

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

URGENCY COMMITTEE OF SENATE

Minutes of a meeting held online via Microsoft Teams on
Friday 17 July 2020 at 2pm

Present: N Canagarajah (Chair), I Gillespie, P Monks, H O'Connor, G Wynn, T Robinson (deputy for P Baker)

In attendance: G Green (Registrar and Secretary), L Masterman (Academic Registrar), R Lord (Assistant Secretary), A Benson (Secretariat)

Apologies for absence had been received from E Burke and P Baker. T Robinson attended as deputy for P Baker.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

20/M12 STANDING BUSINESS

Declarations of Interest

No new declarations were made.

20/M13 BUSINESS TO CONSIDER

Conferral of degrees

Senate **noted** the need to confer degrees in this meeting given that all July 2020 graduation events had been unavoidably cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senate **noted** that an Emergency Regulation had been agreed by Senate on 24 June 2020 to enable the Urgency Committee to act on its behalf and confer remaining degrees in this way.

Senate **discussed** grade inflation, **noting** that circumstances had been exceptional this year due to COVID-19. It was **highlighted** that the Executive Board had taken the decision not to downscale marks as it would not have been possible to develop an appropriate scaling mechanism within the necessary timescale. It was **noted** that grade inflation was 8.5%, which was higher than usual due to the exceptional circumstances but lower than the initial estimates of 10-15%. The need to develop a suitable scaling mechanism to be applicable across all colleges was **noted**.

Senate **discussed** rates for deferral, suspension of studies and withdrawal, **noting** that full data was not yet available. It was **reported** that deferral rates were likely to be higher than in previous years but that withdrawal rates and suspension of studies rates were unlikely to have increased significantly.

It was **confirmed** that there had been no significant concerns arising from assessment processes, including from external examiners. Senate **noted** that it was comfortable to proceed following this assurance.

Senate **asked** for clarification in respect of incomplete name information listed for one student within the College of Science and Engineering. [ACTION – Secretariat]

[Post-meeting note: Following relevant checks against student ID records, the Student Records team confirmed that the name information for the student was complete as listed in the report.]

On behalf of the Senate, the Urgency Committee **approved** the conferral of degrees for all students as listed in the report.

20/M14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Senate **noted** the dates for its meetings in 2020/21 as follows:

Tuesday 3 November 2020, 2pm

Wednesday 3 March 2021, 2pm

Wednesday 23 June 2021, 2pm

Duration of meeting: 10 minutes

CHAIR