

Minutes currently confidential to Council

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

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 14 February 2025

Hybrid Meeting Held 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: Mayuri Lakhani; Thomas Hyner; Dr Mark Downs; Paul Pugh; Julie Kelly; Graham Razey OBE; Dr Sam Parrett CBE; Sarah Dance. President Kent Student Union, Lulu Collins; Vice President Postgraduate Experience, Cláudia Moreira; 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: Financial Advisers, EY-Parthenon; Legal Advisers, Mills and Reeve; Chief Financial Officer, Jane Higham; Director of Financial Sustainability, Peter Pentecost; Head of Communications, Tim Davies; Governance Support Officer, Hannah John; Assistant Director (Governance), Sarah Megson; Head of Secretariat, Lanre Folarin; Interim University Secretary and Director of Governance & Assurance, Dr Jo Wright.

Apologies: Elected Student Representative, Lewis Sawyer; Lay Member, Victoria Wilson.

5932 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- a. The Chair welcomed members and noted apologies. **[minutes confidential to Council]**.
- b. A representative of Mills and Reeve reminded members of their fiduciary duty to the University as trustees. He explained that the duty requires every member to act and to make decisions in the University's best interests and to keep information received in their capacity as members of Council confidential (i.e. to not discuss such information without authorisation or inadvertently disclose it). Council members were also advised of the consequences of breaching their duty of confidence (personal liability; risk to personal wealth) and the likely adverse implications of such breach on the University's commercial negotiating position (risk of third party claims).

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Council was also reminded of the responsibility to ensure that the University works within its charitable objects (i.e. to advance education and disseminate knowledge by teaching, scholarship and research for the public benefit) and discharge its duties to its students (past, current and future) in line with regulatory requirements.

c. **Disclosure of Interest:** A member mentioned an interest for note.

5933 UPDATE ON DfE

The Acting Vice-Chancellor and President informed Council that **[minutes confidential to Council]** the DfE had been on site yesterday to meet with the team. It was mentioned that given the change of government, there have been extensive discussions to clarify the position of things **[minutes confidential to Council]**.

[minutes confidential to Council]

5934 **[minutes confidential to Council]**

5935 VC RECRUITMENT UPDATE

The Chair informed members that the candidates had been further shortlisted from 6 to 2 very good candidates. **[minutes confidential to Council]**

5936 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

[minutes confidential to Council]

5937 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:

- Friday 28 February 2025 (MS Teams; 1:30-3:00pm)
- Friday 21 March 2025 (Medway)
- Friday 28 March 2025 (MS Teams; 1:30-2:30pm)
- Friday 16 May 2025
- Friday 27 June 2025

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, (University Secretary), (email: j.wright-2062@kent.ac.uk).