

BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2015
1:15 PM IN HARDY TEACHING ROOM 1

Council members present:

Mr Roger Mosey (Chair)
Mr David Babb
Dr Kevin Brown
Mr Richard Corn
Ms Angela Crowe
Mr Stephen Lawrence
AVM Gavin Mackay
Mr Graham Meeson
Professor Jayne Mitchell
Revd. Sally Myers
Rev Canon Professor Peter Neil
Miss Becca Smith
Mr Luke South
Bishop David Court
Professor David Head
Mrs Jackie Croft
Mrs Sandra Gratrack
Dr Jim Smith

In attendance:

Mr Stephen Deville, Director of Resources
Dr Ruth Sayers, Executive Dean, Learning, Teaching & International
Mr Gareth Hughes, Students' Union Vice President Voice Academic Affairs
Dr Grahame Killey, Planning and Performance Manager (for item 15)
Dr Anne Craven, Registrar and Secretary
Mrs Katie Skilton, Clerk to the University Council

8. Vice Chancellor's report

The Council RECEIVED the Vice Chancellor's report for information and the Vice Chancellor drew particular attention to the following items:

- Jo Johnson's forthcoming Green Paper – It was REPORTED that the paper would focus on four key areas:
 - Teaching excellence
 - Widening participation
 - Removing barriers for other providers
 - Simplifying research

There will be sector wide consultation on the proposals of the paper, though timescales will be tight. It is expected that the proposals will come into force for June 2016. The results of the proposed Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) will influence HEIs ability to raise fees in line with inflation. It was REPORTED that AEC has established a TEF working group to respond to the new requirements.
- Further sector updates:
 - A report on the spending review will be presented to Council at the next meeting in November
 - The sector was currently awaiting the response to the consultation on the review of Quality Assurance by HEFCE. It is possible that the TEF and the Quality Assurance framework will be merged, this is likely to be confirmed following the publication of the Green Paper
 - The Government has reissued guidance on the award of RDAPs – the completion of EdDs will now be counted
 - BGU is working with the University of Leicester to develop the Research Strategy
 - The Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor are due to meet with FE colleges to build relationships and work together, given the increased competition within the sector.
- Ofsted – A new management structure is in place within the School of Teacher Development, under the new Head of School, Nick Gee. The School is continuing to work with an external consultant in preparation for phase two of the inspection. A number of new staff have been appointed to the School with a wealth of HR experience. A written report will be presented at the next SLT meeting. Though the Risk Register still reports severity and likelihood high, the likelihood is decreasing and the University continues to do all it can in preparation. The result will depend heavily on BGU NQTs. The University should receive the judgement by November and a report will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Next meeting

Next meeting

- Surveys:
 - NSS – The National Student Survey will be reviewed in 2017. This years' overall satisfaction declined from 88-85% and participation rates were down within the institution from 87-81%. The Executive Dean, Learning, Teaching and International will be responsible for responding to the NSS results. NCLT may remove undergraduate teacher training students from the 2015/16 survey. Removal of such students would significantly reduce the University's participation rates. It was agreed that a letter would be produced for the Chair to sign, on behalf of the Council, outlining the adverse effects this would have on BGU.
 - DLHE – BGU's figure of 98.1% for 2013/14 is up from 96.5% the previous year and puts the University second in the UK league table for the job prospects of its first degree graduates. The national average for all UK universities is 93.2%
 - Staff Survey – The decision has been taken to postpone this until early 2016

RM

9. Chair's business

There was no business the report.

10. Students' Union

(i) President's report

The Council RECEIVED the President's report for information and the President drew particular attention to the following items:

- Graduation Ball has taken place at Home Nightclub in Lincoln and had received positive feedback from students.
- The newly elected exec team started their posts on 1 September 2015 following an intensive training programme.
- Fresher's week had been successful. The SU had received positive feedback.
- BGSU had been involved with the forthcoming Matriculation Ceremony and had been advertising the event to students.
- The Union has recruited three student positions to work on reception. It is anticipated this will support student engagement.

11. Committee Review

The Clerk, Governance & Compliance Manager REPORTED on the changes to the Committee structure outlined within the accompanying paper. The changes were designed to simplify the governance structures within the University and following approval would be uploaded to the new Governance area of the University website.

The Council APPROVED the new structure.

12. Key items from sub-committees

Audit Committee

The Council RECEIVED a verbal report of the Audit Committee meeting held earlier that day. The Following was REPORTED:

- A new Council member with a financial qualification was required to sit on Audit Committee. The Head of Finance had recommended a qualified individual to co-opt onto the Committee. This would be pursued outside the meeting. An advertisement would also be produced for the new member and taken to the Governance & Nominations Committee for approval.
- The Terms of Reference for the new academic year had been approved.
- Detailed discussions had taken place regarding KPIs and Risk.

13. Senate

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2015

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 July 2015 were RECEIVED and NOTED by the Council.

14. Student Recruitment

The Council Received the latest Recruitment figures which were tabled at the meeting. It was REPORTED that the current position was encouraging, there had been an increase in FdA, Undergraduate and Masters students and a decrease in PGCE and School Direct students. More students were recruited overall, however and following confirmation of enrolment figures, the Head of Finance will run an analysis against the budget in the next few weeks and this will be reported to the Council at the next meeting in November.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor reported that the Portfolio Management Team have a forward plan in place for new subjects and disciplines and are also reviewing new types of qualifications, subjects and routes, in addition to strengthening partnerships with FE colleges.

It was reported that the figures were slightly ahead to the budget and strategy targets for 15/16 entry and that all cohorts were viable in terms of numbers.

BGU is now in a position to start recruiting international students. The policy and operational frameworks are in place and segmented markets are being targeted based on evidence of student choices. The market is very competitive, however and BGU has some strong USPs to entice applicants. Bishop Grosseteste University is also focussing on students as global citizens and it was reported that the internationalisation strategy is much broader than just the recruitment of students from overseas.

15. KPIs and Risk Register

The Council RECEIVED the KPIs and Risk Register, presented by the Planning and Performance Manager who was in attendance for this item.

Clerk

Next meeting

16. Higher Education Review

Council received a verbal update on the progress of the preparations for the QAA Higher Education Review (HER) and received the second draft of the Self-Evaluation Document. It was REPORTED that a mock review would take place between 9-11 December, which will be conducted by experienced QAA reviewers.

The Registrar and Secretary asked Council members to review the draft SED and raise comments via SharePoint. It was AGREED that, rather than respond to grammatical and typographical issues, Council Members would review the main themes of the documents and overall content.

The third draft of the Student Submission was also being revised and would be taken to the next Student Council meeting on 19 October for feedback prior to submission

17. Chaplain's report

The Council RECEIVED the Chaplain's report for information

18. Agenda suggestions for future meetings

The following items were suggested for discussion at the next meetings:

- A report on the spending review
- Ofsted judgement
- Budget analysis following confirmation of enrolments

The monitoring the quality of partnerships and stakeholder engagement will be discussed within a future meeting.

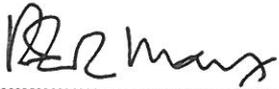
19. Any other business

In addition to inviting the local MP, Karl McCartney to the next Council lunch, it was agreed Council members could contact the Chair or the Registrar and Secretary with additional suggestions outside the meeting.

Fee Setting – Council APPROVED the proposal to raise the MA fee from £4800 to £5000, the International fee from £10,000 to £11,500 and the Postgraduate fee to £12,500 to bring fees more in line with the sector, will help to cover agency costs and will enable BGU to be more competitive. It was NOTED that BGUs fees still remained slightly lower than the sector average. The caveat of 'fees increasing by no more than 5% for the duration of the course' was APPROVED in order to ensure compliance with the Competition and Markets Authority's guidance on consumer rights legislation.

20. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the University Council would take place on Friday 20 November 2015.

Signed  Date 20/11/15

