

Email sent 31 May 2014 to Mark Rollinson, UoS Secretary (equivalent university role to a public company's secretary)

Subject: Notice of intention to resign from Council

Mark

I am writing to let you and Council know that I intend to resign from Council after the last meeting of the current academic year which will be the Council meeting on Thursday 3rd July.

Until recently I had no intention of resigning and indeed planned to accept reappointment if invited to do so when my term ends in 2015. Accordingly I believe that you are entitled to a full explanation for the change of mind.

As you will know from my website, I am involved with many organisations and constantly struggle for time despite being retired.

A few months ago I resigned from the Manchester Chess Federation where I was a member of its Council and its English Chess Federation Delegate. The MCF is a body I have been involved with, in many cases dealing with the same people, for over 40 years. However I realised that resignation would save me two days per year attending national English Chess Federation meetings, as well as the very occasional local MCF Council meeting that I have attended and reduce the amount of email that I need to deal with. Helping to organise chess, while worthwhile, did not fit with anything else that I do.

Just over a week ago I started reading "The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life" by Alice Schroeder. While I have read many other books about Buffett, I strongly recommend this quite long authorised biography as it is immensely revealing and very honest. As I thought about Buffett's single-minded commitment to his objectives, I realised just how much my role with Salford University interferes with my other priorities.

In 2012 when approached about Salford University by the head-hunter, I accepted on the premise that I could plan my diary to be in the north-west to synchronise with Salford University meetings. While I have been able to do this, in certain cases by Salford slightly flexing the date of the January audit committee, it has meant that I only spend about 50% of my time in London compared with the 75% I was spending previously. This has meant having to turn down many invitations to events in London.

My personal priorities fall into two broad areas. The first is politics where I am the Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Muslim Forum, and want to see a Conservative government elected in 2015. The second is religious and interfaith activity where am involved in many organisations, all located in London apart from the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester.

Being honest, Salford University does not fall within either of these strategic priorities. Accordingly my initial thought was to serve out my term and then step down. However the period between now and May 2015 is politically crucial and I want to be as free as possible to engage in political activity without a large number of fixed Salford University appointments in my diary.

Hence my decision to resign at the end of the academic year as this provides a natural and imminent breakpoint.

Regards

Amin