



## Minutes of the meeting of 17 October 2024

### COUN24-M3

#### Attendance

Christine Hodgson

Rachael Alvey  
 Kerri Akiwowo (ab)  
 Penny Briscoe  
 Graham Corfield  
 Andrea Davis  
 Tarek Hassan  
 Naomi Hudson (ab)  
 Matthew Inglis

Nick Jennings  
 Jennifer Maxwell-Harris  
 Nicky Morgan (ab)  
 Emma Nadin  
 James Peat  
 David Price  
 Surinder Sharma

Luke Stott  
 Paul Taylor (ab)  
 Rachel Thomson  
 Mark Thurston  
 Mike Wedderburn  
 Sheryl Williams  
 Jon Woods

In attendance: Jo Maher; Alex Owen; Dan Parsons; Richard Taylor; Luke Vulpiani

Apologies received from: Kerri Akiwowo; Naomi Hudson; Nicky Morgan; Paul Taylor

#### 24/67 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 24/68 Minutes & Matters Arising

##### 68.1 Minutes

##### COUN24-M2

Council **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2024.

##### 68.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## SECTION A – Items for Discussion

### 24/69 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the University Council and Good Governance Declarations

#### 69.1 Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the University Council and Statement of Responsibilities of Council

##### COUN24-P79

Council **NOTED** the Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the University Council and the Statement of Primary Responsibilities of Council.

#### 69.2 Good Governance Declarations

Council **CONFIRMED** arrangements for good governance declarations. Council members were reminded to complete and return the Fit and Proper Persons and Register of Interests forms.

### 24/70 Council Effectiveness Review

##### COUN23-P80

Council **APPROVED** the 2024 Council Effectiveness Review Final Report and **APPROVED** Governance and Nominations Committee as the body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the report's recommendations. Action on the recommendations will be tracked and reported to Governance and Nominations Committee and Council as required.

Council **APPROVED** the appointment of a Senior Independent Governor; Governance and Nominations Committee will consider suitable nominations for the role and report to Council.

The Chair of the Effectiveness Review Working Group thanked the Group and the governance secretariat for undertaking the work for the review.

The inclusion of sustainability considerations on the Council coversheet had been considered by the Working Group but it had been decided to keep the level of detail on the coversheet concise, though this could be reviewed again in future.

The importance of on-boarding new members was highlighted as a key area that would improve the effectiveness of Council. The development of an induction pack and a glossary of terms would also assist new members. There is a need to consider the development of Council members as a group and what formal training may assist in enhancing effectiveness. Briefings on certain key business and operational areas had been instigated and were welcomed by members.

A briefing on the Research Excellence Framework (REF) will be scheduled as a priority area of focus.

### 24/71 Governance and Nominations Committee

Council **APPROVED**, on the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, the appointment of Nicky Morgan as Pro-Chancellor.

Council **APPROVED**, on the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, the appointment of Natalie Gasson-Mackinlay as a lay member of Council for a 3-year term.

### 24/72 Audit and Risk Committee

#### COUN24-P81

Council **CONSIDERED** a verbal report from the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 18 September 2024.

Audit and Risk Committee had received the draft annual internal auditors report. The report indicated there were no significant areas of concern and many areas of good practice across the University and internal controls were working well. Nearly all outstanding audit actions have been closed off; these have reduced significantly in the last two years indicating momentum in the right direction.

A tender process for the internal auditor contract has commenced; it is good practice and due diligence to test the market to ensure value for money and the tender process should be complete by the end of the calendar year.

### 24/73 Infrastructure Report

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal update from the Chair of Infrastructure Committee on campus power.

The University has been exploring options for power supply required for the continued development of Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park and the west end of campus. Council may be required to approve by circulation prior to the November meeting owing to the potential financial savings and opportunity costs.

## 24/74 Health, Safety and Environment Report

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Provost on the meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Committee held on 04 October 2024.

The October HSE meeting had received deep dives from Loughborough Students' Union (LSU) and Marketing and Advancement. Both showed good progressing in addressing the relevant health and safety issues in their areas.

HSE also received an update from Occupational Health and Wellbeing; demand has been increasing and additional resource has been committed to the service. The area will continue to be monitored closely and reported back to Council.

A serious incident review chaired by the COO has been convened following a near-miss incident on campus and findings will be report to HSE Committee

## 24/75 Matters for Report by the Vice-Chancellor

Council **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor who reported the following items:

- The Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone involved in organising the Olympic and Paralympic Celebration Event at the Kia Oval on the evening of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. The evening had been a great success.
- Loughborough's partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is progressing. The partnership is a 10-year commitment with significant benefit to Loughborough, the centre is getting off the ground and key appointments are being made.
- The University is currently undertaking recruitment for 5 new (out of 9) Deans, who are responsible for leading the Academic Schools. This is a significant endeavour and progress will be reported to Council as necessary.
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## SECTION B – Starred Items for Approval

### 24/76 \*Schedule of Delegation

#### COUN24-P81

Council **APPROVED** the revised Schedule of Delegation.

### 24/77 \*Tuition Fee Increase Greater than 10%

#### COUN24-P82

Council **APPROVED** tuition fee increases greater than 10%.

### 24/78 \*Freedom of Expression

The item was unstarred following a request by a member of Council. Footnote two on page 89 referred to the Employee Code of Conduct as being out for consultation but under the terms of the Partnership Agreement this should be negotiation for some items. The Employee Code of Conduct has been negotiated by the Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee (JNCC) so the matter is resolved.

A similar issue was raised at March Council in relation to the Staff Disciplinary Policy and Procedure. Given this, it is proposed that the JNCC facilitate discussions between management and Trade Unions to ensure clarity on what matters require consultation and negotiation and to ensure that this is clearly communicated to operational areas.

#### COUN24-P83

Council **NOTED** the University's planned response to the Government's decision to pause implementation of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 and:

1. **APPROVED** the changes to the Freedom of Expression Code of Practice in light of the decision to pause implementation of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.
2. **APPROVED** further amendments to Ordinances, policies and Codes of Practice except where these relate to HR matters, which are subject to consultation and negotiation with the campus trades unions and **APPROVED** in principle, subject to these discussions. Should any substantive changes be made, the relevant details will be brought back to Council.
3. **APPROVED** Ordinance XLVI on Freedom of Expression (Annex 3). Second Hearing.

### 24/79 \*Corporate Representative and appointment pursuant to the Companies Act 2006

#### COUN24-P84

Council **APPOINTED** the Secretary to Council to act as Representative of Loughborough University in its capacity as a corporate shareholder or guarantor; and **DELEGATED** to the

Secretary to Council authority to determine appropriate appointments to external organisations of which the University is a shareholder or guarantor member.

#### 24/80 \*Ordinance XVII Conduct and Discipline of Students

##### COUN24-P85

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XVII Conduct and Discipline of Students. Second hearing.

#### 24/81 \*Ordinance XLIII Policy and Procedure on the use of fixed term contracts

##### COUN24-P86

Council **APPROVED** amendments to Ordinance XLIII – Policy and Procedure on the Use of Fixed Term Contracts. Second Hearing.

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## SECTION C – Starred Items for Information

#### 24/82 \*Pro-Vice-Chancellor Reports

Council **NOTED** the following reports:

##### 82.1 \*Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)

COUN24-P87 Student Recruitment

COUN24-P88 National Student Survey and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey Results

##### 82.2 \*COO acting in lieu of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

COUN24-P89

##### 82.3 \*Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

COUN24-P90

##### 82.4 \*Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sport)

COUN24-P91

#### 24/83 \*Membership of Council Committees

##### COUN24-P92

Council **RECEIVED** the membership of Council Committees for 2024/25.

### 24/84 \*Year's Forthcoming Council Business

#### COUN24-P93

Council **NOTED** an overview of the Year's Forthcoming Council Business for 2024/25.

### 24/85 \*Office for Students Reportable Events

#### COUN24-P94

Council **NOTED** that there have been no reportable events since the last meeting of Council and no event which needed to be considered if it qualified as a reportable.

### 24/86 \*Common Seal

#### COUN24-P95

Council **RECEIVED** a list of documents to which the University Seal has been attached.

### 24/87 \*Senior University Appointments

Council **NOTED** the following Senior University Appointments:

Professor Sam Grogan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience, from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Professor Aidan McGarry, Acting Dean of Loughborough University London, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Professor Valerie Pinfield, Acting Dean of The School of Aeronautical, Automotive, Chemical and Materials Engineering, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Professor Justin Waring, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

### 24/88 \*Reports from Committees

Council **RECEIVED** reports from the following Committees:

<b>COUN24-P96</b>	<b>Finance Committee – 14 June 2024</b>
<b>COUN24-P97</b>	<b>Governance and Nominations Committee – 27 June 2024</b>
<b>COUN24-P98</b>	<b>Remuneration Committee – 27 June 2024</b>
<b>COUN24-P99</b>	<b>Research and Innovation Committee – 17 September 2024</b>
<b>COUN24-P100</b>	<b>Senate – 14 June 2024</b>
<b>COUN24-P101</b>	<b>Strategic Portfolio and Resources Committee (Part B) – 04 June 2024, 08 July 2024 and 11 September 2024</b>
<b>COUN24-P102</b>	<b>Audit and Risk Committee – 18 September 2024</b>

## 24/89 Any Other Business

A member asked about developments with the proposed partnership in KSA.

Discussions have been ongoing and it has been decided not to pursue an in-country campus. This decision was communicated to staff last week and communications to students are being considered by LSU. There has been a change to the governance arrangements for any proposed development; the Provost is chairing the Strategy Group, while the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sport) is chairing the operational group. Council will receive a further update in November. Loughborough is now on the Saudi Government's approved list of institutions for student sponsorship, meaning students can now obtain funding to study at Loughborough.

Work is being undertaken on the QS rankings to engage relevant contacts to ensure Loughborough is in the strongest possible position. Achieving a top 200 QS ranking is a Council KPI and has significant benefits as many countries will only fund students for study at institutions in the top 200.

## 24/90 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21 November 2024, 9:00-12:00, Online

### Future Meetings

Thursday 27 March 2025, 9:00-12:00, Loughborough University London

Thursday 03 July 2025, 14:00-17:00, Loughborough Campus

Thursday 16 October 2025, all-day, Away Day, Loughborough Campus

Author – Luke Vulpiani

Date – October 2024