

**Confidential: Meeting 186**

**School of Technology**

**Council of the School**

**2.00 p.m. on Friday, 14 May 2021**

**UNRESERVED NOTE**

The chairman cancelled the meeting of the Council of the School scheduled to take place on 14 May 2021 and sought approval of the following items by circulation:

**Chair's Report**

The reports from the Deputy Head of School and the Director of Education as attached in Paper **T/21/22** were noted.

**1. Regular Business**

**1.1. Academic Career Pathways**

In line with the Annex to the Report of the General Board dated 15 May 2019 on arrangements for the implementation of the Academic Careers Pathways scheme

<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2018-19/weekly/6547/section4.shtml#heading2-20>,

School-level indicators of excellence for promotion were first shared with the Council of the School at the meeting on 29 November 2019 and re-considered at the meetings on 12 June 2020 and 12 March 2021. Following the meetings, the HR Business Manager was asked to make changes in response to feedback provided by the Council of the School. Papers **T/21/23** and **T/21/24** are the latest versions.

Institutions were reminded that should they wished to have any local indicators of excellence they must align with the guidance, principles and criteria set out in the Report agreed by the General Board and be approved by the Council of the School by no later than June 2021.

The academic titles used within the document would be updated by the School's HR Business Manager to reflect the recommendations set out in paragraph 13 of the Joint Report of the Council and the General Board, dated 18 March 2020, on the titles and structure of academic offices (Reporter, 6582, 2019–20, p. 419) which were approved following the ballot held between 27 November and 8 December 2020, Grace 5 of 29 July 2020 (see

<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2020-21/weekly/6601/6601.pdf#page=31>).

This was approved by the Council of the School by circulation.

## **1.2. ACP Faculty Committee membership**

As set out in Annex A of the Report of the General Board on arrangements for senior academic promotions, the membership of the Faculty Committees for the Academic Career Pathways (ACP) no longer requires General Board approval. Instead it has been agreed that membership should be recommended by the respective Faculty Boards to the Council of the School for approval.

The membership of the respective Faculty Committees should comprise:

- a minimum of five members and normally not more than nine members, who will be normally be at professorial level and will be chosen to cover the range of disciplines covered by the committee; and .
- a professorial member of staff in an appropriate subject area who is independent of the institutions covered by that committee.

Papers **T/21/25** and **T/21/26** set out the recommendation for membership of the following Faculty Committees:

- Computer Science and Technology
- Engineering and Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology

The Council of the School considered and approved the membership of the above-mentioned ACP Faculty Committees.

## **1.3. Annual Report on Undergraduate Admissions 2021**

The School was required to report to the Undergraduate Admissions Committee on the applications and admissions of undergraduate students 2021, Paper **T/21/27**. The annual report was approved by circulation.

## **1.4. New Allocations and Savings for 2021-22**

Paper **T/21/28** is an extract of three headline graphs from the recent RMC paper considering 2021-22 budgets for all schools and non-schools.

Financial plans were submitted in March 2021, forecasting costs for 2021-22 based on 6+6 projections of actual costs in 2020-21. Baseline projections were then augmented by new costs identified as arising either from vacant posts or from emerging strategic priorities identified in schools' strategic planning submission. The first two graphs in **T/21/25** show how projected budgets vary between schools and non-schools for both pay and non-pay categories. These

graphs also show comparison against notional growth caps for 2021-22 (3% for pay and 2% for non-pay), which may be how PRC or Finance Committee will look to control cost expansion, at a later stage of the budget process. The third graph in **T/21/25** shows how new needs requested by schools, break down into three principal categories: business as usual; non-recurrent; and new.

Forecast budgets were not scrutinised in great detail at RMC, although PRC would be asked to approve specific awards at its next meeting in May, prior to Finance Committee's scrutiny of the overall budget. There remained a great deal of uncertainty regarding the size of the University's overall income and expenditure envelopes for 2021-22, as well as the level of new expenditure commitments which PRC and Finance Committee will be content to approve.

The School of Technology's baseline budget of £34.1m plus a business as usual uplift of £240k relating to vacant posts which would be filled in 2021-22, was considered uncontroversial. RMC considered a further School uplift of £580k relating to strategic priorities. While the additional needs were broadly agreed, it was likely that the overall award would be reduced somewhat in 2021-22 to reflect the expectation that not all posts will be filled by 1 August this year.

Further amounts of c£650k have also been set aside for the School, relating to its successful SIF bids in 2021-22 (see above). SIF-related amounts are safely ring-fenced because costs are associated with new income streams. RMC decisions were indicative only, final awards would not be known until PRC and Finance Committee have scrutinised the overall position. Final budget details, along with savings targets arising from the agreed funding envelope, would be brought to a future S&P meeting.

The Council of the School noted the information.

## **2. Straightforward Business**

### **2.1. Half Year-End Financial Report**

The Council of the School noted the half year-end Financial Report (Paper **T/21/29**).

### **2.2. Risk Assessment**

On behalf of the Council of the School, the Chair assessed the risks of any of the decisions made, and agreed to make no change to the levels of risks.

### **2.3. \*\*\*Minutes of Other Committees**

Strategy and Planning Committee	4 May 2021	<b>T/21/30</b>
Postgraduate Education Committee	11 February 2021	<b>T/21/31</b>
IT Strategy Committee	18 February 2021	<b>T/21/32</b>

The Council of the School noted the information.

**3. Dates of Future Meetings 2020-21 and 2021-22**

2.00 p.m. meeting online via Zoom:

Friday, 18 June 2021

2.00 p.m. in Board Room, Department of Engineering (proposed venue):

Friday, 22 October 2021

2.00 p.m. in Room W2.01, Judge Business School (proposed venue):

Friday, 26 November 2021

2.00 p.m. in Board Room, Department of Engineering (proposed venue):

Friday, 04 February 2022

2.00 p.m. in Large Meeting Room (West Cambridge site), Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (proposed venue):

Friday, 11 March 2022

2.00 p.m. in Board Room, Department of Engineering (proposed venue):

Friday, 13 May 2022

2.00 p.m. in FW11, Computer Laboratory (proposed venue):

Friday, 17 June 2022