A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 14 October 2015 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond
Dr Maarten Ambaum
Dr Karen Ayers
Dr L. Becker
Professor Dianne Berry
Professor Jonathan Bignell
Dr Nick Branch
Professor Gavin Brooks
Professor Laurie Butler
Dr Amanda Callaghan
Professor Ben Cosh
Dr John Creighton
Professor Richard Ellis
Professor Richard Frazier
Dr Carol Fuller
Professor Roger Gibbard
Professor Ginny Gibson
Professor Roberta Gilchrist
Professor Suzanne Graham
Professor Stuart Green
Dr Paul Hatcher
Mr Bruce Howell
Professor Eric Kindel
Professor Peter Kruschwitz
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Professor Annalisa Marzano
Professor Roger Matthews
Dr Emma Mayhew
Professor Steve Mithen

Dr Steve Musson
Professor Helen Parish
Dr Daisy Powell
Mr Enzo Raimo
Mrs Edith Rigby
Dr Calvin Smith
Professor David Stack
Mr David Stannard
Dr Catherine Tissot
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Parveen Yaqoob
The University Secretary

Students:

Mr Ben Cooper
Ms Nina Hager
Mr Niall Hamilton
Mr James Hart
Mr Oli Ratcliffe

Faculty Representatives:

Ms Daisy Robinson
Mr Sam Chaheer
Mr Pip Oppenheimer
Mr Edward White

In attendance:

Ms Louise Sharman

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed new members to the Senate.

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:

Emeritus Professor Roger Mead. Lecturer in Applied Statistics from September 1966, Senior Lecturer 1971, Reader 1978, Professor of Applied Statistics 1989. He became Head of Department in Applied Statistics in 1986, and was appointed Dean
of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food in 1993. He became Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1996, and retired in 2000.

**Emeritus Professor Roy Gregory**, who joined the Department of Politics in 1964. He was appointed Reader in 1973 and to Professor in 1976, and served as Head of Department from 1985 to 1989. He retired in 2000.

**Mr Leslie Chubb**, senior experimental officer in the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture in 1976. He retired in 1993.

**Professor Alexei Likhtman**, Professor of Mathematical Physics since 2007.

15/56 The Minutes (15/22-15/44) of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 were approved.

15/57 Report of a Committee of Selection (Item 2a)

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

(i) Professor of Soil Ecology  
(ii) Associate Professor in Language Education & Literacy Development  
(iii) Professor of Social Pharmacy  
(iv) Professor of Architecture and the Built Environment  
(v) Associate Professor in Accounting and Financial Management  
(vi) Professor of Sociolinguistics  
(vii) Associate Professor in International Relations  
(viii) Associate Professor in Educational Leadership and Management  
(ix) Associate Professor in Testing and Assessment

15/58 Elections (Item 2b)

(i) Election of one member of each School other than the Head of School to the Senate to serve for the period to 31 July 2018: To receive a report that the following have been elected:

    Literature and Languages: Dr Cindy Becker  
    Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences: Dr Eugene McSorley

(ii) Election of five Professors to the Senate to serve for the period to 31 July 2018: To receive a report that the following have been elected:

    Professor Eric Kindel

It was reported that a further four vacancies remains in this Class for the period to 31 July 2018.

(iii) Election of three members of the Academic and Academic-related Staff not being Professors to the Senate: To receive a report that the following have been elected:
(iv) Election to the Senate of one member by and from amongst the registered students of each Faculty for the Session 2014-15: It was reported that the following had been elected:

Arts, Humanities and Social Science:  Ms Daisy Robinson
Henley Business School:  Mr Sam Chaher
Life Sciences:  Ms Pip Oppenheimer
Science:  Mr Edward White

15/59 Students' Union (item 2c)

The Senate approved a proposal from the Students' Union that the following five Officers be included in membership of the Senate:

The President (Mr Oli Ratcliffe)
The Education Officer (Mr Niall Hamilton)
The Welfare Officer (Ms Nina Hager)
The Engagement & Communication Officer (Mr James Hart)
The Community and Development Officer (Mr Ben Cooper).

15/60 Membership of the Senate 2015/16 (item 2d)

The Senate received a list of its members for the session 2015/16.

15/61 Senate Standing Orders (item 2e)

The Senate received for its information, the Senate Standing Orders.

15/62 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

The Vice-Chancellor addressed the Senate, referring in particular to:

a) His appreciation for the hard work and effort of colleagues into the recent confirmation week, welcome week and open days.

b) The strong admissions round in 2015 despite increasing competitiveness across the sector. REDACTED – S43 The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) informed the Senate that meetings continued to be held with BIS, HEA, HEFCE, QAA and the NUS. It was expected that a Green Paper was due to published shortly which would contain more information on the TEF.

c) As part of the University’s Research Plan 2020 a series of appointments of Research Division Leads had recently been made. The University Executive Board was committed to building the University’s standing as a research intensive university; a crucial part of this success was increasing the number of postgraduate research students, they were the bedrock of the University’s research growth and excellence.
d) The University had received research income of £6.75m from a wide range of funding bodies. Notable successes included:

- **REDACTED – S43** from BBSRC to Professor Reynolds in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development for a project relating to forage mixes used in animal production.
- **REDACTED – S43** from the British Academy to Dr Laws in the School of Literature and Languages for a project on word choice in spoken English.
- **REDACTED – S43** from the Met Office to Principal Investigators in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences for climate related projects.
- **REDACTED – S43** from DEFRA/BBSRC to Dr Jackson in the School of Biological Sciences as part of a **REDACTED – S43** award to a consortia addressing the protection of oak forests from disease.
- The award of a Philip Leverhulme prize to Dr Chakrabarti. The prize recognised the achievement of outstanding researchers.
- **REDACTED – S43** from the Welcome Trust to Dr O’Callaghan in the School of Literature and Languages.

e) The future of REF would be considered as part of the Government’s Spending Review. A recent independent review of the 2014 REF by Technopolis had concluded that the REF had been a success. The report had estimated the costs of REF at around £250m. REF remained an essential component of the dual support model for research funding particularly as it provided an appropriate means of funding research infrastructure whilst allowing universities to bid for competitive funds.

f) The University had obligations under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty) as a ‘specified authority’ to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The University’s Council had ultimate responsibility for ensuring the University’s compliance with the act. HEFCE had produced guidance on the approach taken to identify and understand the risk of radicalisation. The University would have a risk-based and proportionate approach.

g) The University’s campus in Malaysia was now open. Tribute was paid to all of the staff in Malaysia, as well as in the UK, for their work in opening the new campus.

h) The Home Office had issued proposals in regard to English language requirements for overseas students.

i) Recent League table performance. The University had scored an 89% satisfaction rate in the NSS (the national average was 86%). Reading was ranked 37th out of 157 higher education institutions; this remained unchanged from last year. The Students’ Union was ranked 10th. The University had also scored well in the QS and THE rankings but had fallen in The Sunday Times/Times table.

At the start of the meeting of the Senate there had been representations from a number of students outside of the Nike Theatre in respect of a potential closure of the BA Theatre Arts, Education & Deaf Studies Programme (TAEDS). The Vice-Chancellor informed members of the Senate that the potential closure was not an item for discussion on the agenda of the meeting and that any decision to close the programme was properly a matter for the University’s Programme Board,
which was due to meet on Thursday 15 October 2015. The Vice-Chancellor did, however, agree on this occasion to allow a representative from the Students’ Union and the Head of the Institute of Education, as owner of the programme, to speak to this matter.

Mr Niall Hamilton, Education Officer at the Students’ Union, informed the Senate that:

- TAEDS was a unique undergraduate programme enabling deaf and hearing students to study theatre arts, education and deaf studies. No other institution in the UK covered this range of subjects. The course was also available to overseas students.
- Students on the programme interacted both with the local community and nationally; many students contributed to outreach activities.
- It had been suggested that the reason for closure was low NSS scores; this was felt to be unfair due to the low number of students on the programme.
- The programme had recently undergone a curriculum review which had highlighted a number of changes.
- Over 1,700 people had signed the petition against closure.
- Students on the programme had gone on to careers as performance artists, audiologists and interpreters; the programme had 95% employability.
- The Students’ Union fully supported the save TAEDS campaign.

Dr Cathy Tissot, Head of the Institute of Education, thanked the Students’ Union for their comments, and informed the Senate that:

- Any decision to close a programmes was not taken quickly or lightly. The proposed closure of TAEDS was one of four proposals being considered by the Programme Board on 15 October 2015.
- Student feedback on the programme was not solely about the NSS scores; focus groups and a curriculum review had been held.
- There was no relationship between cohort size and NSS score; other programmes with small cohort sizes had good NSS scores.
- Recruitment to the programme was low; seven students had been recruited in 2015.
- The programme did not access any modules in any other programmes; this was the very opposite of inclusive practice.
- In the latest leavers survey the majority of students were employed outside the field of interpreters, or drama.
- The lack of viability of a programme was not just about economics it was also about student satisfaction.

The Senate were reminded that any decision to close a programme was properly a matter for the Programme Board.
The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 29 June, 13 July, 7 and 28 September 2015.

In regard to matters for report 1) the Senate noted the work undertaken to date by the Academic Structures Implementation Group in respect of Teaching and Learning, and Postgraduate Research policies and procedures. It was reported that the Group was currently reviewing HR related matters. The University Secretary asked members of the Senate to email him with any concerns in regard to areas that might have been missed by the Group.

In regard to item 5) the Senate noted that a series of amendments had been made to the Personal Titles arrangements for 2015/16 and that further changes would be made to take effect from the start of the 2016/17 session. A proposal in regard to these changes would be brought back to the Senate during the Spring Term.

The President of Reading UCU, Dr Paul Hatcher, informed the Senate that UCU viewed amendment 4 v a) (Fellowship of the HEA become an essential criterion for promotion for any members of academic staff with Teaching in their contract) to be a major amendment and had several concerns in regard to this change. This matter would be raised by UCU with the joint negotiating committee. The University Secretary informed the Senate that Staffing Committee had not viewed the proposals as major changes.

In regard to item 8 the RUSU Welfare Officer stated that the University needed to be clearer in distinguishing between violence against women and lad/loutish culture. It was noted that the Students’ Union had previously expressed concerns around some of the terminology used in a number of areas, for e.g. refuse to be a victim, and required further information on any disciplinary route that would be taken.

15/65 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term (Item 5 a)

The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term 2015 for breaches of discipline other than academic misconduct and neglect of work.

15/66 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 5b)

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 14 July and 23 September 2015.

In regard to item 2 it was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had approved, on behalf of the Senate, new procedures for managing unacceptable behaviour when dealing with student complaints and appeals of results in light of revised procedures for considering appeals of results and the OIA good practice framework.

The Senate approved further changes to the membership and terms of reference for the University Board for Teaching and Learning and its sub-committees. The revised
committee structure would be reviewed during the course of the session.

In regard to item 4 it was noted that as part of the new academic structure consideration would be given to the role of School Directors of Teaching and Learning (SDTL) and their responsibilities. In addition, each School would be expected to have a School Board for Teaching and Learning in the new structure.

In regard to item 10 h) it was noted that good progress had been made on ensuring that all undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, where appropriate, would submit summative coursework electronically. A steering group was currently investigating the possibility of accelerated delivery of e-submission and e-assessment by the end of the 2015-16 session.

15/67 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Science (Item 5c)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 23 September 2015.

In regard to item 4 the Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences expressed concern, on behalf of the Faculty Management Board, around the lack of visible progress of the review of Professional and Administrative Staff (PAS). It was reported that PAS was causing increasing anguish for many colleagues within the University and that recent departures had an impact not only on the staff remaining but also on students, particularly during Welcome Week.

15/68 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science (Item 5d)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 18 September 2015.

The Dean of the Faculty of Science echoed the views of the Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences in regard to PAS.

15/69 Report of the Management Board of the International Project Board (Item 5e)

The Senate approved the Report of the International Project Board held on 7 July 2015.

The Senate noted that that NUIST-University of Reading Academy had opened last month. Two 3+1 programmed were initially being offered.

15/70 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 5f)

The Senate received the Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results held on 20, 23 and 24 July 2015 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions.

15/71 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct (Item 5g)
The Senate received the Report of meetings of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct held on 23, and 24 June, 2 and 13 July, and 28 September 2015 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions.

15/72 Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees (Item 5h)

The Senate, for its part, approved the Report of the meeting of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees.

15/73 Retirement of Professors (Item 6a)

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance B7 the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon each of the following with effect from the date indicated:

Professor Chris Guy (30 September 2015)
Professor Andy Goodwyn (30 September 2015)
Professor Kevin Warwick (31 March 2016)

15/74 Other Retirements (Item 6b)

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that each of the following be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years with effect from the date indicated:

Ms Hilary Feltham (30 June 2015)
Mr Roger Sammons (31 July 2015)
Mrs Alison Fabian (31 August 2015)
Mr David Young (30 September 2015)

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting