

2.2 *Office for Students Registration*

The Clerk to the Council gave an oral update on the University's registration with the Office for Students (OfS). She advised that since the last meeting of the Council the OfS had contacted the University on two occasions seeking clarification of points in the University's submission. The formal decision was still awaited.

3. Governance and Council Matters

3.1 *Report from the Vice-Chancellor*

The Vice-Chancellor introduced his written report (UC31/18), which covered: the higher education environment; Ruskin College senior team structure; the University's academic committee structure; and external meetings attended. Issues from the report highlighted by the Vice-Chancellor included the following.

Consideration had been given to the possibility of a potential merger with Ruskin College, a residential adult college in Old Headington, near Oxford but not affiliated with the University of Oxford. Whilst there were felt to be strategic advantages from this possibility, following due diligence and a site visit the ULT had concluded that the risks of a merger or other form of partnership were too great.

The Vice-Chancellor drew attention to the organisational diagram appended to his written report, noting that the new structure of the senior team had come into effect from 1st September 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor then reported on items not covered in his paper.

The closure of the Centre for Science, Knowledge and Belief in Society had been successfully managed. Staff from the Centre had left the University on 31st August 2018. Another University was interested in taking on the research and the staff from the Centre for the duration of the grant. He thanked Professor Childs for his management of the process and for ensuring that cordial relations were retained with the research staff concerned.

A minor restructure of the business studies area had proceeded: three staff had taken voluntary redundancy and there was competition for one remaining post. Staffing was now to a size which accorded with student numbers in the area.

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To adopt the 2018/19 budget.

4.3 Financial Forecasts

A paper giving the revised 2018 financial forecasts and associated commentary for consideration by the Council was introduced by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. He explained that the forecasts were the

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