Governance Directorate

Senate

11/01 A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 16 March 2011 at 2.30 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Dr M J Almond
Professor N W Arnell
Professor R K Auchmuty
Mr N Bayley
Professor A R Bell
Professor D C Berry
Dr R Bonser
Professor G Brooks
Professor R W Chapman
Professor M Clark
Dr B Cosh
Professor T A Downes
Professor R H Ellis
Mr R Gibbard
Professor V A Gibson
Professor M J Gooding
Professor A C Goodwyn
Professor S D Green
Professor P Grindrod
Professor M E Hodson
Mrs C Hughes
Dr S L Jury
Professor U S Kambhampati
Dr M-M Kleinhaps
Dr M E Lewis
Professor P Luna
Professor G Marston
Professor G H Meen
Dr P Miskell
Professor S J Mithen
Mrs J H Munro
Professor C Newdick
Professor S Nortcliffe
Mr T Pitman
Professor R B Potter
Ms A C Quinn
Professor R A Rastall

Ms R J Richards
Professor R I Robson
Mr D M Roch
Dr V F Ruiz
Professor I C Rutherford
Dr D Savva
Dr J E Setter
Professor C M S Sutcliffe
Dr F Tallett
Dr A P Tonkyn
Professor P J van Leeuwen
Professor S F Walker
Professor A C Williams
Professor C M Williams
Dr P E Woodman

The University Secretary

Students:

Ms B Brooke
Mr C Campbell
Mr T Gilchrist
Ms S Johnson
Ms J Lazarczyk
Ms E Nicol
Mr A Slater
Mr A Sollesse

In attendance:

Mrs J A Ghandhi

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

**Dr Marjorie Jeacock** who had been appointed in 1966 and had retired as Senior Lecturer in Physiology & Biochemistry in 1995.

**Mr Dermot O'Rourke** who had been appointed in 1954 and had retired as Senior Sub-Librarian in 1984.

**Mr Keith Sainsbury** who had been appointed in 1955 and had retired as Senior Lecturer in Politics in 1989.

**Professor Paul Stiff** had been appointed in 1980 and had been Professor of Typography at the time of his death.

The Senate stood in silent memory of these former colleagues.

*11/02* The Minutes (10/81-10/96) of the meeting held on 8 December 2010 were confirmed and signed.

**11/03 New Year Honours**

The Senate received a report that the following appointments had been made in the New Year Honours List:

Knight Bachelor – Professor Timothy Wilson, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire and a graduate of this University (BSc Mathematics and Computer Science, 1970), for services to higher education and to business.

KCMG – Mr Simon Gass, British Ambassador to Iran and a graduate of this University (LLB, 1977).

CBE – Professor Michael Fulford, Professor of Archaeology, for services to scholarship.

CBE – Professor Stephen Blackmore, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and a graduate of this University (BSc Biomolecular Science, 1973; PhD Botany, 1976), for services to plant conservation.

OBE – Professor William Finlayson, Director of the Council for British Research in the Levant and a Visiting Professor of Archaeology at this University, for services to international relations.

**11/04 Reports of Committees of Selection** (Item 2(b))

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology
11/05 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

(a) The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had appointed Dr J.T. Walker to be Acting Head of the School of Management for the period from 1 April to 31 July 2011;

(b) The national context in which universities were expected to operate remained uncertain. The point of intersection between higher tuition fees and access agreements was still unclear and the intended White Paper on Higher Education had been further delayed as the politics of compromise continued to dominate a confused scene. Such guidance as it was possible to provide would shortly be made available to those within the University who had responsibility for liaising with applicants and their advisers;

(c) The HEFCE grant letter for 2011-12 saw the University some £1.5m worse off than forecast but the outcomes of the Three-Year Planning Process were still to be implemented as intended. Many successes in which the University could take pride were recorded in the most recent edition of Research Review and the University’s rate of success in securing research grant funding continued to rank ahead of the best among its peers;

(d) Referring to recent world events, the Vice-Chancellor reported that, as befits a global institution, the University had a number of links both to Libya and to Japan. Press coverage of one particular Libyan connection had shown the University to have acted with total propriety; and a practical, sympathetic, approach was being extended to all those members and associates of the University who had been affected by a succession of natural disasters in Japan.

11/06 Senior Management Board: 8 and 20 December 2010, 1, 14 and 28 February 2011 (Item 4(b))

* The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the Senior Management Board held on 8 and 20 December 2010, 1, 14 and 28 February 2011 and approved the recommendations contained therein.

In regard to item 2 (Internationalisation), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen) welcomed the engagement of Schools throughout the University with the evolving internationalisation agenda. A series of regional task groups had been established, plans to increase international student numbers in a managed way were under development, and a formal application for a University presence in Malaysia was expected to be
submitted in the near future. In response to questions from Professor Marston it was explained that an appropriate level of resource to underpin the launch of these initiatives had been identified and that any adjustments consequent upon increased numbers of international students were not expected to alter the fundamental balance or character of the University.

In regard to item 7 (University Carbon Management Plan), the Vice-Chancellor reminded the Senate that the University’s commitment to reducing its carbon emissions by 35% in the period to 2015-16 represented a challenging target but one to which all members of the University could, and must, make a contribution.

In regard to item 9 (Overseas Travel – Personal Safety ), the Vice-Chancellor alluded again to recent world events and emphasised that no member of the University would be allowed to travel overseas on University business in defiance of advice to the contrary from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office without his express permission.

11/07 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 13 December 2010, 19 January, 7 February and 3 March 2011.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Robson) explained that the policy and procedures relating to fitness to practise which had been approved by the Board required an alteration to Ordinance XVII and that a proposal would be submitted to the next meeting of the Senate for onward recommendation to the Council.

Referring to a matter which did not feature within the Report of the Board on this occasion, Dr Tonkyn spoke of a perception that progression arrangements across the University were undergoing a process of standardisation without appropriate regard being paid to the distinctive nature of disciplines such as his own and to the advice offered by, for example, External Examiners. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Robson) explained that the specific matter to which Dr Tonkyn had alluded would be the subject of a further report to the Board by the relevant Faculty Director of Teaching and Learning and that, more generally, the Board had recently established a working group to consider arrangements for progression from Part 2 to Part 3.

11/08 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 February 2011.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) noted encouraging progress in the winning of research awards which, overall, stood some £2m ahead of the equivalent stage in the previous year; and referred to recent significant
successes achieved by the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and the School of Human and Environmental Sciences.

11/09 **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 26 January and 24 February 2011.

11/10 **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 31 January 2011.

11/11 **Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences** (Item 5(e))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held separately on 9 December 2010 and 3 February 2011 and of a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science on 23 February 2011.

11/12 **Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science** (Item 5(f))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held separately on 14 December 2010 and 26 January 2011 and of a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences on 23 February 2011.

11/13 **Report of the Management Board of the Henley Business School** (Item 5(g))


11/14 **Report of the Advisory Board for Library Services** (Item 5(h))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Advisory Board for Library Services held on 14 February 2011.

Further to Minute 10/94, Professor Chapman reported that the Advisory Board had now satisfied itself of the robustness of the data by means of which the University benchmarked total spend on information resources against that of comparator institutions. Resulting concerns were imminently to be relayed to the Senior Management Board by the Information Strategy Committee. The Vice-President Academic Affairs of the Students’ Union...
urged that the University continue to identify, exploit and advertise those information resources and study spaces that were distributed across the University and the Senate was informed by Professor Gibson that the Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning Facilities already had this matter in hand.

11/15 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Autumn Term 2010 (Item 5(i))

* The Senate received Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Autumn Term 2010.

11/16 Report on behalf of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct on cases considered and penalties imposed  Item 5(j))

* The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct of cases considered and penalties imposed.

Noting that routine Reports of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct were categorised perforce as reserved business, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) explained that one purpose of the statistical analysis now presented was to bring to the attention of all members of the Senate a progressive increase in the number of proven instances of plagiarism within the University and the serious consequences that this entailed for the students concerned. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested by the Vice-President Welfare and Representation of the Students’ Union, and reinforced by others, that it was incumbent upon the University to convey to its students in a consistent and clear manner, not only at the outset of their studies but at intervals thereafter, the penalties that would be applied in such cases and to equip them with the techniques of good academic practice. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Robson) agreed that the University Board for Teaching and Learning take responsibility for this matter and suggested that, in the course of this work, it explore the possibilities for applying detection software on a more consistent, and potentially a wider, basis than at present.

11/17 Committees and other bodies (Item 6(a))

The Senate received a report that the The Vice-Chancellor, acting on its behalf and on the nomination of the Faculty of Life Sciences, had appointed Dr A. Culham (vice Dr M.D.E. Fellowes) to Advisory Group for Information Technology Services for the period ending 31 July 2013.

11/18 Charter and Statutes (Item 6(d))

* The Senate noted proposals for alterations to the Charter and Statutes relating to the composition of the Council and had no comment to make in the matter.
Ordinances (Item 6(e))

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council

(a) that, consequent upon the merger of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences with effect from 1 August 2011, references to those Faculties within Ordinances be altered to read Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science passim; and

(b) that, consequent upon the merger of the Academic Services Directorate and the Student Services Directorate with effect from 1 August 2011, references to those Directorates within Ordinances be altered to read Student and Academic Services Directorate passim; and that references to the Director of Academic Services and the Director of Student Services within Ordinances be altered to read Director of Student and Academic Services passim.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that Professor G.H. Tucker had been elected Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science for the period from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2015.

Gold Star Awards

The Vice-President Academic Affairs of the Students’ Union reported that nominations of staff by students for Gold Star Awards in appreciation of outstanding contributions to teaching and learning were being received and that students were engaging enthusiastically with the scheme.

[Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting]