

## SENATE

### Open Minutes

Of the Teams meeting held on Wednesday, 09 June 2021.

#### Present via Teams meeting:

Professor Nick Braisby	Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Rachel Cragg	Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Digital
Professor Gavin Brooks	Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Ms Ellie Smith	University Secretary and Clerk to Council
Professor Florin Ioras	Director of Enterprise and Research
Ms Miriam Moir	Interim Academic Registrar
Professor Karen Buckwell-Nutt	Director of the Institute for Health and Social Care
Dr Russel Stone	Head of School, Media & Creative Industries
Dr Kevin Maher	Head of School, Business, Law & Computing
Professor Paul Morgan	Head of School, Human and Social Sciences
Professor Phil Wood	Head of School, Aviation & Security
Professor Sri-Kartini Leet	Head of School, Art, Design & Performance
Mr John Hathaway	Elected representative, Business, Law & Computing
Ms Lauren Vincent	Elected representative, Art, Design & Performance
Ms Daisy Toscano	Elected representative, Health Care & Social Work
Ms Louisa Berry	Elected representative, Aviation & Security
Dr Dearbhla Gallagher	Elected representative, Human & Social Sciences
Ms Helen Ayo-Ajayi	Elected representative, Nursing & Allied Health
Dr Sainey Faye	Nominated representative, University Partnerships Board
Mr Richard Jones	Nominated representative, Education Committee
Professor Margaret Greenfields	Nominated representative, Research & Enterprise Committee
Ms Tamsin Grainger	Students' Union President
Ms Natasha Neal	Students' Union Vice-President- Education & Welfare
Ms Honor Fletcher	Students' Union President (Elect)
Mrs Leah Hill	Senior Registry Officer: Governance and Quality (Secretary)

#### Apologies

Ms Julie Irwin	Director of Student Success
Mr Rob Penhaligon	Elected representative, Media & Creative Industries
Dr Lisa Reynolds	Head of School, Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health

#### Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021

21.33 A number of points of accuracy were noted:

- Incorrect job title recorded for Professor Rachel Cragg – requires amendment to Pro Vice-Chancellor Education & Digital

- Incorrect titles recorded for a number of members – amendments required include **Dr** Russel Stone; **Professor** Margaret Greenfields; **Professor** Sri-Kartini Leet; **Professor** Phil Wood; **Professor** Paul Morgan
- Dr Dearbhla Gallagher was not recorded as in attendance and should be added to the list of members present.

### **Matters Arising / Status of Actions**

21.34 It was noted that all outstanding actions were complete.

### **Chair's Actions**

21.35 No Chair's Actions had been taken since the last meeting in March 2021.

### **Chair's Report**

21.36 A verbal report was given by the Chair and the following points were noted:

- The University is currently forecast to make a surplus of c. £1.1m.
- The University recently saw an 18-place improvement in the Complete University Guide, however degree completion rate remains a concern with the University ranking 125<sup>th</sup> out of 130 Universities.
- Positive work is ongoing to drive up and maximise the University's conversion rate for academic year 2021/22. It was confirmed that there are currently 1008 firm acceptances. The Chair thanked members and the wider University community for their efforts on this.
- Covid-19 - it was noted that restrictions for the HE sector were likely to continue in some form into the new academic year, the extent of which is currently unknown. An update will be communicated to the University community as soon as government guidance has been received.
- The Government spending review, where the intentions regarding AUGAR should be clarified, is still expected in the Autumn but may be pushed back until Spring. Discussions and modelling regarding the potential impact on the University are ongoing with Council and the wider University.

### **Debate – *Widening Participation issues - what this means for the University in terms of challenges and strengths***

21.37 In advance of this meeting Senate received a briefing paper concerning widening participation. Professor Margaret Greenfields provided more detailed background information and highlighted areas for discussion during the meeting. The following key points were noted:

- The University currently has 40% BAME students overall (including partner institutions) and 47% BAME students (excluding partners), and is above sector average for both BAME students and mature students.
- Key themes from the University's Access and Participation plan include: Access to HE from low participation groups, those declaring a disability, care-leavers, young carers, children from military families, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; Succeeding in HE regarding closing the small attainment gaps identified and increasing retention; Successful employment after graduation with

a focus on POLAR Q1 areas and increasing opportunities for all students to enter highly skilled employment or further study.

- Potential University strengths in relation to widening participation – careers focused; strong non-‘traditional’ student body; industry links; diverse staff; local and commuting students.
- Effective outreach activities include: Summer schools and residential; subject masterclasses / skills and attainment workshops; mentoring (including online); in-reach activities in Schools; campus visits; activities and knowledge sharing with parents and carers.

21.38 Senate members engaged in a positive discussion covering the discussion points below:

- Capitalising on existing knowledge, experience and duties. For example, Access and Participation Plan to enhance WP student numbers.
- What institutional/reputational risks exist if focus further on WP? For example, the risk of increasing attainment gaps or discontinuation of some students – and how these can be mitigated?
- Which areas of work offer highest return / Which areas might respond well to targeted additional resourcing?
- Other potential opportunities/risks. For example, resourcing; Curriculum 23; institution-wide understanding of WP.

21.39 The Chair concluded by thanking Professor Margaret Greenfields for preparing and leading the discussion.

### **Matters for approval / discussion / information**

#### **Degree Outcomes Statement**

21.40 The revised Degree Outcomes Statement reviewed by representatives from Academic Registry and the Directorates of Student Success and Strategic Planning and Change had been circulated to Senate members in advance of the meeting. Members were pleased to note the clear and well-balanced report.

21.41 Senate recommended the revised Statement to Council for approval with a request to amend the wording on page two concerning notable trends.

#### **No Detriment Policy: Emergency Measures**

21.42 The proposal that the University reverts to standard regulations from the beginning of Academic Year 2021-22 was presented to Senate. With the easing of national restrictions, and the planned return to face-to-face teaching at the University in 2021-22, it is proposed that *NDP Emergency Measures* will no longer be required.

21.43 The standard Academic Assessment Regulations will undergo review via the Curriculum 23 project, which will include analysis of lessons learned from the implementation of *NDP Emergency Measures* and application of appropriate amendments. Senate were supportive of this but requested that the analysis be brought forward to ensure there is no gap in applying lessons learned.

21.44 After further discussion Senate felt that it was too early to make a formal decision on this proposal and agreed that this should be reconsidered at the first meeting of Senate in September 2021.

## Matters for note

### Calendar of Committees 2021/22

- 21.45 Senate noted the committee calendar and requested that the Quality Enhancement Committee meeting dates should continue beyond October and all meeting times, where possible, should fit within the 10am-4pm timeframe.

### OIA Annual Statement

- 21.46 The OIA Annual Statement had been circulated to Senate members in advance of the meeting.
- 21.47 The Academic Registrar confirmed that detailed analysis of the statement would be undertaken within the casework report as part of the annual monitoring cycle.
- 21.48 Senate noted the statement.

### Ofsted Preparation

- 21.49 A presentation regarding Ofsted preparation had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Pro-vice Chancellor Education & Digital highlighted the following aspects to members:
- A full inspection of the University's apprenticeship provision is due and will likely take place in September
  - Liaison with Schools / Directorates is currently underway to ensure all areas of the institution are fully prepared for the upcoming inspection
  - An audit of University staff who have completed one of the University's apprenticeships is also anticipated to provide further insight into provision.
- 21.50 Senate noted the presentation and preparation plans.

### Curriculum 23

- 21.51 A presentation detailing the ambition and vision for the Curriculum 23 project had been circulated to Senate members and was noted. The Pro-Vice Chancellor Education & Digital highlighted the following key points:
- The vision for the project - develop sector-leading impact, becoming renowned for an education that is flexible and practice-based, built around the needs of its students and ensuring their career success.
  - A workshop held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June had provided valuable feedback and informed planning for the next phases of the project for the steering group and associated workstreams.
  - A Curriculum Principles document, new Academic Qualifications Framework, and an Implementation Plan will be presented to Senate in September 2021.

### OFS Tracker

- 21.52 Senate noted the OFS Tracker which details ongoing OFS conditions against which the University must remain compliant. Ellie Smith confirmed compliance with all noted

conditions and advised Senate that a further condition regarding freedom of speech is expected shortly.

**Reports to Receive:**

**Council Report**

21.53 The Chair provided an overview of the most recent Council meeting discussions as part of the Chair's Report (point 21.36)

**Student Union Report**

21.54 The Report submitted by the President and Vice-President of the Students' Union had been circulated and was received.

21.55 The Chair welcomed Honor Fletcher, SU President Elect to the Senate membership and wished her success in her new role.

**Academic Planning Committee**

21.56 The Minutes from the meetings held on 18 March 2021 had been circulated and were received.

21.57 Senate was reminded that the Minutes of these meetings were confidential and business sensitive.

**Education Committee**

21.58 The Minutes from the meeting held on 17 March 2021 had been circulated and were received.

**Research and Enterprise Committee**

21.59 The Minutes from the meeting held on 19 May 2021 had been circulated and were received.

21.60 Senate congratulated Dr Fiona McCormack on her recent appointment to Head of the Graduate School.

**Matters for Endorsement:**

**External Examiner Approval Panel**

21.61 Senate received the update from the External Examiner Approval Panel and endorsed the decisions made in each instance.

**New Programmes of Study and Revalidations**

21.62 The report detailed recommendations to Senate of programmes presented to Approval Panels where conditions had been signed off. The programmes were presented to Senate and endorsed.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

21.63 Senate received the Academic Integrity Policy noting the recommendation for approval from Education Committee.

21.64 The Academic Registrar explained the new policy had been written as a result of recommendations from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) and in response to the University's decision to sign up to the Academic Integrity Charter. It is proposed to replace the Academic Misconduct Policy and was confirmed that the focus of the policy places emphasis on the maintenance of academic integrity rather than penalising misconduct.

21.65 Senate approved the implementation of the Academic Integrity Policy from September 2021, to replace the Academic Misconduct Policy which will be rescinded.

**Academic Assessment Regulations – appendices for Social Work and Nursing programmes**

21.66 The new appendices to the Academic Assessment Regulations for Social Work and Nursing programmes were presented to Senate with a recommendation for approval from Education Committee. Senate endorsed the approval.

**Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Senate is on Wednesday 22 September 2021 at 2.00pm.