



Minutes Meeting of the Council

Date: 25 March 2024

Present: Martin Temple, Pro-Chancellor (in the Chair)

Claire Brownlie (Pro-Chancellor), Rob Memmott (Treasurer), Professor Koen Lamberts (President & Vice-Chancellor), Lily Byrne, Dr Brian Gilvary, Gemma Greenup, Professor Sue Hartley, Dr John Hogan, Professor Janine Kirby, Frances Morris-Jones, Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid, Phil Rodrigo, Dr Phil Tenney, Professor Mary Vincent

Secretary: Jeannette Strachan

In attendance: Anna Campbell; Jo Jones; David Swinn; Rob Sykes; Al Carlile; Alix Morgan

Apologies: Professor Graham Gee, Varun Kabra, Alison Kay, Adrian Stone (Pro-Chancellor)

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and attendees to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

2.1 No new conflicts of interest were declared or noted.

3. Naming of Schools – Phase 1

3.1 Council considered a report which proposed the names for the new schools to be formed by September 2024. The report included 11 appendices, which provided additional information on the naming proposal for each school. Council also received and noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Senate's 20 March discussions of the proposals, which included feedback and advice to Council. The proposals before Council related to those schools in Phase 1, with those in Phase 2, which would be formed by September 2025, to be presented to Senate and Council in June and July respectively.

3.2 It was noted that Faculties and Departments had worked together over the last few months to consider options and propose names for the new schools. The range of engagement and related activities were set out in the related paper and appendices, of which there was one for each new school. A similar process had been followed in each Faculty and affected department, whereby naming options had been reviewed and subject to staff and student engagement to lead for a formal proposal. Those proposals had been agreed by Faculty Executive Boards and UEB in advance of Senate. In only one case, the new School formed of

Architecture and Landscape Architecture, had the Faculty not been able to agree a final proposal, such that UEB had been asked to decide on the final name for submission to Senate and Council.

- 3.3 It was noted that, although there had been some local variation in the processes to agree new school names, that was to be expected because it reflected the different structures in which engagement with staff and students was undertaken in different departments. Members noted that one of the key aims of the new school structure was to address those differences and enable greater consistency in both the student and staff experience across the institution.
- 3.4 Council considered the feedback from Senate, both through the unconfirmed minute of Senate's 20 March discussion and from each member of Council who was attending the meeting having also been present at Senate. Council was pleased to note that Senate's extensive discussion of the matter had been constructive and positive. Members recognised the importance of the SU's points relating to consistency in student engagement activities and the wider importance of retaining disciplinary identity, especially where a particular discipline was not explicitly named in the new school name. Council noted that, following discussion, Senate had been unanimous in its agreement that the proposed names should be presented to Council for formal approval.
- 3.5 During discussion, clarification was provided about the parameters and related guidance provided to departments and faculties to inform their consideration of new School names, which included factors such as the importance of student recruitment and marketing, external recognition, and practical matters such as the impact on signage and potential acronyms. Advice from relevant professional services was also provided to support those local discussions.
- 3.6 It was also clarified that users of the University website would be able to navigate to the particular programmes they may be interested in regardless of the School in which those programmes were offered. Similarly, the UCAS website listed courses for potential applicants to navigate to without reference to Schools or departments. These programmes were grouped by discipline, which was important in the context of the recognised need to retain and preserve disciplinary identities. It was also reported that recent work in the Faculty of Health to ensure that PGT courses were easily discoverable and identifiable within the new School structure could help inform the approach in other Faculties.
- 3.7 It was noted that communications to existing students, as well as potential future students and applicants, would need to explain why the new school names had been selected and include practical information about how they would continue to access support and other student services within the new structure. In addition, the rationale for the new school name would also need to be communicated to staff.
- 3.8 Council unanimously approved the proposed names for new schools in Phase 1, as set out in the related paper, in accordance with Regulation II: 6.2.2.

4. Other Business

4.1 There was no other business.