

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

MEETING OF SENATE

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Wednesday 8 November 2017**

Present:

P Boyle (Chair)

A Abdulla	P Jaffey
P Baker	D Lambert
M Barstow	G Martin
N Chakraborti	D Mattingley
J Challiss	P Monks
A Clark	A Moran
J Coleman	P O'Brien
S Davies	J Pan
R Dickinson	M Peel
S Dixon	J Prados
I Forsythe	C Pritchard
A Fry	M Purnell
L Gibson	Z Radnor
A Goodall	T Robinson
R Griffiths	J Scott
S Guerra	C Taylor
D Hall	G Vavoula (vice S Dudley)
C Hewitt	A Wardlaw
R Holland	G Wynn
J Hughes	

In attendance: G Green (Secretary), L Masterman (Acting Assistant Secretary), P Corazzo (Unison)
D O'Sullivan (UCU)

Apologies for absence were received from E Bailey, S Dudley, I Gillespie, R Heckel, R Norman and
K Williams

UNRESERVED (ONLY) BUSINESS

17/M11 **STANDING BUSINESS**

(a) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

(b) Powers of Senate

Senate received its Membership for the 2017/18 academic year and its powers as set
out in Ordinance 10.

(c) Standing Orders

Senate considered its Standing Orders for the conduct of its business and meetings in the 2017/18 academic year. Senate noted that the Standing Orders provided a clear framework for the exercising of Senate's powers and **approved** them for 2017/18.

(d) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Senate considered the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2017.

Senate **approved** the minutes as a correct record.

(e) Matters Arising

Arising from M10 Senate noted that letters of thanks had been sent to Professor Atkinson and Professor Hainsworth in recognition of their contributions to Senate and the wider University.

(f) Chair's Business

The President and Vice-Chancellor reported that he had taken action on behalf of Senate to approve the change of the title of the College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology to become the College of Life Sciences, from 1 September 2107. The President and Vice Chancellor also reported that he had taken action on behalf of Senate to approve a minor change to a departmental title for the School of Medicine, to become the Leicester Medical School

The President and Vice-Chancellor also reported on a meeting at the House of Commons on research integrity attended by the Research Policy Network. He had also attended a meeting of the UUK Board where student fees had been a major item for discussion. UUK was recommending a reduction in interest rates paid by students on loans and the re-introduction of maintenance loans for students from families with low incomes.

The President and Vice-Chancellor also reported on the growing pressures on the USS pension scheme given the Pensions Regulator's concerns about its robustness. It was likely that there would be changes to the scheme, although no decisions had been made at the current time.

The President and Vice-Chancellor also reported that the Office for Students had published proposals for a new approach to the regulation of Higher Education and other issues, and these were out for consultation until 22 December 2017.

The President and Vice-Chancellor also reported on a number of meetings he had attended in Brussels relating to discussions about Brexit, noting that negotiations appeared to be progressing. He encouraged colleagues to continue to apply for funding via Horizon 2020.

(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 is required.

Terms of Reference of Committees of Senate for 2017/18

Senate considered and **approved** the following:

Academic Policy Committee

Postgraduate Research Policy Committee

Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee (including minor amendments set out in the summary report)

Enterprise Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee (including amendments set out in the summary report)

Senate Student Discipline Committee

Amendments to Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study

Senate noted that the Academic Policy Committee had considered and recommended amendments to Senate Regulation 5 to apply to current students graduating from 2017/18.

Senate considered a proposal to introduce unclassified interim awards of Diploma of Higher Education and Certificate of Higher Education for all students graduating from 2017/18 onwards. These awards would allow student who successfully completed a specified number of credits of their programmes, but who did not qualify for the award of a degree, to leave the University with a qualification rather than nothing as at present. Senate also considered a proposal to remove the requirement for all level 4 credits to have been passed in order to graduate with a degree.

Senate **approved** both amendments for all students graduating from 2017/18 onwards.

Honorary Degrees Board

Senate noted that it had not been possible to arrange the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Board prior to this meeting but that it was due to meet on 10 November 2017. As the award of Honorary Degrees required the approval of both Senate and Council, Senate agreed that the nominations for Honorary Degrees would be circulated for consideration and approval outside of the meeting.

Policy for the Ongoing Management of Research Output Quality

Senate considered a new Policy for the Ongoing Management of Research Output Quality which had been developed by the Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee. The policy set out an internal procedure within departments, oversight of which would be provided through College Research Committees and the Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee. The policy included standard reporting templates with the criteria for review aligned with those used in the REF. There was also the opportunity for external review processes funded through the REF Publications Fund.

Senate **approved** the policy for implementation.

17/M12 **BUSINESS TO CONSIDER**

(a) Academic Workload Model

Senate received a presentation from the Provost on the proposed approach to the academic workload model, following the pilot project undertaken with five departments/schools representing all Colleges.

The presentation provided an update on progress made to date and the proposed next steps. It was noted that the consultation period had now ended and draft operating principles had been circulated. A number of key issues were highlighted for further consideration including PGR supervision, internal/external research, impact and enterprise, service and leadership roles and capturing reasonable adjustments. It was noted that it was important that Colleges now took ownership of discussions around the key issues which had been identified.

The Provost outlined next steps for developing and implementing the model which would include the operating principles being redrafted for consideration by the University Leadership Team and Council Advisory Committee in December, and College and departmental discussions on local variation. It was proposed that an operating handbook and an interim software solution would be implemented in February 2018 with a full software solution by February 2020.

Following discussion on a range of the issues identified Senate **endorsed** the revised Academic Workload Model.

(b) International Strategy Monitoring

Senate considered a paper from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) regarding the ongoing implementation of the University's International Strategy. Senate also received a presentation on the development of the partnership with Dalian University of Technology.

In her presentation, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) outlined the key drivers for involvement in transnational education which included supporting economic, social and environmental development, building the University's international brand and reputation, facilitating student/staff cross-cultural experience and supporting re-investment at home.

The presentation focussed on the development of the Leicester International Institute, Dalian University of Technology as a case study, outlining the benefits and lessons learned. Key facilitators for developing the partnership had been the enthusiasm of staff in the departments and College, Dalian being a top tier Chinese university, experience from existing collaborative partnerships with Chinese universities and the efficient processes of the Quality Office. The University would use the experience gained through establishing the relationship with Dalian University of Technology to inform future developments in Central Asia, for example with Shymkent in Kazakhstan and Tashkent in Uzbekistan.

Senate discussed potential ethical concerns, including human rights issues with respect to operating in the countries identified but were assured that full risk assessments would be undertaken and the countries' ambassadors would be invited to visit the University.

(c) Annual Assurance

Senate considered a draft report that would form part of the University's annual provider review undertaken by HEFCE. As part of the Annual Assurance process Council is required to provide confirmation that it has seen evidence of the mechanisms in place to manage academic risk and ensure academic standards and quality.

Senate considered and **approved** the academic annual assurance report for submission to Council.

(d) Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study

Senate considered proposals to amend Senate Regulation 5 for students commencing their studies with effect from the 2018/19 academic year. Senate noted that the amendments had been subject to detailed consultation and iteration with Colleges, academic departments and consideration by the Academic Policy Committee.

The revised Regulation sets out a clear and transparent framework for the structure, progression, award and classification of undergraduate degrees, informed by internal feedback, external examiners' comments and practice across the sector.

In addition, substantive changes proposed were:

- the current category of pass for credit would be renamed compensated fails;
- the weighting between the second and third years (FHEQ levels 5 and 6) used in degree classifications would be amended to 33:67, and would apply to all students graduating from the 2020/21 academic year;
- where degrees are classified on the basis of a CWA at least 30 credits in the higher degree class must be from final year modules (FHEQ level 6) for the higher classification to be awarded;
- the rules for consideration as a borderline candidate would move to 8.0-9.9 and would be used to classify degrees from 2020/21, with borderlines applying to students with mitigating circumstances.

Senate considered the regulations and asked whether it was envisaged that they would improve retention. It was noted that the proposals approved in the summary report to introduce interim awards earlier in the meeting, would mean that students who did not qualify for their degree but who had accumulated sufficient credits from their studies would no longer leave the University without a qualification. With respect to the move in borderlines minutes of boards of examiners from the summer 2017 boards had been reviewed and it was not expected that the impact would be significant.

Senate **approved** the revised Senate Regulation 5 for implementation for students commencing their studies with effect from the 2018/19 academic year.

(e) Risk Management

Senate received the full Strategic Risk Register and Corporate Risk Register for the autumn term 2017, and the annual University Risk Appetite Statement.

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

17/M13 **BUSINESS TO NOTE**

(a) Reports from Committees

(i) Academic Policy Committee

Senate received reports of the meetings of the Academic Policy Committee that had taken place on 14 July, 13 September and 24 October 2017.

Senate noted that those elements which required approval had already been considered under item M11(g).

Senate noted the Committee's ongoing oversight of programme development, approval, monitoring and review as detailed in the reports. Senate also noted the appointment of External Examiners, as detailed in the reports.

Senate **approved** the reports.

(ii) Postgraduate Research Policy Committee

Senate received a report of the meeting of the Postgraduate Research Policy Committee that had taken place on 2 October 2017.

Senate noted that those elements which required approval had already been considered under item M11(g).

Senate **approved** the report.

(iii) Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee

Senate received reports of the meetings of the Research Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee that had taken place on 29 June and 12 October 2017.

Senate noted that those elements which required approval had already been considered under item M11(g).

Senate **approved** the reports.

(iv) Enterprise Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee

Senate received the report of the meeting of the Enterprise Strategy, Policy and Performance Committee that had taken place on 5 October 2017.

Senate noted that those elements which required approval had already been considered under item M11(g).

Senate **approved** the report.

(v) Senate Student Discipline Committee

Senate received the report of the meeting of the Senate Student Discipline Committee that had taken place on 17 October 2017.

Senate noted that those elements which required approval had already been considered under item M11(g).

Senate **approved** the report.

(c) University Officer Appointments

Senate received for information a list of all University Officer level appointments that had been made since 29 June 2017.

(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.

17/M14 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Senate noted the date and time of its remaining meetings in 2017/18 as follows:

Wednesday 7 March 2018, 2pm

Wednesday 27 June 2018, 2pm

Duration of meeting: 1 hour and 30 minutes