

## Summary Report of Council 1

The University Council held a meeting on 21 September 2021. This paper provides a high-level summary of the business considered by Council, which will be published on the University website. This is not a formal record of the Council meeting but presents an update on matters discussed by the University's governing body.

Baroness Ann Taylor  
Chair of Council

### 1 Maurice Watkins CBE

Council noted with regret the death of Maurice Watkins, a long-standing supporter of the University and Council lay member of six years. Mr Watkins contribution to the work of Council, its committees, and the Students' Union was noted.

### 2 Report from the Chair of Council

The Chair welcomed members to their first in person Council meeting following 18 months of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ibrahim Mahmood and Sanjay Patel, two new lay members, and Victoria McKay, the new non-academic staff representative, were welcomed and introduced to Council.

The Chair also drew attention to the complex and challenging environment in which University, and the HE sector, continued to operate, and noted the recent appointment of Nadhim Zahawi as the new Secretary of State for Education.

### 3 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on key matters affecting the University since the last meeting of Council and outlined the key challenges facing the university sector over the coming year. The Vice-Chancellor note that the coming year would require an on-going focus on managing the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of encouraging staff and student vaccination update and ongoing health and safety measures. Other topics highlighted included the University's continued commitment to provide students with a full on-campus experience from September 2021 which included in-person teaching and access to activities, resources, and facilities on campus; delivery of the University's strategic framework; the staff pulse survey which indicated that 94% of staff cared about the future of the University; and Bradford's positive performance in the National Student Survey which led to improved positions in the Guardian and Times Good University Guides. External engagement activities were also highlighted.

### 3 Report from Bradford Union of Students (UBU)

Council discussed a report from the UBU Student Affairs Officer and the UBU Education Officer on their vision for the 2021/22 academic year; the impact of COVID-19 on students; freshers' plans; and the UBU Kick Start programme.



#### **4 Student Recruitment Update**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Innovation and Quality provided an update on enrolment numbers of full-time undergraduate and postgraduate taught Home/EU and international students for the 2021/22 entry cycle. The University had performed well in the UCAS main cycle, and the growth in UK Home undergraduates, and the increase in market share was welcomed by Council. International recruitment was discussed with Council noting that the January intake for the international market was expected to improve this position further. Plans for marketing and recruitment activity in Home and international markets for the 2022/21 recruitment cycle would be presented to a future meeting of Council.

#### **5 Summary of Financial Position, September 2021**

Council considered a report which provided an update on pre-audit operating results for 2020/21; early indications of student recruitment; cash outlook; long-term investment portfolio; pensions; and the increase in national insurance. Council was pleased to note that the University Financial Strategy, which focussed on supporting the continued viability and sustainability of the University, was being successfully delivered.

#### **6 Delivery Plans and KPIs Report**

Council received an update on the University's supporting-and-enabling strategies and associated delivery plans, and the KPI dashboard, noting that the dashboard was being further enhanced in order to present historic data and trends.

#### **7 Update on Taught Student Offer 2021/22**

Council received an update on the 2021/22 taught student offer which would provide a high-quality and holistic teaching, learning and assessment student experience.

Council congratulated the University and the UBU on returning to a full campus-based experience for students that included face-to-face lectures, indoor and outdoor sports, and the use of on-campus study areas and the library. Council noted that should Government advice change, the University would pivot as necessary to ensure learning and teaching activities continued in line with published timetables.

#### **8 Report from University Secretary**

Council received a report from the University Secretary on the ongoing work related to areas of governance pertinent to Council and the University including an update on Council membership and the Council residential which would take place on 14-15 October.

#### **9 Council received the following reports, for information:**

- Minutes from the Council meeting held on 7 July 2021.
- Prevent Duty update.
- USS Pension Scheme update.
- National Student Survey 2021 results.
- Draft Council 2 agenda.



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- Council terms of reference and membership 2021/22.
- Council schedule of business for 2021/22.

## **11 Meeting dates for 2021/22**

Council residential: 14-15 October 2021

Council 2: 24 November 2021

Council 3: 16 February 2022

Council 4: 11 May 2022

Council 5: 6 July 2022

Jacqui Holgate, Assistant Head (Governance)  
September 2021