

COURT**Minutes of the Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 30 November 2021**

Members: Kate Swann (Chair); Professor Udy Archibong;
Professor John Bridgeman; Professor Shirley Congdon;
Professor Zahir Irani; Terry Hartwell;
Stuart McKinnon-Evans; Riley Power;
44 Court members.

In attendance: Georgie Schofield (Events and Partnerships Manager);
Professor Prathivadi Anand (Professor of Public Policy and Sustainability);
Bubotu Hachitapika (Phd Student);
Anisha Samantara (Phd Student);
Bharti Mistry (Secretary).

Apologies: Paul Watson (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching & Student Experience)

The virtual Zoom meeting was hosted by the Events and Partnerships Manager with some speakers in the studio. The Court recording would be available on YouTube at the following link:

https://youtu.be/MlfhFtpye_Q

1.21-22 Welcome address by the University Chancellor

1.1 The Chancellor welcomed Court members to the meeting and stated that this would be her last address in the role which she had been fulfilling since 2016, and her final duties would be to confer awards at the December Graduation Ceremonies. The Chancellor was delighted to see how the University has evolved under the Vice-Chancellor's leadership and points of note included;

- The University's impact on its students and society and its commitment to social inclusion;
- The University had been seen as an exemplar for its long running success in welcoming students regardless of their background or personal circumstances and supporting them on their journey through higher education and into fulfilling careers, further study or even entrepreneurship;
- The University had been a key partner and systems leader, working alongside the local Council, NHS, Community and business leaders in response to challenges and opportunities from the pandemic to Bradford 2025 City of Culture;
- All successes had been attributable to the commitment, enthusiasm, flexibility and tenacity of those students, staff, alumni, partners, donors and advocates right around the world;

- 1.2 The Chancellor encouraged all Court members to take seriously their role as ambassadors for the University and share the information received with their networks.

2.21-22 **University update by the Vice-Chancellor**

- 2.1 The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chancellor and welcomed Court members to the meeting;
- 2.2 The Vice-Chancellor stated that the values led approach she took when appointed as Vice-Chancellor, had successfully enhanced the confidence and the pride in the University and made strong progress in achieving the strategic ambitions, despite COVID-19;
- 2.3 The Vice-Chancellor presented an overview of the Universities activities and awards, including that the University :-
 - Ranked 1st on the England's social mobility index;
 - Named as the University of the Year for Social Inclusion by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide in 2020;
 - Placed 13th out of 20 institutions in the UK for inter-generational mobility in a Research report;
 - Awarded 2 prestigious awards:-
 - Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for the world leading work in developing Archaeological Technology and techniques and for the School's influence on the practice policy and society in the UK and across the World;
 - The School of Management was named Business School of the Year at the Times Higher Education awards;
 - Had been successful in two bids funded jointly by the Office of Students and Research England;
 - Recently opened a new Student Hub, where students could seek the support and advice that they need in one dedicated space;
 - Recently agreed to partner with Oxford international college and as a result opened up a new University of Bradford International College.
- 2.4 The Vice-Chancellor invited the Pro-Chancellor and Treasurer and Chief Finance Officer to present their report of the University financial position for the year ending 31 July 2021.

3.21-22 **Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2021**

- 3.1 The Pro-Chancellor and Treasurer and the Chief Finance Officer introduced the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2021;
- 3.2 The Pro-Chancellor stated that the Financial Statements showed the University to be financially viable and sustainable;
- 3.3 The Chief Finance Officer presented the financial headlines through a pre-recorded video and reported that the University had boosted its liquidity, successfully navigated pandemic risks

which generated an operating surplus well ahead of budget. Therefore, the University would be well placed and confident to invest further to make its strategic ambitions a reality;

3.4 The Financial Statements were available on the University's website:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/governance/policies-and-statements/financial-statements/>.

4.21-22 **Questions to the Vice Chancellor, Chief Financial Officer**

4.1 The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Finance Officer responded to a number of questions from Court. These are available via the Court recording at https://youtu.be/MlfhFtpye_Q.

5.21-22 **Vice Chancellor closing comments and event close**

5.1 In drawing the event to a close, the Vice-Chancellor thanked the University staff, students, partners and stakeholders across the city region for all of their support, noting that the University's ambition to be of and for Bradford, did require full support and input of as many people as possible to maximise the University's partnerships;

5.2 Court members were also thanked for attending the meeting and for their support.

Secretary: Bharti Mistry.

Date: December 2021.