

THE COUNCIL

Minutes

This paper presents the confirmed Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 10 December 2014.

The Council **approved** these Minutes at its meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2015 as a correct record of the meeting.

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THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 10 December 2014
at The Open University, Milton Keynes.

- Present: Lord Haskins (Pro-Chancellor), Mrs R Tudor (OUSA President), Mrs S Dutton, Ms R Girardet, Mr B Heil, Mrs S Macpherson, Dr J Miller, Dr T O'Neil, Mr C Shaw, Mr R Spedding, Prof W Stevely (Vice-Chair), Dr G Walker, Prof J Wolffe, Mr J Yeo
- In Attendance: University Secretary, Head of Governance, Senior Manager, Governance (Working Secretary), Richard Gillingwater (Pro-Chancellor designate)
- Apologies: Mr H Brown (Treasurer), Mr B Larkman, Mrs R McCool, Mr J Newman, Mr W Monk, Prof H Rymer, Mrs R Spellman, Dr C Spencer, Ms S Unerman
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1 WELCOME

The Pro-Chancellor, Lord Haskins, who was participating in the meeting remotely, asked the Vice-Chair, Professor Bill Stevely, to chair the meeting. Professor Stevely welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO APPOINT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

C-2014-05-01

- 3.1 The Vice-Chair introduced the paper and asked Council members whether they had any questions or comments about the process or the recommendation.
- 3.2 A member asked whether the Council would receive an anonymised report on the appointment process, including data on the number of people who applied for the post, on the number of candidates short-listed, and on characteristics such as gender and ethnicity. The University Secretary, Fraser Woodburn, replied that such data had not been included in the paper as, given the nature of the search process used by the recruitment agency, Odgers Berndtson, a larger number of people had been approached about the post than had applied; therefore such data would not add value. He would, however, review what data it would be appropriate to keep on file.
- Action: AFW/Governance Team**
- 3.3 In response to a comment by Professor Stevely, Mr Woodburn said that there was no pattern to the reasons given by those potential candidates who had not wished to pursue an application for the post. All of them had a very high opinion of The Open University.
- 3.4 The Pro-Chancellor suggested that it would be useful to review the overall recruitment process. Mr Woodburn replied that the University would do so in line with the revised

Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education (HE) Code of Good Governance when it was published, as well as the Scottish Code of HE Governance.

Action: Governance Team

- 3.5 Professor Stevely confirmed that the Joint Committee had explored issues such as leadership in HE, management of an academic community, understanding of curriculum issues and the role of research, as well as core business skills and vision with all of the candidates. Mr Woodburn added that candidates from the HE sector had been considered, but that Mr Peter Horrocks had been the preferred candidate.
- 3.6 In response to a question from another member, the OUSA President, Ruth Tudor, confirmed that she and five other students had met all of the candidates. The students had appreciated Mr Horrocks' open and enthusiastic approach, and his willingness to listen to and understand student issues.
- 3.7 Professor Stevely commented that the role of Vice-Chancellor fitted broadly with Mr Horrocks' public service background. The Joint Committee had been impressed with his passion and enthusiasm for the OU. The Pro-Chancellor designate, Richard Gillingwater, remarked that he had spoken to Mr Horrocks on several occasions since the interview; he reiterated the comments on Mr Horrocks' passion and enthusiasm, and reported on Mr Horrocks' joy at being selected for the role.
- 3.8 A member asked how the appointment would be announced. Mr Woodburn said that the intention was to make an announcement the following morning, first to the Senate, then to Heads of Unit, and then to all staff. This announcement would include a brief statement about Peter Horrocks, but it was likely that there would be a longer communication from the candidate himself early in the New Year. Members were reminded that the details of the candidate and the Council's decision should remain confidential until the announcement had been made the next day.
- 3.9 The Council **approved** the recommendation of the Joint Committee for the appointment of Mr Peter Horrocks as Vice-Chancellor of The Open University from 5 May 2015.

4 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

C-2014-05-020

- 4.1 The Vice-Chair introduced the paper, explaining that the Membership Committee had instructed Odgers Berndtson to seek candidates with a background in IT, as the Council members' skills matrix had indicated that there was a gap in this area. The feedback from Richard Gillingwater and Fraser Woodburn following their meeting with Paul Greenwood had been very positive, and the Membership Committee had therefore agreed to recommend Mr Greenwood's appointment as an external member of the Council.
- 4.2 The University Secretary commented that as the accountability of members of the Council could not be backdated, Mr Greenwood's appointment would commence as of the date of this meeting, and not 1 August 2014 as detailed in the paper.
- 4.3 The Council **approved** the appointment of Paul Greenwood as an external co-opted member of the Council for an initial term commencing 10 December 2014 to 31 July 2018.

5 DECLASSIFICATION OF COUNCIL PAPERS

The Council agreed that the following papers should remain confidential:

C-2014-05-01	Final Report and Recommendation of the Joint Committee to Appoint the Vice-Chancellor
C-2014-05-02 Appendix	Membership Committee – CV for Paul Greenwood

and the following paper could be declassified:

C-2014-05-02	Membership Committee
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Fraser Woodburn
University Secretary

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