

The University of Manchester

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21 January 2015

Present: The Chancellor (Mr Tom Bloxham) (in the Chair),

The Pro-Chancellor, the President and Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr Rock Adjei-Baah, Professor Clive Agnew, Mr Kabir Ahmed, Councillor Ms Shan Alexander, Mrs Janet E Argust, Mr Edward Astle, Mr Tony J W Attard, Professor Colin Bailey, Dr Paul C Banford, Mrs Catherine Barber-Brown, Ms Josie A Beeley, Dr Emyr Benbow, Mr Nicholas Bent, Dr Brian Bigger, Ms Fiona Campbell, Dr Ronald E Catlow, Mr David Cavell, Mr Brian Clancy, Mr Alan Clarke, Ms Charlie Cook, Ms Roz Copper, Mr Michael Crick, Mr Alex Davidson, Mr Salil Deena, Professor Peter Eccles, Mr Michael N G Evens, Canon Michael A Evans, Councillor J Paul Findlow, Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Mr Paul Foley, Mr Kevin Foley, Mr Matthew Foulkes, Mr E Mark Glass, Ms Jacqui Grant, Dr Reinmar Hager, Mr James Hancock, Mr Roger Harrison, Mr Richard Hassan, Professor John Healey, Professor John R Halliwell, Miss Laura Hill, Mr Vidar Hjordeng, Miss Margaret Holt, Dame Susan Ion, Dr Alison Jeffers, Mr Leslie Jones, Sir John Kerr, Mr Mohammed Wakkas Khan, Mr Rajkaran Singh Kharbana, Dr John Law, Mr Gareth Lewis, Mrs Susan Lipton, Ms Shumit Mandal, Mrs Joan Marshall, Dr Neil McArthur, Mr J Anthony McDermott, Ms Margaret McLay, Mr Andrew Medd, Mr Anthony D Morris, Dr Arthur Nicholas, Dr Adam Ozanne, Dr Andreas Prokop, Dr Thurai Rahulan, Mr David Ryan, Mr Vikas Shah, Mr Philip Smith, Dr Tracey Speake, Mr Rodger Spencer, Mr Andrew Spinoza, Ms Katharine Sullivan, Mr Michael Taylor, Councillor Roy B Walters, Dr Janet H Webster, Mr Shengke Zhi, (78)

In attendance: The Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, the Director of Finance, the Director of Student Life (for *Agendum* 8), and the Deputy Secretary.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18 June 2014 were approved.

2. Report on issues raised at the last meeting

A report was provided, for information, on the question and answer session held at the last meeting.

3. *Membership of the General Assembly

The Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer to report that since the last meeting of the General Assembly the following have been elected, appointed or co-opted to membership with effect from 1 September 2014:

In Category 3

Mr Edward Astle
+ Mr Brian Clancy, JP
Professor Ian Cotton

+ Mr Robert E Hough, DL
+ Mohammed Afzal Khan, MEP
Professor Cathy McCrohan
+ Mr Neville Richardson
+ Mr Anil Ruia

In Category 5

Ms Fiona Campbell
Mr Alex Davidson
Mr Paul Forley
Mr Stephen Falder
+ Mr David Frost
Mr Graham Boulnois
+ Dr John Law
+ Professor Linda Merrick
+ Mr James Potter
+ Mr Roger Spencer
+ Mr Tim Turvey
+ Mr Damien Walters

In Category 6

Ms Julie Ashurst, CE&I Responsible Engineer - Dragon Waste Project
+ Mr Tony Attard, Institute of Directors (North West)
+ Ms Emma Bilsbury, Greater Manchester Police
Dr Emyr Benbow, Manchester Medical School Society
Mr David Brown, Institution of Chemical Engineers
Mr Kevin Foley, CMgr MCMI, Chartered Management Institute
+ Mr Michael Hardacre, Manchester Law Society
+ Professor John R Helliwell, FInstP, Institute of Physics
+ Mr John Kershaw, Manchester Civic Society
+ Mr Andrew Medd, Institution of Mechanical Engineers
+ Mr David Newton, Institution of Civil Engineers
+ Ms Louise Timperley, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
+ Mr Barry Lye, Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

In Category 7

+ Dr Ronald Catlow, By the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society
+ Mr David Cavell, By the IFS (Institute of Financial Services) University College
+ Professor Dian Donnai, CBE, FMedSci, By the Academy of Medical Sciences
+ Professor John Healey, FBA, By the British Academy
Ms Lily Barton, By the Royal Society of Arts
+ Dr Thurai Rahulan, By the Royal Aeronautical Society
+ Mr Richard Taylor, By the Royal Academy of Engineering
Ms Katharine Sullivan, By the Royal Society of Chemistry

In Category 8

+ Councillor Ms Shan Alexander, By the Borough of Stockport
+ Councillor Dylan Butt, By the Borough of Trafford
+ Councillor Mrs Cynthia Dereli, By the County of Lancashire
+ Councillor J Paul Findlow, By Cheshire East Council

Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, By the City of Manchester
Councillor Daniel Gillard, By the City of Manchester
Councillor Joanne Platt, By the Borough of Wigan
+ Councillor Ray Dutton, By the Borough of Rochdale
+ Councillor W Bernard Pennington, By the City of Salford
+ Councillor Alan Quinn, JP, By the Borough of Bury
+ Councillor Denise Ward, By the Borough of Tameside
+ Councillor Riaz Ahmad, By the Borough of Oldham

In Category 9

+ Mr Tony BK Aggarwal
Ms Margaret McLay
+ Mr Andrew Watson

In Category 10

+ Mr Nicholas Bent
+ Mr Steve Connor
Mr David Watson

In Category 11

Dr Mark Coleman
Dr Reinmar Hager
Dr Roger Harrison

In Category 12

Dr Brian Bigger
Ms Roz Cooper
Mr Shumit Mandal
Dr Arthur Nicholas
Dr Mark Reiff

In Category 13

Mr Rock Adjei-Baah
Dr Yaser Al-Abdi
Ms Sarah Cheetham
+Mr Michael Hockney, OBE
Ms Chantelle Kelly
Mr Gareth Lewis
+Ms Helen Stevens

+ indicates a member re-appointed

The current membership of the Assembly is available on line at
<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/governance>

4. *Report from the Nominations Committee

Received: A report from Mrs. Gillian Easson, the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the Nominations Committee, on the ongoing work within the Committee is provided, for information.

Reported:

- (1) The membership of the Committee is:

The Pro-Chancellor (Ms Gillian Easson) (*in the Chair*)

The following three members of the Board of Governors, appointed by the Board, from the categories of membership indicated:

Lay: Mrs Gillian Easson

Senate: Professor Chris Taylor

Staff: Ms Iram Kiani

The following five lay members of the General Assembly, appointed by the Board on the nomination of the General Assembly:

Professor Sir Robert Boyd

Mr James Hancock

Mr Wakkas Khan

Mrs Elizabeth France

Mrs Janet Pickering

- (2) The Committee's principal matters of business are:

- to recommend to the Board of Governors appointments and re-appointments to Category 2 of the Board (lay members);
- to recommend to the Board of Governors re-appointments to Category 3 of the General Assembly (lay or former members of the Board who are not otherwise members of the General Assembly);
- to recommend to the Board of Governors appointments to Category 9 of the General Assembly (lay members appointed by the Board);
- to recommend to the General Assembly co-optations to Category 10 of the General Assembly (members co-opted by the General Assembly);
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment to be made to the office of Pro-Chancellor;
- At regular intervals, to recommend to the Board on the representation afforded by the sponsoring organisations within Categories 5 through 8 of the General Assembly.

- (3) Following detailed discussions, the Committee agreed that Mr Colin Gillespie be appointed as a new member of the Board of Governors, *vice* Mr Neville Richardson, with effect from 1 March 2015 to 31 August 2017. This recommendation was endorsed by the Board of Governors on 26 November 2014.

- (4) That the Nominations Committee is continuing to work through the applications it received in response to its recruitment campaign over 2014. Over 60 applications were received expressing interest in the Board of Governors and the General Assembly. The Committee is drawing up a shortlist of those applications for consideration for the likely vacancies on the governing body from 1 September 2015, and will interview those on the shortlist before offering places.

5. Election of the Chancellor

Received: A report prepared by the Deputy Secretary on the process to elect a Chancellor of the University, from 1 August 2015, was provided, for information.

- (1) The officer fulfilling the function of non-executive Chair of the General Assembly holds the title of Chancellor. The Charter and Statutes originally provided for the initial award of the title of Co-Chancellor to two officers, Anna Ford, and Sir Terry Leahy. Their terms of office ended on 31 July 2008. Following an election, Tom Bloxham took up the role on 1 August 2008 and would serve for a maximum period of seven years to 31 July 2015. Under Statute, he is not eligible for reappointment.

Statute IV.5 describes the role:

“The Chancellor shall, if present, preside over meetings of the General Assembly and over Congregations of the University for the conferment of degrees. In the event of Co-Chancellors being appointed, then the Ordinances shall provide for one Co-Chancellor, if present, to preside over meetings of the General Assembly, and for the other Co-Chancellor, if present, to preside over Congregations of the University for the conferment of degrees. The Chancellor or, if appointed, the Co-Chancellors, may undertake such other ceremonial and formal duties as the Board may from time to time request.”

The Board approved a revised Ordinance for the election in November 2014. This will be used to govern the forthcoming election.

- (2) The date of election is determined by the Registrar, Secretary, and COO, acting as the Returning Officer for the election. The Ordinance was revised following the 2008 election to make the following provision:
“In fulfilling this role, the Registrar and Secretary may choose to appoint a suitable external agent to fulfil many of the duties expected of the Returning Officer and to provide administrative support for the election, on the approval of the Board. The external agent may, if suitably qualified, and subject to the approval of the candidates duly nominated, fulfil the duties of a Scrutineer.”

The University had therefore sought to appoint a suitably qualified organisation to run the ballot, under the direction of the University and the Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer in his role as Returning Officer. It was agreed that the organisation appointed should have standing as an independent scrutineer of voting and experience of delivering large ballots for organisations or/and for local and parliamentary elections. Following the extension of invitations to tender and following due consideration of those tenders in respect of quality, support, credibility, experience and price, it was proposed that Electoral Reform Services (ERS) should be appointed as the University's electoral agent. ERS is the UK's leading independent supplier of ballot and election services and are well recognised as an independent scrutineer of voting and are appropriately authorised by the UK Parliament. Their election and voter registration services are also used by a significant number of the UK's local authorities.

- (3) The principal rules of procedure are (Ordinance I, extracts):
 - (a) The electorate consists of those persons whose names appear on any of the following fourteen weeks before the election date:
 - i) members of the Alumni Association whose names and addresses have been registered (Statute XVIII.3 refers) on the “opted-in” list
 - ii) those holding paid superannuable appointments in the University which extend to the date set for the election

- iii) members of the General Assembly whose appointments do not terminate before the date set for the election
- (b) Not less than twelve weeks before the election date, the Returning Officer shall notify all those eligible to take part giving notice of the election, and details of the nominations procedure, including the closing date for nominations (at least six weeks before the date of the election).
- (4) The installation of the new Chancellor will take place in autumn 2015, ahead of the first meeting of the General Assembly in the 2015/16 session. An election was therefore scheduled in spring 2015. A revised timetable was outlined:
 - Microsite to open (containing information surrounding the nomination process), Monday, 9th February
 - Election called, nominations open. Monday, 23rd February
 - Nominations close, Monday, 13th April
 - Voting Opens (e-mails and postal papers despatched by ERS). Tuesday 26th May
 - Voting closes. Thursday 18th June (noon)
 - Results announced by University of Manchester. Monday 22nd June
- (5) Overall responsibility for the election rests with the Registrar, Secretary and COO as the Returning Officer. The Deputy Secretary and the Governance Office will oversee the election, working with the external agent appointed and drawing in additional assistance from colleagues in IT Services, Communications and Marketing and the Directorate of Development and Alumni Relations, where necessary.
- (6) Distribution of the notice inviting nominations would be:
 - by email/letter to the opted-in list of the Alumni Association
 - by email/letter to members of the General Assembly
 - by email to staff members, and supported by UniLife/Staff Update Notices
- (7) That nominees require the support of at least twenty eligible participants in the election, and should have assented to stand as Chancellor in writing, by the time the nomination is submitted. No formal association with the University is required but to be eligible to stand they should have no paid appointment with the University.
- (8) The voting system used in any ballot required would be 'first past the post'.

6. Annual financial statements, 2013-14

Received: For information, the University's Annual Financial Statements were provided. A presentation on the University's financial performance and the audited accounts was also made at the meeting by the Director of Finance.

Reported:

- (1) The Director of Finance provided a verbal report and presentation at the meeting by way of assisting members in their understanding of the salient features of the audited accounts.
- (2) The Financial Statements had been audited by Deloitte LLP in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and the auditors had found that the statements gave a true and fair view of the state of the University finances (and those of its subsidiaries) as at 31 July 2014.

- (3) That the financial objectives of the University were to deliver a surplus, provide year on year income growth and to preserve cash generation and conservation and that these objectives had been satisfied. The statements demonstrated a good result following a strong year in 2012/13. There was a surplus of £45.0m against an equivalent prior year surplus of £48.9m (underlying £30.6m before pension adjustments compared with £36.7m). The Statements reported income of £886.4m, up 7.2% on the previous year, with research grant and contract income up 7.1% to £213.7m. This suggested a satisfactory financial performance but it was noted that there would be significant challenges ahead.
- (4) That in terms of the balance sheet, net assets up 8.1% to £891.5m. The year-end cash position was strong at £427.4m, despite increased capital spend. The statements also reported net cash inflow of £60.0m from underlying operating activities, and endowments were up £5.1m reflecting some level of market recovery.
- (5) That in terms of the University future operating position, 2014/15 UG/PG student numbers largely on target, with the 2015 UG student number cap to be scrapped. There were some concerns over the funding proposals for Home PGT and the likely effect on demand. In terms of international recruitment, Home Office policy and visa publicity still posed a risk, and capital funding continued to be extremely limited hence the need for the University to drive its own cash generation. Action was being taken to diversify income streams and reduce dependence on UK Government sources and this was a key enabling strategy supporting Manchester 2020.
- (6) That in terms of the future, the implementation of the new fee regime would see tuition fees income growing while HEFCE Teaching grant falls. The University was watchful of the impact of REF exercise and resultant QR funding, and while UK Government austerity measures were likely to continue for some time, the University was on track to deliver budgeted surplus outturn for 2014/15 whilst investing in future growth.

7. Annual Report on the work of the University

Received:

- (1) The President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, reported on the key developments over the year, making reference to the 'Review of the Year' contained within the Financial Statements.
- (2) The University's most recent 'Annual Review' was provided by way of further background information.

Reported:

- (1) The President and Vice-Chancellor began the presentation with an assessment of the University's performance over the year, its ambitions and plans. In overall terms, the University had made good progress against most targets, but there was recognition that performance would have to be lifted to meet Manchester 2020 targets. The University also faced strong international competition.
- (2) The President and Vice-Chancellor provided an overview of the Research Excellence Framework, and the University's performance. 83% of the University's research activity was judged to be "world leading or internationally excellent" and the University was ranked 5th in terms of research power (quality x number of staff).
- (3) That while performance had been good, the President and Vice-Chancellor noted that there had not been enough top-level research and that some areas had underperformed. Alongside this, some institutions had improved their performance or moved ahead

through collaboration or acquisition. Significantly, the impact of the concentration of health related research funding in the South East, had affected the results and outcome. In broader research measures, the University had improved its performance in the Shanghai Jiao Tong index, rising from 41st to 38th, and had increased levels of citations and increased income from spin outs and disclosures. The University had also received a number of major research awards, including the Royce Institute, the GEIC, the MRC Demantia/diagnosis funding, the BBSRC 'SynBio' project, a Wellcome Strategic Award, a BBSRC Strategic Award, and funding for Humanities Research Methods.

- (4) That in terms of Students and Teaching, the University had exceeded most recruitment targets, and raised the NSS satisfaction level to 85%. In terms of positive destinations from graduates, this had risen from 72% to 76%. Widening Participation performance was above target, and strong international recruitment continued.
- (5) That in terms of its Social Responsibility agenda, the University had appointed a new Associate Vice-President in Professor James Thompson, and had worked to further develop its ethical grand challenges and key themes. The School Governors project continued to be especially successful and the Green enthusiasts and priorities were well embedded across the University.
- (6) That, as indicated within the presentation from the Director of Finance, financial performance was good, with £885m in income and a surplus of £45m or 5.1% of turnover. Philanthropic giving was continuing to rise, as evidenced by the Lord Alliance donation to the Business School, and this reflected the generosity of donors and the investment in staff
- (7) That the President and Vice-Chancellor provided information on the status of new capital projects and their likely completion dates and gave details of recent staff changes within the University. Recruitment was underway to appoint two new Vice-President and Deans for MHS and EPS, following the announced departure of Professor Ian Jacobs, and the appointment of Professor Colin Bailey as Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
- (8) The President and Vice-Chancellor provided information on the University's International links and profile, and the outstanding public engagement undertaken by the University's academics, including Professor Brian Cox, Professor Danielle George, Professor Michael Wood, Professor Diane Coyle, Professor Sami Chakrabarti and Professor Jim O'Neill.
- (9) That the President and Vice-Chancellor outlined the key areas of research focus, student priorities, and the future ambitions of the University. The final elements of the presentation referenced the progress made since the University's establishment in 2004, and concluded with "In our Words", a short film celebrating the 10th anniversary of The University of Manchester (available on line:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8BNI74oJj0>)

8. Talking about my generation: Generation Y, digital natives and the new Division of Student Life Reported:

The University's newly appointed Director of Student Life, Dr Paul Redmond, provided a presentation on some of the issues and challenges facing today's student generation. Paul also outlined some of the support services available to students at the University.

9. Question and answer session

Following consideration of the main items there was an opportunity for members to address questions to the President and Vice-Chancellor and to members of the senior team.

10. *Date of next meeting of the General Assembly

Reported: That the next meeting of the General Assembly would be held on Wednesday, 24 June 2015, at 3.00 pm.

Close