NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

JOINT MEETING OF SENATE AND COUNCIL

11 April 2017

Present: Mr Mark I’Anson (in the Chair), the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Phil Ansell, Dr John Appleby, Professor Caroline Austin, Mr Neil Braithwaite, Professor David Burn, Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Professor Paul Christensen, Professor Nicola Curtin, Professor Richard Davies, Mr Christopher Duddy (Education Officer, Students’ Union), Dr Lindsey Ferrie, Dr Emma Foster, Dr Jonathan Galloway, Dr Ruth Graham, Professor Nigel Harkness, Dr Joan Harvey, Ms Abi Kelly, Mr Stephen Lightley, Dr Sara Maioli, Mr Jeff McIntosh, Mrs Heidi Mottram, Ms Dianne Nelmes, Professor Patrick Olivier, Dr Lindsay Pennington, Mr Patrick Rosichuk (Student Representative on Senate), Professor Julie Sanders, Professor Klaus Schoefer, Professor Chris Seal, Professor Tony Stevenson, Mr Jack Taylor (President, Students’ Union), Dr Ruth Valentine, Mr Paul Walker, Ms Vicky Wright and Professor Phillip Wright.

In attendance: Mrs Lesley Braiden (Academic Registrar), Dr Colin Campbell (Director of Strategic Planning), Ms Sarah Craggs (Welfare & Equality Officer-elect), Mr Richard Dale (Executive Director of Finance), Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Mr Ronnie Reid (President-elect, Students’ Union) Mr Rowan South (Education Officer-elect), Mrs Lizzie Taylor (Executive Officer (Governance)), Miss Janice Trewick (Executive Officer (Governance)), and Mrs Judith Whitaker (Executive Director of Human Resources).

Apologies: Mr Wayne Connolly, Mr Mike Davison, Dr Stuart Dawley, Dr Jonathan Galloway, Mr Jonathan Glass, Mrs Teresa Graham, Mrs Jacqui Henderson, Professor Peter Jorgensen, Professor Tom Joyce, Miss Rachael Kitching (Welfare & Equality Officer, Students’ Union), Dr Ole Pedersen, Professor Jane Pollard, Professor Jackie Leach Scully, and Professor Nick Wright.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Received introductory remarks from Mr Mark I’Anson, Chair of Council and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Day, Chair of Senate.

2. Discussion Sessions

Session 1: Refreshing Our Vision And Strategy

Received a PowerPoint presentation from the Vice-Chancellor providing an assessment of the University’s defining characteristics, its current position and future challenges, the REF position, performance in domestic and international league tables, strengths, challenges and suggested solutions.

[Refer to slides 1-13 of PowerPoint presentation filed in the Minute Book.]

Members of Council and Senate considered the following discussion points:

(i) Do you agree with this assessment of our characteristics, strength and challenges?
(ii) What are your ideas on improving our research and reputation?
(iii) Should we be concerned about league tables and rankings?

**Session 2: Principles and Values**

Received a PowerPoint presentation from the Vice-Chancellor setting out the University’s current strategy as set out in Vision 2021, perceptions and challenges of using the term ‘Civic University’, possible solutions, how the University can develop a distinctive vision and values.

[Refer to slides 14-26 of PowerPoint presentation filed in the Minute Book.]

Members of Council and Senate considered the following discussion points:

(i) What really matters to us in Newcastle?
(ii) Does ‘Excellence with a purpose – transforming (or improving) lives’ work as a refreshed vision?
(iii) What makes us/could make us distinctive – what is/could be our ‘brand’?
(iv) Are these proposed values fit-for-purpose?
(v) Will they help us to change the “Newcastle” culture?

**Session 3: Strategic Priorities**

Received a PowerPoint presentation from the Vice-Chancellor setting out current and suggested strategic priorities, a possible framework for strategy development, external factors for consideration such as the Government’s Industrial Strategy, suggested future global societal challenges and core principles.

[Refer to slides 27-40 of PowerPoint presentation filed in the Minute Book.]

Members of Council and Senate considered the following discussion points:

(i) Do you agree with the refreshed strategic priorities?
(ii) What about our Global Societal Challenges?
(iii) Do the suggested core principles provide the right framework for developing and implementing our strategy?
(iv) Does over vision/strategy need a name?

Detailed notes of points made during each discussion session have been compiled for the Vice-Chancellor to help inform the early stage thinking on a new strategy.

Lizzie Taylor
4 April 2017