

University Of York

Constitution and Nominations Committee

Matters for note by the University Council at its meeting on 15 May 2024 arising from the meeting of the Constitution and Nominations Committee held on 17 April 2024

1. Independent membership succession

- a. The Committee endorsed the proposed recruitment model [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- b. The Committee further noted:
 - The diversity of candidates in the last exercise had been impressive [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- c. In relation to appointing a Deputy Treasurer, potentially from within the existing Council membership, the Committee noted:
 - the need for equitable processes which were compliant with the principles underpinning the University's governance framework.
 - the importance of succession planning for key roles such as University Treasurer and the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee, and the need to consider whether these should be time-limited within a Council member's overall term of appointment in order to encourage progression and churn. This could be picked up as part of the light touch Council Effectiveness Review.

2. Light touch Council Effectiveness Review

The Interim University Secretary provided a progress report on plans to finalise the proposed membership and terms of reference for the review panel, for endorsement by the Committee.

3. Non-academic honorary degrees and fellowships

- a. The Committee considered amendments to the *Policy on non-academic honorary degrees and fellowships*, intended to sharpen the criteria so that they were easier to apply and assess against, and to make explicit reference to the University's commitment to the public good. The Committee recommended the amendments for Council approval (via Chair's action), subject to minor amendments for further clarification and to correct the misleading impression that regional representation and impact were favoured over nominations with a broader reach.
- b. The Committee further noted that it would be good to see more honorary degree nominations in recognition of academic achievement, and asked the academic representatives on the Committee to encourage colleagues to put forward nominations of this kind once the next round was launched in the autumn.

4. Other business

In the course of its discussions, the Committee observed that it would be helpful (a) to receive a progress report on engagement with previous members of Court in due course; and (b) for Council members to undertake the University's Unconscious Bias training package.