

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

MEETING OF SENATE

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Wednesday 14 February 2024 in Council Room 1 & 2, Fielding Johnson Building**

Present:	Nishan Canagarajah (Chair)	
Rabah Aissaoui		Jayne Marshall
Huw Barton		Henrietta O'Connor
Prachi Bhatt		Andre Ng
Steven Bull		Gemma Parker
John Challiss		Vardy Pentakota
David Cousins		Gabrielle Provan
Sarah Davies		Linda Ralphs
Tracey Dodman		Archie Robinson
Frank Dudbridge		Jacqui Shaw
Stewart Fishwick		Emma Sleath
Ian Forristal		Lisa Smith
Zoe Groves		Richard Thomas
Sandeep Handa		Simon Vaughan
Caitlin Hanna		Geerten Vuister
Liz Jones		Christopher Wilkins
Iman Khokhar		Steve Williams
Sally Kyd		David Wright
Dan Ladley		

In attendance: Geoff Green (Registrar and Secretary), Kevin Joyce (Governance Office), Kerry Law (for item 24/M04 e), Rebecca Lord (Governance Office), Andrew Petersen (for item 24/M04 b), Mervyn Roy (for item 24/M04 b), Will Wells (for item 24/M04 d) and Laurian Williamson (for item 24/M04 d)

Observers: Marialuisa Crosatti (Unite), Caren Frosch (UCU), Bill Hassan (Unison), Wyn Morgan, Halpin Partnership

Apologies for absence were received from Phil Baker, Tilly Blyth, Krista Cowman, Nuala Devlin, Ljiliana Marjanovic-Halburd, Catherine Morley, Tom Robinson, Mark Purnell, Teela Sanders, Leena Sodha and Alison Snape.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

24/M01 WELCOME

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Senators, attendees and observers to the meeting, in particular those attending their first meeting of Senate.

24/M02 STANDING BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

(b) Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Senate **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2023 as an accurate record.

(c) Matters Arising

Senate **noted** the responses to the matters arising.

24/M03 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Update from President and Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor provided a report on key developments within the wider HE sector and the University.

Senate **noted** the University's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ranking of Gold had been confirmed by the Office for Students (OfS). The President and Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone who contributed to this fantastic achievement.

Senate **noted** the National Student Survey (NSS) had opened on 11 January 2024. The survey was open until 30 April 2024 and although response rates to date were positive, colleges and schools were asked to encourage students to participate.

Senate **noted** the focus for the year ahead was to sustain success following fantastic achievements in our TEF and Research Excellence Framework (REF) performances and also our record student intakes in September 2023.

Senate **noted** there had been recent press articles relating to lowering of entry standards for international student recruitment across the sector. The University of Leicester did not fall into this category and remained completely transparent regarding tariffs and course fees for international applicants, which were stated on our website.

24/M04 STRATEGIC BUSINESS TO CONSIDER

a. College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (CSSAH) Structure Changes

Senate **considered** an update on the progress of the CSSAH Task and Finish Group constituted following Senate approval in June 2023 to consider feasibility options for restructuring CSSAH. The group had met on a number of occasions and presented different options. Colleagues and Trade Unions had been engaged throughout the process and it had been determined that the optimal structure would be to create a separate College of Business.

Senate **noted** that deep dives had been completed into potential options, including the creation of a combined College of Business and Law.

Senate **approved** the creation of a new College of Business (working title) which will be considered for endorsement by Council at its meeting on 5 March 2024.

Senate **noted** that the final name of the new College of Business (working title) would be considered by Senate at its meeting in June 2024, for implementation from 1 August 2024.

Senate **endorsed** the creation of both a Steering Group and an Implementation Group to oversee the transition. The membership of the new groups was still to be determined but

engagement with the Trade Unions would continue. with a full implementation proposal to be presented to Senate in June 2024.

Senate **considered** the proposal made by a separate Task and Finish Group for the re-organisation of Media, Communication and Sociology (MCS) into two new School structures within CSSAH.

Senate **noted** that the two new Schools would be named:

- School of Criminology, Sociology, and Social Policy
- School of Arts, Media, and Communication

Senate **approved** the recommendation to establish two reconstituted Schools in CSSAH, and the recommended naming for the Schools, with effect from 1 August 2024.

b. Senate Regulation 5

Mervyn Roy and Andrew Petersen joined the meeting

Senate **received** a presentation on proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 5, governing undergraduate programmes, to be introduced for new students in the 2025/26 academic year.

Senate **noted** that the revisions had reviewed by a working group with cross college and professional services representation. This process included extensive consultation with academic schools, key professional services, external examiners and students. The Education Committee and the working group had kept regular oversight of the development of the proposals through reporting, consideration of data modelling and review of iterations of the draft regulations. Detailed external benchmarking was also undertaken to review sector practice

Senate **noted** the summary of changes and the key reasons for making the changes.

Senate **noted** that schools would be provided with extensive support to consider the context of their students and and implications for assessment practice, in order to implement the new regulations before students commence in September 2025.

Senate **approved** the revisions to Senate Regulation 5.

Mervyn Roy and Andrew Petersen left the meeting

c. Proposal to change the name of the Department of Genetics and Genome Biology

Senate **considered** the proposal to change the name of the Department of Genetics and Genome Biology to the Department of Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences.

Senate **noted** the current name for the department no longer accurately conveyed the work carried out due to the increased nature of activity in relation to Genomics and Cancer Sciences. Following wide consultation, there had been engagement with staff and PGR students to the proposed change and no objections had been received.

Senate **approved** the proposal to change the name of the Department of Genetics and Genome Biology to the Department of Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences, with effect from 1 August 2024.

d. Senate Policies

Laurian Williamson and Will Wells joined the meeting

d(i) Open Publications Policy

Senate **received** a presentation on the revisions to the open publication and dissemination policy.

Senate **noted** that there had been two significant changes in the open research environment and scholarly communications landscape in the last two years rendering the current policy out of date.

Senate **noted** the summary of the key changes which were.

- University staff members to retain the rights of their publications in return for a Creative Commons BY licence to disseminate research outputs.
- Researchers were required to immediately deposit (in IRIS) on the date of acceptance.
- Researchers were required to inform publishers that the researcher would retain rights and include a rights retention statement in the publication.

Senate **noted** that the risk of not revising the policy meant researchers may not be compliant with policies of key funders and future REF requirements. A full risk register would be integrated into the implementation plan and monitored as part of the institutional pilot.

Senate **noted** that the Library would develop a full implementation and communication plan including roadshows and an on-line toolkit. The pilot would commence in March 2024.

Senate **noted** that the policy had been approved by Research and Enterprise Committee and the Executive Board.

Senate **approved** the revisions to the open publication and dissemination policy.

d(ii) IP and Spin Out Policy

Senate **received** a presentation on the updated Intellectual Property and Spin-Out Policy.

Senate **noted** that the policy had not been updated since 2016. The key changes to the policy were:

- Incorporation of the policy as part of the Financial Regulations.
- Ownership of student Intellectual Property.
- Pre-investment of new Spin-Outs to 25% (from 50%).
- Streamlined spin-out approval process.

Senate **noted** there had been a stakeholder consultation in November and December 2023 including an on-line explanatory video. On-line feedback had been received from staff along with written feedback from other key stakeholders. Senate **noted** the revisions following stakeholder feedback.

Senate **noted** that the policy had been approved by the Innovation Board and the Research and Enterprise Committee.

Senate **approved** the updated Intellectual Property and Spin-Out Policy subject to a minor amendment of section 6.3.3.1 and with the agreement that future policy reviews should take place periodically. Governance oversight would take place by the Innovation Board, Executive Board and/or Finance Committee as appropriate.

Laurian Williamson and Will Wells left the meeting

e. University Strategy: Our Citizens

Kerry Law joined the meeting

Senate **received** a presentation on the progress made against the Our Citizens Strategic Theme delivery for the period 2022-2023 and the key priorities for 2023-24.

Senate **noted** the performance against the set Key Performance Indicators.

Senate **noted** that the Internationalisation Strategy had been finalised and implemented and an institutional University policy had been launched.

Senate **noted** the priority projects for year 2 and the emerging priorities for 2023-24 along with the risks associated with these projects.

Senate **noted** the report.

Kerry Law left the meeting

f. Annual Academic Assurance Statement

Senate **received** a presentation on how the University's quality assurance processes ensured compliance with relevant ongoing conditions of registration set by the OfS.

Senate **noted** the minimum thresholds set by the OfS in relation to Condition B requirements. Specifically for Condition B3, three outcome indicators were being used to drive the OfS assessment visits.

Senate **noted** that the OfS Condition B3 investigations commenced in late 2022 with eight reports published to date. Investigations consist of documentary request focussing on specific conditions along with physical visits. Issues identified to date were related to Conditions B1, B2 and B4 in Business & Management and Computing.

Senate **noted** the OfS focus for 2024 was on programmes delivered in partnership, degrees with integrated foundation years and Business & Management. Leicester had no B3 metrics within these areas that were below threshold.

Senate **approved** the Annual Academic Assurance Statement.

Copies of all presentations would be uploaded to the Senate SharePoint site. [**ACTION:** Governance Office]

24/M05 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

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

Senate **approved** the following items:

1. Student Protection Plan – Education Committee.
2. Degree Outcomes Statement – Education Committee.
3. Senate Regulation 7 – Education Committee.
4. Senate Regulation 9 – Research and Enterprise Committee
5. Academic Governance Code of Practice (Terms of Reference)

Senate **noted** the importance of following the correct appeals process documented in the Output Quality Policy as this stated that Academic staff may not appeal output review scores where the academic judgement of reviewer(s) was challenged. Senate **noted** that section 43 (Appeals) of the Output Quality Policy was not approved and that Research and Enterprise Committee would be asked to review this further.

24/M06 REPORTED BUSINESS [RESERVED]

Senate **considered** the following reports from Committees

a. Honorary Degrees Board

Senate **noted** the report from the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Board held on 24 January 2024.

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

b. Education Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meetings of the Education Committee held on 18 October 2023, 22 November 2023 and 1 February 2024.

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

c. Research and Enterprise Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meetings of the Research and Enterprise Committee held on 1 February 2024.

d. Senate Student Discipline Committee

Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Senate Student Discipline Committee held on 13 December 2023.

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

e. Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board

Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board held on 5 December 2023.

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

- f. University Officer appointments
Senate **noted** the senior recruitment update summary report.
- g. Programmes Approved and Withdrawn
Senate **noted** the report of programmes approved in principle, in full and those withdrawn since its last meeting.
- h. Outcomes of Senate Discipline Panels
Senate **received** the outcomes of recent Senate Student Discipline Panels.

24/M07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

24/M08 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Senate **noted** the meeting dates scheduled for 2023-24 as follows:

- Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 2pm

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: 110 minutes