

Joint University/UCU Committee

23/10 A meeting of the Joint University/UCU Committee was held on Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 10.30 in Committee Room 2, Whiteknights House/remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Professor Robert Van de Noort, Vice Chancellor *[Chair]*

Dr Simon Clarke, Senat.1 (e)0.3 25.9 S)(m)-Td(d[(D)2.6 (r)fhR (s)-12.2 (e)-103 2)-12.2CT ve D(9 Da)-3.3 (v)-s)-id Field, UCU Resresntasiv

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23/12 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Minute 23/03 e) (22/27) *Matters from the Staffing Committee*

Further to the action regarding UCU involvement in the next stage of the Smart working review, the Interim Director of HR confirmed that Nat Willmott (UCU Representative) had now been contacted in relation to this. The Committee was advised of the intention to submit a paper regarding Smart working to the next Staffing

- o Other scoping studies, based on what was taking place within the sector and elsewhere, (hoped to save an additional £8m) included:
 - January starts
 - Opportunities for savings in

advised that there were active discussions taking place, including with regards to communications and engagement, and the intention was that this work would lead to improved workloads in the future - they would be happy to speak

term. It was noted that, in contrast to other Heads of School, the Dean of HBS had a place on Council. Additionally, they were managed by the Vice Chancellor rather than the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning & Resource) due to requirements arising from accreditation processes.

Items brought forward by the University

No further items were brought forward during the meeting.

Items brought forward by Reading UCU

No further items were brought forward during the meeting.

Routine items

23/15 Matters from the Staffing Committee

The Committee received a report from the most recent Staffing Committee, held in February, and the following was noted in particular:

- The project to replace Trent was currently on time and on budget. The communication and change programme would shortly begin and would include opportunities for colleagues to get involved, such as a 'Champions' programme and user acceptance testing. In response to a query, the Interim Director of HR confirmed that the 'go live' dates would be staggered, with payroll and the core system in November and recruitment and the Learning Management System at the start of 2024, and were all still on track. UCU Representatives noted that other universities had publicly had issues regarding projects of this nature and the Interim Director of HR confirmed that there were a number of contingency plans in place, including the use of parallel pay runs. UCU suggested that communications detailing who to contact regarding any issues could be helpful.

23/16 Any Other Business

The following was raised:

- The Interim Director of HR offered to share details regarding the University's forthcoming implementation of the 'Report + Support' tool with Committee Members when the minutes of this meeting were circulated. It was clarified that this would allow anonymous reporting from both students and staff, was already in place at many universities and was part of the recommendations arising from the Race Equality Review.

