

- There was a discussion about what should be included within the Strategy and whether some of the content could be deemed to be “enabling objectives” – processes to facilitate the delivery of the Strategy, as opposed to aspirational strategic objectives. These included the newly introduced “Data Capability” theme as well as “Estates and Infrastructure”. The Registrar & Secretary noted that the Data Capability theme recognised the strategic importance of data and that it related to various external changes in the sector. The theme permeated a lot of functions ranging from data literacy, how we use the data and various big systems: student management system; business planning; strategic operations and working towards the creation of a data culture and how this relates to the Teaching Excellence Framework. The Chair NOTED that maybe splitting the document could be looked at. The intention was to have a pithy document for public use which would focus on the whole strategic review.
- The DVC confirmed that the Action Learning Set looking at vision / identity is also considering public presentation of identity including the name of the University (which had been discussed at the Away Day).

12. Regular Reports

- (i) To receive an update on Student Recruitment

Andrew Carr joined the meeting

Andy Carr, Admissions and Recruitment Manager gave an overview of the report that had been presented to Council.

It was NOTED that the figure for firm acceptances needed checking.

It was NOTED that applications and acceptances in new subjects were down on predictions. The DVC confirmed that when the new programmes were introduced they were following a rapid review of the academic portfolio in 2014, validated in September 2015, without having a lead time when advertising would ordinarily have taken place. In effect there has only been 1 year to advertise the programmes. The Leadership Foundation review had stated BGU would have been in a more unfortunate situation had the new courses not have been introduced. The new subjects would be monitored closely.

Andrew Carr left the meeting

- (ii) To note the Key Performance Indicators

Council NOTED the Key Performance Indicators presented by the Planning & Performance Manager.

- (iii) To note the Risk Register

The Planning & Performance Manager presented the updates to the Risk Register.

A Carr/ Gov
Office

****RESTRICTED* (not for Website/public)***

It was NOTED that an increased risk was showing for BG Lincoln Ltd. The Director of Resources explained the reason for the risk and directed members to the FE&GP minutes. An independent review of the retail outlets run by the Limited Company was nearly complete and the proposals within the review would be brought back to the next Council meeting.

It was NOTED that the text size within the Risk Register document was too small and difficult to read. The Chair reported he was having a meeting with the Vice Chancellor within the next couple of months to look at ways of making information and papers more accessible to Council.

Grahame Killey left the meeting

S Deville

A Jackson/
B Walder /
P Neil

13. Academic Health of the Institution (2015-16)

The Chair NOTED that he had asked for Council to have a joint meeting with SENATE in November in order to embrace the academic responsibilities of Council. The format of this meeting would be presentational rather than Council having to rely on large reports to digest in short timescales.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor presented the report on Academic Health (2015-16) incorporating summary Academic Enhancement Plan (2016-17) and outline Enhancement Plan for 2017-18.

Council NOTED the vast amount of work involved in putting together the reports, the content of which was immensely reassuring and very encouraging. Council thanked the DVC for her work on the report.

14. To note application to TEF Year Two

Council NOTED the documentation provided in relation to the application to TEF year two. The Deputy Vice Chancellor confirmed that 299 applications were submitted nationally. Assessments would be moderated week of 27 March by TEF Assessors. BGU would know the outcome by May 2017.

The application was endorsed by Council who noted the positive submission and thanked the Deputy Vice Chancellor and others for the work that had gone into the submission.

15. To note the Staff Survey results

The Director of Resources gave a brief overview of the Staff Survey Results presentation that had also been given to all BGU staff.

16. Items to Note :

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- (i) Council NOTED the HEFCE Annual Provider Review Preliminary Assessment
- (ii) Council NOTED the Prevent duty annual report outcome letter

ROW

17. BG (Lincoln) Ltd

(i) Previous Minutes

Council NOTED the draft minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting and minutes of the AGM held on 9 February 2017.

(ii) Relationship between BGU and BG (Lincoln) Ltd

Council NOTED the letter from Hewitsons' solicitors and the report on Governance arrangements for the development and expansion of activities for BG (Lincoln) Ltd. The main outcome of the report was that the structure, operation and ongoing governance of the company is compliant and good practice from a charity perspective.

Council NOTED that they felt it was NOT appropriate for a University Council Audit Committee member to become a Director of BG (Lincoln) Ltd, in place of the previous Director of Enterprise. It was agreed that a discussion on this could take place later in the year.

**Council/
Governance
Office**

18. Key items from sub-committees

(i) The minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee meeting held on 9 February 2017 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

- To consider for approval University Council decision making in writing procedure

Council NOTED the "Decision Making in Writing Procedure". The Chair suggested that if there were any concerns with the procedures could members please talk to himself or the Registrar & Secretary following the meeting.

All

- To consider for approval, the revised Statement of Primary Responsibilities

Council AGREED that, outside of this meeting, the Vice Chancellor and Bishop of Lincoln agree a set of words for the first paragraph (para no. 1) on the Statement of Primary Responsibilities and circulate this to Council members. This would be done within the course of the next month.

**P Neil / C
Lowson**

Council APPROVED paragraph 9 of the revised Statement of Primary Responsibilities.

- To receive an update on honorary graduand nominations

Council NOTED the Chairs Action on awarding an Honorary Doctorate from the University, previously approved by Senate and Governance & Nominations Committee. Council ratified the decision made.

- (ii) To note the FE&GP Committee minutes of 7 November 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the FE&GP Committee held on 23 February 2017 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

- (iii) To note the minutes of the Remuneration Committee held on 9 March 2017

The minutes had been tabled at the meeting. The Chair suggested that if members had any issues regarding the minutes he would be happy to receive emails.

Council AGREED to discuss the Remuneration Committee minutes at the end of the meeting. This would involve Council Members only.

- (v) To note the Sponsor Board minutes of 10 March 2017

The Sponsor Board minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2017 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

- (vi) To note the Audit Committee minutes of 9 March 2017

The minutes of the Audit Committee meetings held on 27 September 2016 and 7 November 2016 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

The Chair of Audit noted that the two reports from the internal auditors had given substantial assurance on effectiveness which was excellent news.

- Council NOTED the HEFCE Assurance Review final report.

19. Senate

- (i) To note the minutes of the Senate meeting of 14 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 14 December 2016 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

The Chair re-confirmed that Council needed more than to see minutes, given the requirement to have a better understanding of academic governance. As previously mentioned it was proposed to have a joint meeting which would include visual presentations, as opposed to a paper based meeting. A dialogue could take place with questions and answers from all parties. Council AGREED to the proposal to have a joint meeting.

20. Agenda management and review

David Clements was asked to comment on the present meeting:

- There was a lot of paperwork and timing of receipt of this by members' was important.

All

ROW