

Council

13th May 2020

Present: Dinah Caine (Chair), David Reddaway, Andrew Laurence, Lauren Corelli, Carol Rue, Ben Fowler, Aaron Porter, David Oswell, John Price, Ian Borman, Elisabeth Hill, Philip Stoltzfus, Ronke Akerele, Lynn Percy, Mark d’Inverno, Monika Barnes, Pam Raynor, Rodger Kibble, Susan Dilly, Theodora Zemek and Conrad Heyns

In attendance: Marian Carty, Helen Watson, Matthew Brooks, Sally Priddle, Nirmal Borkhataria, Melanie Rimmer, John Dickinson-Lilley

OPEN BUSINESS

1 Apologies for absence

Received:

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Joe Leam, Kierin Offlands and Ravi Mahendra
-

2 Chair’s Action

Noted:

- 2.1 No formal action had been taken by the Chair on behalf of Council.
- 2.2 The minutes from the Extraordinary meetings will go to June full meeting of Council.
- 2.3 At the meeting on 30th April, Council discussed the College’s financial position and the Higher Education context. At the time of meeting, the HE package of support had not been disclosed.
- 2.4 The HE support package had been shared and it was clear that the burden of investment remained on the students. The package didn’t address any of the issues the Students’ Union had raised.

- 2.5 The Students' Union outlined that they were unhappy with the package which grossly lacked the support for students. The support package provided no new funding just brought existing funding forwards. There was an unwillingness to provide additional support to student hardship funds and broaden the access to universal credit. There were also concerns with the universities minister reporting that £9k fees were justified if the quality at institutions remained whilst not clarifying what quality meant in reality.
-

3 Head of Department appointment panel

Received:

- 2.1 A proposal to change the composition of the ad hoc Council Committee: Appointment Panel: Head of Departments (19-418)

Noted:

- 2.2 The College's governance instruments outline that Heads of Department would be appointed through an ad hoc Council Committee; Appointment Panel: Heads of Department. The terms of the committee were last updated in 2003.
- 2.3 The proposal is brought to Council to firstly formalise the student representation on the committee. Student representation had been present on appointment panels for a number of years and the College wanted to formalise this best practice.
- 2.4 Secondly the College would like to include an external academic on the composition of the panel. The academic would have leadership experience in another HEI. The College already utilises external colleagues for other processes.
- 2.5 It was reported that the pre-appointment panel process was open and transparent. The process was in the first instance an internal one. Individuals from department could nominate themselves for the role and then colleagues from within the department could write in support of candidates. Heads of Department are appointed on a 3-year rolling basis, individuals are eligible to renew for a second term.

Resolved:

- 2.6 Council approved the changes to the composition of the Heads of Department appointment panel.

4 Elected Senior Academic Staff Representative

Received:

- 4.1 The term of office for the elected senior academic staff representative on Council (19-419)

Noted:

- 4.2 It was reported that Suhail Malik had given his notice of resignation with immediate effect.
- 4.3 Council thanked Suhail for his contribution to Council; his hard work, active and positive contributions were always valued.
- 4.4 In ordinary circumstances when an individual resigns from post mid-year a successor would take up post in September 2020. However, when a casual vacancy for an elected post on a committee or board is created, Council could agree to change the terms of appointment for these vacancies, to enable the newly appointed individual to complete the residue of the term of their predecessor.
- 4.5 Given the College's current position and challenges, there was a strong feeling from the recommendation that Council should amend the term of appointment for the elected Senior Academic Staff representative and this would enable the individual to take up post during the Summer term.
- 4.6 Members asked how learning and feedback was collated from members' time on Council. It was agreed it would be beneficial to collate feedback and provide guidance to their successor on Council.
- 4.7 It was agreed that exit interviews should be conducted for all Council members leaving their roles. It would provide valuable insight into ways of working.

Resolved:

- 4.8 Council approved an amendment to the term of the Elected Senior Academic Staff representative and the elected individual would fill the post for the residue of the academic year and begin their 3-year term from 1 September 2020.

Action:

- 4.9 Arrange exit interviews with Council members when they complete their term and share relevant messages with Council.

5 Prevent monitoring

Received:

- 5.1 The recent correspondence from the OfS regarding Prevent monitoring (19-420)

Noted:

- 5.2 The report was provided to Council as the senior governing body who are responsible for compliance with the prevent duty.
- 5.3 Council noted the recent correspondence.