

## NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

### COUNCIL

#### Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 at 9.45 am in ST102/103

#### **Present:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Mr Jonathan Day                            | Chair of the Council                    |
| Mr Glen Alexander                          |   |
| Mr Tom Ashford                             | President, Newman Students' Union (NSU) |
| Dr John Carlisle                           |   |
| Professor Peter Childs                     | Deputy Vice-Chancellor                  |
| Ms Gayle Ditchburn                         |   |
| Ms Deirdre Finucane                        |   |
| Ms Karan Gilmore                           |   |
| Mr Colin Harris                            |   |
| Ms Julie Jones                             |   |
| Mr Stephen Kenny                           |   |
| Mr Phillip Lennon                          |   |
| Ms Leoarna Mathias (from item 2.2 onwards) |   |
| Ms Elizabeth McGrath QC                    |   |
| Professor Femi Oyebode                     |   |
| Mr Richard Wallace                         |   |

#### **In Attendance:**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Ms Andrea Bolshaw | Registrar and University Secretary<br>and Clerk to the Council |
| Mr Tony Sharma    | Chief Financial Officer  |
| Ms Jackie Flowers | Minute Secretary   |

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Professor Scott Davidson, Rev Canon David Evans and Archbishop Bernard Longley.

#### **2. Council and Governance Matters (UC 21/19)**

##### **2.1 Appointment of Staff Council Member**

In October 2018 Dr Karen Graham, who was a staff Council Member, resigned from the University. Council agreed in November 2018 to change the method of appointment from an election to align with the merit-based recruitment process by which external members of Council were appointed. Following a process of application and interviews, the Nominations and Governance Committee recommended to the Council that Ms Leoarna Mathias be appointed as staff member of Council.

Council received a profile of Ms Mathias.

**Resolved UC 5/2019**

to approve the appointment of Ms Leoarna Mathias as staff council member for a three year term.

**2.2 Election of a Vice-Chair of Council**

Ms Ditchburn left the meeting for this item.

The University's Instruments and Articles required the election of a Vice-Chair of Council. Ms Gayle Ditchburn had offered to serve as the Vice-Chair and the Nominations and Governance Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that Ms Ditchburn be appointed as Vice-Chair of Council.

**Resolved UC 6/2019**

to approve the appointment of Ms Gayle Ditchburn as the Vice-Chair of Council for a term of three years.

**2.3 Appointment of a staff nominee to Nominations and Governance Committee**

The terms of reference of the Nominations and Governance Committee required the membership to include a staff member of the University appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. Following the retirement of the current staff member, Professor Frank Leishman, the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor have appointed Dr Mehreen Mirza as the staff member of the Committee.

Council noted the appointment.

**3. Vice Chancellor**

**3.1 Appointment of Acting Vice-Chancellor and Accountable Officer (UC 22/19)**

Professor Childs left the meeting for this item.

The Chair reported that following a period of ill health, Professor Scott Davidson, the University's Vice-Chancellor had tendered his resignation to take effect from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Prior to his resignation and during his absence, Professor Davidson had given the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Childs delegated authority to carry out the work of Vice-

Chancellor. Professor Davidson had retained accountability for the University's budget.

Now that Professor Davidson had resigned and would be absent for an extended period, it was necessary for Council to decide whether to appoint an Interim Accountable Office to comply with the requirements of the OfS. This would not be a delegation, but a temporary replacement for the role of Vice-Chancellor which carried with it the obligation to act as Accountable Officer.

The Chair of Council recommended that Professor Peter Childs be appointed as Acting Vice-Chancellor and Interim Accountable Officer for the period commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. In appointing an Interim Vice-Chancellor, Council would remove authority from Professor Davidson and the Acting Vice Chancellor would assume the full authority and accountability of the role, including that for the institution's budget and resources. This was with Professor Davidson's agreement.

The Chair advised that the occupational requirement for the post to be held by a practising Roman Catholic did not apply to a temporary post holder.

Council members observed that there had been reduction in the number of senior post-holders since the retirement of Professor Lawson in the summer of 2018, followed now by the resignation of Professor Davidson. The Chair noted that Professor Childs would consider what assistance he might need and that Council would support him.

**Resolved: UC 7/2019**

To approve Professor Peter Childs as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Interim Accountable Officer for the period commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 and ending on the date that a new Vice-Chancellor commences in the role.

### **3.2 Proposed search process for a new Vice-Chancellor (UC 23/19)**

The Chair presented an initial paper which outlined the proposed process and timetable for the recruitment of the new Vice-Chancellor. He noted that the process would be carried out in a highly consultative manner. The aim was for the new Vice-Chancellor to be in post on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, although this could be later in the year depending on any period of notice required of the appointee.

The Council considered student participation in the process and it was agreed that the Chair and President of the Students' Union would discuss this further.

**Action:** Chair of Council and President of the Students' Union.

Whilst the process for the appointment of Professor Davidson was felt to have been effective, some members of Council felt that full Council should have had more exposure to the two final candidates. The Chair advised that Council would be involved and informed throughout the process.

**Resolved:** UC 8/2019 to approve

- a) the overall search process as given in paper UC 23/19
- b) the establishment of a Search Committee as given in the paper, with terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1 of the paper.
- c) the Search Committee to appoint search consultants

#### **4. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 20th June 2019 at 2pm.

**Council****Action Plan from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

| <b>Minute</b> | <b>Agenda Item</b>                                | <b>Action to be Taken</b>  | <b>Person Responsible</b>      |
|---------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 3.2           | Proposed search process for a new Vice-Chancellor | To discuss the involvement of students in the recruitment process. | Chair of Council/President NSU |