



# Buckinghamshire New University

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## Missenden Council

### Minutes

date: **6 October 2015**  
time: **4.00 pm**  
location: **The Room, High Wycombe**

#### Present:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Christine Beasley (Chair)      | Independent Council member             |
| Rebecca Bunting                | Ex officio member and Vice Chancellor  |
| Gurdeep Chadha                 | Independent Council member             |
| Joseph Collins                 | President, Students' Union             |
| Michael Hipkins (Deputy Chair) | Independent Council member             |
| Lauren Griffiths               | Senate Nomination                      |
| Steve Hoole                    | Elected Professional Services Employee |
| Maggie James                   | Independent Council member             |
| Lise Llewellyn                 | Independent Council member             |
| Tim Marshall                   | Co-opted Council member                |
| Ken McCrea                     | Co-opted Council member                |
| Hilary Mullen                  | Elected Academic Employee              |
| Anthony Murphy                 | Independent Council member             |
| Terri Teasdale                 | Independent Council member             |
| John Smith                     | Independent Council member             |

#### Officers:

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Ellie Smith  | Clerk to the Council   |
| Kam Anyadike | Registrar (Governance) |

#### In attendance:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Tim Middleton           | Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise |
| Vicky Vass              | Pro Vice Chancellor                         |
| Tracey Price            | Director of Finance                         |
| David Bulbeck           | Financial Controller                        |
| Steve Dewhurst          | Director of Business Planning               |
| Lorraine Watkins-Mathys | Dean, DMM                                   |
| Sue West                | Dean, S&H                                   |

#### Apologies:

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Antonia Byatt  | Independent Council member |
| Baljit Dhillon | Independent Council member |
| Ian Plover     | Deputy Vice Chancellor     |
| Jenny Newton   | Independent Council member |
| Keith Ryan     | Independent Council member |
| Lori Flynn     | Independent Council member |

#### **15.76 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all to the first meeting of 2015-16, particularly John Smith, Gurdeep Chadha, Lise Llewellyn and Anthony Murphy, the newly appointed council members to the meeting. They all gave a brief summary of their backgrounds.

Kam Anyadike was introduced as Registrar (Governance) taking over from Vanessa Pilon who recently retired in July 2015.

Tracey Price was also introduced as the new Director of Finance

Tim Middleton was introduced as the new PVC (Research and Enterprise)

#### **15.77 Declaration of potential conflicts of interest**

None were received.

#### **15.78 2015-16 Priorities (Presentation)**

The Vice-Chancellor gave a presentation and the areas she covered included:

- Comprehensive spending review
- Teaching Excellence Framework
- Good news about the New Centre of Excellence for Human Performance, Exercise and Wellbeing, UCAV and refurbishment of the space for the Study Lounge Area.
- NSS 2015
- BriteGreen University and College Table
- The Economic Value of Buckinghamshire New University
- Immediate Challenges - Undergraduate Recruitment at the High Wycombe and UKVI situation
- Key Priorities for 2015-16

The Council welcomed this presentation and in particular noted the improvement in the NSS ratings and expressed their appreciation to the staff for their hard work in achieving this improvement.

#### **15.79 Introduction of PVC (Research and Enterprise) (Presentation)**

Tim Middleton, the new Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, gave a summary of his background and future plans.

His post for the last four years had been as Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) for Bath Spa University and been attracted to the University by the clear focus on applied and translational research and widening participation agenda. He was delighted to be part of a University with such a clear vision.

He specified that he would be working on focusing on what he called "The Four P's"

1. People – currently there is no clarity on expectations of staff in the research and enterprise area and he will work with academic staff to identify this.
2. Process – introducing new processes and policies, particularly in relation to Intellectual Property and consultancy, which will be used and worked with – he added that he felt there was a confidence issue within the University and that people should not be afraid to try new things or take on big challenges as it would manifest into great public engagement.
3. Priorities – the main priority is for the University to get its own Research Degree Awarding Powers and increase its impact in the next REF. It was noted that the University already had European teaching and learning networks but needed to convert those into Research.

4. Public Engagement – it was acknowledged that the University would improve what is said about Research on the University's Website. Most Council members agreed that public engagement was very important and that the University should market what was being produced within it by raising profiles through conferences, websites and possibly creating an annual report.

A question arose about a timeline for the proposed Research and Enterprise Strategy and it was stated that this would be prepared hopefully by spring 2016.

**(Action: Pro-Vice Chancellor)**

#### **15.80 HEFCE Assurance Visit (C/15/21)**

The Clerk confirmed that the HEFCE Assurance Review will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016. This will be a one day visit which will involve some members of Council and University Staff. Consultation, briefing and training will be provided. The Clerk to the Council is liaising with HEFCE for the programme and will be creating a briefing document for relevant people. Briefing meetings will be set up for those involved shortly.

**(Action: Clerk to the Council)**

#### **15.81 Overview of Faculty Developments (Presentations)**

##### **Society and Health:**

Sue West took over from Alison Chambers in June 2015 as the Dean. She gave a presentation on the Faculty and its overview, this included:

- Changes to Faculty Structure – previously three schools and now two
- Subject clusters and growth – increase in adult nursing commission
- Achievements – NT Provider of the Year for Post Qualifying Nurse Education, Overall student satisfaction was 85.5%, Green rating in London for nursing.
- Educating for Employment
- Research and Enterprise
- Challenges and Priorities
- Future Plans for the faculty.

##### **Design Media and Management:**

Lorraine Watkins-Mathys has been in the post of Dean for the Faculty of Design, Media and Management for 10 months. She gave a brief talk about her international background and then presented the overview of the faculty under the main headings of:

- Faculty Vision
- The DMM's portfolio clusters
- The schools and management team including Technical Resources Manager (Lorraine stated that space is highly important for student experience and that is why she thought it important for the Technical Resources Manager to sit with her management team.)
- DMM Flagship projects at HW campus
- DMM's plans for Uxbridge Campus
- DMM plans for UCAV – design for assisted living, distance learning and innovation hub and a research-based hub sponsored by industry.
- A twinkle in DMM's plans – Hospitality School based in Missenden Abbey
- DMM's International renowned research
- DMM talents including successful alumni and entrepreneurial graduates giving back.
- DMM actions in a nutshell – making most of our sites and increasing student experience.

#### **15.82 Format/Location of Future Council Meetings**

The Chair explained that it was proposed to change the pattern of future Council meeting to hold more at the High Wycombe campus and to incorporate planning and standard business at

meetings supplemented by a yearly Missenden meeting (June/July) focusing on planning and strategy.

It was agreed that the Council meeting which was to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 will be cancelled. All members will be informed again via email and all outlook invites will be updated.

**(Action: Clerk to the Council)**

#### **15.83 Centre of Excellence for Human Performance, Exercise and Wellbeing + Tour**

Paul Morgan and Kevin Campbell-Karn gave a short presentation on the investment which was made around the Centre of Excellence for Human Performance, Exercise and Wellbeing. It was stated that this would be the only sports therapy centre course in the UK which included aspects on disabilities. It was also identified that there were several great opportunities to develop locally including liaising with Bisham Abbey Centre and Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Recruitment for 2015-16 had, in the main, met projections, despite the facility not being available to showcase at Open Days

Courses which were yet not developed included:

- Fdsc Sport, Exercise and Health
- DProf
- MSci Sports Therapy
- BSc (Hons) Strength and Conditioning

Courses within the school were seen to have lots of common modules which worked well.

Ian Hunter then led a tour of the newly built and equipped rooms in the south-wing including:

- The Room (where the meeting was held)
- The Human Performance lab and clinic
- The newly developing 'Study Lounge' on the first floor of the East Wing.

#### **15.84 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Council is scheduled to take place on:

Monday 23 November 2015 commencing at 4.00 in WW1.11, West Wing, High Wycombe (*Joint Meeting with Senate*)

Monday 23 November 2015 commencing at 6.00pm in G5.05, Gateway, High Wycombe (*Council Meeting*)

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 6.45pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair of Council)

Prepared by: Registrar (Governance) – 07/10/2015  
Checked by: Clerk to the Council – 09/10/2015  
Confirmed by: Vice Chancellor –  
Confirmed by: The Chair –