

Minutes currently confidential to Council

Minutes marked Commercial in confidence or confidential have been redacted from the web version

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 December 2024

Hybrid Meeting at Darwin Boardroom, Canterbury Campus and via MS Teams

Present: The Chair of Council, Mark Preston; The Deputy Chair of Council and Chair of Finance & Resources Committee, Andrew Newell; The Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura; Lay members: Dr Mark Downs; Paul Pugh; Mayuri Lakhani; Sarah Dance; Victoria Wilson; Julie, Kelly; Graham Razey OBE; Dr Sam Parrett CBE; Thomas Hyner; President Kent Union, Lulu Collins; Vice President Postgraduate Experience, Cláudia Moreira; Elected Student Representative, Lewis Sawyer; Deputy Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (ESE), Professor Richard Reece; Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy and Performance (S&P), Professor Claire Peppiatt-Wildman; Academic Staff Representatives, Dr Balihar Sanghera, Professor Shujun Li; Non-Academic Staff Representatives, Jahanara Ahmed, Dr Daniel Knox.

In attendance: Partner, EY-Parthenon, Caroline Pover; Chief Financial Officer (Jane Higham); Director of Financial Sustainability, Peter Pentecost; Director of Finance, Frank Richardson; Assistant Director of Governance, Sarah Megson; Lanre Folarin, Head of Secretariat; Dr Jo Wright, Director of Governance and Assurance (Secretary to the Council).

Apologies: Lay Member, Dan Cook

5909 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- a. The Chair welcomed new Lay Member, Julie Kelly and encouraged questions and requests for clarification, as required. Apologies from Dr Sam Parrett who had indicated that she would join the meeting at 2:15pm were also noted.
- b. **Disclosure of Interest:** None.
- c. The Chair highlighted the Trustee Duties for the attention of members but clarified that Council was not yet required to take a decision regarding Going Concern status. Council thus **noted** paper **C2024-047**.

5910 MINUTES

Paper **C2024-048**, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2024 were **approved**.

5911 MATTERS ARISING

The Action Log, Paper **C2024-049** was noted.

5912 UPDATES BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided updates on the following projects:

- i. **[minutes confidential to Council]** Council noted paper **C2024-050**.

[minutes confidential to Council]

[minutes confidential to Council] A target completion timeline of February 2025 was also stated.

- ii. Council noted paper **C2024-051 [minutes confidential to Council]** The objectives and options were presented to Council along with the recommendation of the Kent 2030 Programme Board **[minutes confidential to Council]**.

The proposed model was noted as aligning with the overarching Kent 2030 Strategy **[minutes confidential to Council]**.

*Action: Present the full business case to FRC
and Council in due course
(Financial Sustainability Director)*

- iii. Council noted paper **C2024-052**.

[minutes confidential to Council]

Council **agreed** to support progression of the transaction **[minutes confidential to Council]**. The final terms, and decision to enter contractual relations would be subject to consideration of a full and final business case and Council approval.

5913 REBASED KENT 2030 PLAN

The Chair gave a background to the Kent 2030 Plan to pave way for the Chief Financial Officer's presentation of the Rebased Kent 2030 Plan. The CFO presented paper **C2024-053** with the support of the Financial Sustainability Director,

the DVC (S&P) and EY-P Partner, Caroline Pover, and sought Council approval [minutes confidential to Council].

Highlights of the CFO's report were as follows:

[minutes confidential to Council]

Council deliberated extensively and several questions were asked and issues clarified. Overall, Council noted that:

[minutes confidential to Council]

Council **agreed** that the negotiations [minutes confidential to Council] should proceed on the basis of paper C2024-053.

Actions: *Strategic Planning and Performance Management Team to present breakdown of student numbers, changing demographics and assumptions behind pay awards to Audit Committee.*

5914 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Acting Vice Chancellor gave the following updates to Council:

a. External Updates:

- The Devolution White Paper was due for publication next week.
- Looking forward to the new approach to skills growth to be introduced by Skills England.
- A Kent and Medway Employment Task Force had recently been launched in Medway and the initiative is expected to generate more funding.

b. Internal Updates:

[minutes confidential to Council]

Council noted the updates and **[minutes confidential to Council]**.

5915 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Council noted the following dates for forthcoming meetings in the academic session 2024/25 holding at the Darwin Boardroom unless otherwise Indicated:

- Thursday 23 January 2025 (Strategy Day; 10am-4pm) at *Darwin Conference Suite*
- February 2025 (TBD)
- Friday 21 March 2025 (2-5pm) (*Medway*)
- Friday 16 May 2025 (2-5pm)
- Friday 27 June 2025 (2-5pm)

ITEMS BELOW THE LINE

5916 REVISED APPROVAL PROCESS AND AUTHORITY LIMITS FOR APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

Council **approved** paper **C2024-054**.

5917 UPDATED INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY

Council **approved** paper **C2024-055**.

5918 OFS CORRESPONDENCE: STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN - COMPLIANCE LETTER

Council **noted** paper **C2024-056**

5919 COUNCIL FORWARD PROGRAMME

Council **noted** paper **C2024-057**

Notes

1. Papers

Copies are available on the Council e-board 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 Jo Wright, (Secretary to Council), (email: j.wright-2062@kent.ac.uk).

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