



Buckinghamshire New University

Draft:	10 June 2013
approved for circulation:	21 May 2013
confirmed by Council:	

Missenden Council

Minutes

date: **4 June 2013**
time: **2.00 pm**
location: **Carrington Room, Missenden Abbey**

Present:

Christine Beasley (Chair)	Independent Council member
Antony Bellekom	Independent Council member
Antonia Byatt	Independent Council member
Baljit Dhillon	Independent Council member
Ruth Farwell	Ex officio member and Vice Chancellor
Naomi Franco	President, Students' Union
David Griffiths	Independent Council member
Michael Hipkins	Independent Council member
Julie Irwin	Elected Senate member
Sukhie Mattu	Elected Professional Services employee
Hilary Mullen	Elected Academic employee
Jenny Newton	Independent Council member
Pauline Odulinski	Co-opted Council member
Simon Opie	Independent Council member
Keith Ryan	Independent Council member
Linsey Taylor	Elected Senate member
Terri Teasdale	Independent Council member
Brian Tranter (Deputy Chair)	Independent Council member

Officers:

Vanessa Pilon	Registrar (Governance)
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In attendance:

Shân Wareing	PVC Learning & Teaching
Ian Plover	Director of Faculty, DMM
John Cooper	Director of Finance (for agenda item 8)
Maggie James	Independent Council member designate
Ken McCrea	Co-opted Council member designate
Adie Shariff	Psychologist and Trainer

Apologies:

Lori Flynn	Independent Council member
Ian Hillan	Independent Council member
David Sines	Pro Vice Chancellor/Executive Dean, S&H
Derek Godfrey	Deputy Vice Chancellor
Ellie Smith	Clerk to the Council

856 Declaration of potential conflicts of interest

856.1 No conflicts of interest were declared or identified.

857 Proposal to appoint new members to Council from 1 August 2013

857.1 Members considered the proposal put forward by Governance Committee for new appointments to Council for the period 1 August 2013 for four years as follows:

- Dr Maggie James as an Independent Council member
- Ken McCrea as a Co-opted Council member and
- Tim Marshall as a Co-opted Council member with experience of education

It was AGREED that these proposals were approved.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

858 Chair's Welcome

858.1 The Chair welcomed Naomi Franco, the new Students' Union President to her first meeting. Dr Maggie James and Ken McCrea were also welcomed to this development meeting of Council as members designate. It was noted that Tim Marshall had not been available for this meeting.

859 Introduction and Agenda

859.1 Adie Shariff introduced himself and his background and explained the format for the development session he would be leading during the afternoon. This would be guided through a presentation "Collaboration Rules – How talking shapes performance" which would focus on how structured talking in a positive way could inform leaders as well as decision making in a rapidly changing world. Successful organisations have people who have conviction, self belief, goals, vision, and a drive to do something different. They are also usually people who see opportunities rather than problems. Looking backwards often means a focus on problems and blame rather than results whereas looking forwards to possibilities is more responsive to change.

860 Bucks' Aspirations

860.1 The Vice Chancellor presented the University's aspiration for the future under the banner of 'Creating our Outrageous Ambition' and talked through the following headings:

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- Smart universities must change
- The world's moving faster than we are
- An avalanche is coming – HE and the revolution ahead
- The chance of a lifetime – brave universities
- Preparing students for a far more volatile world
- What this would look like
- Bucks New University – the purpose
- Bucks New University – attributes and behaviours
- Bucks New University – drivers
- The Key Enablers

A copy of the presentation is attached.

861 Conversation Rules

861.1 Groups were asked to identify what they thought beneficial about the University, what concerns they have and questions needing answers and to identify one intention where improvements might help the University to achieve its outrageous ambition. Identified areas included

- Securing the future of all stakeholders and guaranteeing a position in a changing society
- Measuring transformation and achievement
- Quality and research being equally important as well as buy in from both staff and students
- Processes, policies and infrastructure must allow change
- Embracing partners and the digital environment
- High self esteem, a positive attitude and a can do culture becoming the norm
- Sustainability of whatever plans are made

- Clearly defining the meaning of transformational education

862 Six Thinking Hats

862.1 This was introduced as helping to get best value from intelligent minds using an approach that enables “rapid” solution focused team problem solving and decision making. The process has been designed to engage everyone, make sure everyone has a voice, a balanced view is obtained and the collective intelligence is tapped.

862.2 The rules relating to this are:

- Parallel – all wear the same hat at the same time
- Inclusive – everyone has to contribute to each hat
- Discipline – keep to time and keep each hat separate

862.3 The hats are:

- Black Hat – Negative judgement/Devil’s Advocate/ why it will not work
- White Hat – Information known and needed
- Green Hat – Possibilities, alternatives and new ideas
- Blue Hat – Managing the thinking process
- Yellow Hat – Optimism: Values and benefits, why it will work
- Red Hat – Feeling, Hunches and Intuitions

862.4 Each group was asked to identify a question to reflect on and then each member of the group was asked to contribute ideas within the ‘thinking hat’ scenario in the order of white, green, yellow, black, green and red within a period of 16 minutes. The results of these conversations have been noted and are attached.

A number of points were made regarding how this might impact on Council business and “conversations”.

- Purposeful structure provides discipline to remain forward focused
- Members question the information provided seeking explanations and clarification
- Members arrive early to debate and discuss information privately
- Nominate items for parallel thinking conversations
- Open discussions about focused subjects
- Identify best approach for each agenda item, including an individual sponsor, to produce the best outcome and more open conversations
- Council should concentrate on the end results – SMT manages the ways and the means
- Employ a moderator to own the conversational process for the day

The trainer ended with a quotation:

“Our lives begin and end the day we become silent about things that matter – Martin Luther King”

863 Hughenden Student Residences (C/13/2013)

863.1 Detailed information was provided on the current position and discussions with the University’s bank.

863.2 Council was asked to recommend approval for the underwriting of CSV’s preparatory and design costs up to £0.2m and the Bank’s legal and valuation costs in order to maintain the planned delivery of additional student rooms for September 2014. The design plans would be the property of the University and used for the development as and when it goes ahead. Formal proposals for adoption will be considered by the next Resources Committee for recommendation to the next Council meeting.

863.3 Council **AGREED** that the Recommendation as detailed be approved.

864 Students’ Union Achievements

864.1 The ‘You tube’ film used by the Students’ Union at their annual awards ceremony was shown to Council for information.

865 Date of next meeting

865.1 The next meeting of Council is scheduled to take place on Monday 8 July 2013, commencing at 4.00 in room Missenden Abbey followed by a formal Council Dinner at 7.30pm

The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 6.05pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chair of Council)

Prepared by: Registrar (Governance) – 10 June 2013
Confirmed by: Vice Chancellor - 20 June 2013
Confirmed by: The Chair – 21 June 2013