

**Minutes currently confidential to Council marked Commercial in confidence or confidential have been redacted from the Website version**

**UNIVERSITY OF KENT**

**MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023  
Darwin Boardroom**

**Present:** The Chair of Council, Dame Ursula Brennan; The Deputy Chair of Council and Chair of Finance & Resources Committee, Andrew Newell; The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karen Cox; Colin Carmichael, Xian Chan; Michael Crick; Daniel Cook; Sarah Dance; Mayuri Lakhani, Kim Lowe; Gabriel MacGregor; Dr Sam Parrett; Mark Preston; Paul Pugh; Professor Richard Reece, Deputy Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (ESE); Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy and Performance (S&P); Zaid Mahmood, President Kent Union; Ben Bradley, Vice President Postgraduate Experience; Mima Osmani, Student Representative; Dr Will Norman, Academic Staff Representative; Alex Perkins, Non-Academic Staff Representative; Professor Iain Wilkinson, Academic Staff Representative.

**In attendance:** Chief Financial Officer (Jane Higham); Financial Sustainability Director (Peter Pentecost); Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to the Council) (Dr Sinéad Critchley); Head of Secretariat (Natasha Neill).

**Apologies for absence:**

Neil Davies, Dr Mark Downs and Chris Barron.

**5585 Chair's Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted the confidential nature of the items due for discussion. The Chair noted that this was the first meeting for Sarah Dance, Dr Sam Parrett and Paul Pugh and the last meeting for Colin Carmichael, Neil Davies, Prof Ian Wilkinson, Mima Osmani, and herself.

No new declarations of interest were noted.

**5586 Minutes for approval**

**Paper C2022/087**, the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023 were approved, pending a minor amendment to 5578 to better capture the point made by the Kent Union Vice President for Post Graduate Experience regarding research culture, communities and available physical space.

**ACTION: Head of Secretariat to amend minutes to reflect feedback received.**

**5587 Matters Arising**

**C2022/088 Action Log** was noted, with all actions recommended to close confirmed by Council.

The Chair highlighted **Paper C2022/089**, which set out the Terms of Reference for the Council Sub-Group as approved between meetings.

**[confidential]**

Council APPROVED the extension of delegated authority to the Sub-Group until the October meeting of Council.

[confidential]

**ACTION:** A proposal from the incoming Chair of Council, regarding membership of the Sub-Group from 1 August 2023, to be circulated to Council for approval via email.

#### 5588 Vice Chancellor and President's Communications

Council noted a verbal update from the Vice Chancellor on

- Issues facing Higher Education
- House of Lords inquire regarding the Office for Students
- Lifelong learning bill
- Higher Education Freedom of Speech Act
- Higher Education Duty of Care Act
- Local Council and Government engagement
- Industrial Action
- Open Day
- Graduation
- Performance in the QS International league table

[confidential]

#### 5589 KPI Financial Sustainability

Council noted Paper C2022/090 – C2022/095.

[confidential]

Council APPROVED the budget for 2023/24

[confidential]

Council APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE the major capital spend to enable the SAN replacement.

[confidential]

#### 5590 Strategic Plan and Current Performance

Council noted Paper C2022/096 – C2022/097.

[confidential]

#### 5591 Any Other Business

No further items of business were raised.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked those present for their contributions to the discussion and closed the meeting.

The Vice Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council noted the thanks of Council to the outgoing Chair for her sterling work and support during her term of office.

#### 5592 Dates of Future Meetings

The dates of forthcoming meetings in the 2023/24 academic session were noted as

- Friday 6 October 2023, 2-5pm
- Tuesday 28 November 2023, 2-5pm
- *Friday 15 December 2023, 2-5pm (if required)*
- Thursday 25 January 2024, 10am-4pm
- Friday 22 March 2024, 2-5pm
- Friday 17 May 2024, 2-5pm
- Friday 28 June 2024, 2-5pm

#### 5593 Below the Line items

**Paper C2022/098** Medway Docking Station Business Case was approved.

**Paper C2022/099** Access and Participation Plan was approved.

**Paper C2022/100** Minor amendments to the procedure for the use of the University Seal was approved.

**Paper C2022/101** Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression were approved.

**Paper C2022/102** Joint Committee for the Appointment of the Chancellor was approved.

**Paper C2022/103** EDI annual report was noted.

**Paper C2022/104** Creative Estuary Update was noted.

**Paper C2022/105** Academic and Research Staff Representative on Council was noted.

**Paper C2022/106** Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of 16 June 2023 were noted.

**Paper C2022/107** Report of Senate meeting of 14 June 2023 was noted.

**Paper C2022/108** Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 13 June 2023 were noted.

The reports of the Remuneration Committee, **Paper C2022/109** Minutes of the meeting 31 May 2023 and **Paper C2022/110** Annual Report of the Remuneration Committee were noted.

**Paper C2022/111** Minutes of the Ethics Committee meeting of 11 May 2023 were noted.

**Paper C2022/112** Minutes and Assurance Report of the People Committee meeting of 10 May 2023 were noted.

**Paper C2022/113** Council Forward Programme 2023/24 was noted.

**Notes**

**1. Papers**

Copies are available on the Council eboard portal (Diligent Boards) or on request from the Secretary. Approved Minutes and many of the papers are published on the University SharePoint site at <https://livekentac.sharepoint.com/sites/council>.

**2. Queries**

Any queries should be addressed to Dr Sinead Critchley, Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to Council), (email: [S.Critchley-2002@kent.ac.uk](mailto:S.Critchley-2002@kent.ac.uk)).

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