COUNCIL

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Council held on **Friday 22 August 2025** on Microsoft Teams.

Present:
Professor Stuart Palmer (SP), Chair, *independent member*
Dr Vineta Bhalla (VB), *independent member*
Ms Sharon Blackman (SB), *independent member*
Professor Dave Delpy (DD), *independent member*
Mr Mark Garrett (MG), *independent member*
Mr Abhishek Ghawate (AG), *student member*
Ms Nadya Hijazi (NH), *independent member*
Ms Lucinda Hunt (LH), *independent member*
Professor Andrew Jones (AJ), Vice-Chancellor & President, *ex-officio*
Mr David Kennedy (DK), *independent member*
Mr Nafee Khan (NK), *student member*
Mr Toby Lambert (TL), *independent member*
Mr Marc Lombardo (ML), *independent member*
Mr Chris Maw (CM), *independent member*
Mr Keith Smith (KS), *independent member*
Mr Chris Stock (CS), *elected staff member*
Professor Claire Turner (CT), *senior staff member*
Dr Peter Westaway (PW), *independent member*
Dr Allison Wiseman (AW), *elected staff member*

In attendance:
Dr Manuel Alonso (MA), Chief Operating Officer – from item 25/05
Ms Gill Hemus (GH), Interim Chief People and Culture Officer – *for item 25/03*
Ms Anne Nathan (AN), Chief Finance Officer
Dr Nicola Rogers (NR), Chief of Staff
Professor Abdulnaser Sayma (AS), Executive Dean, CEDPS – *for item 25/03*

Officers:
Mr Tristan Foot (TF), University Secretary and General Counsel
Ms Helen Dalrymple (HD), Associate Director of Governance - *minutes*

Apologies:
Ms Janet Dean (JD), Deputy Chair, *independent member*
Ms Gillian May (GM), *independent member*
Ms Faith Wainwright (FW), *independent member*
Professor Jonathan Wastling (JW), *senior staff member*

STANDING ITEMS

25/01 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

01/01 The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies had been received from JD, GM, FW and JW.

25/02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST(S)

02/01 **NOTED:** that there were no declarations of interest.

25/03 ACADEMIC RESIZING 2 (CO/4142)

03/01 **NOTED:** The updated business case for resizing academic departments.

03/02 This item was a culmination of previous discussions; an earlier version of the business case had come to the meeting of Council in July. The Redundancy Committee, scheduled for the following week, would give the document final approval.

03/03 The numbers in the paper had been incorporated into the 2025/26 budget, the procedure for the resizing mirrored previous processes.

03/04 Members asked how the impact of the reduction in staff numbers on the quality of teaching would be measured; they heard that workload was being reviewed, there were currently similar numbers of staff to 2019 but with lower numbers of students. Modules with few students could be removed and this would consolidate and improve delivery.

03/05 Professional accreditation could be affected by reduction in staff numbers; the student/staff ratio was carefully monitored and remained better than comparable institutions.

GH and AS left the meeting

RESERVED BUSINESS

25/04 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM (CO/4143)

THIS ITEM CONSTITUTED RESERVED BUSINESS, WHICH WAS MINUTED SEPARATELY

MA joined the meeting

25/05 STUDENT RECRUITMENT (Verbal)

05/01 **NOTED:** A verbal update on student numbers

05/02 Undergraduate numbers were on track to achieve target, clearing had been positive. The conversion rate was slightly down, however there was a strong pipeline for the remaining expected 25%.

05/03 International postgraduate numbers were currently slightly up on the previous year, with domestic numbers down.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

25/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

07/01 Members were reminded of the confidentiality of matters discussed during the meeting.

07/02 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was ended at 11:05am.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 2pm, Wednesday 1 October 2025

Meeting Minutes Approved:



1 October 2025

Professor Stuart Palmer, Chairperson | Date