

**NEWS RELEASE, 19 MARCH 2014**

**London Met appoints its new Vice Chancellor**

London Metropolitan University announces today the appointment of a new Vice Chancellor elect.

Professor John Raftery will join London Met later this year to succeed Professor Malcolm Gillies who announced his retirement from one of London's largest modern Universities last November.

"John Raftery joins us after a very successful spell at Oxford Brookes where he has served as Pro Vice-Chancellor for the past nine years," said Clive Jones, London Metropolitan's Chair of Governors. "We are delighted to secure such an outstanding academic and university administrator to succeed Professor Malcolm Gillies, who will leave with our very best wishes for a well-deserved retirement later this year.

"John's academic leadership along with his experience leading a well-regarded university's development of Student Experience, a modernised portfolio, and his combination of commercial and humanitarian experience stood out to the appointment panel as a good fit to our own priorities and development plans."

Professor Raftery, VC elect, said: "Joining London Metropolitan and taking forward the University's strong mission in an increasingly marketised environment is an appealing challenge and I look forward to serving London Metropolitan University.

"In the next couple of years we will need to deliver a significant programme of renewal, academic development, and performance improvement to strengthen our competitive appeal to communities in and beyond the capital city."

Professor Janet Beer, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford Brookes, said: "John has led the continued improvement of the quality of the student experience at Oxford Brookes University. His work has produced real results for our students and the organisation as a whole. I wish him every success for the future."

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**Notes to editors:**

*Professor John Raftery*

Professor John Raftery is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) at Oxford Brookes University. John is responsible for academic affairs across Oxford Brookes apart from research, providing strategic leadership for both the undergraduate and

postgraduate academic portfolio, and for academic planning, academic development, and the enhancement of all taught programmes.

At Oxford Brookes he chaired the Academic Enhancement and Standards Committee (AESC) and, the Portfolio Development and Redesign Advisory Group. (PDRAG). In addition, he carries responsibility for the wider student experience and the quality of student life outside the curriculum.

Formerly the Dean of Oxford Brookes' School of Architecture and Pro Vice Chancellor (International), John is the author of four books and over seventy scientific papers in the field of Applied Economics (Real Estate and Construction). He was active in management consultancy with assignments on risks in major public infrastructure projects costing more than US\$20bn, and on cartels and restrictive practices in Hong Kong, Scandinavia and the UK.

He was a member of Kofi Annan's Global Humanitarian Forum (2008-10) and he has Chaired and been a non-executive board member of a number of national educational bodies including, currently, the Office of the Independent Adjudicator and the Open University, National Role Advisory Board.

#### *London Metropolitan University*

London Metropolitan University has a rich history with strong educational roots dating back to 1848. The University as it is today was created in 2002 with the merging of London Guildhall University and the University of North London, the first merger between two universities in the UK. Its roots however, lie firmly in the nineteenth century with the establishment of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men, in 1848.

At London Metropolitan University we believe that everyone has the right to an accessible quality education. Our students enjoy the highest levels of support and our courses recently received top marks from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency. We are proud of the diversity & achievements of our students, alumni and staff.

Here at London Met we put our students at the centre of all we do. London Met is a great place to study, located in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. We stand out because we offer courses of quality, in a vibrant, socially diverse environment, which will help launch your career. We are committed to helping our students build rewarding careers. Courses are designed and updated to be directly relevant to the current employment market.

London Met is as dynamic and multicultural as the city in which it is situated. Here you will meet and work with people from around the world, who will enrich your development and learning. Since our students come from a range of backgrounds, we have always made sure that the education we offer is accessible and flexible.

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