

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

**MEETING OF SENATE**

**Minutes of a meeting held on  
Wednesday 12 June 2024**

**Present:** Nishan Canagarajah (Chair), Prachi Bhatt, Tilly Blyth, Steven Bull, John Challiss, Krista Cowman, Nuala Devlin, Tracey Dodman, Frank Dudbridge, Ian Forristal, Simon Gay, Sandeep Handa, Liz Jones, Iman Khokhar, Sally Kyd, Dan Ladley, Eamonn Mallon, Jayne Marshall, Ljiliana Marjanovic-Halburd, Catherine Morley, Henrietta O'Connor, Gemma Parker, Vardy Pentakota, Gabrielle Provan, Linda Ralphs, Archie Robinson, Jacqui Shaw, Emma Sleath, Lisa Smith, Alison Snape, Leena Sodha, Richard Thomas, Chris Wilkins, Steve Williams, David Wright

**In attendance:** Alison Benson (Assistant Secretary), Rebecca Draper (for 24/M12f), Geoff Green (Registrar and Secretary), Andrew Petersen (for 24/M12e), Alex Scown (Governance Office support), and Angela Truby (for 24/M12c)

**Observers:** Railene Barker (UCU representative)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Phil Baker, Huw Barton, David Cousins, Stewart Fishwick, Zoe Groves, Pranabashis Haldar, Andre Ng, Kevin Paterson, Mark Purnell, Tom Robinson, Jade Thomas and Geerten Vuister.

**UNRESERVED BUSINESS**

24/M09 **WELCOME**

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

24/M10 **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 14 February 2024 as an accurate record.

(c) Matters Arising

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

24/M11 **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

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

Senate **noted** that there would be a communication shortly about two vacancies for Senate members of Council. The President and Vice-Chancellor stressed the importance of the link between Senate and Council and announced that nominations would close by the end of June.

The President and Vice-Chancellor thanked Senate members for their participation in the recent Senate effectiveness review. Senate **noted** that the final report from the review would be discussed at its October meeting.

The President and Vice Chancellor thanked colleagues for their contribution during this academic year in what was a very challenging financial environment.

Senate **noted** that the National Students Survey (NSS) outcomes would be shared ahead of results day.

Senate **noted** that the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) had been commissioned by the Government to review the post study student visa process. The review confirmed that there would be no significant changes to the international student visas process.

24/M12

## **STRATEGIC BUSINESS TO CONSIDER**

### (a) Fourth College name and Structure

Senate **considered** proposals for the name of the new fourth College and of the Schools within it. Whilst the creation of the new College had already been approved from 1 August 2024, the units within the College had not previously been specified.

Senate **approved** the name of the new 'College of Business' and approved that the brand 'University of Leicester Business School' should be retained for communications, particularly with current and future students.

Following extensive consultation with members of staff involved, Senate considered the rationale for the naming of Schools within the College and **approved** that the new College of Business will comprise of four Schools:

- School of Accounting and Finance
- School of Economics
- School of Management
- School of Marketing and Strategy

### (b) Strategic Theme Update: Research Inspired Education

Senate **considered** an update on the Research Inspired Education theme of the University Strategy from Liz Jones, PVC Education.

Senate **noted** the four strategic aims which were:

- Provide challenging programmes that enable students to achieve their full potential, regardless of background.
- Work in partnership with our students.
- Create a welcoming, inclusive, and enriching environment.
- Empower our students to become positive Citizens of Change.

Senate **noted** the strategic KPI's.

Senate **noted** the priorities for 2024-2025 which were:

- High Quality Programmes
- Education Futures
- Postgraduate Taught Programmes
- Education, Equality and Inclusion
- TEF 2027 preparation

Senate **noted** the importance of the Theory of Change Model that would be used to evaluate impact across projects and that it was the Office for Students (OfS) preferred model. It was **agreed** links should be sent to members to provide further clarification  
**[ACTION: Liz Jones]**

Senate **noted** the progress made and that it was continuation that was close to the 95% target which would be a big focus for the next academic year.

(c) Annual Student Wellbeing Strategy Report

*Angela Truby Joined the meeting.*

Senate **considered** the Student Wellbeing Annual Update Report.

Senate **noted** that the university was working towards being awarded Charter status and then maintaining it. This would be challenging and requires prioritisation to achieve, especially with current financial challenges.

The plan had now been linked to the principles of the Student Minds Mental Health Charter, which combined student and staff wellbeing, as the University worked towards chartered status. Current mapping and gap analysis against the Charter had been provided within the report.

Senate **noted** the increase in mitigating circumstances submissions and that a working group was exploring this issue across Student Services and Operations with further research being conducted in the next academic year.

Senate **noted** that a Roadshow was being organised to talk to the Heads of Schools about the way they could support in the delivery of this strategy.

Senate **noted** the engagement with external agencies (NHS and Leicestershire Mental Health Group were given as examples) and the worry of over relying on them to achieve goals.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair thanked Angela Truby and the rest of the Student Services and Belonging team for their outstanding work.

Senate **noted** the report

*Angela Truby left the meeting*

(d) Students' Union End of Year Report

Senate **considered** a presentation from Archie Robinson, President of the Students' Union, and Prachi Bhatt, Education Officer at the Students' Union which summarised the work of Students' Union Officers over the 2023/24 academic year.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair thanked the President and Education Officer for all their hard work and engagement with the University to represent student interests, particularly in relation to sustainability which had helped the University achieve 17<sup>th</sup> place in UK and 72<sup>nd</sup> place in World rankings on sustainability.

(e) Senate Regulations

*Andrew Petersen joined the meeting*

Senate **considered** proposed changes to Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes.

Senate **noted** that the Regulation changes were supported by the Curriculum and Standards Sub-Committee and the University Education Committee.

Senate **noted** that the standard position was that the regulations that apply to each cohort of students are those that are in force when they enter their course.

Senate **approved** the proposed changes to Senate Regulation 6.

*Andrew Petersen left the meeting*

(f) Trusted Research and Export Control Policy

*Rebecca Draper joined the meeting*

Senate **considered** the potential institutional risks of non-compliance with Trusted Research and Nagoya Protocol legislation (noting that this risk had now been included on the University's Risk Register).

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

Senate **noted** the report's recommendations and mitigations which were:

- Mandatory registration of all research using Infonetica
- Due Diligence escalation process for Research Partnerships
- Export Control, National Security & Investments (NSI) Act Policy
- Institutional Statement of Compliance which would demonstrate Leicester's commitment to UK Export Control Policy.

Senate **noted** that should the university not comply with the Export Control Policy legislations there would be risks of potential large fines, legal costs, prison sentences and the inability to receive licenses, inhibiting the university's ability to conduct research.

Senate **noted** that there hadn't been any Equality, Diversity and Inclusion focused consultations. The policy had not gone through an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) yet

but this was scheduled and would be reported back to Senate at the next meeting  
**[ACTION: Geoff Green]**

Senate **noted** the concerns that these changes could have on academic freedom but the policy had been shown within the Academic Freedom Group and the policy was designed to keep academic operating within the law to safeguard and protect academics as compliant.

Senate **noted** that an interim process created by the Research and Enterprise Division (RED) was in place to assess risks and that if the Heads of Schools were unsure whether a risk can be properly assessed to contact them directly.

Senate **approved** the Trusted Research and Export Control Policy.

#### 24/M13 **SECRETARY'S BUSINESS**

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

Senate **approved** the following items:

1. Senate Regulation 8
2. Senate Student Discipline Committee's Terms of Reference 2023-24
3. Senate Regulation 1

Senate **noted** that the requirements of Senate Regulation 1 were not changing, but delegating some responsibilities to the Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board (RRPB) to align the main academic matriculation requirements.

#### 24/M14 **REPORTED BUSINESS**

Senate **considered** the following reports from Committees

a. Education Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meetings of the Education Committee held on 5 March 2024, 17 April 2024 and 21 May 2024.

Senate **noted** the following:

- Summary of the Annual Programme Review Process.
- Summary of the UG External Examiners report.
- Summary of the PGT External Examiners report.

Senate **approved** a minor change to Senate Regulation 8 governing examinations.

b. Research and Enterprise Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meeting of the Research and Enterprise Committee held on 30 May 2024.

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the Output Quality Policy revisions.

c. Senate Student Discipline Committee

Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Senate Student Discipline Committee held on 27 March 2024.

- d. Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board  
Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board held on 26 March 2024.
- e. University Officer appointments  
Senate **noted** the senior recruitment summary update report.
- f. Programmes Approved and Withdrawn  
Senate **noted** the report of programmes approved in principle, in full and those withdrawn since its last meeting.
- g. Outcomes of Senate Discipline Panels  
Senate **received** the outcomes of recent Senate Student Discipline Panels.

23/M15

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair thanked those members of Senate whose terms were ending on 31 July 2024 (Huw Barton, Sally Kyd and Mark Purnell) and those whose terms as Senate members of Council would end on 31 July 2024 (Mark Purnell, Jacqui Shaw).

23/M16

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Senate **noted** the meeting dates scheduled for 2024-25 as follows:

- Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 2pm
- Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 2pm
- Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 2pm

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: 115 minutes