Present:  Mr Mark l’Anson (in the Chair), the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Dr Peter Andras, Dr John Appleby, Professor Alan Boddy, Mr Neil Braithwaite, Professor Vicki Bruce, Mr Mike Davison, Mr Colin FitzPatrick, Professor Deborah Henderson, Mr Robert Hull, Mr Peter Johnson, Mr Jeff McIntosh, Ms Laura Perry (President, Students’ Union), Mr Simon Pleydell, Ms Kate Priestley and Ms Rachael Thornton (Education Officer).

In attendance:  Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Professor Charles Harvey, Professor Steve Homans, Professor Tony Stevenson and Professor Nick Wright (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Mr Richard Dale (Executive Director of Finance), Mrs Veryan Johnston (Executive Director of Human Resources) and Mrs Lizzie Taylor (Executive Officer (Governance)).

Apologies:  Mrs Jacqui Henderson, Mrs Heidi Mottram, Mr Paul Walker and Professor Chris Day.

Mr Simon Gerry, Chief Executive of the Students’ Union, attended for Minute 61.
Only Council members were present for Minute 65.

MINUTES

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

42. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 October 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed.

43. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Effectiveness of Council and Members of Council [Minute 29, 22.10.2012]

Reported that at its meeting on 22 October 2012, Council resolved that the Chair of Council would give further consideration to the size of the Council membership and would present his conclusions at a future meeting of Council.

Received an oral report from the Chair of Council.

Noted that:

1. The comments made by members of Council in the most recent Council Effectiveness Questionnaire had been reviewed by the Chairs’ Group. It was proposed that, instead of asking members to complete the full effectiveness questionnaire on an annual basis, a reduced version would be prepared which would invite suggestions for improvements to the way in which Council operates.
2. It was proposed that the full version of the questionnaire should be circulated to members every five years to inform a full effectiveness review.

Resolved that the revised procedures for assessing the effectiveness of Council as proposed by the Chair be approved.

44. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Received a report from Mrs Veryan Johnston, Executive Director of Human Resources, on current health and safety issues affecting the University, including performance measures and actions taken.

Noted that:

1. The report which compared the University’s incident rate with that of other universities will be presented to Council at its next meeting.

2. The Registrar gave details of a fire which had occurred in Richardson Road student flats. No students were injured but a significant amount of damage had been caused. Following a previous fire in Richardson Road in 2006, an improvement plan had been agreed between the University and the Fire Brigade. The Fire Brigade has investigated this most recent incident and has determined that the heat detection system that was in place had worked but students in the flat had reacted more quickly. The refurbishment plans for Richardson Road will address any outstanding issues and the fire safety arrangements across the residential sites will be reviewed.

3. The Sabbatical Officers expressed their concern that photographs from the Richardson Road incident had appeared in the online newsletter The Tab and requested that this be investigated to determine how the photographs were leaked.

4. There had been a recent incident on the University campus involving the failure of a piece of hydraulic equipment owned and used by a contractor. It was confirmed that the University was not implicated in this incident however, since it had occurred on University premises, it would be included in the University’s accident statistics. It was suggested that future accident reports should identify the number of incidents on University premises which were caused by contractors.

5. On Saturday 8 December, the Journal had carried a report on the possibility that human tissue samples had been used in unauthorised procedures at the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust between 2004 and 2008. The individual concerned had worked at the University in the former Department of Child Health from 1996 to 2004. The alleged unauthorised use of the tissue samples had occurred after the individual had left the University and whilst he was working for the NHS Trust. The University is pursuing a joint civil action with the Trust for monies owed by the individual.

45. CHAIR’S BUSINESS

1. Council Briefing Sessions (formerly Council Induction Programme)

The Chair reminded members of the Council Briefing Sessions and encouraged members to attend.

The forthcoming meetings from the programme are:

10 January 2013, 9am, L5.15, King’s Gate – Meeting of Audit Committee.
23 January 2013, 11-11.45am, L5.18, King’s Gate – Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, the Research Strategy: an overview of the key issues relating to this University.

[Secretary's Note: The above session has since been rescheduled for 17 June 2013, 11-11.45am, L5.18, King’s Gate]

13 February 2013, 10-10.45am, L5.18, King’s Gate – Pro-Vice-Chancellor HaSS, the role of the faculty PVCs both within the faculty and at a University-wide level: the structure and operation of the faculties, schools and research institutes.

11 March 2013, 10.30-11.30am, L5.18, King’s Gate – Executive Director of Finance, Financial Strategy: overview - budgets and allocations.

Members of Council who would like to attend any of the above sessions are asked to inform Lizzie Taylor (Lizzie.Taylor@ncl.ac.uk).

2. Honorary Degree Ceremony

The Chair presided over the Honorary Degree Ceremony on 4 December 2012 at which Honorary Degrees were conferred on Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Sunil Bharti Mittal (in absentia), Shami Chakrabarti, Lord Gary Runciman. It was noted that the event had been successful in raising the profile of the Social Renewal Societal Challenge Theme.

46. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS

Received the Vice-Chancellor’s report. Highlights of this report are discussed below.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document B. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

1. Deaths

Received a report on deaths recently announced by the University.

Resolved that Council record its deep regret and sympathy for the relatives concerned.

2. Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)

Professor Tan Thiam Soon, President Designate of SIT, and Professor Forest Tan Su Lim had recently visited the University and had met with the Vice-Chancellor. During discussions it was agreed that the University will continue to keep its SIT partners informed of future developments on the NUMed campus in Malaysia.

3. Pay Negotiations

The pay negotiations for 2012-13 have concluded and it has been agreed that a 1% pay award will be implemented which will be backdated to 1 August 2012.

4. NUS National Executive

Council congratulated Rachael Thornton, Education Officer at the Students’ Union and member of Council, on her election to the NUS National Executive as the Higher Education student representative.
5. **Merzbarn Wall**

An application has been made to the University’s Endowment Group (UEG) to fund the renovation to the Merzbarn Wall in the Hatton Gallery. The UEG has identified the George Brown Endowment fund from the General Investment Pool as the most appropriate source of funding for this renovation. Releasing income from this fund requires the approval of Council and Senate following a proposal by the Vice-Chancellor. The estimated cost of the renovations is £30k.

**Resolved that Council approve the release of £30k from the George Brown Endowment to fund the renovation of the Merzbarn Wall.**

6. **Newcastle University links with Indonesia**

The Vice-Chancellor recorded his thanks to the Chair of Council for representing the University at a recent event at No. 10 Downing Street which celebrated the growing links between the UK and Indonesia. During the event an agreement was signed with the Rector of the Universitas Indonesia to establish a Newcastle-Indonesia Doctoral Training Centre in Newcastle which will initially focus on the broad area of biomedical research, including medicine, dentistry and nutrition.

7. **Chancellor’s Autumn Statement**

The increasing importance of the role of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) was emphasised in the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement of 5 December. The Government is to provide £10 million per year for capacity building within LEPs. Each LEP will be able to apply for up to £250,000 additional funding per year to support the development and delivery of their strategic plan.

8. **Newcastle City Council Budget Proposals 2013-16**

The City Council is required to make budget cuts of more than £90m by 2016. Recent media reports have highlighted that the funding provided to cultural organisations across the city is at risk which could impact upon the Great North Museum.

The University is hoping to identify more areas where it can share services with the City Council with a view to generating efficiency savings. In a recent meeting with representatives from the City Council it was agreed that, where it is possible to achieve efficiencies, the savings generated will be ring-fenced and used to support University activities where funding from the City Council has been reduced.

9. **Newcastle City Council: New Chief Executive**

On 27 November, the City Council announced that its new Chief Executive would be Pat Ritchie, current Chief Executive of the Homes and Communities Agency. Ms Ritchie will replace Ewen Weir who has been interim Chief Executive since the departure of Barry Rowland in August 2012.

10. **Freedom of Information and Unpublished Research**

On 3 December, Universities UK announced that the Government had accepted its recommendation for the adoption of a qualified exemption to allow unpublished research to be exempted from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

It was noted that the original intention was that the Freedom of Information Act would encourage public bodies to put information in the public domain voluntarily so that, in the
majority of cases, it would be unnecessary for individuals to resort to making Freedom of Information requests. It was suggested that the University should give further consideration to how it could make the information it generated more accessible to interested parties.

11. Proposed Strategic Partnership with Xiamen University Group

At a recent meeting of Executive Board it was agreed in principle that the University should seek to develop a strategic partnership with Xiamen University Group. The partnership would cover academic programmes, research, staff and student exchanges, mutual support, and cultural cooperation and would be similar to the relationships previously established with Monash University in Australia and Groningen University in the Netherlands.

12. Recent Developments with INEX

The University is exploring options for the future of INEX. Following recent discussions, it has been established that the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), from which INEX has received funding in the past, may be interested in taking over INEX as a spin-out company. This option is to be explored further, with a view to the company remaining on campus as a University tenant.

47. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER SUMMARY

Received:

(a) The full Strategic Risk Register from Dr John Hogan, Registrar, on behalf of Executive Board.

(b) The Strategic Risk Register Summary.

[Circulated with the agenda as Documents C and D. Copies filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The full Strategic Risk Register is submitted to Council once a year following scrutiny by Audit Committee. The register is supported by risk registers from each of the faculties and also from the Professional Support Service. Audit Committee receives the full set of risk registers for review.

2. It was Audit Committee’s opinion that the low number of red and amber risks which appear in the faculty risk registers could indicate an understating of certain risks. The Committee expressed the view that rating a risk as red should not be considered as a sign of weakness or failure but, instead, can reveal a true understanding of the action required to ensure a risk is managed effectively.

3. Audit Committee has confirmed that, where controls are stated as not working, further information should be provided on the actions to be taken to address this.

4. Certain risks include KPIs which suggest that progress is on a downward trajectory, yet the rating of the associated risk is stated as ‘satisfactory’ and an explanation of this apparent anomaly was requested. It was explained that in terms of some KPIs, there can be a degree of volatility and it is necessary for the risk owner to take an informed view as to whether a lower result is an isolated incident or a true indicator of declining performance. Further work is to be done on KPIs in relation to certain risks. It was noted that it is important to guard against a disconnect between the overall rating of a risk and the KPI trend.
48. **INSITUTIONAL KPI SUMMARY REPORT**

Received the summary KPI report from Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document E. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that in future reports to Council the previous rating indicator will show the colour as reported at the previous meeting of Council.

49. **QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION – QUARTER 1 2012-13**

Received the quarterly management information report for Quarter 1 2012-13, from the Executive Director of Finance, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document F. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

‘Commercial in confidence’ Minute, filed in the Minute Book.

50. **REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Considered a report from the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 3 December 2012.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document G. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. Finance Committee considered the budget strategy for 2013-14 and recommends that the same strategy as previous years be followed:
   - Set strategic projects as at least 2% of income
   - Set contingency at 2% of income
   - Aim for a historic cost surplus of at least 2% of income

2. Finance Committee also considered the issue of the capitalisation of NU International Singapore Pte Ltd. and recommends to Council that this be approved.

3. It was noted that the debtors’ position at the end of Quarter 1 was higher than in previous years. The debtors’ figure includes unpaid student fees for the year which will decline as the year progresses and instalments from students are received. The figure is higher than at the same point in 2011 due to the introduction of the £9k tuition fee.

**Resolved that:**

(i) **Council approve the acquisition of SGD1,000,000 of redeemable preference shares from NU International Singapore Pte Ltd. by Newcastle University Holdings Ltd.**

(ii) **Council delegate authority to the Executive Director of Finance, after taking appropriate legal advice, to execute the above transaction on behalf of the University and its subsidiary companies.**

51. **REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Considered a report from the meeting of Audit Committee, held on 8 November 2012.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document H. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
52. **AUDIT COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

Reported that at its meeting on 10 September 2012, Council resolved that the Audit Committee Effectiveness Review Report should be considered at a future meeting of Audit Committee. It was also resolved that the Chair of Audit Committee should prepare a response to the report, on behalf of Audit Committee, to be submitted to the next meeting of Council.

Considered Audit Committee’s response to the recommendations from the Effectiveness Review. [Circulated with the Agenda as Document J. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. That Effectiveness Review recommended that a representative subgroup of the Audit Committee and the existing Value for Money Working group should consider how the understanding by Audit Committee members of the approach to Value for Money across the wide portfolio of activity within the University could be improved. Audit Committee did not favour the establishment of a sub-group as it was considered that this could bring it too close to management. It was clarified that the intention behind the recommendation was that increased interaction with the Value for Money Working Group could assist Audit Committee in determining whether VFM considerations were being addressed at the appropriate level. Audit Committee would need to decide on the mechanism by which it could test the University’s VFM arrangements but it was important for this to be done in a way which avoided additional bureaucracy. A member of Audit Committee will attend a future meeting of the VFM Working Group after which this recommendation will be reviewed.

2. In response to another of the report’s recommendations, an alternative format has been used for the report from Audit Committee to Council.

3. It was proposed that non-Council members of Audit Committee should have the right to attend Council as observers. It was considered that this should be an opportunity rather than a right and the Chair of Audit Committee should discuss with the Chair of Council the occasions when he considered it desirable for a non-Council member to attend.

Resolved that the revised format of the report from Audit Committee to Council be accepted.

53. **REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Received an oral report from the Chair of Nominations Committee.

Noted that:

1. Three lay members of Council will have completed nine years of service or more at the end of the current academic year and their appointment on Council cannot be renewed. This includes the Honorary Treasurer. At its meeting on 12 November, Nominations Committee considered the process to be followed to fill these vacancies. The skills register was reviewed and it was considered desirable to appoint members with expertise in the areas of Public Relations, Human Resources, Estates and general business. As far as possible, Nominations Committee will look to recruit members who had demonstrated previous engagement with the University.

2. A number of members will come to the end of their first or second period of office and consideration will be given to their re-appointment. The Chair of Council will speak to each of these members individually before any decision is made.
54. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY / STUDENTS’ UNION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Received a report from the meeting held on the 22 October 2012.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document K. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that at its last meeting the University/Students’ Union Partnership Committee agreed a relationship agreement and revisions to its terms of reference which were presented to Council for approval.

Resolved that the Relationship Agreement and revised terms of reference for the University/Students’ Union Partnership Committee be approved.

55. PROJECT 2012

Received the final report on Project 2012 from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document L. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The report explains that in the majority of areas of Project 2012 the objectives have been achieved. There remains work to do in relation to assessment and feedback and, as originally intended, work will continue in the areas of Engagement and Research, particularly in relation to the REF.

2. External factors, such as the attendance monitoring requirements imposed by the UKBA, have had an impact on the ability to deliver consistently in all areas of Learning and Teaching.

3. It was suggested that Council should continue to receive annual updates on the areas which will be continuing and it was agreed that this should be included in the annual progress report on the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Strategy.

4. It would be useful for Council to receive a report at a future date on how it is performing in relation to the obligations set out in its agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

56. APPLICATION STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

Received a report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching on the current position regarding undergraduate and postgraduate applications for 2013, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Tabled at the meeting as Document M. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. UCAS AppTrack data from 2 December 2012 has revealed that, across the sector, applications are down by 6.5% when compared with the same point in the cycle in the previous year. At Newcastle, however, total applications are up by 5.2%.

2. Nationally, applications for all subject groups are down when compared with the previous cycle, with the exception of Medicine and Dentistry. In contrast, at Newcastle, applications for many subject areas are up on the same point in the previous cycle. Discussions are being held with schools where there are subject areas which have seen a decline in applications.

3. The School of Marine Sciences and Technology, which has seen a decline of 24% in the total number of applications, is the area causing most concern. A large number of students
hold deferred offers from 2012, which will help to offset any decline however, concerns remain for the longer term. Marine Sciences courses traditionally recruit students from the EU and since all EU students take places from the University’s limited core allocation, the school has been prevented from recruiting as heavily from this group as was possible in previous years.

4. A number of new programmes, including as Creative Writing, are recruiting well.

5. Postgraduate applications are subject to greater fluctuations throughout the year. Comparisons with the same point in the previous year reveal an overall increase in applications of 19.8% with accepted offers up by 22.3%. The importance of converting the increased number of applications into increased registrations was stressed. Conversion strategies have been discussed with the Postgraduate Deans.

57. INTO ANNUAL REPORT

Received the INTO Annual Report, from Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document N. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. INTO exceeded recruitment targets for 2011-12 and the rate of progression of students from INTO academic programmes to University programmes increased from 62% in 2010-11 to 64% in 2011-12.

2. Increased entry requirements for Business School programmes led to a reduction in the number of students progressing from pre-sessional courses to University programmes (from 761 in 2010-11 to 602 in 2011-12).

3. The number of students choosing to go to other institutions on completion of their INTO programme has been reduced from 6% to 5%.

4. A 95% occupancy rate has been achieved for the new INTO residential accommodation.

5. According to preliminary results from the International Student Barometer summer 2012 wave, student satisfaction levels remain high at 90%.

58. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Received a report from Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources, on behalf of Executive Board, including progress reports and KPIs for the following:

(i) Internationalisation Strategy: KPIs (introduced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
(ii) Engagement Strategy: KPIs (introduced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
(iii) Finance Strategy: progress report and KPIs (introduced by the Executive Director of Finance)
(iv) Human Resources Strategy: progress report and KPIs

[Circulated with the agenda as Document O. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

Internationalisation
1. In relation to the Internationalisation KPIs, progress is considered to be good with greater clarity being achieved in the area of recruitment and additional partnerships being established. Internationalisation at home is to be a key focus for 2012-13.

2. It is acknowledged that more needs to be done to raise the University’s profile internationally, and the Vice-Chancellor’s Rankings and Reputation Special Interest Group is to address this. An eight page supplement focusing on the University’s role as a ‘World Class Civic University’ is to be placed in the Times Higher in March 2013 to coincide with the Thomson Reuters Survey.

3. In terms of the University’s position in national and international league tables, it was suggested that it would be useful to include the Russell Group average as an additional comparator figure. It was noted that this information is included in the information provided to members of the Ranking and Reputation Special Interest Group and was also accessible to members of Council.

4. The target has been set for the University to establish partnerships with five overseas universities. It was suggested that the University should consider setting a target for the ranking and reputation of the institutions to ensure that they serve to enhance the University’s own reputation. The University is currently considering developing its relationship with Xiamen with a view to establishing its third strategic partnership.

5. The KPIs state that ‘Google Alert’ will be used as the means to assess whether the University has achieved a prominent positive national and regional media profile. It was noted, however, that ‘Google Alert’ could not gauge whether media coverage was positive or negative. The experience of the London School of Economics, whose position in the Times Higher World University Rankings improved despite some negative publicity arising from its connections with Libya, suggests that any publicity can serve to improve an institution’s recognition (if not necessarily its reputation) internationally. Alumni, staff and current students will be encouraged to promote the University.

6. The University is seeking to enhance the English-speaking exchange opportunities available to students.

**Engagement**

7. The University’s engagement activities are closely aligned to its teaching and research activities. Progress in this area has been assisted by the establishment of a dedicated post for Engagement.

8. The Engagement KPIs set the target of 1,200 media mentions per month, a target which has been exceeded for each month where data is available (June to September 2012). It is unclear however, what proportion of these media mentions were negative but it was agreed that this would be established.

9. The number of students from Low Participation Neighbourhoods is an area where performance could be improved. The University exceeds its local benchmarks but the national targets have proven more difficult to achieve. This will be an area of focus for the 2012-13 academic year.

10. The relationship between the participation of schools and colleges in access schemes and the strategic objective to position University as a recognised leader in the economic, social and cultural development of the North East of England was considered to be unclear. It was suggested that more economic targets should be set to assess performance in this area.
Finance

11. The Finance Strategy set the target of achieving an average historic cost surplus of 4% of income, with a minimum of 2% in any financial year. In 2011-12 the surplus as a percentage of income fell below 4% but it is expected to recover slowly over the next few years.

12. The target of achieving cash balances of £50m has been exceeded and they are expected to remain above target. In terms of short term liquidity, projected cash and short terms investments are expected to decline to April 2013, which is a consequence of the introduction of the new fees regime.

13. The University has made progress in relation to Value for Money and is notably more efficient than other institutions in its peer group, according to TRAC efficiency data.

14. The target for the University to grow its income faster than its peer group has not been achieved during the past 5-6 years and is an area where further work must be done. The University benefitted from funding from the Regional Development Agency when other institutions did not. As a consequence, the closure of ONE North East contributed to a decline in income in recent years which affected other institutions to a lesser extent.

15. Performance in relation to research income has been strong and is an area where the University has out-performed its peer group in recent years. An increase in non-EU students is also an area where performance has been strong in recent years. Much of the increase in this area can be attributed to the University’s relationship with INTO.

16. Potential areas for income growth include the development of new areas of academic activity which will increase the student base. Procure to Pay is an area where further efficiencies will be generated.

Resolved that:

(i) Professor Ritchie and Mr Dale be thanked for their presentations.

(ii) The progress report on Human Resources be deferred to the next meeting.

59. NEW JOINT VENTURE WITH INTO

Received a proposal for a new joint venture with INTO, from Professor Ella Ritchie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Mr Richard Dale, Executive Director of Finance, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document P. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

‘Commercial in confidence’ Minute, filed in the Minute Book.

60. UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE

Received a proposal for an extension to the University Sports Centre, including a request to develop a business case for Council approval, from Professor Charles Harvey, Pro-Vice-Chancellor HaSS, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document Q. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. Document Q provided advanced notification of a proposal to expand the Sport Centre located next to the Richardson Road residences. The extension is considered to be
necessary in order meet the increasing demand for sports facilities amongst students. Council was requested to approve in principle capital expenditure of up to £6m for the extension.

2. During 2011-12 the University and its Athletic Union Sports Clubs achieved 10th place in the British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) rankings out of 153 competing institutions. In order to maintain and improve on this ranking in future years, further investment in sports facilities is considered necessary.

3. The opportunity has arisen to develop a Stage D design for the extension of the Sports Centre at the same time as the design is produced for the replacement of the student residential accommodation at Richardson Road.

4. It was considered that the proposal to extend the Sports Centre could have been included as part of the Estates Strategy which was presented to Council for approval at its meeting on 26 March 2012 rather than being presented as a separate item. It was agreed that the issue of strategic planning and the presentation of items to Council would be considered further outside of the meeting.

5. It was noted that the student body was in support of the proposal.

6. The opportunity cost of using £6m for the extension of the Sports Centre rather than on an alternative project should be considered.

7. It was proposed that it was often necessary to take opportunities as they arose and Council should not be prevented from approving a project because it had not been included in a previously approved strategy.

8. It was suggested that Council should receive a presentation on Sports activities across the University at a future meeting.

Resolved that:

(i) Council grant approval to instruct architects to progress to RIBA Stage D design for the extension of the Sports Centre at the same time as they produce a Stage D design for the replacement of student residential accommodation at Richardson Road.

(ii) The proposed extension would be considered at the meeting at which the detailed design proposals and costings are presented.

61. STUDENTS’ UNION IMPACT REPORT 2011-12

Received the Students’ Union Impact Report 2011-12 from the President, Ms Laura Perry and Mr Simon Gerry, Chief Executive of the Students’ Union.

Resolved that Ms Perry and Mr Gerry be thanked for their informative presentation.

62. REVIEW OF STUDENT RENTS

Considered a report from Dr John Hogan, Registrar on behalf of Executive Board.

Resolved that Ms Perry and Mr Gerry be thanked for their informative presentation.
Resolved that Council approve the proposed increases in student rents for 2013-14, as outlined in Document S.

63. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Received a copy of the document entitled Profile and Annual Review 2013.
   [Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

64. CHAIR’S CIRCULAR

The Chair’s circular of routine business was sent to members on 15 November 2012. No issues on the circular were raised by members and the business was, therefore, deemed to have been approved by Council.
   [The approved business and a copy of the circular are filed in the Minute Book.]

Approved business:

(i) Delegation of Authority Regulations

Items for information:

(ii) Flood Mitigation Works

(iii) Paper of Reported Business

RESERVED BUSINESS

65. RE-APPOINTMENT OF PRO-VICE-CHANCELLORS

Reported that Senate Standing Order X stated that ‘The Vice-Chancellor may recommend to Senate and Council the re-appointment of an existing Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the period of the re-appointment.’

Considered recommendations in a paper from the Vice-Chancellor.
   [Circulated with the Agenda as Document T. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Resolved that the recommendations in Document T be approved, subject to the agreement of Senate.