



SENATE

Open Minutes

Of the meeting held on Wednesday, 22 September 2021 at MSTeams.

Present:

Professor Gavin Brooks	Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Rachel Cragg	Pro Vice-Chancellor Education & Digital
Ms Ellie Smith	University Secretary and Clerk to Council
Professor Florin Ioras	Director of Enterprise and Research
Ms Miriam Moir	Interim Academic Registrar
Ms Julie Irwin	Director of Student Success
Professor Karen Buckwell-Nutt	Director of the Institute for Health and Social Care
Dr Russel Stone	Head of School, Creative & Digital Industries
Dr Simon Jones	Head of School, Business & Law
Professor Paul Morgan	Head of School, Human and Social Sciences
Professor Musa Mihsein	Head of School, Aviation & Security
Professor Sri-Kartini Leet	Head of School, Art, Design & Performance
Dr Lisa Reynolds	Head of School, Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health
Ms Pia Carnegie	Elected representative, Business & Law
Ms Brigitte Stockton	Elected representative, Art, Design & Performance
Ms Hilary Mullen	Elected representative, Creative & Digital Industries
Ms Daisy Toscano	Elected representative, Health Care & Social Work
Ms Louisa Berry	Elected representative, Aviation & Security
Dr Dearbhla Gallagher	Elected representative, Human & Social Sciences
Dr Sainey Faye	Nominated representative, University Partnerships Board
Ms Honor Fletcher	Students' Union President
Ms Natasha Neal	Students' Union Vice-President- Education & Welfare
Mrs Leah Hill	Senior Registry Officer: Governance and Quality (Secretary)

Apologies:

Professor Nick Braisby, Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Matters Arising / Status of Actions

21.67 It was noted that all outstanding actions were complete.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2021

21.68 The Minutes were approved as an accurate record with one minor change to Dr Lisa Reynolds' title, from Ms to Dr.

Chair's Report

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

- The University's financial position and outlook continues to look positive
- It was noted that the Comprehensive Spending Review is expected in Autumn 2021 and this is likely to cover a three-year period, which should provide increased sector stability. Intentions regarding AUGAR are expected within the same timeframe (Autumn 2021). Discussions and modelling regarding the potential impact on the University are ongoing with Council and the wider University.
- Covid-19 - the Chair confirmed measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of students, staff and the wider community during the next academic year, where we will see a return to face to face teaching. Louisa Berry, Covid University Clinical Governance Lead gave an update on these measures, including signage, lateral flow testing, drop-in vaccination clinics, and the vaccine voice initiative.
- The recent Open Day was noted as a success, with record numbers of attendees. However, some members did register their concern regarding the event not feeling Covid-secure and urged consideration of this when planning the next Open Day.
- Ofsted – the huge amount of ongoing work to ensure that our apprenticeships continue to meet the expectations of the Ofsted quality assurance standards. was acknowledged. PVC Education and Digital thanked colleagues for their work and noted that there are still areas for development which must remain an institutional priority.
- Student Recruitment:
 - Recruitment in many disciplines is approaching or has reached target numbers and, despite numbers falling short in a couple of Schools, there are examples of where recruitment has exceeded target. Particular successes are noted for Health and Social Care programmes and Aviation and Security programmes. Postgraduate numbers are also significantly higher for 21/22 entry vs 20/21 cohorts.
 - To date, the University has issued 198 CAS letters to overseas applicants during this application cycle.
 - The continued efforts of all involved in the recruitment and enrolment of students was acknowledged.

Matters for Approval / Discussion

Curriculum 23

21.70 In advance of this meeting, Senate received a paper regarding Curriculum 23. Professor Rachel Cragg highlighted key information, including the principles and approach proposed for approval, via a presentation to Senate members during the meeting.

21.71 It was noted that further discussions around resources and associated timelines would take place outside of this meeting.

21.72 Professor Cragg acknowledged that further detailed work and consultation would be required. However, approval of the principles of the project was requested by Senate to enable that further work to commence.

21.73 Senate members acknowledged the significant impact this level of change would have, and that sufficient engagement and resource needs to be in place to deliver.

21.74 The principles were agreed with minor modification:

- Principle 2 - amend 3 entry points to read 'more than 1'
- Principle 7 – agree to the integration of placements, but further consideration about whether placements are guaranteed or provided as an 'opportunity'
- Principle 9 – To note the need to consider how 'top up' courses fit within the curriculum architecture.

21.75 It was agreed that this work progresses through Education Committee for consideration and a standing item added to the Senate agenda for regular Curriculum 23 updates.

Action: Professor Cragg

No Detriment Policy (NDP): Emergency Measures

21.76 At the June 2021 meeting, a paper was presented to Senate regarding the current position with the *No Detriment Policy: Emergency Measures*, with a proposal for the way forward for 2021-22. At the meeting, Senate asked for further details of the impact of the NDP on students in 2020-21, and assurance that standard regulations would provide requisite support for students in 2021-22 should the NDP be removed.

21.77 An updated report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

21.78 After discussion, Senate approved and supported the move to take the University out of the Emergency Measures invoked under the NDP with the return to face-to face teaching and validated assessment regimes. Senate requested, however, that in 2021/22 the calculation of a student's final classification should continue to be calculated based on both Level 5 – 33% / Level 6 – 67% and Level 6 marks only, with the student being awarded the highest classification.

Degree Algorithms

21.79 A paper proposing a change to the University's degree algorithm was circulated in advance of the meeting.

21.80 It was recognised that this would be a regulatory change to existing policy and the University will need to maintain compliance which may be challenging to operationalise within the suggested timescales. Senate noted the paper and agreed that this work should progress at pace with the aim of introducing any changes to the existing policy by the end of this academic year, if possible.

OFS Consultation on Quality & Standards

21.81 Senate was asked to consider the summary provided within the paper circulated in advance of the meeting and approve the recommended actions. A key aspect noted was the fact that B conditions will apply to all provision, including programmes delivered at partner colleges.

21.82 Senate approved the recommended actions.

Academic Promotions 2020-21

21.83 A report showing Academic Promotions, with the applications and outcomes broken down into equality profiles, had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted.

Terms of Reference 2021-22

21.84 The Terms of Reference had been circulated with minor changes to the ex-officio membership and were approved by Senate members.

Senate Debates 2021-22

21.85 Due to time constraints, Senate members agreed to defer this item to the December Senate meeting.

Reports to receive

Council Report

21.86 The Minutes from the meetings held on 1 June and 20 July 2021 had been circulated and were received.

SU Report

21.87 The SU President gave a verbal report to Senate members and the following points were noted:

- The SU is looking forward to receiving School NSS Action Plans
- Further detail was given around the SU collaborative participation approach
- Concerns around timetabling and joining instructions were highlighted

21.88 The Chair thanked the SU for its report and confirmed that conversations around timetabling and joining instructions concerns would continue outside of this meeting.

Academic Planning Committee

21.33 The Minutes from the meetings held on 28 May and 8 July 2021 had been circulated and were received.

Education Committee

21.89 The Minutes from the meetings held on 12 May and 23 June 2021 had been circulated and were received.

Matters for endorsement

External Examiner Approval Panel

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

New Programmes of Study and Revalidations

21.34 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.

Covid-19 addendum to the Student Code of Conduct

- 21.91 A paper concerning the removal of the Covid-19 addendum to the Student Code of Conduct due to the recent lifting of the majority of Government restrictions.
- 21.92 Senate was asked to endorse the recommendation to allow the Covid-19 addendum to expire and to revert to utilising the full Student Code of Conduct and the Halls License / Accommodation Discipline Procedure (whichever is most appropriate for each case) going forward. The additional clause (paragraph 38) within the Student Code of Conduct should remain to enable swift action to be taken in exceptional circumstances.
- 21.93 Senate endorsed the recommendation and approved the retention of the additional clause.

Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 1.00pm.