A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 12 October 2011 at 2.15 pm.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Downes)

Dr M J Almond
Professor R K Auchmuty
Professor D C Berry
Professor J C Bignell
Professor J Board
Dr R Bonser
Professor G Brooks
Dr L T Butler
Professor R W Chapman
Dr B Cosh
Dr J D Creighton
Professor A D T Cromartie
Mr A J Doak
Professor C J H Duggan
Professor J A Ellis
Professor R H Ellis
Dr M D E Fellowes
Professor P R Ghandhi
Professor A Ghobadian
Mr R Gibbard
Professor V A Gibson
Dr P Glaister
Professor M J Gooding
Professor A C Goodwyn
Professor S D Green
Dr P E Hatcher
Dr W C Hayes
Professor C J Hilson
Professor M E Hodson
Dr M-M Kleinhans
Professor P Kruschwitz
Dr S Knox
Professor P Luna
Dr T Macfadyen
Dr R McBain
Professor G Marston
Professor G P Meen
Dr P Miskell
Professor S J Mithen
Mrs J H Munro
Professor C Newdick
Mr T Pitman
Professor R A Rastall
Ms R J Richards
Professor R L Robson
Dr V F Ruiz
Professor J D Saddy
Dr R S Sherratt
Professor P J Stratton-Lake
Professor C M S Sutcliffe
Dr A P Tonkyn
Professor G H Tucker
Professor S F Walker
Professor A C Williams
Professor C M Williams
Mr M Chimbombi
Mr C Daly
Ms C Dalziel
Mr B Haines
Mr A Hartley
Mr K Hobley
Ms S Johnson
Mr J Kirkpatrick
Mr J Legon
Mr A Slater

Students:

In attendance:

Mr S P R Horan
Dr R J Messer

(* in margin denotes that a copy of the document has been inserted in the Minute Book).
The Acting Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:

**Dr Ian Copeland** had been a member of Bulmershe College for seventeen years before transferring with the College to the University in 1989. He had retired as Senior Lecturer in Education in 2002.

**Dr Harold Owen** had been appointed Lecturer in Agricultural Botany in 1950 and had retired as Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Plant Environment Laboratories in 1981.

*11/59 Minutes (11/27 - 11/50) of the Meeting held on 30 June 2011 were confirmed and signed.

Arising on the Minutes

**Minute 11/35: Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning [Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results]**

* The Senate received a report that, further to approval at its last meeting of amendments to the procedures of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results, the Acting Vice-Chancellor had approved on behalf of the Senate and the President had approved on behalf of the Council consequential amendments to Ordinance XVII; and the President had approved on behalf of the Council revised procedures for the review of results of examinations for higher degrees by research.

**Items of Report**

11/60 **Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2(a))**

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Professorship of Weather and Climate Computing
* (ii) Professorship of Strategy and International Business
* (iii) Professorship of Modern History
* (iv) Professorship of Marketing
* (v) Directorship of the Centre for Technologies for Sustainable Built Environments
* (vi) Readership in Education
* (vii) Readership in Ancient History
* (viii) Readership in the Sociology of Sustainable Construction
* (ix) Senior Lectureship in Accounting
* (x) Head of the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre
* (xi) Head of Financial Planning and Analysis.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor commented that these Reports gave a clear illustration that the University continued to make excellent appointments despite difficult economic circumstances.
Elections. (Item 2(b))

(i) Appointment of one member of the Senate not being a registered student of the University to the Council: The Senate was invited to appoint one of its number not being a registered student of the University to membership of the Council (vice Professor G. Marston) to serve for the period to 31 July 2014.

Nominations, proposed and seconded by a member of the Senate together with an indication from the individual so nominated of his or her willingness to serve, were to reach the University Secretary no later than noon on Wednesday 26 October 2011.

(ii) Election of one member of each School other than the Head of School to the Senate to serve for the period to 31 July 2014. The Senate received a report that the following had been elected:

- Henley Business School: Mr A.J. Doak
- Henley Business School: Dr R. McBain
- Humanities: Dr J.W. Bell
- Law: Dr A. Thies
- Politics, Economics and International Relations: Professor A.D.T. Cromartie
- Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences: Dr L.T. Butler.

(iii) Election of twelve Professors to the Senate: The Senate received a report that, subsequent to its last meeting, two further nominations had been received, those of:

- Professor H.M.I. Osborn
- Professor S.F. Walker.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Professor Osborn and Professor Walker additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period to 31 July 2014. One vacancy remained in the Class for the period to 31 July 2013.

(iv) Election of twelve members of the Academic and Academic-related Staff, excluding Professors, to the Senate: The Senate received a report that, subsequent to its last meeting, two further nominations had been received, those of:

- Mrs J.A. Ghandhi
- Mr T. Pitman.

The Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Mrs Ghandhi additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period to 31 July 2012; and the Acting Vice-Chancellor had agreed that Mr Pitman additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period to 31 July 2013. No further vacancies remained in this Class.
Election to the Senate of one member by and from amongst the registered students of each Faculty for the Session 2011-12: The Senate received a report that the following had been elected:

- Arts, Humanities and Social Science: Mr J. Kirkpatrick
- Arts, Humanities and Social Science: Mr C. Daly
- Henley Business School: Mr M. Chimbombi
- Life Sciences: Ms C. Dalziel
- Science: Mr A. Hartley.

11/62 Students’ Union (Item 2(c))

The Senate approved a proposal from the Students’ Union that the following five Officers be included in membership of the Senate under the terms of Statute XVI(10) for the Session 2011-12:

- The President (Mr K. Hobley)
- The Vice-President Academic Affairs (Mr A. Slater)
- The Vice-President Welfare and Representation (Ms S. Johnson)
- The Vice-President Student Activities (Mr J. Legon)
- The Vice-President Democracy and Campaigns (Mr B. Haines).

11/63 Membership of the Senate 2011-12 (Item 2(d))

* The Senate received a list of its members for the Session 2011-12.

11/64 Availability of Senate papers (Item 2(e))

* The Senate received, for its information, a paper from the University Secretary relating to availability of Senate papers.

11/65 Senate Standing Orders (Item 2(f))

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

11/66 Report of the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

(a) The Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Downes) reported that the Vice-Chancellor had appointed Professor M.E. Hodson to be Acting Head of the School of Human and Environmental Sciences for the period from 15 August to 31 December 2011.

(b) At a Special Meeting on Monday 17 October, the Senate was formally to receive from the Council the Report of the Committee of Selection for the Office of Vice-Chancellor. Professor Downes urged all members to observe the strictest confidentiality until that time. He expected that the subsequent public announcement would attract widespread interest and he foresaw an exciting future in which colleagues throughout the University would have a part to play.
(c) The University Open Day on Saturday 8 October had attracted a large number of well-informed and discerning visitors. In thanking colleagues for their efforts, Professor Downes reminded the Senate that another Open Day was to be held on Saturday 22 October and that such events were of ever increasing importance to the University.

(d) Professor Downes referred to the action short of a strike currently being undertaken by members of the University and College Union. Recognising the legitimate motivations of those involved he expressed the hope that the University would be able to function as normal despite the likelihood of a number of colleagues ‘working to contract’. The implications of any escalation in the action remained uncertain.

(e) The academic year ahead presented a number of challenges and opportunities, amongst them:

(i) the expected completion of the transfer of the residential estate to a private partner (UPP) in November 2011 and operational commencement of the new arrangement in January 2012;

(ii) the need to respond with agility to the more marketised environment in which Government policy had placed universities. Recent changes to undergraduate admissions tariffs were one example of the University moving quickly and decisively to maintain and enhance its competitive position, an approach that was likely to become increasingly prevalent in the months and years ahead;

(iii) preparatory work towards determining the ultimate shape and scale of the University’s submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. Again, colleagues should expect decisions of this nature to be taken in the strategic and corporate interests of the University;

(iv) the establishment of a branch campus in Malaysia. The University had received an invitation from the Malaysian Government to apply for permission to operate and a significant hurdle had thus been cleared. The Senate should expect to receive further information in due course.

(f) Research Council grant application success rates now stood at a creditable 29%, ahead of the national average. Professor Downes drew particular attention to the University’s 50% success rate in applications to the Arts and Humanities Research Council but, in so doing, urged that efforts across the University not be slackened.

(g) The University’s recent rise to 164th place within the THE World Rankings was a cause for celebration. Despite widespread scepticism regarding the reliability of such measures, rankings of this kind had a bearing on how the University was perceived beyond its walls and were thus of significance.
The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Senior Management Board held on 4 and 18 July, 12 September and 26 September 2011.

In regard to item 2 (Monitoring of the Corporate Plan Targets 2008-12), the Senate noted that, for reasons beyond the University’s control, many of the targets in the Corporate Plan were no longer as helpful or relevant as they had once been. A Working Party had been established to consider the matter and would expect the incoming Vice-Chancellor to have a major role in shaping its thinking.

By way of correction to the text of item 5 (Final Report of the Review of the Biocentre), Professor Ellis asked that the final sentence of the second paragraph be repositioned as the final sentence of the final paragraph.

In regard to item 10 (Membership of the International Space Innovation Centre), the Acting Vice-Chancellor observed that it had been a signal honour and a clear mark of esteem for the University to be invited to participate in so prestigious a collaboration.

The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed on students during the Summer Term 2011 for breaches of discipline other than academic misconduct and neglect of work.

The Senate:

(i) appointed Professor A. Ghobadian (vice Professor G. Marston) to the Joint Standing Committee on the Personal Title of Professor, Reader and Senior Lecturer for the period ending 31 July 2014;

(ii) received a report that the Vice-Chancellor had agreed on its behalf that Professor D.C. Berry serve as Chair of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct, Ordinance XVII notwithstanding, for such time as there remained a vacancy in the Office of Vice-Chancellor; and that the Acting Vice-Chancellor had agreed that Professor R.H. Ellis serve as Chair of the Residences Management Committee, Ordinance XVI notwithstanding, for the same period.

The Senate agreed that Professor G. Brooks be co-opted to membership for the period to 31 December 2011 and that Professor R.L. Robson qua Provost designate, University of Reading Malaysia, be co-opted to membership for the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 July 2014 in the first instance.
The Senate noted the retirement of the following members of the Academic Staff and agreed to recommend to the Council that each be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow with effect from 1 October 2011 until his or her normal retirement date:

Mr P. Ayers  
Mr H.L. Foster  
Ms V. Nzira.

[Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting]