

AGENDUM 1: Unconfirmed minutes

The University of Manchester

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

Present:

Present: The Pro-Chancellor, Mrs Gillian Easson (in the Chair)

The President and Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr Kabir Ahmed, Mrs Catherine Barber-Brown, Mrs Ann J Barnes, Ms Lily Barton, Ms Mumtaz Bashir, Dr Brian Bigger, Professor Sir Robert Boyd, Mr Christopher J Boyes, Councillor Dylan Butt, Dr Ronald E Catlow, Mr David Cavell, Mr Alan Clarke, Dr William Hamilton Craig, Mr Michael Crick, Dr Mark Coleman, Ms Margaret Collier, Mr Steve Connor, Mr Peter J Dickinson, Professor Peter Eccles, Professor Susan Edwards, Canon Michael A Evans, Mr Michael N G Evans, Mr Stephen Falder, Mr Alan Ferns, Councillor J Paul Findlow, Mrs Christie Finegan, Mr Paul Foley, Mr Peter J Folkman, Mr Matthew Foulkes, Mr Shaun Geaney, Mr Colin Gillespie, Mr Danny Goldman, Dr Reinmar Hager, Professor John Healey, Mr Nick Hillman, Mr Michael Jayson, Mr Leslie Jones, Dr Kamie Kitmitto, Mrs Helen Kreissl, Mr Gareth Lewis, Mrs Susan Lipton, Mr Barry Lye, Professor Silvia Massini, Professor Paul Mativenga, Ms Brenda McMahon, Mr Anthony D Morris, Mr David Newton, Ms Wilma Osuh, Dr Adam Ozanne, Dr Roger Pannone, Mr Robin Phillips, Dr Thurai Rahulan, Mr Saqab Rasul, Mr Nigel Schofield, Mr John Schultz, Ms Joy Sewart, Ms Abigail Shapiro, Mr Philip Smith, Dr Lucy Smyth, Dr Tracey Speake, Mr Stephen Speakman, Mr Roger Spencer, Ms Katharine Sullivan, Mr Michael Taylor, Mr Tim Turvey, Mr Asrar Ul Haq, Mr J Peter Wainwright, Mr Andrew Watson, Mr David Watson, Ms Janine Watson, Ms Roz Webster, and High Sheriff of Greater Manchester Gerry Yeung (76)

In attendance: The Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, the Director of HR, Mr Mark Rollinson (Deputy Secretary designate) and the Governance Manager. Dr Julian Skyrme attended for Agendum 7.

1 Condolences

Reported: That the Pro-Chancellor asked General Assembly members and staff to reflect on the tragic circumstances that took place at the Manchester Arena on 22nd May, at London Bridge on 3rd June and at Finsbury Park earlier this week. That the thoughts and prayers of all members go out to anyone affected by the dreadful events that took place, and that our thanks must go to the Police, NHS staff and emergency services who worked tirelessly through these terrible events.

A minute's silence was held to remember those who had lost their lives.

2 National Honours

Reported: On behalf of the General Assembly, the Pro-Chancellor offered her warmest congratulations to those staff members that had received national honours. Three leading individuals from The University of Manchester community had been recognised for their achievements, by being named in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday honours list.

Professor Graeme Black, Honorary Consultant at Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT) and Professor in Genetics and Ophthalmology here at the University has been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Also recognised is Dr Angela Strank, a Vice-President of BP who is also an alumna of the University and serves on the Board of Governors. Dr Strank has been made a Dame for services to the oil and gas industry and for encouraging women into science, technology, engineering and medicine (STEM) careers.

Honorary Professor, Sir Mark Elder, has been made Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour. Sir Mark is the musical director of the Hallé Orchestra and receives his honour for services to music

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 and accompanying action report.

4. Membership of the General Assembly

Reported: The Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer reported that since the January meeting of the General Assembly the following have been appointed or co-opted to membership:

In category 2

Kui Man Gerry Yeung OBE DL High Sheriff

Councillor Eddie Newman Lord Mayor of Manchester

In category 6

Mr Stephen Speakman, Manchester Civic Society

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

5a. Report from the Nominations Committee

Received: The Chair of the Committee, Mrs Gillian Easson, presented the Committee's main report.

(a) The membership of the Committee is:

The Pro-Chancellor (Mrs 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: Mr Andrew Spinoza

Senate: Professor Chris Taylor

Staff: Ms Roz Webster

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

Professor Sir Robert Boyd

Ms Catherine Barber-Brown
Mr Chris Boyes
Mr Wakkas Khan
Mrs Susan Lipton

(b) 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.

This report provided an update on the Committee's activities and, specifically, the Committee's recommendations to the General Assembly for appointments and/or re-appointments to the General Assembly in Category 10.

(c) Following detailed discussions the Nominations Committee agreed to make the following recommendations for appointment/re-appointment (noting the matters set out in (1) and (2) below:

- (1) That the Nominations Committee is the body responsible for maintaining lay membership of the Board and the General Assembly, and also plays a role in determining the representative composition of the Assembly.
- (2) That the Nominations Committee has several roles and tasks, one of which is to recommend lay members for appointment to the General Assembly. The Statutes and Ordinances state that they should serve initially for 3 years after which they are eligible for up to a further four 3-year terms, giving a maximum length of service on the General Assembly of 15 years. By way of comparison, members of the Board can normally serve for up to 9 years in 3 year terms. A key factor which the Nominations Committee must take into account when making its recommendations on membership is the formal role of the General Assembly: as stated in the Royal Charter this is to present the University and its achievements to the wider community and to receive the views thereupon from that community. The Committee therefore needs to encourage nominations from a broad range of people in terms of communities and organisations.

- (3) The Committee is making three recommendations for reappointment to the Board of Governors in Category 2, each for a further term of three years from 1 September 2017:

Mr Colin Gillespie
Mr Nick Hillman
Mr Robin Phillips

- (4) The Committee is making four recommendations for reappointment to the General Assembly in Category 3 (lay or former members of the Board who are not otherwise members of the General Assembly), each for a further term of three years from 1 September 2017:

Mr Brian Clancy, JP
Mr Robert E Hough, DL
Mr Neville Richardson
Mr Anil Ruia, OBE, JP, DL

NB. Approval was provided for the appointments under (3) and (4) above at the meeting of the Board of Governors on 3 May 2017.

- (5) The Committee is making two recommendations for re-appointment to the General Assembly in Category 9 (Members appointed by the Board of Governors), each for a further term of three years from 1 September 2017:

Mr Tony Aggarwal
Mr Andrew Watson

The Committee is making a recommendation for appointment to the General Assembly in Category 9 (Members appointed by the Board of Governors), for a term of three years from 1 September 2017:

Councillor Carl Austin-Behan

NB. Approval will be sought for the appointments under (5) above at the meeting of the Board of Governors on 12 July 2017.

- (6) The Committee is making three recommendations for re-appointment to the General Assembly in Category 10 (Members appointed by the General Assembly), each for a further term of three years from 1 September 2017:

Mr Nicholas Bent
Mr Steve Connor
Mr David Watson

The Committee is making a recommendation for appointment to the General Assembly in Category 10 (Members appointed by the General Assembly), for a term of three years from 1 September 2017:

Mr Trevor Rees

Resolved: The General Assembly approved the appointments and re-appointments under section c (6), above.

5b. A verbal report from the Secretary on the Governance Effectiveness Review

- (1) That every five years, the Board of Governors is required to undertake an effectiveness review, as per the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) guidance
- (2) That the University of Manchester commissioned John Lauwerys to carry out the review, who has extensive experience in the field and has led over 20 recent reviews at UK Universities.
- (3) That the review was initially reported to the Board of Governors in March. The Board was minded to progress most of the report's recommendations and will revisit the review at their July 2017 meeting
- (4) That the General Assembly were informed that when Mark Rollinson, the new Deputy Secretary, took up his position with the University at the end of July, he would be leading on this piece of work.
- (5) That the Secretary wished to flag two particular findings of the report to the General Assembly. Firstly, that the membership of the Nominations Committee was not consistent with CUC recommended practice ("...that membership of the Nominations Committee should include the Chair of the Governing Body [who should normally chair it], at least three other lay members, the head of the institution and at least one senior member of the academic staff. It has become increasingly common for Nominations Committees to include a student member drawn from the governing body.."), and to remedy this, the Chair of the Board and President and Vice Chancellor were recommended to be co-opted onto the Nominations Committee in order to ensure their direct and formal engagement in the key process of determining the lay membership of the Board of Governors.
- (6) That secondly the report recommended that the role of the General Assembly be reviewed. The report recommended that a review group be established to consider the role of the General Assembly and how its effectiveness might be improved or its purpose achieved in other ways.
- (7) That the Secretary informed members that the University would be looking for contributions from members in due course, over the next six to twelve months, as to how we might improve the effectiveness of the General Assembly's working.

6. Update on the University

Received: The President and Vice-Chancellor provided the General Assembly with an update on strategic developments since the previous meeting.

Reported:

- (1) That the President and Vice-Chancellor reported that this was a period of unprecedented change and uncertainty in Higher Education, due to factors such as having a new government; Brexit; the Teaching Excellence Framework; the Higher Education and Research Act and global competition.
- (2) That the presentation included an update on the current position of the University against the targets in the strategic plan, a stock take of progress, the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) position of the University and information on future priorities. A full copy of the Stocktake report can be found here:
<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=32621>
- (3) That there have been a number of major changes at the University, including a reduction from four to three faculties and the newly formed Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health; a new Chair of the Board of Governors; a new Chair of UMI3; some senior staff changes; M2020 staffing changes; the growth of policy@ Manchester; Review of Faculty of Science and Engineering; Global Development Institute and the Risk and Regulatory Research Institute.

- (4) That the presentation referred to many awards and achievements for the University, including: Biomedical Research Centre £28.5m; Clinical Research Facility £12.5m; DfID International Development £3.1m; Wellcome Trust Cell Matrix Centre £5m; Cancer Research UK “major centre” £42m; EPSRC 2D Materials for Healthcare Technologies’ £5.2m; AstaZeneca Clinical bioinformatics £11.5m; Pankhurst Centre for Health Innovation £5m; UKRPIF funding £9.6m; ESOF £3.6m value; and a second Regius Professorship - for Materials, awarded to Professor Phil Withers.
- (5) That the President reported on the M2020 Programme and informed the General Assembly that the programme will require a significant step-change in performance in some areas in order to realise our ambition for excellence by delivering our agreed Manchester 2020 strategy. The programme will enable the University to improve efficiency and effectiveness and achieve financial sustainability.
- (6) That the presentation made reference to the recent staff survey results, which were very positive. Over 70% of staff completed the survey, of which 93% thought that the University was a good place to work.
- (7) That the President and Vice-Chancellor finished by looking to the future for the University, with regards to issues such as ‘Devo Manc’, the delivery of M2020, increasing discretionary income in order to be able to invest, improving the student experience, enhancing Global reputation and the commercialisation of research.

7. Question and Answer Session

Reported: This item provided an opportunity for members to ask questions on any aspect of the University’s work. The questions and answers provided at the meeting are enclosed in a separate report.

8. Social Responsibility

Received: In this presentation, Dr Julian Skyrme, Director of Social Responsibility, provided a short update on key impacts in social responsibility as documented in a new publication that was circulated to members and showed an accompanying film entitled *Measuring the Difference*.

9. Date of next meeting of the General Assembly

Reported: That the next meeting of the General Assembly would be held on Wednesday, 17 January, 2018 at 3.00 pm.

10. Summation and close

Reported:

That the Pro-Chancellor expressed thanks to all the presenters and to the General Assembly members in attendance for the contribution they had made to the meeting.

That the Pro-Chancellor also thanked the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for all his contributions to the success of the University and wished him well in his new role at Queen Mary University London as President and Principal.

CLOSE.