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## Senate

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### Open Minutes

Date of meeting: **Wednesday, 26 September 2018**

Duration of meeting: **2.00pm to 4.30pm**

Location: **G5.05 High Wycombe Campus**

### Attendance

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership
<b>Rebecca Bunting</b>	Vice-Chancellor's Office	Ex-officio (Chair)
<b>Miriam Moir</b>	Academic Registry	Secretary
<b>Nick Braisby</b>	Vice-Chancellor's Office	Ex-officio
<b>Sean Mackney</b>	Vice-Chancellor's Office	Ex-officio
<b>Ellie Smith</b>	Academic Registry	Ex-officio
<b>Julie Irwin</b>	Student Success	Ex-officio
<b>Phil Wood</b>	Aviation & Security	Ex-officio
<b>Kevin Maher</b>	Business, Law & Computing	Ex-officio
<b>Stephen Partridge</b>	Media & Creative Industries	Ex-officio
<b>Lynn Viatge</b>	Health Care and Social Work	Ex-officio
<b>Paul Morgan</b>	Human and Social Sciences	Ex-officio
<b>Karen Buckwell-Nutt</b>	Nursing and Allied Health	Ex-officio
<b>Cass Davenport</b>	Aviation & Security	Elected
<b>Lauren Vincent</b>	Art, Design and Performance	Elected
<b>Rob Penhaligon</b>	Media & Creative Industries	Elected
<b>Lee Curtis</b>	Health Care and Social Work	Elected
<b>Dearbhla Gallagher</b>	Human and Social Sciences	Elected
<b>Helen Ayo-Ajayi</b>	Nursing and Allied Health	Elected
<b>Richard Jones</b>	Education Committee representative	Nominated
<b>Margaret Greenfields</b>	Research & Enterprise Committee representative	Nominated
<b>John Mariampillai</b>	Partnerships Board representative	Nominated
<b>Lauren O'Shea</b>	Students' Union President	Student Member
<b>Georgia Nosal</b>	Student's Union Vice-President	Student Member

## Apologies

Name	School/Directorate	Category of membership
Sri-Kartini Leet	Art, Design & Performance	Ex-officio
John Hathaway	Business, Law & Computing	Elected
Florin Ioras	Research	Ex-officio

## Welcome / Apologies for absence

18.98 The Chair welcomed members to the Senate meeting. Apologies for absence were received.

## Minutes of the meetings held on 6 June 2018 and 9 July 2018

18.99 The open minutes of the Senate meeting held on 6 June 2018, and those of the extraordinary meeting held on 9 July 2018 to discuss the Bucks Academic Framework, were both approved as accurate records.

## Status of actions from the 6 June 2018 meeting

18.100 It was noted that all actions arising from the meeting held on 6 June 2018 had been completed.

## Chair's Actions taken since the previous meeting

18.101 Senate endorsed the Chair's Actions taken since the last meeting as noted on the summary sheet provided.

## Senate Terms of Reference and new members

18.102 It was noted that due to the restructuring of the University from Faculties to Schools, a number of new membership categories had been created on Senate. In addition to each Head of School now being an ex-officio member, new membership categories comprised one elected teaching representative from each School and one nominated representative from Education Committee, Research & Enterprise Committee and Partnerships Board. All members introduced themselves and were welcomed to Senate by the Chair.

18.103 The Terms of Reference for Senate were scrutinised, and it was noted that an important role of Senate was to discuss and debate issues of interest to the University.

## Vice Chancellor's Report to Senate

18.104 The Vice-Chancellor gave a verbal report drawing Senate's attention to three main subjects.

18.105 The Auger review of post 18 funding was underway and due to report in mid-October, although this may be delayed due to a separate review of the accounting treatment of the government's student loan debt.

- 18.106 The Migration Advisory Committee under the Home Office has been considering the issue of migration/Brexit, and it appears that little account has been taken of the needs of education, particularly of international students. The post-study working visa proposed by UUK had been rejected. It was noted that the leave to remain for international Masters students was to be extended to 6 months, and for PhDs to 12 months: however, these were not work visas. Little information on the status of European students post Brexit was yet forthcoming.
- 18.107 The nationwide awareness of student mental health had been raised recently with the publication of a supportive toolkit by UUK. It was suggested that a University working group to put the toolkit into action was required, and this would be discussed by SMT.  
**ACTION:** Chair
- 18.108 It was noted that in terms of recruitment at the University, acceptances had increased by 1% on the previous year. Offers made at Clearing had risen from 192 last year to 550 in 2018 which was evidence of an increasing interest in Bucks and the programmes it offers. The Foundation Year was proving particularly popular, with 184 offers made: it was noted that this reflected the Bucks mission to widen participation.
- 18.109 It was pleasing to note that the University had risen 9 places in *The Times Good University Guide*, and was performing well in relation to its competitors in the south-east. The Vice-Chancellor concluded by thanking Bucks staff for all their hard work, particularly over the summer period.

## **NSS 2018 Outcomes**

- 18.110 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor gave a presentation on the outcome of the 2018 National Student Survey results. It was noted that the results were important in terms of the University's reputation, with varying sections feeding into different Guides to Universities and to the TEF.
- 18.111 It was noted that Bucks had improved its scores in every area in the Survey, taking Bucks' overall satisfaction to 5% above the sector average, a very significant move which meant that Bucks was outperforming many of its competitors. Eight courses had achieved maximum satisfaction scores, with the learning community and assessment and feedback categories scoring highly. The University was particularly proud that Bucks Student Union was classed as number 1 in the UK.
- 18.112 It was also noted that some areas still needed to improve, with 6 courses having a below 60% satisfaction rate, and a further 5 below 25%. The University also needs to improve in the course organisation and content categories, and in learning resources.
- 18.113 The demographic trends were noted, and plans to share this with personal Tutors so that they could target the less-satisfied categories were discussed.
- 18.114 Schools were producing Action Plans to make further improvements, and the Director of Student Success was leading a cross-University working group, in partnership with the Students' Union. Plans were in train to ensure that the language of the Survey is reflected back to students in a number of way, including in module evaluations.
- 18.115 The presentation closed with the DVC thanking all for their hard work in achieving the improved results.

## **Strategic Planning of Committee Business**

18.116 The Chairs of three University Committees updated Senate on their proposed business for the forthcoming year as follows:

18.117 Research & Enterprise Committee:

- Preparation for REF 2021 – development of a Code of Practice for selection of research staff, and consideration of reports from external assessors of outputs and Impact Case Studies
- Operationalising of the Research & Enterprise Strategy – research student experience, development of Professional Doctorate and DBA programmes with Staffordshire University, monitoring performance of research and knowledge exchange activities in the Schools, development of policies and processes to enable all to be engaged in research and enterprise activities.

18.118 Education Committee business will include:

- Review of educational quality at Partners
- NSS Action Plans
- Assessment and Grading Criteria
- BAME attainment
- Programme Renaissance
- Personal Tutoring
- Introduction of placement options in all programmes

18.119 Partnerships Board business will include:

- Consolidating provision at Partners and improving quality
- Consolidating UK Partners but expanding overseas
- Development of academic connections with bodies such as Pinewood Studios, Silverstone and Stoke Mandeville Hospital.
- Focus on Annual Reports and action plans from Partners.

## **Update on Recommendations to Senate from Q&S/Education Committees' Report 2016-17 (SEN18.20)**

18.120 Senate was reminded that it had been given a first update on these recommendations at its March meeting, and that a further update was now being given prior to the next round of Annual Monitoring.

18.121 Reference was made to the paper provided, and it was noted that progress had been made on all the recommendations. It was also noted that some would be required to have further work undertaken in 2018-19.

## **Joint Senate/Council meeting 19 November 2018**

18.122 Senate members were reminded that the joint meeting was held as part of the University's Annual Monitoring process, with the express purpose of considering the overview reports (Education Committee and Quality Reports) which are provided in advance of the meeting, to make observations, to discuss issues arising from them in groups comprising both Council and Senate members, and to allow Council members to

challenge the University over academic quality and standards in a question and answer session.

18.123 The meeting has to make the decision over whether academic standards have been maintained, and Council members have to confirm a number of assurances regarding continuous improvement of the student experience and outcomes, and that the standards of awards have been maintained.

18.124 It was noted that the joint meeting for 2018 was to be held on 19 November.

### **Amendment to Academic Assessment Regulations (SEN18.21)**

18.125 A paper proposing a number of changes to the reassessment limits and to compensation rules was discussed and referred back for further discussion at Education Committee. **ACTION:** Ellie Smith

### **Validation: recommendation of awards for approval (SEN18.22)**

18.126 Senate reviewed the outcomes of validation events held since the previous meeting, and noted that the following had also now received sign off of conditions met:

BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice – sign off of HCPC accreditation

BA (Hons) Fashion & Textiles

Programmes for delivery by London School of Science & Technology

18.127 Senate approved programmes for delivery where there were no conditions and where the conditions set had been satisfactorily completed.

18.128 Senate noted that there were a number of courses which had gone to Validation in late July and August with conditions still outstanding and requiring Chair's sign off. Heads of School were asked to follow up on outstanding cases as a matter of urgency.

**ACTION:** Heads of Schools

### **External Examiner Approval Panel Report (SEN18.23)**

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

18.130 It was noted that Senate would find it useful for the home institutions of the external examiners to be noted on the report in future.

**ACTION:** Ellie Smith

### **Date of next meeting**

18.131 The next meeting is the joint meeting with Council on Monday 19 November 2018 4.00pm-5.30pm.