

## University Of York

### Constitution and Nominations Committee

#### Matters for note by the University Council at its meeting on 24 July 2023 arising from the meeting of the Constitution and Nominations Committee (CNC) held on 13 July 2023

##### 1. Membership matters.

The Committee noted:

- a. an early, non-committal discussion of membership succession for Council and Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), following Amanda Nevill's decision to stand down as an Independent Council member with effect from 31 July 2023 due to personal commitments. The Committee unanimously agreed that Amanda had made a major contribution to Council and ARC business. There would be two vacancies for independent members on Council, which would be discussed further with the incoming Chair and others, to ensure both Council and ARC were appropriately populated, including consideration of gender and wider diversity factors;
- b. the 2023/2024 terms of office for Council and co-opted members. Confirmation of the timing and mechanism for appointing both the successor Senate nominees onto Council, and elected professional support staff representatives, given their terms of office ended later in 2023 and early 2024. The University Secretary corrected an error in the date of Owen Trotter's co-opted three-year term of membership, which had been renewed for a second period following CNC approval in February 2023.

**Resolved: to recommend to Council for approval the appointment of Professor Martin Bees (HoD, Mathematics) as the Faculty of Sciences member on Finance Committee, with immediate effect to 31 July 2026.**

##### 2. Council EDI Statement Action Plan: Progress Report

The Committee considered the EDI Action Plan for Council members, as approved in July 2023. The University Secretary noted that:

the Council member diversity data relates to 2022-23 as drawn from the standard round of Council members' disclosures of interests, but it does not capture most recent Council member appointments

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a targeted rather than quota-based approach had been successful in improving Council membership diversity to date;

- d. good progress had been made on the EDI actions overall, with the exception of Actions 4 and 5.

[REDACTED]

**Resolved: to endorse the EDI Statement Action for Plan for Council members, for onward Council consideration.**

##### 3. University Court Review 2022/23: Progress Report

The Committee considered a progress report on the University Court Review. The Treasurer and the University Secretary reported that:

- a. two meetings of the Court Review Group had been held, members' survey data had been captured and semi-structured interviews with willing participants on Court were taking place;

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

- d. the importance of maximising and applying the interests and advice of Court members to other University groups and activities, such as advisory boards [Redacted]

**Resolved: to endorse the Court Review progress to date.**

**4. Development of nominations framework for members of University committees**

The University Secretary reported that the framework was light-touch and intended to introduce consistent, robust and efficient framework for nominating members to University committees for introduction from 2024/25, and interim processes for 2023/24. Efficiency was central to the proposals, to avoid multiple disparate calls for nominations to nominators from various sources and different times of the year, to ensure greater oversight of nominations. Equity was a parallel consideration, to improve fairness and transparency of nominations. The Committee noted that:

- a. the proposed central oversight of the University Secretary’s Office was endorsed to minimise duplication and identify burden or other areas of nominee concern;
- b. in broader membership terms, the encouragement of ‘alternate’ members as a systematic and regular means of standing in for absent committee members was not favoured, as it diluted clarity, commitment and continuity of membership, and often signalled that the right membership choice had not been made in the first place;
- c. considering future application/adaptation of the framework for external individuals with valued skills and experiences who expressed an interest in the work of the University, so that they could potentially be considered for nomination to a University body or forum, or allocated to a specific project or activity where their experience could be channelled.

**Resolved: to approve principles to inform the nomination of members to University committees from 2023/24 onwards.**

[Redacted text block]

**6. Summary of updates to the University Scheme of Delegated Approvals 2022/23**

The Committee noted the annual summary of updates to the University Scheme of Delegated Approvals (SoDA) for 2022/23, as approved by the University Secretary under delegated authority from Council. The University Secretary confirmed that delegation to the right level of the organisation was a common feature of the SoDA amendments in 2022/23, to ensure decisions took place at the most appropriate, rather than highest, level of authority.

Dr Adam Dawkins  
University Secretary  
13 July 2023