

Academic and Governance Services

Council

21/44 An exceptional meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 23 September 2021 at 2.00pm.

The President
 The Vice-Presidents (Mr T. Beardmore, Mrs H. Gordon and Mrs K. Owen)
 The Vice-Chancellor
 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor M. Fellowes) (for Minute 21/51 only)
 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor E.M. McCrum)
 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Zaum)

Professor J. Board
 Mrs S. Butler
 Professor R. Frazier
 Professor J. Gibbins
 Professor U

Chief Financial Officer
 Director of Quality Support and Development
 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Mr P. Inman) (for Minute 21/50 only)

Apologies were received from Mr K. Corrigan, Mrs P. Eggar, Mr S.C.C. Pryce and Mr N. Richards

21/45 The minutes (21/26-21/43) of the meeting held on 5 July 2021 were confirmed and signed.

Items for note

21/46 Matters approved by the President on behalf of the Council since its last meeting (21/44)

The Council noted that the President, on behalf of Council, had approved:

- (a) an updated version of the University's Financial Regulations, previously approved by the Strategy and Finance Committee;
- (b) a support package to cover the costs of Covid tests/quarantine for international applicants who attend the University in person, to be given in the form of a fee discount.

made more accessible and brought to life for staff and students. It would be important to engage staff and students in thinking about the principles and their implications.

The relevant breakout group was pleased to note that the values and professional behaviours were used in the reward and recognition processes, including promotions. It believed that this offered a model and that the incorporation of values and standards into a wider range of processes (such as induction, performance review and business cases) would serve to embed them more widely across the University.

The Vice-Chancellor and the University Secretary and Chief Strategy Officer welcomed these comments and undertook to bring an action plan to Council in due course.

The President thanked Council for an excellent discussion. He believed that the values and professional behaviours were evident in the attitudes and conduct of many staff, but that there would be benefit in promoting wider awareness of them.

Resolved:

"That a paper on values and standards at the University of Reading, from the Vice-Chancellor, now submitted, be received."

21/50 Report on progress under the Community Engagement pillar of the University Strategy (item 7)

The Council received a Report on progress under the Community Engagement pillar of the University Strategy.

The Vice-Chancellor (International) (Mr Inman) introduced the paper, referring to the different kinds of engagement between the University and local community, the importance of engagement with local authorities, and the University's contribution, as an anchor institution, to the local economy. Mr Inman outlined an action plan for community engagement.

In response to questions, Mr Inman explained that the Community Action Partnership (CAP), established by Dr S. Lloyd Evans, the University's Public Engagement with Community Research Fellow, was an important vehicle for developing relationships and joint projects with the local community. Mr Inman served as the UEB Community Champion. The Vice-Chancellor indicated that the University had transformed its relationship with the local community over the past few years by working together in partnership to solve shared challenges.

In response to further questions, the Vice-Chancellor noted that the University had become a key partner for Wokingham Borough Council in its strategic planning, and had worked with Reading Borough Council in its campaign for city status. The University also engaged with local MPs in relation to key University developments.

In response to a question from Mr Milhofer, Mr Inman indicated that UEB would shortly identify priorities in this area of work. He recognised the importance of making a realistic appraisal of what could be achieved with available resource: overpromising and underdelivering would damage the University's relationship with the community.

Mr Inman elaborated on the opportunities and benefits arising from engaging with the local community, including the creation of employment opportunities for home and international

which had brought together young people, educators, scientists, and policy makers to transform the way children are taught about climate change.

Reading was testimony to the constructive working relationship which had been established between the University and UCU, which had led to an agreement on pay and improved conditions for casual staff. The University would communicate with staff appropriately to ensure that UCU members were well-placed to make an informed decision in the ballot.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that while most University committees would continue