

**UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON
COUNCIL
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the 75th meeting held on Friday 1 April 2022
Meeting held remotely via MS Teams**

Present: Kevin Thomas (Chair), Vince Paine, David Sharkey

Notes: Elaine Lentell

In attendance: Jean-Noël Ezingoard, Chad Ferguson (external consultant), Anna Gough-Yates, Baljit Kaur, Andy Lamb, Tom Rowson

Apologies: Sheena Pindoria, George Turner

RAC75.1 Welcomes, introductions, apologies, conflicts of interest

The Chair noted that the additional meeting had been called to enable members to receive a progress update on the augmented Strategy Delivery Programme, and to receive assurance on the measures implemented to mitigate the risks around the programme.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

RAC75.2 Strategy Delivery Programme update

The Committee received a presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, the programme's sponsor.

Noted:

- That the programme was being overseen by the Programme Board and the Programme Executive.
- Programme governance included Council, who would scrutinise (where required) and endorse the strategic proposals and monitor the programme's implementation, supported by the Finance and Resources Committee, UEB and Senate.
- External consultants had been appointed to support programme management, HR, legal and communications.
- If required, consultation on Phase 1 of the programme was scheduled to commence at the beginning of May 2022, to ensure implementation by the start of the 2022/23 academic year. Phase 2 was scheduled to commence in Autumn 2022.
- The objectives of the Academic and Professional Services realignment projects were to bring about a step change in the delivery of student education/support and improve student outcomes, develop the University's portfolio to address the changing external environment, and focus research activity to maximise its impact on local communities.
- In addition, targets of £3.8m in pay savings and £3.5m in non-pay savings had been set.

- Management had been liaising with other universities who had recently gone through a similar restructure, to obtain feedback on the process and to build upon their experience.
- Management outlined its approach to engagement with the trade unions.
- Management also highlighted its internal and external communications plans.
- A project-specific risk register had been created to flag up and monitor the highest scoring risks relating to programme implementation.

The Committee agreed that the risk management process was proportionate and working well at this stage of programme implementation, and that the presentation had helped to address any concerns.

It was advised that further additional meetings may need to be scheduled at specific stages of the programme, to allow the Committee to review progress with managing risks.

The Committee thanked the senior management team for their work on the execution and delivery of the Strategy Delivery Programme to date.

RAC75.3 Any Other Business

- RAC75.3.1 The Chair noted that he would liaise with the Chief Operating Officer and Committee Secretary on the risk deep-dive for the Audit Committee meeting on 6 June.
- RAC75.3.2 The Chair offered congratulations on behalf of the Committee to George Turner and his wife on the birth of their son on 26 March.

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 June 2022

Elaine Lentell
Governance & Legal Office
April 2022