A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 2 December 2015 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

- The Vice-Chancellor
- Mrs Edith Rigby
- Professor Virginie Ruiz
- Dr Libby Schweber
- Dr Calvin Smith
- Mr David Stannard
- Professor Philip Stratton-Lake
- Dr Craig Steel
- Dr Catherine Tissot
- Professor Robert Van de Noort
- Professor Sue Walker
- 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:
- Mr Sam Chaher
- Mr Pip Oppenheimer
- Mr Edward White

In attendance:
- Ms Louise Sharman

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

Emerita Professor Mary Bryden, Lecturer in the Department of French Studies from 1993, Head of the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies, School Director of Research, and Co-Director of the Becket International Foundation. She left the University in October 2013.

Dr Barry Holden, senior lecturer in Politics from 1963 to 2011.
Professor Christopher Duggan, who joined the University 1987, served several times as Head of the Department of Italian Studies, Head of the School of Languages and European Studies between 2008 to 2013.

15/79 The Minutes (15/55-15/74) of the meeting held on 14 October 2015 were approved.

15/80 Elections (Item 2b)

It was noted that four vacancies for Professorial representatives remained for the period to 31 July 2018.

15/81 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

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

a) The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Although the picture was evolving some elements were already known:

- It would be introduced in a phased way; criteria and metrics would develop over time.
- Year one (TEF 1) would be dependent on holding a current quality assessment review (the University received a successful QAA review in 2012). Meeting that expectation would enable inflationary fee uplifts from 2017-18.
- Higher levels of TEF (2, 3 and 4) would follow.
- All subject areas would be covered, with the potential to evolve postgraduate provision for future exercises.
- The TEF would recognise those institutions that did the most to support access and participation from disadvantaged groups.
- The TEF would act as a mechanism for driving compliance with consumer law.
- It would be integrated with the wider quality assessment system.
- The timetable for implementation was very tight.

b) The Green Paper also covered other important issues, including:

- Greater emphasis in the role universities play in promoting social mobility.
- Simpler arrangements for new providers to enter the sector and acquire a university title.
- Seeking the view on the role of students unions and what steps needed to be taken to increase transparency and accountability.

c) The Nurse Review. The first third of the review articulated research as a public good, the need to take a long-term view, supporting research of many different types, the necessity of those who made funding decisions being those best
qualified to judge the research - essentially a restatement of the Haldane Principle. The report also critiqued various aspects of the operations and ways of working of the research councils. The review called for better collaborative working with business, government departments and Innovate UK, as well as promoting a more outward facing role internationally for research councils. The report proposed that Research Councils UK become a more formal body, Research UK, with a single accounting officer. Research UK would speak to Government for the research councils as a whole, be responsible for delivering cross-council strategy and would become a single back-office. Nurse was at pains to stress that the identities of the research councils within Research UK should remain distinct.

d) The Spending Review. It was noted that:

- Funding for science would be protected in real terms, rather than cash terms. There would also be a new £1.5 billion Global Challenges Fund.
- Teaching Grant (£1.4 billion) would be cut by £120 million by 2019-20. High cost subject funding would be protected in real terms.
- Student opportunity funding would be cut.
- Current students and graduates who had taken out loans after 2012 would be asked to pay more in repayments.
- Postgraduate loans would be introduced for 2016.
- Student maintenance grants would be replaced by loans.
- Maintenance loans would be introduced for part-time students in 2018-19.

15/82 Report of the Strategy and Finance Committee (Item 4a)

There was no report on this occasion.

15/83 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 4b)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 12 and 26 October, 9 and 23 November 2015.

In regard to the Student Contract the Senate noted implications in relation to Programme Specifications in particular that they would need to be produced and ready to send out to potential students at offer stage. In regard to item 3) the Senate noted progress on changes required to finance and HR processes as a result of the implementation of the new academic structure.

In regard to matters for recommendation 2) the Senate approved the terms and conditions and programme specification for the Student Contract. In regard to matters for recommendation 3) the Senate, for its part, approved changes to the process for the conferment of honorary, visiting and courtesy titles.
The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 14 October, 2 and 17 November 2015.

In regard to item 2) Student Contract it was noted that work was continuing on the articulation of additional course costs to students.

In regard to item 3) it was noted that the Board had approved the final review of the Curriculum Framework and Review Steering Group. The curriculum framework articulated graduate attributes; established the academic principles upon which the Reading curriculum was based; and defined a set of pedagogic principles.

In regard to item 6) it was noted that the Board had approved proposals to amend the responsibilities of School Directors of Teaching and Learning (SDTL) and the process for their selection and appointment. The amendments to the SDTL’s responsibilities, which would come into effect from 2016-17, reflected changes to the University’s academic structure. The proposals indicated that the role should be appointed at a minimum of 0.5 to 0.8 FTE.

In regard to item 8) a Learning Gain Steering Group had been established to support the three-year HEFCE funded Learning Gain Project.

In regard to item 9) UoRM was awaiting the outcome of potential ‘recognition’ of the MPharm programme by the Pharmacy Board Malaysia.

In regard to item 14) the Board had approved a proposal for a revised Project for E-Assessment at Reading (PEAR) vision that all summative coursework would be submitted, marked and graded electronically by the start of the 2017/18 session. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) would be writing to Schools on this matter before the end of term.

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the University Board for Research and Innovation held on 18 November 2015.

It was noted that the Board had reviewed governance arrangements to support the implementation of the 2020 research plan and to reflect new structures for managing research; membership had been revised to include five academic representatives (one from each research theme).

In regard to item 3) progress on the 2020 Research Plan was noted. The evolving research plan mapped well onto changes in the external research landscape.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen) reported that the University was considering two expressions of interests for the Wellcome Trust Our Planet Our Earth funding.
positive meeting had also been held with BBSRC in the previous week.

15/86 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science (Item 5c)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science held on 1 July, 15 October and 11 November 2015.

In particular, it was noted that in order to facilitate the transition to the new academic structure the Board had been changed into a community of practice. The community of practice would act as a forum for discussion of issues of wider concern after the Faculty structure came to an end.

Two issues of concern has been raised at the Board. The impact of the Professional and Administrative Services (PAS) review on Schools, especially in regard to teaching and learning operations, and concerns from a number of departments in regard to the web pages.

15/87 Joint Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science and Life Sciences (Item 5d)

The Senate approved the Joint Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science and Life Sciences held on 11 November 2015.

It was reported that Professor Ian Jones had received recently been awarded a £1.4m grant to develop a new vaccine for Bovine TB.

The Dean reported to the Senate similar concerns to those of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science in regard to PAS.

15/88 Report of the Management Board of the Henley Business School (Item 5e)

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Henley Business School held on 11 November 2015.

15/89 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 5f)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results held on 16 October 2015 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions.
15/90 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct (Item 5g)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct held on 2 November 2015 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions.

15/91 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement & Fitness to Study (Item 5h)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study held on 23 July 2015 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions.

15/92 Other Items (Item 6)

a) It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had appointed Dr Catherine Tissot to the Statute XXXIII Panel to serve until 31 July 2017.

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

Miss J. Edwards (31 October 2015)

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting