

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON
COUNCIL

**Minutes of the 84th meeting of Council held at 4pm on 20 June 2022
in the Oak Suite, Elm Grove, Digby Stuart College and via MS Teams**

Present: Phil Walker (Chair), Mark Allen, Dr Aleata Alstad-Calkins*, Farrah Black, Dr Christine Carpenter*, Dr Priscilla Chadwick, Janet Cooper*, Jennifer Coupland*, Sr Christine Edwards*, Prof Jean-Noël Ezingard, Dennis Hone*, Revd Dr Tim Macquiban*, Sheena Pindoria*, David Sharkey, Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Smith, Kevin Thomas*

Secretary: Dr George Turner*

Notes: Elaine Lentell

Apologies: None.

In attendance: Prof Anna Gough-Yates, Liam Hurley, Baljit Kaur, Dr Richard Keogh¹, Jordan Kenny, Tom Rowson, Dr Christopher Stephens²

** Attended the meeting remotely via MS Teams.*

Regular Business Matters, Minutes and Reports

1. Welcomes, introductions, apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Notification of Any Other Business

3.1 There was no other business.

4. Minutes

4.1 The minutes of the 83rd meeting of Council, which was held on 16 May 2022 (Paper RUC84/1), were **confirmed** and Council **approved** the redactions for the published minutes as highlighted.

5. Matters Arising

¹ Joined the meeting for Item 11.

² Joined the meeting remotely for Item 15.

5.1 Council noted progress on the matters arising as set out in Paper RUC84/2.

Strategic Reports

6. Chair's Items

There were no items to report.

7. Strategy Delivery Programme update

7.1 Council received a presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost and noted the following points in particular:

7.2 That following approval by Council at its meeting on 16 May, the Academic Realignment Project was underway and collective and individual consultations were ongoing. To date, there had been 188 individual meetings and staff engagement was generally good. As part of the collective consultation, information was being exchanged with the UCU in line with the University's legal duty to consult.

7.3 Council noted the risks flagged in the report and the mitigating actions that had been put in place to address these. It was advised that an open letter had been received from Fleur Anderson MP which contained erroneous information and that a meeting had been held between Fleur and the Vice-Chancellor to clarify the points raised.

7.4 Council noted the input from the Roehampton Students' Union President, who suggested that some students were upset by the proposals and in some cases, angry. These students were particularly concerned about the closure of a small number of programmes and the potential impact of the proposals on academic colleagues.

8. Vice-Chancellor's Report

8.1 Council received the Vice-Chancellor's Report (Paper RUC84/3), and the following points were highlighted:

External Environment

a) Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

b) With respect to the regulatory environment, the Office for Students continued to implement a robust approach to regulation in the sector, demonstrated most recently by its revised quality and standards conditions (published in May) and detailed in section 1.2 of the Vice-Chancellor's report. The Student Experience and Outcomes Panel (SEOP) and the Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (LTQC) were working to ensure that student outcomes would continue to improve.

Sustainability

- c) Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Student Education

- d) That a significant amount of proactive student support was taking place such as targeted engagement with both 'at risk' and new students, and completion of first assignment intervention through Student Academic Support Mentoring.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

- e) The University was working to establish a health network in South London, as part of the BIG Innovation Network programme. The network would enable knowledge exchange, networking, and provide peer-to-peer learning and collaboration opportunities. The first business recruitment events were scheduled to take place in the first half of 2022-23.
- f) Council noted the recent media engagements, and impact and knowledge exchange activity in Section 4.5.

9. Director of Finance's Report

- 9.1 Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

10. Students' Union Report

- 10.1 Council received and noted the contents of the President of the RSU's Report (Paper RUC84/5), which included the following:

- An update on the outcome of the RSU elections
- An update on the launch of the RSU strategy
- An update on the RSU's commercial activity
- A summary of the proposals that were recently approved by Student Senate
- An update on external and student trustee recruitment

Other items for discussion and/or approval

11. REF2021 update

- 11.1 Council received a presentation from Dr Richard Keogh, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and External Engagement) on the REF2021 exercise.
- 11.2 Council congratulated the academic staff on the impressive results and acknowledged Dr Keogh's exceptional effort to lead on the delivery of the University's Research and Knowledge Exchange strategy, and the

preparation of the REF submission. It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to Members of Council following the meeting.³

Action: Secretary

12. Budget and Financial Forecast

12.1 Council received the draft Budget for 2022-23 for approval and the provisional Financial Forecast to 2025-26 for noting (Paper RUC84/6). The following points in particular were noted:

12.2 That the Office for Students (OfS) had revised the deadline for the five-year forecast. An updated budget and forecast would therefore be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee, prior to Council in November 2022. The OfS's reporting deadline is 1 December 2022.

12.3 Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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12.5 Council **approved** the draft budget for 2022-23, noting the required savings, and thanked the Director of Finance and the Finance Team for their work on preparing the Budget.

13. Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000

14. Appointment of Whitelands College Nominee to Council

14.1 Council received the Appointment paper (Paper RUC84/8), and was asked to consider and approve the following item on the recommendation of the Nominations and Governance Committee.

14.2 Council **approved** the appointment of Ruth Martin as an Independent Member of Council nominated by the Whitelands College Foundation, for an initial term of three years.

15. Plans for Southlands College's 150th anniversary⁴

15.1 Council received a presentation on the plans for Southland College's 150th anniversary from the Head of Southlands College, Dr Christopher Stephens.

15.2 Council noted that the aim was to use the celebrations as a fundraising opportunity to transform the College's hub, the Queen's Building, to provide an improved visual and physical connection to the immediate environment, facilities to support modern teaching techniques and specialist training, and a range of creative and flexible spaces to facilitate community-enhancing activities for the University's students, staff and the wider Roehampton area.

15.3 Council members were invited to put forward fundraising ideas, potential partners for the Transformation Project, any untapped potential within the

³ Richard Keogh left the meeting.

⁴ The Item was taken before Item 13.

providing body or other external networks, or trusts or businesses to approach. Dr Stephens was thanked for the informative presentation.

Committee reports

16. Council Committees

16.1 Audit Committee

- a) Council received the Audit Committee report (Paper RUC84/9).
- b) Council **approved** the proposed changes to the high-level risk register (Appendix 1).
- c) Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Action: Secretary

16.2 Finance and Resources Committee

- a) Council received a verbal update from the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee.
- b) Minute exempt from publication under s.43 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

16.3 Joint Honorary Awards Committee

- a) Council received the Joint Honorary Awards Committee report (Paper RUC84/10), which detailed the ceremony on 31 March to confer Justice Albie Sachs with an Honorary Doctorate from the University. Following the conferral Justice Sachs gave a public lecture and gifted the University a signed copy of the South African Constitution.

16.4 Health, Safety and Welfare Committee

- a) Council received the Health, Safety and Welfare report and noted the contents therein (Paper RUC84/11).

16.5 Nominations and Governance Committee

- b) Council received the Nominations and Governance Committee report (Paper RUC84/12).
- c) Council received a verbal update from the Chair of Council on the appointment of the Senate Nominee to Council and noted that a recommendation would be presented to Council for approval at the additional meeting in July, once the candidates had been approached.

16.6 Remuneration Committee

- a) Council received the Remuneration Committee report (Paper RUC84/13).
- b) Council noted that the Chair of the Remuneration Committee had agreed to Chair the CUC group for Chairs of Remuneration Committees.
- c) Council **approved** the revised Senior Staff Remuneration Guidance, which was approved by the Remuneration Committee at its meeting on 14 March 2022.

17. University Senate

17.1 Council received the Senate report and noted the contents therein (Paper RUC84/14).

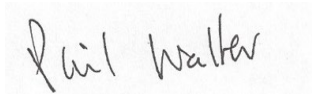
18. Student Senate

18.1 Council noted the contents of the Student Senate Report (Paper RUC84/15).

19. Farewells

19.1 Council bid farewell to outgoing RSU President, Farrah Black. Council thanked Farrah for articulating the student voice so effectively over the past two years and wished her all the best for the future.

Signed:



Phil Walker, Chair of Council

Date: 3 October 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Elaine Lentell, Senior Governance Officer, June 2022