



Minutes Meeting of the Council

Date: 16 May 2024

Present: Martin Temple, Pro-Chancellor (in the Chair)
Claire Brownlie (Pro-Chancellor), Lily Byrne, Professor Graham Gee,
Professor Sue Hartley, Dr John Hogan, Alison Kay (In Part), Professor Janine
Kirby, Frances Morris-Jones, Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid

Secretary: Jeannette Strachan

In attendance: Anna Campbell, Dr Edward Smith, Jo Jones and Rob Sykes (Item 4)

Apologies: Adrian Stone (Pro-Chancellor), Rob Memmott (Treasurer), Dr Brian Gilvary,
Gemma Greenup, Varun Kabra, Phil Rodrigo, Dr Phil Tenney,
Professor Mary Vincent

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and attendees to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

2.1 It was noted that the President & Vice-Chancellor was not attending this meeting because they were conflicted in the matter before Council. SH and MV also declared conflicts of interest as direct reports of the P&VC in their respective roles as Vice-President for Research & Innovation and Vice-President for Education and would therefore not participate in the decision relating to the P&VC's reappointment.

2.2 No other conflicts were declared.

3. Re-appointment of the President & Vice-Chancellor

3.1 The University Secretary provided advice which explained that the re-appointment of a President & Vice Chancellor was a decision for Council alone. A committee comprising members of Council and experienced and senior Members of Senate had been convened in order to provide appropriate scrutiny to the proposal to extend the appointment further. The committee was chaired by a Pro-Chancellor.

3.2 To aid their deliberations, Council Members noted the Minutes from the meeting of the committee on 30 April, alongside a paper provided to that meeting that set out the background and rationale to the proposals. A further verbal update was received from the Chair of the aforementioned committee, which noted that the President & Vice-Chancellor's leadership during a period of significant challenge in both the internal and external environments merited recognition. It was emphasised that, if the University did not act now

to address the issue of the P&VC's term of office, there was a risk that they could be offered alternative opportunities elsewhere, at a time where continuity was especially important given the extent of changes and challenges at both the University and in the wider sector, as noted. Such continuity would also support the induction and acclimatisation of the incoming Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who would take up their post in June 2024. In this context, Council was pleased to note that the P&VC had indicated their desire to be considered for reappointment.

- 3.3 Following discussion, Council approved the re-appointment of Professor Koen Lamberts as President & Vice-Chancellor for a further period of seven years, from 1 November 2025. Council also noted that the matter of the P&VC's remuneration would be agreed by the Council Senior Remuneration Committee in its normal course of business.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Castings Technology International Limited

- 4.1.1 Council received and noted an update on Castings Technology International Limited (CTI) in advance of a broader discussion and decision about its lease arrangements with the University at the meeting on 8 July 2024. The update was intended to provide newer Council Members with sufficient contextual information about CTI as a means of informing the upcoming discussion. CTI was a former subsidiary company of the University that was subject to a management buy-out (MBO) in 2021 and had since leased the Waverley 1 and Waverley 2 buildings on the AMRC site and retained access to vital operating equipment. CTI's current lease was due to expire in January 2026, and it had initiated negotiations with the University relating to its renewal.
- 4.1.2 During discussion, clarification was provided about the University's negotiating priorities, chief among which were assurance about the equipment maintenance contract with CTI; the University's desire to levy commercial rents for CTI's ongoing occupation of AMRC space; and for CTI to consolidate its operations in Waverley 1, thereby releasing Waverley 2 for other commercial use(s).
- 4.1.3 Council welcomed the update, and agreed that it would be beneficial for Members to receive additional briefing information about CTI to support its future deliberations about the lease arrangements. **[Action: DS/ES]**

4.2 Student Protest Update

- 4.2.1 Council received and discussed a verbal update on the current protest on campus associated with the war in Gaza. An encampment had been established on the concourse outside the Students' Union building. It was reported that, to date, this encampment had not interfered with access to, or egress from, the Students' Union and that, if required, first-line services were also able to attend to both protesters and non-protesting students in the affected area. The bulk of the protest activities had been peaceful, although attention was drawn to incidents at the Diamond and Firth Court where there had been an escalation of actions that required an institutional response.

- 4.2.2 In preparation for the Semester 2 examination period, business continuity planning was in train. However, it was not anticipated that learning and teaching activities would be targeted for disruption. Consideration was being given to potential next steps once the examination period had concluded. This included legal measures to facilitate the closure of the encampment, although it was recognised that such a course of action would need to be balanced against the University's commitment to protect freedom of speech on campus. Further attention was drawn to other planned events on the concourse that could overlap with protester activities.
- 4.2.3 During discussion, clarification was provided that the protesters' current focus was on making the case for the University to disinvest from certain activity rather than on the University's broader investment portfolio. Members also noted that measures were in place for the ongoing pastoral support of any student affected by the war or the protest via direct contact from academic Heads of Department and promotion of the Report and Support platform, e.g. to submit incidents of harassment. With regard to future management of the protest, it was recommended that the protesters be apprised that the encampment was illegal but that the University, respecting the right to freedom of speech, would not take action unless and until circumstances required it to do so.