



Chair of Council

Outcome requested:	<p>Council is asked:</p> <p>[a] to elect the Vice-Chair of Council as interim Chair of Council from 1 May 2025;</p> <p>[b] to note an update on the search for the next Chair of Council.</p>
Executive Summary:	<p>Lord Clement-Jones CBE will complete his second term as Chair of Council on 30 April 2025. The process and timeline agreed by Council to recruit the next Chair of Council assumes a period of 6–7 months during which Melissa Tatton CBE, Vice-Chair of Council, will act as interim Chair. The search for the next Chair of Council is progressing well in line with the agreed process and timeline.</p>
QMUL Strategy:	<p>Effective governance supports all aspects of Strategy delivery.</p>
Regulatory context:	<p>University Charter and Ordinances Conditions of registration with the Office for Students Higher Education Code of Governance</p>
Strategic Risks:	<p>Compliance with the Charter and the conditions of registration with the Office for Students</p>
Equality Impact Assessment:	<p>Part of the Search Committee's role is to take appropriate steps, through the recruitment partner, to attract a diverse range of candidates</p>
Subject to Prior and Onward Consideration by:	<p>By Council only</p>
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:	<p>No</p>
Timing:	<p>Regular update</p>
Author:	<p>Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary</p>
Date:	<p>18 March 2025</p>
External Sponsor:	<p>Melissa Tatton CBE, Vice-Chair of Council</p>

Chair of Council

1. At its meeting on 16 May 2024, Council established a Search Committee with the following membership to oversee the recruitment of the next Chair of Council.

Melissa Tatton CBE, Vice-Chair of Council (Chair)
Isabelle Jenkins, Treasurer
Peter Thompson, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee
Patricia Gallan QPM, member of Council
2. Council also approved an indicative timeline (attached) whereby the next Chair ideally joins Council in October–November 2025 with the Vice-Chair of Council acting as interim Chair after Lord Clement-Jones CBE completes his second term on 30 April 2025. Having the Vice-Chair act as the interim Chair over this period will not present challenges in relation to committee membership, except at the meeting of Remuneration Committee in October 2025 to consider the performance, objectives and remuneration of the President and Principal, which another external member of the Committee will be asked to chair.
3. Council approved the recruitment brief at its meeting on 21 November 2024. Since then, the Search Committee has met twice and made progress as follows.
 - (a) The search is progressing well and in line with the process and timeline approved by Council.
 - (b) The field of candidates entering the later stages of the process is strong and diverse in terms of both protected characteristics and sector experience.
 - (c) Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the full Search Committee in early April, after which a recommendation will be brought to Council via email.
4. Council is asked:
 - (a) to **note** this update;
 - (b) to **elect** Melissa Tatton CBE, Vice-Chair of Council, as interim Chair of Council from 1 May 2025.

Jonathan Morgan
Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary
18 March 2025

Annex A: Timeline

May 2024	Search Committee established by Council
⋮	
July 2024	Search partner appointed
⋮	
October 2024	Stakeholder meetings and focus groups to develop the recruitment brief
November 2024	Recruitment brief approved by Council
December 2024	Soft launch of recruitment campaign
January 2025	Placements in national press
February 2025	Longlist approved by Search Committee
March 2025	Individual meetings for longlisted candidates with Vice-Chair of Council, President and Principal, University Secretary and Chief Financial Officer
	Shortlist approved by Search Committee
April 2025	Final interviews
	Search Committee to make a recommendation to Council via email on the appointment of the next Chair of Council
	Lord Clement-Jones CBE completes second term as Chair of Council
May 2025	Melissa Tatton CBE starts to act as interim Chair of Council
⋮	
September 2025	Induction of Chair designate begins
October 2025	Chair designate joins Council as an ordinary member
November 2025	Chair designate steps up fully into the role of Chair of Council