A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 2.30 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Dr M J Almond
Mr N Bayley
Professor A R Bell
Professor J C Bignell
Professor J Board
Professor G Brooks
Professor S N Chandler-Wilde
Professor R W Chapman
Professor T A Downes
Professor J A Ellis
Professor R H Ellis
Dr M D E Fellowes
Professor P R Ghondhi
Mr R Gibbard
Professor V A Gibson
Dr P J Giddings
Dr M J Gooding
Professor S D Green
Professor P Grindrod
Professor B Heuser
Professor M E Hodson
Mrs C Hughes
Dr S L Jury
Professor U S Kambhampati
Dr O Kennedy
Professor H King
Dr M-M Kleinhans
Dr M E Lewis
Professor P Luna
Mr T Macfadyen
Professor G Marston
Professor G P Meen
Dr P Miskell
Professor S J Mithen
Dr I Mueller-Harvey

Mrs J H Munro
Professor J R Park
Mr T Pitman
Professor R B Potter
Dr C Print
Ms A C Quinn
Ms R J Richards
Professor R L Robson
Mr D M Roch
Dr V F Ruiz
Professor J D Saddy
Professor C M S Sutcliffe
Dr F Tallett
Dr A P Tonkyn
Professor G H Tucker
Professor S F Walker
Professor A C Williams
Professor C M Williams
Dr P E Woodman

Students

Ms B Brooke
Mr C Campbell
Mr A Sollesse

In attendance:

Mrs J A Ghandhi
Mr K N Hodgson
Mr S P R Horan
Dr R J Messer
Mr D C L Savage

(* in margin denotes that a copy of the document has been inserted in the Minute Book).
The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to Dr A. Ibbetson who had died since the last meeting of the Senate. Alan Ibbetson had been appointed Lecturer in the Department of Geophysics (now Meteorology) in 1970 and had retired in 1994.

The sabbatical officers of the Students’ Union had sent their apologies for absence from this meeting. At their request, the Vice-Chancellor read a statement to the Senate which explained that they were engaged in campaigning with members of the local community in Reading against Government proposals in regard to the future funding of higher education and would be joining a lobby of Parliament the following day.

*10/82 The Minutes (10/59-10/74) of the meeting held on 13 October 2010 were confirmed and signed.

10/83 Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2(a))

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Willis Professorship of Climate Science and Climate Hazard
* (ii) Readership (part-time) in Space and Atmospheric Physics
* (iii) Deputy Directorship of Human Resources

10/84 Elections (Item 2(b))

Appointment of one member of the Senate not being a registered student of the University to the Council. The Senate received a report that, in the ballot recently concluded, votes had been cast as follows:

Ms N. Cazimoglu  24
Professor G. Marston  35

and that, accordingly, Professor Marston had been appointed by the Senate to membership of the Council in Class 5 for the period ending 31 July 2013.

10/85 Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor:

(a) noted with pleasure a number of significant grant awards, most notably from the European Research Council and the Leverhulme Trust. Donations from alumni to the Annual Fund had more than doubled since its inception some five years earlier; and the University
was playing a prominent role in the Met Office Partnership, a structured collaboration which had recently been launched. Colleagues from across the University were to be congratulated on these, and many other, achievements;

(b) informed the Senate of the University’s developing interest in a proposition whereby it might establish a campus in South East Asia which built upon its longstanding reputation in that part of the world. Details of the proposed arrangement remained commercially confidential for the time being but a further report would be brought to the Senate in due course;

(c) observed that the outcomes of the continuing discussion regarding the future funding of higher education remained beset by rumour and speculation ahead of a Parliamentary vote on the matter the following day. The full implications for individual universities would remain unclear until the arrival of the HEFCE grant letter in February 2011 and potentially beyond.

**10/86 Senior Management Board: 11 and 25 October and 8 and 22 November 2010 (Item 4)**

* The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the Senior Management Board held on 11 and 25 October and 8 and 22 November 2010 and approved the recommendations contained therein.

In regard to item 1 (Merger of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences), the Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences merge with effect from 1 August 2011 under the title Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science.

In regard to item 3 (Government Cap on Migrant Workers), the Vice-Chancellor explained that several leading universities had already exhausted their quota of Tier 2 certificates, thus preventing them for the time being from recruiting any further staff from beyond the EU. Partly in response to pressure from the sector, Government had indicated that some relaxation of this regime might in time be forthcoming. Meanwhile, UUK continue to lobby on behalf of universities in regard to the limitations placed on the recruitment of international students by the current policy in relation to Tier 4 certificates.

**10/87 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 5(a))**

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 7 and 20 October and 8 and 25 November 2010 and agreed to recommend to the Council:

(a) a new Ordinance LXXIV to provide for the award of a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education; and
alterations to Ordinance LXII (Postgraduate Certificates) to remove the requirement that a student must satisfy the Examiners in all modules and to rationalise the formal provisions for re-assessment.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Robson) drew attention to the University’s enviable, and improving, record in the National Student Survey and offered congratulations to Professor Rachel McCrindle (HEA Engineering Teacher of the Year) and Dr John Creighton (National Teaching Fellow).

On behalf of colleagues in the School of Literature and Languages, Dr Tonkyn raised concerns:

(a) in regard to decisions of the Board relating to careers learning. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Robson) explained that matters of practical implementation remained open to discussion within the policy framework that had been set out;

(b) in regard to decisions of the Board relating to the assessment regime for modules at Part 2. Dr Kleinhans explained that it had not been the Board’s intention to champion continuous assessment but, rather, to encourage reflection within Schools as to the most pedagogically appropriate means of examination; and

(c) in regard to the fitness of suspended students to return to study. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Robson) asked that the specific cases to which Dr Tonkyn referred be brought to his immediate attention.

10/88 Report of the University Board for Research and Innovation (Item 5(b))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the University Board for Research and Innovation held on 24 November 2010.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) drew attention to the University’s strong and sustained performance in the winning of research grants and contracts. The University held second place within the 1994 Group for its research degree qualification rate and colleagues from across the University were to be congratulated on this notable achievement.

10/89 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Item 5(c))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities held on 20 October and 17 November 2010.

10/90 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Item 5(d))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences held on 28 October and 23 November 2010.
The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 29 September and 27 October and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science on 17 November 2010.

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 22 September and 21 October and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences on 17 November 2010.

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Henley Business School held on 23 June, 21 September, 21 October and 17 November 2010.

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Advisory Board for Library Services held on 28 October 2010.

As Chairman of the Advisory Board, Professor Chapman reported that the benchmarking methodology against which the University measured its budgetary position relative to the rest of the 1994 Group was being tested for robustness; and that the remote storage facility at Worton Grange Industrial Estate was not now expected to be ready for occupation until April 2011.

The Senate received, and for its part approved, the Report of the Research Ethics Committee for 2009-10.

The Senate:

(a) appointed Dr I. Kokkoris (vice Dr R. Joyce) on the nomination of the Faculty of Social Sciences to the Advisory Group for Information Technology Services for the period ending 31 July 2013;
(b) appointed Mr S. Rowbottom on the nomination of the Henley Business School to the Advisory Group for Information Technology Services for the period ending 31 July 2013.

[Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting]