

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

MEETING OF SENATE

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Wednesday 7 November 2018**

Present:

Paul Boyle (Chair)

Natalie Armstrong	George Lewis
Phil Baker	Peter Lunt
Jon Challiss	David Mattingly
Dave Cousins	Amy Moran
Roy Crole (vice Reiko Heckel)	Paul Monks
Roger Dickinson	Mark Purnell
Sandra Dudley	Bob Norman
Stewart Fishwick (vice Sarah Davies)	Jon Scott
Ian Forsythe	Lisa Smith (vice Neil Chakraborti)
Rob Fryer	Simona Storchi (vice Martin Halliwell)
Iain Gillespie	Caroline Taylor
Alison Goodall	Kate Williams
Lisanne Gibson	Graham Wynn
Richard Holland	

In attendance: David Hall, Geoff Green (Secretary), Andrew Petersen (Assistant Secretary) and NICK Adkins (UCU)

Apologies for absence were received from Azza Abdulla, Liz Bailey, Martin Barstow, Neil Chakraborti, Sarah Davies, Andy Ellis, Andrew Fry, Rose Griffiths, Martin Halliwell, Reiko Heckel, Jason Hughes, Henrietta O'Connor, and Thompson Robinson

UNRESERVED (ONLY) BUSINESS

18/M10 **STANDING BUSINESS**

(a) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

(b) Membership and Powers of Senate

Senate received its Membership for the 2018/19 academic year and its powers as set out in Ordinance 10.

(c) Standing Orders

Senate considered and **approved** its Standing Orders for the conduct of its business and meetings in the 2018/19 academic year.

(d) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Senate considered the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2018.

Senate **approved** the minutes as an accurate record.

(e) Matters Arising

Arising from M07(a) Senate noted that the University had been successfully registered with the Office for Students. Following the registration process the University was subject to enhanced monitoring with regard to its Access and Participation Plan and Statutory Returns. Senate noted that these additional monitoring requirements were common across the sector in the first year of the new regulatory regime.

Arising from M07(b) Senate noted that the Code of Practice on Academic Governance had been subject to further consultation over the course of the summer and the final version had been published in September 2018. Implementation would be monitored and Senate would have the opportunity to contribute to a review after the first year. Senate noted that the departmental level structures for the management of learning and teaching would be piloted with a small number of departments in semester 2 before full implementation in 2019/20.

Arising from M07(c) Senate noted that the Academic Policy Committee had finalised the revised regulations for first year progression and that these had been applied in August 2018. These had resulted in a 4% increase in continuation at first year level to a total of 94.2%. This was set against a benchmark of 95% and an overall target of 96%.

(f) Chair's Business

The President and Vice-Chancellor reported:

i) Senate representative on the Finance Committee

That he had taken action on behalf of Senate to approve the nomination of Professor Andy Ellis, Department of Chemistry as Senate's representative on the Finance Committee for a 3 year term.

ii) Centenary Celebrations

That a ceremony would take place on Sunday 11 November in which University Square would be re-named Centenary Square and the President and Vice-Chancellor encouraged members to attend.

iii) League Tables

That the University had been ranked 34th in the Good University Guide, which represented a slight drop of 4 places. The University was performing well in international league tables, placing 25th in the UK in the THE World Rankings.

iv) Post-18 Review

That the review had not yet reported but there had been recent media coverage of the potential for a reduced headline fee with variable rates for STEM subjects.

Senate noted that there was no indication that this was a preferred solution, but such a scheme would represent a significant reduction in fee income.

v) BREXIT

The risk associated with a 'no deal' BREXIT that the UK would cease to have access to Horizon Europe research funding and that all efforts were being made by the sector to highlight this concern.

vi) Ministerial Visit

That Sam Gyimah, Minister for Higher Education, would be visiting the University before Christmas.

vii) Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer

That Kerry Law had been appointed as CMEO and would take up the post early in the New Year.

viii) Industrial Action

That the proposed industrial action in September had not taken place. The President and Vice-Chancellor thanked UCU for the positive and constructive dialogue that had taken place in order to avert action.

ix) Athena Swan

That the University had achieved an institutional Athena Swan Silver award. Senate welcomed this significant achievement and wished to record its thanks to all involved in the submission.

x) Awards

That the University Sports Grounds Team had won College Grounds Team of the Year.

xi) Dalian-Leicester Institute (DLI)

That the DLI had successfully recruited a second cohort to its two programmes, and a new programme in Mathematics was due to launch in 2019/20.

(g) Summary Report of Items for Approval

Senate considered a summary report of business for consideration arising from reports from subsidiary Committees and other areas where Senate's approval was required.

Amendment to Ordinance 10

Senate considered a proposal to amend Ordinance 10 (10) regarding the powers of Senate. The revisions were designed to reflect the role of Senate in the approval process for changes to the academic structure of the University as defined through the Standard University Structure project.

Senate recommended **approval** of the revised Ordinance to Council.

Amendments to the Schedule of Delegation

Senate considered a series of amendments to the Schedule of Delegation with regard to Senate and its Committees. The amendments reflected the change to Ordinance 10 (10) outlined above and the revised academic governance structure for learning and teaching and research and enterprise previously approved by Senate.

Senate noted that it would be helpful to clarify the precise authority for the approval of different forms of collaborative provision within the Schedule.

Subject to this minor amendment, Senate approved the delegation of its authority and the powers of the Committees of Senate as set out in the revised schedule, and recommended **approval** to Council.

Honorary Degrees Board

Senate considered the nominations for Honorary Degrees put forwards by the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Board in October 2018.

Senate considered the representation of different groups amongst the nominees. It was noted that the Board had sought to encourage a full range of nominations and that the Chairs of the University equality and diversity related groups had been included within the membership of the Board, but that overall there were fewer nominations received from certain demographic groups.

Senate agreed that it would be helpful to expand upon the existing published guidance regarding criteria for consideration and ensure that the process was fully transparent. Members of Senate were also encouraged to work with the Secretary to the Higher Degrees Board in order to ensure that nominations were constructed in a manner which best addressed the criteria for award. It was also agreed that future reports from the Board should include a summary of the total number and breakdown of the nominations received.

Following this, Senate **approved** the award of Honorary Degrees and recommended the nominations to Council.

Research Centres

Senate noted the recommendation to establish four new Research Centres as follows:

Centre for Education Research and Practice

Centre for Sustainable Resource Extraction

Centre for Palaeobiology Research

Centre for Environment, Health and Sustainability

Senate noted the recommendation to remove Research Centres status from the following:

Centre for Sustainable Work and Employment Futures

Centre for Quantum Social and Quantitative Science

Reports for information

Senate noted the annual reports on Research Ethics and on Research Integrity.

18/M11

BUSINESS TO CONSIDER**(a) Organisational Development**

Senate considered a proposal to disestablish the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, and establish a new Department of Respiratory Sciences.

Senate noted that respiratory research was the dominant research theme within the existing Department and a recent external review of the College had recommended greater visibility in this area. The majority of the research activity within the existing Department would move to the new Department of Respiratory Science with the exception of the renal theme which would move into the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and a small number of remaining themes which would move to the Department of Genetics and Genome Biology. Senate noted that taught students would not be impacted by this change due to the teaching school structure within the College.

The change would come into effect on 1 January 2019.

Senate endorsed the proposal and **recommended** its approval to Council.

(b) REF Strategy Update

Senate received an update on the development of the University's strategy and approach to REF 2021 from Professor Gillespie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise).

Senate was pleased to note that colleagues across the University had achieved a total of £75 million in new research grants in 2017/18. This represented a significant growth on previous years. Among other notable successes the University had also established a joint Research Institute as part of the growing partnership with Dalian University of Technology with significant external funding.

Senate noted that preparations for REF 2021 were well advanced with a particular focus upon building high quality impact case studies which could potentially be submitted to multiple Units of Assessment. Output Quality data had been produced and analysed over the summer and this would be provided to departments in due course.

Senate noted the challenges associated with REF 2021 which included how best to externally review and validate output quality before the REF, and effectively communicating the University's significant research strengths. This would be supported by a mock REF exercise over the course of 2019. Senate also noted that guidelines for the selection of staff to be submitted as part of REF 2021 would be finalised once the guidance from Research England had been published.

(c) Curriculum Transformation

Senate received a report and presentation from Professor Wynn, Academic Lead for the Curriculum Transformation and Education Excellence projects.

Senate noted that Curriculum Transformation had taken place across the vast majority of undergraduate programmes and the transformed curricula had been rolled out in 2018/19. The CT programme had also overseen the introduction of the new Academic

Year Structure, embedded extended transferable skills content and standardised credit weightings and associated workload hours across the institution.

In total 128 programmes had undergone transformation across UG and PGT provision, encompassing 1148 modules. The Curriculum Transformation project had incorporated university wide audits of internationalisation and sustainability content as well as highlighting innovative practice to form the basis of potential TEF case studies. A major focus of the CT process had been the streamlining of curricula and assessment and the project had delivered:

- A 6% reduction in the global number of modules;
- A 21% reduction in examination hours across the curricula;
- A 9.1% increase in global contact (teaching) hours which equated to 20 hours more teaching per student per year

Senate noted the extent of the consultation that had taken place with current students throughout the CT process. Senate commended the CT programme as a clear example of the strong partnership between students and staff that was key both the delivery of the Learning Strategy and the wider institutional ethos.

Senate also noted the series of supporting metrics that had been developed through the project to quantify, in relative terms, the changes in programme efficiency, associated workload and the student experience between the pre- transformed and transformed curricula.

Senate wished to record its thanks to Professor Wynn and the CT team, colleagues in the Quality Office and wider Professional Services and, above all, to the programme teams across the University that had contributed so heavily to the success of the Curriculum Transformation programme.

(d) Annual Assurance to Council

Senate considered a document outlining the structures in place for the management of academic standards, the quality of the student learning experience and student outcomes in the 2017/18 academic year, and an associated action plan. The Committee noted that Council was required to make an annual return to the Office for Students confirming that it had seen and considered a report relating to the above.

Senate welcomed the confirmation of the effective operation of standard quality assurance processes to ensure academic standards and the robustness of student outcomes. Senate also welcomed the range of enhancement activity evidenced in the report, particularly via the Education Excellence programme.

Senate **approved** the statement for submission to Council.

(e) Risk Management

Senate considered the full Corporate Risk Register for the Autumn Term 2018 and the annual Risk Appetite Statement. Senate also receive a report which highlighted changes to the rating associated with individual risks as well as additions and removal of risks from the register.

Senate **endorsed** the Registers and the Risk Appetite Statement for submission to Council.

18/M12 **BUSINESS TO NOTE**

(a) Senate Effectiveness Review

Senate noted that following the Lancaster Review of Council's effectiveness a Senate Effectiveness Review undertaken in the 2018/19 academic year. Senate noted that this would involve engagement with members and other stakeholders, and members were encouraged to contribute to this process where requested.

(b) Reports from Committees

(i) Academic Policy Committee

Senate received the report of the final meeting of the Academic Policy Committee that had taken place on 12 July.

Senate noted the work of the Committee to finalise the revised progression framework for year 1 students as noted under M10(g) above. Senate also noted the approval and introduction of a new Policy on Flexible Delivery and minor amendments to the Code of Practice on the work of Student-Staff Committees.

Senate **approved** the report.

(ii) Learning and Teaching Committee

Senate received reports meetings of the Learning and Teaching Committee that had taken place on 12 September and 24 October.

Senate noted that the elements that required Senate's approval had already been considered under item M11(d).

Senate noted the Committee's oversight of the preparations for the National Student Survey 2019 and the creation of College level Learning and Teaching Plans. Senate also noted that the Committee would be undertaking a review of the current Annual Developmental Review process during 2018/19.

Senate **approved** the report.

(iii) Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee

Senate received the report of the meeting of the Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee that had taken place on 28 June 2018

Senate noted that those elements that were specifically raised for Senate's information had already been considered under item M10(g).

Senate noted the other business set out in the reports.

Senate **approved** the reports.

(iv) Honorary Degrees Board

This report was considered and approved under item M10(f) above.

(c) University Officer Appointments

Senate received for information a list of all University Officer level appointments that had been made since 27 June 2018.

(d) Programmes Approved and Withdrawn

Senate received a list of programmes and pathways that had been approved in principle, in full and withdrawn.

(e) Senate Student Discipline Panels

Senate received the outcomes of recent Senate Student Discipline Panels.

18/M13 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Senate noted the dates of its remaining meetings in 2018/19 as follows:

Wednesday 6 March 2019, 2pm

Wednesday 26 June 2019, 2pm

Duration of meeting: 1 Hour and 40 minutes