



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office

University Executive Board, 9 June 2020

Council, 13 July 2020

Council Sponsor: Tony Pedder, Chair of Council

Author: Tony Strike, University Secretary

Pairing of Council members with Faculty Vice-Presidents & Heads of Faculty

1. Background

In 2017 Council established jointly with Senate a Task and Finish Group on Academic Standards and Quality, chaired by Council member Dr Jonathan Nicholls. Amongst the rationale for establishing the group was a recommendation arising from the last Council Effectiveness Review concerning the effectiveness of the interface between Council and academic governance. The Group's terms of reference included:

- a) to establish the requirements for the Council and Senate in both giving and receiving assurances in relation to academic standards and quality;
- b) to assess the needs of Council members in discharging their responsibilities in this area

2. Council-University Links

The Vice-Chancellor is a member of Council, and annually nominates two (or three) senior academic officers to the Council. Three members of Senate are elected from the Senate to the Council and the President of the Students' Union is a member of Senate and Council. The Chief Financial Officer and University Secretary attend Council.

However, the Task and Finish Group found that scope existed to refresh and enliven the relationship between Council, its external members and the wider University.

Amongst the Group's recommendations was that the external Council members more broadly develop their knowledge and understanding – collective and individual – of academic matters. This could be achieved by for example the pairing of Vice-Presidents of Faculty with an external member of Council.

Council members themselves also identified the need for greater awareness about the academic side of the University via their annual effectiveness questionnaire.

3. Pairings

The senior external Council Officers (Chair, Treasurer and the two other Pro-Chancellors) were excluded from the pairings given they had a regular link to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Chief Financial Officer and with the University Secretary.

The original pairings were set up as follows:

- a) Adrian Belton/Pam Shaw (at the time),
- b) David Bagley/Susan Fitzmaurice (David was a Governor of Leeds College of Art),
- c) Stephen Sly/Craig Watkins (Law School link),
- d) Keith Layden/John Derrick (Keith was Advisory Board member for Chemistry at York and Nottingham),
- e) Tony Wray/Mike Hounslow (Water industry).

It was recommended that the pairings be reviewed and changed, e.g. through the Council Nominations process, to:

- a) take into account of any new appointments to Council or the Executive, and
- b) to enable Council members to develop their understanding of other faculties.

Council Nominations Committee met on 3 June and agreed to review and rotate the pairings, to include Claire Brownlee who has joined Council as a new member and sought further mechanisms to help better sustain these relationships.

It is proposed to include the Executive Directors (Rob Sykes and Heidi Fraser-Krauss) in the pairings.

Council members

The Council members to be included, with proposed new pairings, are as follows:

- a) Claire Brownlee/Susan Fitzmaurice
- b) Adrian Belton/Mike Hounslow
- c) David Bagley/Craig Watkins
- d) Keith Layden/Rob Sykes
- e) Jonathan Nicholls/Chris Newman
- f) Stephen Sly/ Heidi Fraser-Krauss
- g) Tony Wray/John Derrick

4. Proposed Actions

4.1 Council is asked:

- To note the proposal from Council Nominations Committee to rotate the pairings, and,
- To offer any view on how the effectiveness of the pairings might be improved including any mechanisms to help better sustain these relationships.

Tony Strike,
University Secretary.
June 2020