

Information Report from the Council to the Senate - From July 2009

<p>General Update on University Matters</p>	<p>The Vice-Chancellor presented a number of items of business drawn from across the University, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's Birthday Honours • Visit to China • Review of USS • WMG Formula 3 Eco-Racing Car • Awards and Distinctions received by members of the University
<p>Membership of the Council</p>	<p>The Nominations Committee undertakes initial scrutiny and consideration of individuals put forward for membership of the University Council. As a result of this work the Nominations Committee recommended the appointment of Mr Keith Bedell-Pearce to lay membership.</p> <p>Mr Bedell-Pearce C.59/08-09</p> <p>is a Solicitor, a Fellow of the Marketing Society and an Honorary Professor of the Warwick Business School, where he is also a member of the Advisory Board. He retired from Prudential plc at the end of 2001 after 30 years service, the last 10 of which was as an Executive Director. He is also Non-Executive Chairman of Directgov, Chairman of 4D Data Centres Ltd and a non-executive director of F&C Asset Management plc. He also served as Executive Chairman of The Student Loans Company Limited.</p> <p>Keith joined the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society's Board in February 2001 and was appointed Chairman in May 2001. He is a member there of the Remuneration and Risk Committees, Chairman of the Nomination Committee and a Trustee of the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society's Pension and Life Assurance Scheme.</p> <p>The Council appointed Mr Beddell-Pearce to lay membership of the Council from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012. The Council also re-appointed Mr Patrick Dunne, Mrs Penny Egan and Mr Gerard Lyons to a second period of lay membership for the period to 31 July 2012.</p> <p>Note: Subsequent to the meeting of the Council in July, the Council approved by post the recommendation of the Nominations Committee to appoint Mr Glenn Howells to lay membership of the Council from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012.</p> <p>Glenn is the founding director of Glenn Howells Architects and established the practice in 1990. Glenn has led the practice to win numerous major design competitions and awards for a diverse range of building types including residential, commercial, urban regeneration, education and arts projects. He has an overview of all aspects of the practice and regularly reviews all projects during design development and construction stages.</p> <p>Glenn sits on the Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) Olympic Design Review Panel and is chair of MADE. He is also Chair of the IKON Gallery in Birmingham and advises Bradford Centre Regeneration, Birmingham City Council and Sheffield City Council. In 2008, Glenn chaired the Young Architect of the Year Awards (YAYA), organised by Building Design.</p>

Report from the Senate	<p>The Council considered reports from the Senate including the recommendation to establish a School of Life Sciences and to retain the academic title Associate Professor (Reader). The Council approved both of these recommendations.</p> <p>The Council also received reports on other items of Senate business including the decision to disestablish the Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies, and the submission of the Widening Participation Strategic Assessment.</p>
Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor	<p>The Vice-Chancellor presented the report from the Committee on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors including the recommendation that Professor Ann Caesar be appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for an initial period from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014. The Council approved this recommendation unanimously and noted that the breakdown of responsibilities for each of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors would be communicated later in the Summer.</p>
Report from the University Health & Safety Executive Committee	<p>As the University's Governing Body, the Council has overall responsibility for Health and Safety but discharges the role of monitoring policies and practise through the University Health & Safety Executive Committee. Members considered the latest report from the Committee and approved the new policy on the Management of Stress and Work-Related Stressors.</p>
Report from the Audit Committee	<p>The Council considered the termly report from the Audit Committee which outlined the main areas of University activity which the Committee had considered over the previous period. The report included a revised University Risk Management Policy which proposed the disestablishment of the Risk Management Group with the executive responsibility for oversight of risk management being transferred to the Steering Committee. The Council approved this recommendation and will look to the Audit Committee to monitor the effectiveness of the new arrangements over the coming year. The Council also reviewed the current risk status for the University and noted a number of areas where the risk status had changed.</p>
Report from the Finance & General Purposes Committee (FGPC)	<p>Alongside the main items of business in the FGPC report, the Council focused significant time and attention on the University Financial Plan for 2009-2013. Members noted the challenging external environment in which the University was operating and recognised that significant efforts had been made to clarify priorities for the future. The Council recognised that any plan which required significant savings to be made would present genuine challenges to all areas of the University, but supported the need to create headroom for future investment if the University's ambitions for the future were to be realised. The Council noted that the University required an operating budget and clarity on capital priorities and approved the operating budget for 2009/10 to enable prioritised activities and investments to proceed. Members also recognised that significant further work was required for later years of the plan and resolved to reconsider the detail at its November meeting prior to the Financial Plan being submitted to the HEFCE.</p>