

CONVOCATION MARCH 2019

Presentation speech for Mrs Anne Miller for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Two of the most crucial roles in the University are that of Registrar and Secretary to Council. Anne Miller was Registrar at Buckingham from 2011 to 2018 and Secretary to Council from 2013. She had institutional responsibility for all aspects governance, quality and compliance with the external regulatory framework. It would be impossible to enumerate all of the various tasks and responsibilities involved but overall I would say that Registrars are the conscience of the University. They have a special duty to ensure that things are done properly and by the book. In a very real sense, the University's reputation depends on them. In Anne Miller, we had a Registrar who did much to enhance that reputation.

Anne's association with the University goes back many years. She worked both in Schools of Study and at the centre. She was also a student here, gaining a part-time LLB from the Law School while continuing to work as an administrator. In short, I can think of no-one who has experienced life at the University from so many different angles. She also has strong links with the local community. She lives in Buckingham and has been a stalwart of the Friends of the University.

Anne's association with the Registry began in 2001 when she was appointed Head of Quality. She then led the University through several successful QAA institutional reviews, she negotiated our membership of the Higher Education Statistical Agency and led our participation in the National Student Survey – with remarkable results. She also contributed to the establishment and accreditation of the Schools of Education and Medicine. Much of her work has been student-facing and has included the establishment of the Student Complaints system. In recent years she led Central Admissions until the appointment of the current Director of Admissions. She served on the Executive Committee of the University, representing the interests of administrative and professional services staff.

As Secretary to Council, Anne led on a major review of the University's governance, resulting in comprehensive revisions to the Charter & Statutes which received Royal Assent in July 2017. During recent years, she coordinated the University's arrangements for the successful appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Council.

Externally, Anne has been the University's key contact for government and regulatory bodies. She is a member of the Association of Heads of University Administration and a member of the Executive of the Quality Strategy Network. She has been a speaker at UUK and NSS conferences and is an expert in the delivery of two-year degrees.

Chancellor, in this short presentation it is not possible to do full justice to all that Anne Miller has done for the University – but it has been enormous. She had a hard act to follow when she succeeded Professor Len Evans as Registrar, but she did it superbly.

Chancellor, I call upon you to confer upon Mrs Anne Miller the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.