**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

**MEETING OF SENATE**

**Unconfirmed Minutes of a meeting held on  
Wednesday 5 October 2022 in Council Room 1 & 2, Fielding Johnson Building**

**Present:** Nishan Canagarajah (Chair)

Yassine Amrani

Phil Baker

Huw Barton

Emma Bunce

John Challiss

Sarah Davies

Anne-Marie Deeb

Nuala Devlin

Tracey Dodman

Elizabeth Draper

Andrew Ellis

Stewart Fishwick

Ian Forristal

Rob Fryer

Vavoula Giasemi

Zoe Groves

Sandeep Handa

Richard Holland

Rhiannon Jenkins

Liz Jones

Dan Ladley

Eamonn Mallon

Catherine Morley

Henrietta O’Connor

Gemma Parker

Mark Purnell

Linda Ralphs

Thompson Robinson

Ian Somerville

Richard Thomas

Geerten Vuister

Chris Wilkins

David Wright

**In attendance:** Geoff Green (Registrar and Secretary) and Alison Benson (Assistant Secretary).

**Observers:** Joe Suffield (Governance Officer) and Nataly Papadopoulou (UCU Representative).

**Apologies for absence** were received from Pranab Halder, Karl Herbert, Lu Liu, Jayne Marshall, Gabrielle Provan, Teela Sanders, Lisa Smith and Jacqui Shaw.

**UNRESERVED BUSINESS**

**22/M12** **WELCOME**

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Senators, attendees and observers to the meeting.

**22/M13** **STANDING BUSINESS**

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Senate **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2022 as an accurate record.

1. Matters Arising

Senate **noted** that all matters arising had been completed. It was highlighted that Senate had provided valuable comments on the academic promotions item.

**22/M14** **ANNUAL REVIEW OF POWERS AND STANDING ORDERS OF SENATE**

1. Powers of Senate

Senate **approved** the powers of Senate.

1. Standing Orders

Senate **approved** the Standing Orders for Senate.

**22/M15** **CHAIR’S UPDATE**

1. Update from the Chair

The Vice-Chancellor provided a report on key University developments.

Senate **noted** that in-person graduations had taken place during July, and that it had been rewarding to see the positive reaction from graduands. Clearing and confirmation of undergraduate students had been highly successful today, with all programmes meeting their targets. Open Days for 2023 recruitment were already underway.

Senate **noted** there were a number of conferences which had taken place at the University, such as the UUK Annual Conference and the AHUA Conference, providing a positive showcase for the Leicester campus.

Senate **noted** that there remained a number of challenges within the sector. This included the cost of living crisis, noting that the University had implemented a number of steps to support staff and students. Recent political party conferences had highlighted a climate of perceived attack on Universities.

1. Q & A session

No questions were received.

**22/M16 STRATEGIC BUSINESS TO CONSIDER**

1. University Strategy
2. Strategy KPIs and Reporting

Senate **received** an update on the University Strategy reporting framework, focusing on elements reported to Senate.

Senate **noted** that there were ten KPIs overall, with Senate providing oversight and assurance of four (Education, Research, Internationalisation, and Employability).

Senate **noted** that the financial KPI had an ambition of 20% cash balance as percentage income, which was the norm within the sector. This required a growth of 2% per year, which the University was currently forecast to meet.

Senate **noted** that Council feedback had suggested that staff satisfaction targets were overly ambitious and may need to be refined.

1. Strategic Theme Update: World Changing Research

Senate **considered** an update on the World Changing Research strategic theme by Phil Baker.

Senate **noted** a number of steps that had been taken to drive improvements in research within the University. This included School Research Action Plans which incorporated REF 2021 Deep Dives, 100 extra studentships, Research Institutes and Research Centres. A number of strategic interventions had been made in recent years to improve the quality of bids that were made to support research.

Senate **noted** that the Research and Enterprise Division (RED) had continued to make improvements to enable the University to develop research leaders. The priorities for the next academic year were to drive research growth, increase the number of collaboration partnerships and grow PhD and F50 scholars within the University.

Senate **noted** that the Research Centres and Research Institutes were distinct; Institutes would sit outside College structures and were multidisciplinary in nature whereas Centres were housed within Colleges.

(b) Changes within the College of Life Sciences

1. Department of Health Sciences – Change of Name

Senate **approved** the change of name for the Department of Health Sciences to the Department of Population Health Sciences.

1. National Student Survey

Senate **considered** a report on the National Student Survey results for 2022 from Liz Jones.

Senate **noted** that the overall satisfaction rate across the sector had increased from 75.41% to 76.29%, whereas the University’s overall satisfaction dropped from 75.95% to 75.32%. The University of Leicester had also dropped in the overall rankings of mainstream providers from 56 of 126 in 2021 to 74 of 126 in 2022. The areas of strongest performance were learning resources and the learning community. The areas of weakest performance were assessment and feedback, organisation and management.

Senate **noted** the significant satisfaction gap between White and BAME students, which was the biggest satisfaction gap across demographics. Interventions would be made to address these satisfaction gaps which would improve outcomes for all students. The support of Senators in promoting this work was requested.

Senate **noted** that the guidance for NSS 2023 had not yet been released, but was likely to include substantial changes. An initial internal steering group had been established to support this work.

1. Teaching Excellence Framework 2022

Senate **considered** a report on the preparations for TEF 2022 from Liz Jones.

Senate **noted** that TEF was a national exercise to incentivise teaching excellence. Within the University Strategy, it was intended for the University to achieve TEF Gold by 2030, retaining TEF Silver in 2023. Excellence would be evidenced from three sources; provider submission, independent student submission and numerical indicators. The Students’ Union was responsible for the independent student submission.

Senate **noted** that the data for TEF was based on historical benchmarks. Most metrics would meet TEF benchmarks, but not all. A narrative would also accompany the indicator data. It was important to highlight that the University had a distinctive undergraduate student body, which should be promoted within the TEF submission.

1. Educational Gains

Senate **noted** that there was a new element of TEF which focussed on Educational Gains. This was intended to showcase what students gained from their experience at Leicester, extending past knowledge to include elements such as work readiness.

Senate undertook an interactive exercise to identify what they considered to be “Educational Gains” using the guidance from TEF. This information was collated and would inform the TEF submission.

1. Students’ Union Priorities 2022-23

Senate **received** a presentation on the Students’ Union priorities for 2022/23 from Anne-Marie Deeb and Rhiannon Jenkins. The priorities from the previous academic year had been rearticulated and developed further, which reflected the shift from ensuring there was a basic level of service because of COVID-19, towards better support for students. The presentation outlined a number of the priorities for each full time Officer over the academic year.

Senate **noted** that a KPI dashboard had been introduced to monitor the progression of each priority and linked to the work of the previous year. This would enable priorities to be continued into the next academic year.

Senate **noted** that the Students’ Union had sourced a site in the Percy Gee building which would enable students with children to work on campus with their child. [**ACTION:** To clarify support for students with other caring responsibilities i.e. not exclusively childcare responsibilities].

**22/M17** **SENATE MEMBERSHIP 2022-23**

Senate **approved** the membership of Senate for 2022/23.

**22/M18** **ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE CODE OF PRACTICE**

Senate **approved** the academic Code of Practice for 2022/23.

**22/M19** **SECRETARY’S BUSINESS**

Senate **received** a summary report of business items for approval.

Senate **approved** the following items:

1. Terms of Reference and Membership 2022-23 – Education Committee
2. Terms of Reference and Membership 2022-23 – Senate Student Discipline Committee

**22/M20** **ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS UPDATE**

Senate **noted** the Academic Promotions Update

**22/M21** **REPORTED BUSINESS**

Senate **considered** the following reports from Committees

* 1. Education Committee

Senate **noted** the report from the meeting of the Education Committee held on 12 September 2022 and the Effectiveness Review.

Senate **noted** the business set out and **approved** the reports.

* 1. Research and Enterprise Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meetings of the Research and Enterprise Committee held on 25 May 2022.

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the reports.

* 1. Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board

Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board held on 21 June 2022.

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the report.

* 1. Senate Student Discipline Committee

Senate **approve** the terms of reference for the Senate Student Discipline Committee.

* 1. University Officer appointments

Senate **noted** the senior recruitment update summary report.

* 1. Programmes Approved and Withdrawn

Senate **noted** the report of programmes approved in principle, in full and those withdrawn since its last meeting.

* 1. Outcomes of Senate Discipline Panels

Senate **received** the outcomes of recent Senate Student Discipline Panels.

**22/M22** **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Senate **noted** the meeting dates scheduled for 2022-23 are as follows:

* Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 2pm
* Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 2pm

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: 105 minutes