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: Pro-Chancellor, Lord Liddle (in the Chair); Professor A. Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); Mr D. Barron (lay member);

- 4.1 Council noted that a sub-group had been established to consider the latest USS consultation. Mrs V. Young (lay member) was the Chair.
  - 4.2 The meeting was advised that the Voluntary Severance Scheme had been launched and was attracting interest.
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- 5.1 The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following.
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- (iii) The near completion of the appointment process for a new interim Chief Executive of the Students' Union.
  - (iv) The Students' Union's financial position as presented to Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and the trustees' intention to preserve staffing and core delivery to enable a swift recovery of service and activity post Covid-19 restrictions being lifted. However, Mr Robinson noted there remained significant pressures around staffing costs and growing demand for advice services.
  - (v) Concern regarding the Students' Union's NSS performance, the factors behind this and the measures being undertaken to address this and wider membership engagement issues.
- 6.2 Council noted the President's report including the financial pressures upon the organisation and was supportive of the actions being taken to address student satisfaction. Council encouraged the Students' Union to consider the relationship with the College JCRs and how they might work together to add value to the student experience and shift opinion on the Students' Union.

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- 9.1 The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Mrs V. Young, reported that the Committee had: discussed the better than projected outturn for 2019-2020; considered it too early to judge likely performance against the 2020-2021 budget regarding student admissions; noted that an updated Standard and Poor's credit rating for the University would soon be available; and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had confirmed EU student

- 12.1 Council noted the proposed forward schedule of business.
- 13.1 The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the Pro-Chancellor and the impact which he had had since becoming Chair of the Council in July 2013. On behalf of the members, staff and students, Professor Schofield thanked Lord Liddle for his dedication and commitment to the long-term future of the University, a period during which it had experienced growth in scale and reputation. The Council noted that an appropriate event at which members could express their gratitude would be held once Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.
- 13.2 The Pro-Chancellor shared highlights of his term in office and thanked fellow Council members, the senior management team and staff for their support.
- 14.1 Members noted that the next meeting will be held from 9.00 a.m. on Friday 20 November 2020.