the continuation of the current arrangement would provide the agility and flexibility required to respond.</p> <p>Members of the Group were also extremely conscious of the pressure on the executive and that their time was best spent focusing on running the University and keeping our staff and students safe rather than preparing for committee meetings.</p> <p>There was a commitment to continue to engage and communicate with all Council members on a regular basis as had been the case so far. The Group believed that the current delegation worked well to provide both structure and appropriate governance under the current circumstances. The full Council webinars, the Vice-Chancellor's drop-in sessions and the Secretary's Interim Reports would continue throughout the autumn term.</p> <p>It was also noted that full Council would be engaged in discussion and decisions regarding the University's finances at the session scheduled for 17th September 2020.</p> <p>Discussion focused on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council had had much more regular interactions and communications with the University than under normal circumstances. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That there had been greater participation from members, particularly in the informal drop-in sessions. ▪ The need to ensure that all members were kept fully briefed in order that they were up to speed when Council begun to meet again. ▪ Practice elsewhere in the sector was varied and ranged from continuing to meet as a full Council to using Chair's action. Keele had avoided the use of Chair's action during this period. ▪ Consider aligning the operation of Council to the five stage framework. ▪ Consider a webinar session on the Office for Students. ▪ The need to keep the position under regular review. <p>Council unanimously approved that the delegation from Council, the Business Review Committee and the Nominations & Governance Committee to the Senior Council Members Group be extended to 1st January 2021.</p> <p>It was noted that Manali Lukha and Emma Colley were unable to attend the meeting but had expressed their support for the proposal in advance.</p>		
4.	<p><u>Date of Next Session</u></p> <p>The date of the next session would be a drop-in on Wednesday 2nd September 2020, 10.00 am – 11.00 am.</p>		

COUNCIL WEBINAR
ATTENDANCE LIST – 18th August 2020 – VIRTUAL MEETING

Dame Jo Williams	Pro-Chancellor
Richard Barnes	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

	Professor Nicholas Forsyth	Senate Member
	Dr Rebecca Leach	Senate Member
	Professor Peter Andras	Senate Member
A	Emma Colley	Appointed by the Professional Services Staff

LAY MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

	Ruth Bagley
	David Brown
	Paul Clark
	Peter Harris
	Sajid Hashmi
A	Manali Lukha
	Sherree Schaefer
	Dr Lesley Thompson
	Professor Alistair Ulph

STUDENT MEMBERS

	Jack Karimi	Union Development & Democracy Officer, SU
	Katie Charlton	President, Keele Postgraduate Association

SECRETARY TO COUNCIL

	Dr Helen Galbraith	Secretary to Council
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IN ATTENDANCE

	Dr Mark Bacon	Chief Operating Officer
A	Rachel Adams	Director of Human Resources
	Paul Buttery	Director of Finance

SECRETARIAT

	Fiona Dumbelton	Governance Manager
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Key A = Absent