

Summary Report of Council 5

The University Council held a meeting on 6 July 2022. 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 Chair's Report

On behalf of Council, the Chair extended her thanks to the outgoing members, Amir Hussain, Stuart Watson, Michael Ziff, and Mohammed Pandor for their valuable contributions and engagement in the business of Council and its Committees. Thanks were also expressed to the outgoing Chief Finance Officer for his contribution to the University. Andrew Lang, incoming Chief Finance Officer from 1 August was welcomed to the meeting, as an observer, as were the new Sabbatical Officers, Ahmed Malik (Student Affairs Officer), and Iqra Tabassum (Education Officer).

2 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor noted this was Chair of Council's final meeting. Baroness Ann Taylor was thanked for her significant commitment and contribution to the Council, its Committees, and the University during her seven-year tenure. Baroness Taylor had led the Council with distinction, steering the Council through many challenges, including major structural changes at the University and the COVID-19 pandemic, and oversaw many key achievements, including the appointment of the current Vice-Chancellor, and the development of the new University Strategy.

The Vice-Chancellor also provided an update on key matters affecting the University since the last meeting of Council. Attention was drawn to Bradford being awarded UK City of Culture 2025; the results from the International Student Barometer; and the data published by HESA on graduate employment. An overview of the recent National Student Survey (NSS) was presented with Council noting that a detailed analysis of the results was being undertaken for presentation to a future meeting. An update on senior staff changes was also provided.

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

Council considered a comprehensive report from the UBU on recent activities and current issues, including the UBU being ranked 17 out of 120 at the Student Crowd University Awards 2022; this was a testament to the work of the staff and student team. Student engagement post pandemic was discussed as were Sabbatical Officer objectives for 2022/23.

4 UUK and YU Responses to the Government Consultation on Higher Education Reforms and the Lifelong Loan Entitlement

Council considered the respective responses from Yorkshire Universities and UUK in relation to two separate Department of Education consultation processes: Higher Education Reforms and Lifetime Loan Entitlement which originated from the Government response to the 2018 Auger Review and an announcement during the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review.

5 KPI Dashboard and Delivery Plans

Council received an update on the University's KPI dashboard and delivery plans, noting it had been produced before the NSS results were published. With one exception, all KPIs showed positive progress toward targets and overall performance was strong.

6 Update on University Brand Project

Council received and discussed a presentation from the Associate Directors, PR and Communications, and Outreach, Recruitment and Marketing on the University brand project. Council discussed the approach being taken noting that the brand would have a clear link to the vision, mission, and values of the University.

7 Finance Reports

Council considered a suite of finance reports, including the late financial forecast 2021/22, the 2022/23 delivery plan, budget, and financial estimates to 2024/25, noting these reports had been subject to scrutiny and challenge by the Finance Committee and Executive Board, who concluded that the budget and forecasts were credible and robust.

Following discussion, Council was assured of the future financial sustainability of the University and **approved** the recommendations noted in the reports.

Council also noted this was the final meeting for the current Chief Finance Officer and thanked him for the significant leadership and commitment he had demonstrated to the University.

8 Research Excellence Framework 2021

Council considered a report on the REF 2021 results which included reflections from the REF data, output results, impact case studies, and environment statements.

Council welcomed the report, noting that robust plans were in place for the next REF in line with the University Research and Innovation Strategy.

9 Student Recruitment Update

Council considered a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Innovation and Quality on applicant, offer and acceptances across all markets for September 2022, noting the innovative approaches to advertising, event delivery and outreach that had been developed.

Council noted that further work was being undertaken on the size and shape of the student population and on the University's strategic growth plan.

10 Risk Appetite Statement

Council considered and **approved** the University's Risk Appetite Statement noting it had been endorsed by Audit Committee.

11 Report from the 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. Following consideration of the report, Council **approved**:

- the removal of Regulation 21 following the approval of the new Acceptable Use of IT Policy by Executive Board.
- the updated Health and Safety Policy which had been endorsed by People Committee.

Council also received an update on lay governor recruitment and the appointment of a new University Chancellor. Council was also advised of sponsorship discussions with Bradford City Football Club that would include shirt and stadium naming rights for a period of four years.

12 Business from Committees of Council, and Senate

Council noted summary reports from Audit Committee, Finance Committee, People Committee, Governance and Senate on issues discussed since the last meeting of the Council.

13 Council received the following reports, for information:

- Minutes from the Council meetings held on 11 May 2022 and action tracker.
- Register of interests.
- Prevent report.
- Access and Participation update.
- Student Casework 2020/21 Annual Report.
- Draft Council 1 agenda and Council schedule of business for 2021/22.
- Council terms of reference and membership 2021/22.

14 Date of Next Meeting

Council 1: 21 September 2022

Jacqui Holgate, Assistant Head (Governance)
July 2022