

Summary Report of Council 1

The University Council held a meeting on 21 September 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.

Eileen Milner
Chair of Council

1 Chair's Report

The new Chair welcomed Council to their first formal meeting of 2022/23, and introduced new members, Zoe Burns-Shore and Karen Bach who commenced their terms of office from 1 August 2022.

Thanks, were also extended to the former Chair of Council, Baroness Ann Taylor, for her support to the new Chair during the transition period. The Chair also drew attention to the University's 60th anniversary which provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the University's diamond jubilee in 2026. The change of leadership within Government was also noted, along with the appointment of a new Secretary of State for Education.

2 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor formally welcomed the new Chair and new members of Council to the University. The Vice-Chancellor also provided an update on key matters affecting the University since the last meeting of Council. Among topic highlighted were the successful graduation ceremonies held over the summer; the successful launch of the Renduchintala Centre for Space AI; and the cost-of-living crisis with Council noting the additional support that was being provided to students who were suffering financial hardship.

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

Council considered a report from the UBU on their strategy and key goals for the 2022/23 academic year including plans for freshers' activities, noting that all events were being subsidised to help students given the cost-of-living increases.

4 Update on Student Surveys: Presentation from Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching and Student Experience

Council received a presentation form the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching, and Student Experience on student surveys including the International Student Barometer, Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, National Student Survey, and the Times Good University Guide. The importance of continuing to provide a high-quality student experience was discussed.

5 KPI Dashboard

Council received an update on the University's KPI dashboard, noting that most KPI measures were annual and therefore remained static in terms of reporting. The importance of considering more regular 'in-year' KPI measures was discussed.

6 Student Recruitment Update

Council considered a report on enrolment numbers of full-time undergraduate and postgraduate taught Home/EU and international students for the 2022/23 entry cycle, noting the University had performed well in the UCAS main cycle which resulted in a number of courses not going into Clearing. International recruitment was discussed, with Council noting that the international PGT target had been significantly exceeded. Whilst this was positive for the University, it did present challenges and a working group, led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, had been established to support the September 2022 intake.

7 Summary of Financial Position, September 2022

Council considered a report which provided an update on financial issues at the start of the 2022/23 operating year, including the provisional financial outturn for 2021/22; early indications of student recruitment; cash outlook; long-term investment portfolio; pensions; and the impacts associated with the cost-of-living crisis. Council noted that the University would commence work on its growth plan aligned to its strategy, with a focus on increasing student numbers in line with growth targets.

The Chief Finance Officer also provided an update on Incanthera plc, a University spin-out company.

8 People Update

Council considered a report on current and upcoming issues on the People agenda, including the work being undertaken to implement the People Strategy workstreams, the pay award 2022/23, industrial action, staff vacancies and recruitment, and the Staff Pulse Survey which would open in October 2022.

Council noted that People Committee would continue to receive regular updates on the People Strategy implementation plan, including any changes around legislation, pay, pensions and cost-of-living. The importance of the People Committee was discussed, with Council noting this Committee was responsible for providing governance oversight and assurance to Council on strategic people matters.

9 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, including lay governor recruitment and the University Chancellor appointment process.

10 Council received the following reports, for information:

- Minutes from the Council meetings held on 6 July 2022 and action tracker.
- Register of interests.
- Draft Council 2 agenda and Council schedule of business for 2022/23.
- Council terms of reference and membership 2022/23.



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11 Date of Next Meeting
Council 2: 30 November 2022

Jacqui Holgate, Assistant Head (Governance)
September 2022