Senate

12/52  A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 17 October 2012 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

- The Vice-Chancellor
- Professor J C Bignell
- Ms H O Bilton
- Professor G Brooks
- Dr L T Butler
- Professor P J Byrne
- Dr D M Carter
- Dr G K Cook
- Dr B Cosh
- Professor A D T Cromartie
- Professor T A Downes
- Professor C J H Duggan
- Professor J A Ellis
- Professor R H Ellis
- Professor J M Félix
- Dr C L Fuller
- Professor P R Ghandhi
- Professor A Ghobadian
- Professor V A Gibson
- Professor R L. Gilchrist
- Professor M J Gooding
- Professor A C Goodwyn
- Professor S D Green
- Professor P Grindrod
- Dr P E Hatcher
- Professor C J Hilson
- Professor Y Kalyuzhnova
- Dr O B Kennedy
- Dr S Knox
- Professor K Liu
- Dr A M Macfadyen
- Professor G Marston
- Professor G P Meen
- Professor S J Mithen
- Mrs S E Mott
- Dr I Mueller-Harvey
- Mrs J H Munro
- Professor H M I Osborn
- Professor R A Rastall

Ms R J Richards
Professor A Rugman
Dr V F Ruiz
Professor I C Rutherford
Professor F H M Le Saux
Dr R S Sherratt
Professor P J Stratton-Lake
Professor G H Tucker
Professor P J van Leeuwen
Professor S F Walker
Professor A C Williams
Professor C M Williams
Dr P E Woodman

The University Secretary

Student Officers:
- Mr J Fletcher
- Ms K Swift
- Ms S. Davies
- Mr N Cook
- Ms C Jones

Student Faculty Representatives:
- Ms J Coulton (AH&SS)
- Ms J Pickering (AH&SS)
- Mr T Hurrell (HBS)
- Mr S Singh (LS)
- Ms H Gough (S)

In attendance:
- Dr R J Messer
- Professor J D Saddy
- Mr D C L Savage
The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:

**Dr J.M. Boorman**: Julia Boorman had been appointed to the University in 1989 upon merger with Bulmershe College of Higher Education and had retired as Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Education in 2010.

**Emeritus Professor G.W.A. Fowles**: Gerry Fowles had been appointed to the University in 1966 and had retired as Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in 1991. He had served for two separate periods as Dean of the Faculty of Science, and as Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 1978 to 1982.

**Emeritus Professor C. Kaplan**: Colin Kaplan had been appointed to the University in 1968 and had retired as Professor of Microbiology in 1986. He had also served as Dean of the Faculty of Science.

**Dr P.H. Phillips**: Peter Phillips had been a member of the University Council from 1982 until 1999.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed new members to the Senate and made particular mention of the student officers and representatives, all of whom he hoped would feel able to make a contribution to its proceedings.

*12/53 The Minutes (12/25-12/51) of the meeting held on 28 June 2012 were confirmed and signed. Arising on the Minutes:

**Minute 12/31: Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning**

* The Senate received a report that, on the recommendation of the University Board for Teaching and Learning, the Vice-Chancellor has agreed on its behalf that the Postgraduate Taught Admissions Policy be discontinued with effect from 31 July 2012 and that a single Admissions Policy covering taught programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level be introduced with effect from 1 August 2012.

**Items of Report**

12/54 **Reports of Committees of Selection** (Item 2(a))

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Senior Lectureship in International Rural Development
* (ii) Professorship of Systems Engineering and Neuroscience
* (iii) Professorship of Information Design
* (iv) Readership in Hydrology
* (v) Professorship of Climate Processes (1)
* (vi) Professorship of Climate Processes (2)
* (vii) Senior Lectureship in Law (1)
* (viii) Readership in Ecosystem Ecology
* (ix) Readership in Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
* (x) Professorship of Global Palaeoclimates and Biogeochemical Cycles
* (xi) Director of Marketing and Communication
* (xii) Chair in Business Informatics
* (xiii) Senior Lecturer in Law (2).

12/55 **Elections** (Item 2(b))

(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 2015: It was reported that

Professor S.A. Reynolds

had been elected by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences to serve for the period to 31 July 2015.

(ii) Election of twelve Professors to the Senate: It was reported that, subsequent to the last meeting of the Senate, four further nominations had been received, those of

Professor J.A. Ellis
Professor J.M. Félix
Professor P.M. Riddell
Professor P. Robinson.

Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Professor Ellis, Professor Riddell and Professor Robinson additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2015; and that Professor Félix additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013. A further vacancy remained in this Class for the period to 31 July 2013.

(iii) Election to the Senate of one member by and from amongst the registered students of each Faculty for the Session 2012-13: It was reported that the following had been elected:

Arts, Humanities and Social Science: Ms J. Coulton
Arts, Humanities and Social Science: Ms J. Pickering
Henley Business School: Mr T. Hurrell
Life Sciences: Mr S. Singh
Science: Ms H. Gough.

12/56 **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 2012-13:
The President (Mr J. Fletcher)
The Vice-President Academic Affairs (Ms K. Swift)
The Vice-President Welfare and Representation (Ms S. Davies)
The Vice-President Student Activities (Mr N. Cook)
The Vice-President Democracy and Campaigns (Ms C. Jones).

12/57 Membership of the Senate 2012-13 (Item 2(d))
* The Senate received a list of its members for the Session 2012-13.

12/58 Senate Standing Orders (Item 2(e))
* The Senate received, for its information, the Senate Standing Orders.

12/59 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)
(a) The Vice-Chancellor addressed the Senate (copy inserted in Minute Book). He opened his remarks by referring the turbulent times which continued to afflict higher education but also foresaw a number of opportunities for the University to distinguish itself. The contribution of members of the University, past and present, to the success of the 2012 Olympic Games had been remarkable and it was planned to celebrate their achievements on the occasion of the December Degree Congregations;

(b) In regard to undergraduate admissions the University, in common with many other Russell Group and 1994 Group institutions and despite buoyant applications, had fallen significantly short of the unrestricted number of students with qualifications of AAB or greater at A Level or equivalent that had been estimated. The University had, in contrast, exceeded its fixed ‘control’ number for undergraduate entrants with qualifications lower than AAB or equivalent. In regard to postgraduate admissions it was too early in the cycle to present definitive numbers but it was already clear that there would an appreciable shortfall against the original target and that, further, the in-year increase in the target of an additional 250 international students could not now be met. Taken together, these shortfalls placed the University in a more difficult financial position than that which had been forecast and work was in hand to determine how this situation might best be addressed. Meanwhile, a recent visit to the University by the newly appointed Director of Fair Access, Professor Les Ebdon, had resulted in positive feedback on the University’s Access Agreement and attendant arrangements;

(c) The University had successfully negotiated the first stage of Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and would now undergo a four-day review visit in November 2012. The Student Charter, produced in collaboration by the University and the Students’ Union, had recently been launched and the University could take pride in the conferment of National Teaching Fellowships on Professor Rachel McCrindle and Dr Helen Bilton, two of only fifty-five such awards made nationally in 2012;
(d) A mock exercise in preparation for the Research Excellence Framework had been completed and the University’s overall submission strategy would now be determined. The Academic Investment Project remained on track and within budget and, in consequence, a number of talented new colleagues had already been attracted to Reading. It was significant to the University’s standing that it had recently been included amongst only thirty institutions selected by RCUK to receive additional funding to promote open access to its research publications;

(e) The University had maintained a place within the top 200 universities in the world as determined by the highly regarded rankings produced by Times Higher Education, an important metric and all the more meritorious given the inexorable rise in esteem of universities from Asia. At its meeting on 9 July 2012, the Council had given formal approval to the establishment of the University of Reading Malaysia and work there continued apace in preparation for the admission of the first cohort of students to award-bearing programmes in 2015. Meanwhile the University continued to reinforce its global presence by forging links with increasing numbers of institutions overseas;

(f) The Vice-Chancellor expressed his thanks to all those who had participated in the consultation exercise in relation to the new University Strategy. It was his intention that the Strategy be published early in 2013 and that, in parallel, a collective response be made to the many views that had been expressed. Meanwhile it was incumbent upon the University to look further ahead than the immediate planning period and, to that end, the Strategy and Finance Committee had already begun to reflect on the challenges that were likely to arise in the decade ahead and beyond. The Senate could expect to hear more of this in due course.

At the conclusion of the Vice-Chancellor’s address, Professor Rugman suggested that it might at this stage be prudent to call a halt the Academic Investment Project since, in his view, the unexpected shortfall in student numbers now rendered the underlying financial model unsustainable. The Vice-Chancellor reiterated his commitment to strengthening the research-intensity of the University ahead of the Research Excellence Framework; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) alluded to the clear and present dangers of not so doing; and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor reminded the Senate of the enviable financial strength of the University as represented by its endowment. Nonetheless, steps would be taken to bring the University Budget back into balance as soon as was practicably possible. Noting that the Henley Business School had failed to recruit the significant additional number of postgraduate taught students that had been injected into the targets at an uncomfortably late stage, Professor Gibson reminded the Senate of the scale and pace of growth already achieved by the School in this particular market over a short space of time.

12/60 Report of the Senior Management Board (Item 4)

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Senior Management Board held on 16 July and 1 October 2012.
In regard to item 1 (Visiting Professorships) the Senate additionally approved, for onward recommendation to the Council, a proposal from the Head of School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy that Professor N. Stonor (Cancer Research UK) be accorded the title of Visiting Professor for a further period ending 31 July 2015.

In regard to item 2 ((The Title of Faculty Director of Teaching and Learning), the Senate approved a proposal to re-designate the Faculty Directors of Teaching and Learning as Associate Deans (Teaching and Learning) and asked that the necessary alterations to the Statutes and Ordinances be prepared for onward transmission to the Council.

12/61 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term 2012 (Item 5(a))

* The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term 2012 for breaches of discipline other than academic misconduct and neglect of work.

12/62 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 6(a))

The Senate received a report that the Vice-Chancellor had agreed on its behalf that Dr K.L. Ayres be appointed on the nomination of the Faculty of Science as a non-professorial member to the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2015, Dr R.S. Plant having declined appointment.

12/63 Retirement (Item 6(c))

The Senate noted the retirement of Mr N.G. Trethewy on 30 September 2012 and agreed to recommend to the Council that he be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years.

12/64 Meetings in the Session 2012-13 (Item 7)

Further meetings of the Senate had been scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 5 December 2012 at 2.15pm
- Wednesday 16 January 2013 (reserve)
- Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 2.15pm
- Wednesday 8 May 2013 at 2.15pm (reserve)
- Thursday 27 June 2013 at 2.15pm.

Two weeks’ notice would be given if a reserve meeting was to be taken up.

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting