Council

23/17 A meeting of the Council was held in Room 201, Carrington Building, on Monday 13 March 2023 at 2.00 pm.

The President
The Vice-Presidents (Mr K. Corrigan and Mrs K. Owen)
The Vice-Chancellor
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor E.M. McCrum)
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor M. Fellowes)
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Zaum)

Mr S. Alexander
Mr S. Ali
Professor E. Beleska-Spasova (Professor J. Board)
Mrs S. Butler
Mrs P. Egan
Professor R. Frazier
Professor J. Gibbins
Mr J. Jack
Miss P. Lindsey
Ms S. Maple
Mr A. McCallum
Mr P. Milhofer
Mr O. Minto (Mr S. Allen
Mrs S. Plank
Mr N. Richards
Professor K. Strohfeldt
Dr C. Shaw
Dr J. Young

In attendance:
The Director of Finance
The Director of Quality Support and Development

Apologies were received from Mr S. Allen, Professor J. Board, and Dr R.J. Messer.

23/18 <u>President's introductory remarks</u>

The President welcomed Professor Katja Strohfeldt to her first meeting of the Council.

The President noted that Mr Allen, RUSU President, and Miss Lindsey, RUSU Welfare Officer, would complete their terms of office before the next meeting of Council. The Council thanked them[(0 0 1 103.46 223.49 Tm5(t)9(ed that)10( )] TJE6>wnr)5(i5008871 lu0000b(resi(th TJETQtrib00008QtiJETQ

In response to questions, the Vice-Chancellor indicated that he was aware of some 40 universities which had already proposed deficit budgets, including some prestigious institutions with a history of financial strength. Some universities without strong reserves were being required to make sweeping cuts.

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23/21 Investment Fund (Item 3.4)

The Council received a paper containing an overview of the University's investment assets and a proposal to create an Investment Fund.

Mr Corrigan, as chair of the Investments Committee, expressed his confidence that the Committee was overseeing the investment portfolio and fulfilling its fiduciary obligations conscientiously and effectively, but considered that a more active alignment of the investment strategy with the University's purposes would yield greater value for the University, its research

The Vice-Chancellor noted that Council was invited at this meeting to provide feedback on the report and to endorse its direction of travel. Council would be invited to approve a revised version at its meeting in July.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resource) (Professor Fellowes) explained that the Planning and Change Board had found this year's five-year planning round extremely challenging and, working within the framework of the University Strategy, had made difficult decisions. The plan made provision for a -£30.7 deficit in 2023/24, but

models under review. Under any model, maintaining constructive relationships with the local planning authority and with the surrounding community were

The Council expressed its support for this decision and commended its realism about feasibility of such a development at this stage. The Council affirmed the importance of the partnership with the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and the collaborations on education and research, including the use of big data for healthcare.

In response to a question, the Vice-Chancellor advised that a joint statement would be issued within the next few days. Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust respected the rationale for the decision and welcomed the clarification, which allowed the Trust to consolidate collaborations with medical schools in the region.

Resolved:

"That:

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The Minutes (23/01-22/16) of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 were confirmed and signed.

23/35 Documents sealed and to be sealed (Item 13)

The Council received a list of documents sealed and to be sealed.

Resolved:

"That the Council approve the action taken by the Officers and Members in affixing the University Seal to documents sealed since the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council and authorise the Seal of the University to be affixed to the documents to be sealed as now reported."

23/36 Rolling update on topics for future Council meetings (Item 14)

The Council received an update on topics for future Council meetings.

23/37 Dates of meetings of the Council in the Session 2022/23 (Item 16)

The final meeting of the Council in the Session 2022/23 had been scheduled for:

Monday 3 July 2023 at 2.15 pm.

23/38 Reflections on the meeting (Item 17)

The President invited members to share with her later their reflections on this and previous meetings this academic year.