

**MINUTES OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23
NOVEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM AT 2.00PM**

Present: Professor Stuart Palmer (Chair), Professor Colin Riordan, Professor Rudolf Allemann, Professor Rachel Ashworth, Paul Baston, Dr Carol Bell, Ricardo Calil, Hannah Doe, Tomos Evans, Judith Fabian, Professor Dame Janet Finch, Professor Kim Graham [from minute 1857], Alastair Gibbons, Professor Ken Hamilton [from minute 1858], Michael Hampson, Karen Harvey-Cooke, Professor Karen Holford, Jan Juillerat, Dr Steven Luke, Dr Joanna Newman [from minute 1856], Len Richards [from minute 1868], John Shakeshaft, David Simmons, Judge Ray Singh, Dr Janet Wademan and Agnes Xavier-Phillips.

Attendees: Katy Dale (Minutes), Rashi Jain, Chris Jones, Sue Midha, Claire Morgan, Dr Elid Morris, James Plumb (Minutes), Melanie Rimmer, Ruth Robertson, Dr Pretty Sagoo, Claire Sanders, Professor Damian Walford Davies, Professor Ian Weeks, Dr Huw Williams [minute 1868] and Robert Williams.

Apologies: No apologies were received.

1851 WELCOME AND PRELIMINARIES

NOTED

- 1851.1 that Chris Jones & Dr Pretty Sagoo were welcomed as observers to the meeting, ahead of their commencement as lay members on 01 January 2021;
- 1851.2 that Dr Elid Morris and Melanie Rimmer were also welcomed to the meeting;
- 1851.3 that Claire Morgan and Claire Sanders were congratulated for their substantive appointments as Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience and Chief Operating Officer respectively;
- 1851.4 that given the volume of business to be discussed, a number of items would be discussed by exception and members were asked to identify at the start of the meeting any items in this section they wished to discuss.

1852 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for the meeting. The meeting was confirmed to be quorate.

**1853 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 07 SEPTEMBER 2020 AND
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 06 OCTOBER 2020**

NOTED

- 1853.1 that within the minutes for the meeting of the 07 September 2020, the following amendments were proposed:
- .1 under minute 1836.7 "remined" to be corrected to "remained";
 - .2 under minute 1839.9: that it is hoped the projections represent a worst-case scenario and the University had a strong balance sheet

to address this should the situation not improve; however, the current position was not sustainable and Council members **expressed concern that the target savings had not been achieved and** encouraged the executive to ~~review~~ identify possible cost savings to ensure sustainability **since the risks in the year ahead are uncertain; a comparison** especially in relation to benchmarked competitors **should also be undertaken;**

- .3 under minute 1839.10: that the University was committed to making savings but wished to avoid quick cost cuts that would restrict the ability to grow in the future and that any changes worked both academically and financially; **this was approved and savings to offset the costs being incurred due to the modified processes and operational procedures were encouraged.**

RESOLVED

1853.2 to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of 07 September 2020, subject to the above amendments;

1853.3 to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of 06 October 2020.

1854 MATTERS ARISING

NOTED

1854.1 that in relation to minute 1815 (2019 Staff Survey Results & University Response) work was actively ongoing in this area and an update would be provided to the next suitable meeting.

1855 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED

1855.1 that Dr Carol Bell would join the Council of Research England following the end of her appointment as a Council member;

1855.2 that the Vice-Chair would chair for minute 1866 (Chairship of Council-recruitment) and the Chair would leave the meeting for this item.

1856 CHAIR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received and considered paper 20/250C, 'Chair's Report to Council'. The Chair spoke to this item.

NOTED

1856.1 that a number of congratulations were detailed in the paper;

1856.2 that a moment's silence was held for the deaths reported;

1856.3 that Dr Joanna Newman joined the meeting during this item;

1856.4 that the panel to review tenders for the effectiveness review had been agreed and the Terms of Reference for the review were being developed;

1856.5 that a follow-up of the review of Court was proposed to be led by Reverend Canon Gareth Powell and the Terms of Reference for this

review would be approved by Council or Governance Committee as appropriate.

RESOLVED

- 1856.6 to agree the Chair would approach Reverend Canon Gareth Powell to discuss a further review of Court.

1857 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received and considered paper 20/251C, 'Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council'. The Vice-Chancellor was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1857.1 that a health and safety update was included within this report, as requested by Council;
- 1857.2 that student recruitment numbers had improved since issuing of the report and tuition fee income was healthy, with c.56% received of fees invoiced; it was not yet known how many students would continue to study and there was therefore a need to remain cautious on final income figures;
- 1857.3 that a large number of international students had come to Cardiff for their studies, which reflected their desire to attend Cardiff University;
- 1857.4 that students from China accounted for around 50% of international students; this was in line with other Russell Group comparators and the University was looking to grow recruitment from other countries to reduce this dependency;
- 1857.5 that Professor Kim Graham joined the meeting during this item;
- 1857.6 that the KPI regarding the duration of international placements for students had been reduced from 21 to 14 days; this was partly due to the restrictions around travel due to COVID-19 but also matched the offering of many international institutions; the University was looking to maintain this timescale until 2023 and was investigating the possibility of virtual placements;
- 1857.7 that Council members congratulated the VC on the number and value of research awards won, with special thanks to the research staff and those who support them on this achievement;
- 1857.8 that the Research Wales Innovation Fund strategy funding has not been confirmed for years two and three, due to HEFCW awaiting confirmation of budget from the Welsh Government; in light of this, one year contracts were being pursued and the University was in ongoing discussions with HEFCW on the impact this had on the number and quality of applicants for core roles;
- 1857.9 that possible financial gain was one of a number of considerations for pipeline strategic partnerships, but it was not the main aim of such partnerships.

1858 COVID-19 UPDATE

Received and considered paper 20/252HC, 'COVID-19 Update'. The Vice-Chancellor was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1858.1 [REDACTED]

1858.2 [REDACTED]

1858.3 [REDACTED]

1858.4 [REDACTED]

1858.5 [REDACTED]

1858.6 [REDACTED]

1858.7 [REDACTED]

1858.8 [REDACTED]

1859 PLANS TO ACHIEVE A BREAK-EVEN FINANCIAL POSITION IN 2021/22

Received and considered paper 20/295HC, 'Plans to Achieve a Break-Even Financial Position in 2021/22'. The Chief Financial Officer was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1859.1 [REDACTED]

1859.2 [REDACTED]

1859.3 [REDACTED]

1859.4 [REDACTED]

1859.5 [REDACTED]

1859.6 [REDACTED]

1859.7 [REDACTED]

1859.8 [REDACTED]

1859.9 [REDACTED]

1859.10 [REDACTED]

1859.11 [REDACTED]

1859.12 [REDACTED]

1859.13 [REDACTED]

1859.14 [REDACTED]

1859.15 [REDACTED]

RESOLVED

1859.16 to approve the Vice Chancellor's plan for a return to a financial break-even position in 2021/22;

1859.17 for an update and action plan to be brought to the meeting of Council in February 2021;

1859.18 that in accordance with Ordinance 10, E, 2.1, authority be delegated to Finance & Resources Committee to approve the University Budget at its meeting in December 2020.

1860 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' UNION

Received and considered paper 20/253, 'Students' Union President Report'. The President of the Students' Union was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1860.1 that the Postgraduate Study Space in the Students' Union building had been converted to additional Study Group and Society Spaces for use by students;

1860.2 that the newly opened Study Cafe would be kept open over the Christmas break to support students staying in Cardiff;

1860.3 [REDACTED]

1860.5 that the Students' Union had received £50k from the Welsh Government to assist in student wellbeing;

1860.6 that online, virtual Freshers activities were held at the start of the academic year and societies had reported higher engagement than previous years;

1860.7 that a live Q&A was held with the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience, the Students' Union President and the Vice-President Education, with over 170 students submitting over 100 questions;

1860.8 that the Students' Union President expressed his thanks to the University for the engagement and involvement the Student's Union had had in decision making during the recent challenges.

1861 CARDIFF UNIVERSITY WIDENING PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

Received and considered paper 20/287C, 'Widening Participation Strategy'. The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1861.1 that the previous Widening Participation Strategy had been implemented in 2016 and there had been significant changes in the regulatory landscape, along with the impact of COVID-19, since then, presenting a good opportunity to review the strategy;
- 1861.2 that an initial draft revised strategy had been initiated by the previous Pro Vice-Chancellor; a strategy group had been created to review this draft and engage with stakeholders for feedback;
- 1861.3 that the revised strategy proposed a more holistic approach and aimed to focus on ensuring students were successful during their time at University and following completion of their studies;
- 1861.4 that the strategy gave prominence to the BAME awarding gap to ensure it is addressed.

RESOLVED

- 1861.5 to approve the Widening Participation Strategy.

1862 OVERVIEW OF NSS SCORES AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience provided a presentation on this item.

NOTED

- 1862.1 that the National Student Survey is completed annually by final year undergraduate students; it is published and owned by the Office for Students (OFS) and outcomes are widely covered by the media;
- 1862.2 that the results reflect the reputation and quality of provision of universities and is often used in league tables; HEFCW also use it as a key indicator of performance;
- 1862.3 that the University had set a KPI for all subjects to be in the top 25% and this has only been achieved in approximately a quarter of subjects; the University was currently 103rd for teaching quality & 98th for student experience and so was subject to greater scrutiny by HEFCW;
- 1862.4 that there had been a decline in overall satisfaction by just under 3% this year; most institutions had seen a drop of 1-2% due to COVID-19 and the University had also been badly affected by industrial action; in the past 5 years, satisfaction had dropped from 90% to 81%;
- 1862.5 there had also been a decrease in satisfaction in all thematic areas during 2019/20;
- 1862.6 the Students' Union was ranked above benchmark but was the only element to do so, meaning under benchmark areas are not being countered in other areas;
- 1862.7 that school data had been calculated based on aggregate and it seemed smaller schools with a strong identity and practical elements performed better than others; larger schools and those which had seen a drop in results this year were those severely impacted by industrial action;
- 1862.8 [REDACTED]

- 1862.9 [REDACTED]; all schools had produced a student experience enhancement plan which were being monitored;
- 1862.10 that given the above results, the University had to provide an institutional action plan and two subject actions plans (for dental nursing and software engineering) to HEFCW;
- 1862.11 that the institutional action plan focussed on digital provision, a new programme of accredited academic CPD, a review of assessments and improved communication to address the key areas of concern;
- 1862.12 the University was also reviewing ways to ensure early sight of possible issues, such as timing and structure of module evaluation and annual internal NSS for all years;
- 1862.13 that it was important to bear in mind the considerable pressure on staff to deliver teaching during COVID-19 and a need to ensure they were supported during this time;
- 1862.14 that there also remained the threat of future industrial action which would impact on scores;
- 1862.15 that it was a tough year to deliver improvements to scores, but HEFCW were actively promoting use of the NSS; the survey was under review by the OFS but it was not expected it would be removed;
- 1862.16 that the University was determined to address the decline in results but reminded Council members it would take time to see the impact of any changes;
- 1862.17 that Council was pleased with the actions implemented and looked forward to an update.

1863 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Received and considered paper 20/296C, 'Report from the Chair of Governance Committee to Council'. The Chair of the Governance Committee was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1863.1 that the Committee had endorsed minor amendments to the Terms of Reference for both the Governance Committee and Finance & Resources Committee;
- 1863.2 in response to a question, that there had been no increase in cases reported to the Prevent Officer in light of remote working and study and dates for training were being discussed.

RESOLVED

- 1863.3 to approve the proposed amendments to the Governance Committee Terms of Reference;
- 1863.4 to approve the proposed amendments to the Finance and Resources Committee Terms of Reference;

- 1863.5 to approve paper 20/262, the 2019/2020 Annual Statement on Research Integrity;
- 1863.6 to approve paper 20/263C, the Prevent Duty Statutory Monitoring Return 2019- 2020;
- 1863.7 to approve paper 20/264, the University's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement;
- 1863.8 to approve paper 20/265C, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986: Compliance Report for 2019/20;
- 1863.9 to approve paper 20/266HC, the Complaints Report: Students, Staff & Third Parties 2019/2020;
- 1863.10 to approve paper 20/299, the Lay Membership of Council & its Committees;
- 1863.11 to approve paper 20/267, the Students' Union Relationship Agreement & Student Charter;
- 1863.12 to approve paper 20/268, the Execution of Documents (Seal).

1864 POWELL RECOMMENDATION - COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Received and considered paper 20/254C, 'Powell Review Membership of Council'. The Vice-Chair of Council was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1864.1 that the paper proposed an updated membership of Council and the proposed changes had been endorsed by Governance Committee;
- 1864.2 that the proposals were in line with the recommendations of the Camm Review and Universities in Wales Governance Charter;
- 1864.3 that the proposed membership aimed to maintain a variety of perspectives but Council were reminded that stakeholder engagement was sought through other mechanisms;
- 1864.4 that the amendments to the academic staff category aimed to ensure a range of perspectives from across the colleges; the process for nomination to this category was yet to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

- 1864.5 to approve the revised membership of Council.

1865 PRIVY COUNCIL APPLICATION FOR STATUTE CHANGES UPDATE

The University Secretary provided a verbal update on this item.

NOTED

- 1865.1 that a preliminary application had been made to the Privy Council in September 2020 to allow for internal and external applications for role of Chair;

1865.2 that HEFCW had been in contact to confirm they had been notified by the Welsh Government of the proposed change;

1865.3 that the Privy Council were expecting to look at the application in December 2020 but this may be delayed due to external factors.

1866 CHAIRSHIP OF COUNCIL - RECRUITMENT

The Chair of Governance Committee provided a verbal update on this item.

NOTED

1866.1 that the Chair left the meeting and the Vice-Chair took the role of Chair;

1866.2 that due to the potential delay in Privy Council approval, it was proposed that the current Chair remain in post until January 2022; this still falling within the Chair's current term, which was for a period of up to four years to July 2023.

RESOLVED

1866.3 to approve that the Chair remain in post until January 2022 to allow adequate time to seek a replacement.

1867 UIW GOVERNANCE CHARTER AND COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Received and considered paper 20/255, 'Universities in Wales Governance Charter and Commitment to Action'. The Head of Corporate Governance was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1867.1 that the paper detailed the Universities in Wales Charter and the associated commitment to action document that the University had adopted and was required to report progress on to HEFCW;

1867.2 that Council were asked to agree the proposed response as the basis of the University's action plan;

1867.3 that the proposals had synergy with matters discussed at the Audit & Risk committee relating to an external review of culture and the undertaking of a viability exercise.

RESOLVED

1867.4 to approve the proposed responses as the basis for a Governance Charter Commitment to Action implementation plan.

1868 WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2020-21

Received and considered paper 20/256, 'Welsh Language Strategy'. The Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the University Dean Welsh Language were invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1868.1 that Len Richards and Dr Huw Williams joined the meeting;

- 1868.2 that the paper proposed a Welsh Language Campus which extended beyond the physical estate and aimed to embed a Welsh language identity, and avoid doing merely what was required for compliance;
- 1868.3 that the strategy was grounded in the good practices and practical knowledge of both staff and students;
- 1868.4 that the Welsh Language Commissioner and Coleg Cymraeg were aware of the proposed strategy;
- 1868.5 that, if approved, a soft launch would be held in early 2021.

RESOLVED

- 1867.6 to approve the Welsh Language Strategy.

1869 FUNDERS ADVISORY PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Received and considered paper 20/257, 'Funders Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference'. The Chair of the Governance Committee was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1869.1 that the creation of a Funders Advisory body had been recommended in the Powell Review.

RESOLVED

- 1869.2 to approve the Terms of Reference for a Funders Advisory Panel;
- 1869.3 to approve the appointment of Reverend Canon Gareth Powell as the inaugural Chair of the Panel;
- 1869.4 to approve the inaugural Chair identify a long list of members in consultation with the Chair of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, and the Director of Research & Innovation.

1870 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Received and considered paper 20/297C, 'Report from Chair of Audit Committee to Council'. The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1870.1 that the Committee had held a special meeting on 28 October 2020 where it had agreed with the auditors that the University was a going concern;
- 1870.2 that the Committee would be reviewing the University's cyber security procedures and policies at its meeting in February 2021;
- 1870.3 that the Committee would be holding a session on understanding and advising on a risk and assurance mapping strategy in January 2021, with elements facilitated by the Risk Management Association.

RESOLVED

- 1870.4 to approve paper 20/269C, the Annual Risk Management Report 2019/2020;
- 1870.5 to approve paper 20/270C, the Risk Register;
- 1870.6 to approve paper 20/271, the updated Internal Audit Charter;
- 1870.7 to approve paper 20/272C, the 2019/2020 Annual Report – Fraud, Bribery and other Financial Compliance;
- 1870.8 to approve paper 20/273, the Internal Audit Annual Report 2019/2020;
- 1870.9 to approve paper 20/274, the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2020/21.

1871 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received and considered paper 20/298C, 'Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report'. The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1871.1 that the report is a regulatory requirement whose purpose is to provide assurance to Council on risk management, control and governance, value for money and the management and quality assurance of data;
- 1871.2 that concerns were raised around the value for money, governance and risk management of the CIC project and capital procurement; extensive remedial action had been taken in these areas;
- 1871.3 that of the 21 reports completed last year, seven returned limited assurance, reflecting that there remain some areas to develop; the Committee were pleased with the progress made in improving these areas;
- 1871.4 that the University intended to commence its search to replace the current external auditors during 2021;
- 1871.5 that the Committee continued to work with management to ensure actions from audit reports are closed off in a timely manner.

1872 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

Received and considered paper 20/290C, 'Letter of Representation'. The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee was invited to speak to this item.

RESOLVED

- 1872.1 to approve the Letter of Representation for signing and submission to the University's external auditors.

1873 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Received and considered paper 20/288C 'Finance & Resources Committee Chair's Report to Council'. The Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1873.1 that the budget for 20/21 had not yet been submitted for approval by the Committee given the ongoing fluctuation in student numbers; it was therefore proposed to bring the budget to a meeting of the Committee in December 2020 for approval, following the delegation of authority to do so by Council at this meeting;
- 1873.2 that the Estates and Infrastructure Sub-Committee had provided comments on the Llanrumney Business Case and proposed MOU; the Committee were in support of the project;
- 1873.3 that the Investment & Banking Sub-Committee had recently received a briefing from Rothschild on the bond market and possibility of a bond tap; this would be used for investment in the Heath site and the digital infrastructure; HEFCW had been advised of the discussions and were supportive in principle; a further proposal would be brought to the meeting of Council in February 2021 if the Finance & Resources Committee considered it to be an appropriate course of action.

RESOLVED

- 1873.4 to approve paper 20/275C, the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2019/20;
- 1873.5 to approve paper 20/276C, the Llanrumney Business Case, namely approval for the University to enter into agreement with Cardiff City Football Club and Cardiff City Council, and authorisation for Phil Rees-Jones (on behalf of the University) to enter into lease arrangements based on the Memorandum of Agreement;
- 1873.6 to approve further work be undertaken on a possible bond tap and a proposal to be presented to Council at its February meeting.

1874 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND BUSINESS CASE PLAN

Received and considered paper 20/258C, 'Capital Investment Plan Update'. The Chief Financial Officer was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1874.1 that the paper reflected the impact of COVID-19 on the capital investment plan, with only existing contracts being progressed; all other projects remained on hold and further project proposals were not encouraged.

RESOLVED

- 1874.2 to approve funding for additional requirements of the Cardiff Innovation Campus and Architecture Expansion projects be met from bond funds.

1875 FINANCE REPORT

Received and noted paper 20/291C, 'Financial Report'. The Chief Financial Officer was invited to speak to this item.

1876 GOING CONCERN

Received and considered paper 20/292C, 'Going Concern'. The Chief Financial Officer was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1876.1 that this paper had been prepared based on the financial projections of October 2020; the current predictions reflected a better position;
- 1876.2 that there was a requirement to produce annual accounts on a going concern principle (i.e. the University must demonstrate it can meet its commitments for 12 months following the signing of the accounts);
- 1876.3 that this would likely need to be reviewed again for the 2020/21 annual accounts.

1877 ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019/2020

Received and considered paper 20/293C, 'Annual Report & Financial Statements'. The Chief Financial Officer was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

- 1877.1 that the Annual Report for this year had been produced in black and white to minimise production and printing costs;
- 1877.2 that a section had been included detailing the University's response to the COVID-19 crisis;
- 1877.3 the University's credit rating had dropped by one rating and this was mainly due to the UK Government's rating also dropping by one rating;
- 1877.4 that attention was drawn to the section relating to the responsibilities of the Council;
- 1877.5 that for 2019/20 the University returned an operating surplus of £14.1m; this reflects the adjustment of £55m for the USS pension provision which has to be shown as part of operating activities
- 1877.6 that Council were asked to ensure their contentment with the Related Party Transactions listed.

RESOLVED

- 1877.7 to approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2019/20;
- 1887.8 for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to confirm a suitable date for the Dean for Environmental Sustainability to attend Council and provide a briefing.

1878 DRAFT FINANCIAL BUDGET 2020-21 AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS TO 2021-23

Received and considered paper 20/294C, 'Draft Financial Budget 2020-21 and Financial Projections 2021-23'. The Chief Financial Officer was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1878.1 that this paper would be updated and presented to Finance & Resources Committee in December 2020 for approval.

1879 CIC FINANCIAL UPDATE

Received and considered paper 20/259C, 'Cardiff Innovation Campus Update'. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1879.1 that the paper requests drawdown from the contingency budget for two compensation events; the first has been agreed at £1.29m and the second (covering September 2020 to March 2021) is estimated at £1.4m; approval is requested for both as the second event is required to be settled this month;

1879.2 that the format of financial reporting in the report had been updated to reflect the recommendations of the ARUP report;

1879.3 that the current estimated completion date is 11 February 2022;

1879.4 that the Chairs of Finance and Resources Committee and Estates and Infrastructure Sub-Committee considered that the project was now being well managed and appreciated the updated reporting format.

RESOLVED

1879.5 to approve the request for a drawdown of £3.084m for both the period 1 actuals and the estimated period 2 compensation events in relation to COVID-19.

1880 SENATE REPORT TO COUNCIL

Received and considered paper 20/260C, 'Senate report to Council'. The Vice-Chancellor was invited to speak to this item.

NOTED

1880.1 that the Annual Quality Report was a regulatory requirement for HEFCW and provided Council with assurance on the quality of degrees awarded;

1880.2 that the QAA visit formed part of the Annual Quality Report and had been very positive but there were two items highlighted as red risks:

- .1 the student experience, as reflected in the outcomes of the NSS;
- .2 student cases and the resources needed to manage this process; a plan had been implemented but it was taking time to recruit;

1880.3 that there had been a small increase in good degrees of 5%, which was in line with the UK sector; this was expected given the awareness of extenuating circumstances in the current circumstance and there were no concerns from external examiners on this;

1880.4 that a discussion on degree outcomes at a future Council meeting may be beneficial.

RESOLVED

- 1880.5 to approve paper 20/277, the Degree Outcomes Statement;
- 1880.6 to approve paper 20/278, the Annual Quality Report;
- 1880.7 to approve paper 20/279C, the Report from the Academic Promotions Committee.

1881 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NOTED

- 1881.1 the appointment of Emma Douglas as a Trustee of the Cardiff University Pension Fund; lay members were advised there was still a further trustee vacancy on this committee and nominations were welcomed;
- 1881.2 thanks were extended to Dr Carol Bell and Alastair Gibbons for their commitment to Council and its committees during their terms of office.

1882 ITEMS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

Council NOTED

Paper 20/280, 'Council Constitution & Membership'

Paper 20/281, 'Sealing Transactions'

Paper 20/282C, 'Report from Redundancy Committee to Council'

Paper 20/283C, 'Annual People Management Report'

Paper 20/284HC, 'URI Review Paper'

Paper 20/285, 'Research Grants and Contracts'

Paper 20/286C, 'Agenda for next meeting'

Chair.....

DATE