A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor A R Bell
Dr J W Bell
Professor D.C. Berry
Professor J C Bignell
Ms H O Bilton
Dr I M Bland
Professor G Brooks
Dr L T Butler
Professor P J Byrne
Dr D M Carter
Dr B Cosh
Professor C J H Duggan
Professor R H Ellis
Professor J M Félix
Dr C L Fuller
Professor V A Gibson
Professor R.L. Gilchrist
Professor A C Goodwyn
Professor S D Green
Dr P E Hatcher
Dr O B Kennedy
Dr S Knox
Dr M E Lewis
Professor K Liu
Professor P Luna
Professor G Marston
Mrs S E Mott
Dr I Mueller-Harvey
Professor H M I Osborn
Professor R A Rastall
Ms R J Richards
Professor P M Riddell
Professor A M Rugman

The University Secretary

Students:

Mr J Fletcher
Ms K Swift
Ms S. Davies
Mr N Cook

Faculty Representative:

Mr S Singh (LS)

In attendance:

Dr R J Messer

(* 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 report to the Senate:

**Professor Mark Baker** who had been appointed as Professor of Computer Science in 2005 REDACTED S40(2).

**Emeritus Professor Peter Hart** who had been appointed as Professor of Economics in 1967 and had retired in 1983.

**Dr Alexandra Henein** who had been appointed as Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice in 2010 and had been a member of the Reading School of Pharmacy at the time of her death.

**Mr Ian Maclean** who had been appointed as Photographic Assistant in 1951 and as Chief Photographer in 1960, a post from which he had retired in 1998 after forty-seven years’ service to the University.

**Emeritus Professor Charles Miles, CBE** who had been appointed Professor of Estate Management (subsequently Land Management) in 1968 and who had served as Head of the Department of Land Management and Development and as Dean of the Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies before his retirement in 1981.

**Mr John Peel** who had been appointed as Personnel Officer in 1980 and had served as Warden of St. Patrick’s Hall from 1987 until his retirement in 1993.

**Dr Mike Sangster** who had been appointed as Lecturer in Physics in 1968 and had retired as Reader in 2002.

**Mr Fraser Smith** who had been appointed as Lecturer in Education in 1978 and had retired as Senior Lecturer in 2007.

**Emeritus Professor Sir Colin Spedding, CBE** who had been appointed as Professor of Agricultural Systems in 1975 and had subsequently served as Head of the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture, as Director of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy, as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food and as Pro-Vice-Chancellor before his retirement in 1990.

The Senate stood in memory of these former colleagues.

*13/02* The Minutes (12/70-12/83) of the meeting held on 5 December 2012 were confirmed and signed.

Arising on the Minutes:

**Minute 12/74(e): Report of the Vice-Chancellor**

The Vice-Chancellor reported that, as foreshadowed at the last meeting of the Senate, the University had withdrawn from membership of the 1994 Group in mid-December 2012 and had not aligned itself to any other grouping.
13/03  **New Year Honours**

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

MBE – Anna Watkins, PhD student in Mathematics and Distinguished Fellow of the University, for services to rowing.

13/04  **Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2(b))**

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

- (i) Professorship of Literacy and Multilingualism
- (ii) Professorship of Real Estate Finance
- (iii) Professorship of Chemistry
- (iv) Professorship (part-time) of Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing
- (v) Readership in Hazardous Weather.

13/05  **Report of the Vice-Chancellor**

The Vice-Chancellor addressed the Senate (copy inserted in Minute Book), referring in particular to:

- (a) the award to the University of a Regius Professorship in Meteorology and Climate Science, a notable mark of distinction and esteem;
- (b) the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Reading Malaysia and the planned opening of an office in Beijing, both of which were intended to sustain and advance the University’ standing internationally;
- (c) the effort that was being deployed by colleagues throughout the University to convert undergraduate and postgraduate applications into firm acceptances in the face of the twin imperatives of meeting the reduced Student Number Control that had been set by HEFCE and of attracting as many entrants as possible with A Level grades of ABB+;
- (d) preparations for the Research Excellence Framework which were proceeding apace and the success of the Academic Investment Project which had attracted some fifty-three new colleagues to Reading from institutions in the UK and overseas;
- (e) enhancements to the student experience which had been brought about in collaboration and co-operation with the Students’ Union and which included increased Library opening hours, the creation of more dedicated study space and a wider application of learning technology;
- (f) the advent of Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCS), which the Vice-Chancellor saw as an exciting opportunity to reach previously untapped
markets and, in so doing, to raise the University’s profile. The University had aligned itself to the Futurelearn platform led by the Open University and, in response to a question from Professor Riddell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) explained that it was intended shortly to identify two initial subject areas with a view to their being made available towards the end of the calendar year;

(g) the development of the University estate which, following a period of substantial investment, was now in a transitional phase pending the adoption of a new Estates Strategy. Meanwhile, projects to extend the Henley Business School at Whiteknights and the Library were at the pre-feasibility stage and further activity focussed on Earley Gate was likely. The University was also putting its non-operational land and property portfolio to use in a responsible way, and the recent announcement of a Government grant to accelerate the development of land at Shinfield West was one illustration of a way in which the University could apply its assets to stimulating economic growth in the region;

(h) the success of student telephone callers in securing donations of £400k so far in 2012-13 for the Annual Fund and the imminent launch of a University Campaign with the medium-term target of raising £100m.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded by thanking colleagues for their support and dedication in pursuit of the University’s ambitions.

13/06 Report of the Senior Management Board

* The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the Senior Management Board held on 28 January and 18 February 2013 and approved the recommendations contained therein.

In relation to item 2 (Report of the Steering Group for the Academic Practice Programme), Professor Berry explained in response to questions from Professor Rugman and Dr Bland that the Academic Practice Programme was to replace the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice with effect from the beginning of Session 2013-14. The Programme would be available to any eligible colleague who had not by that time embarked upon the Postgraduate Certificate but there were no contractual implications for any existing staff.

13/07 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 10 December 2012, 16 January 2013 and 28 February 2013.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) drew attention to new arrangements for the selection and appointment of School Directors of Teaching and Learning and the Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences reported that the Staffing Committee was considering the adoption of cognate arrangements for the selection and appointment of School Directors of Research and of Postgraduate Research Studies.
13/08  **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 21 February 2013.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) noted that a second mock exercise in preparation for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 was underway and that this would result in the production of an overall profile with each Unit of Assessment. The timetables and procedures relevant to the REF had been circulated repeatedly throughout the University community but remained available on request from Professor Williams.

13/09  **Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science** (Item 5(c))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science held on 10 December 2012, 23 January 2013 and 21 February 2013.

In response to a question from Professor Gilchrist, it was explained in the context of a Type A consortium bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council that only those studentships ultimately tenable at Reading would carry the obligation to provide matched funding.

13/10  **Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences** (Item 5(d))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held separately on 12 December 2012 and 17 January 2013 and of a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science on 20 February 2013.

In regard to admissions, the Board had noted a number of positive developments but had made adverse comment on delays which continued to beset the process and threatened to negate efforts being made in Schools. The Head of University Administration explained that a number of factors had conspired to cause the present situation but that plans for future improvement were under active discussion. Those Deans present, together with the Deputy Dean of the Henley Business School and the Director of Postgraduate Research Studies, urged that these be implemented with all possible speed in order that they might have a beneficial impact on the attainment of the recruitment targets that had been set for October 2013.

13/11  **Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science** (Item 5(e))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held separately on 11 December 2012 and 20 February 2013 and of a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences on 17 January 2013.
13/12 Report of the Management Board of the Henley Business School (Item 5(f))


13/13 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Autumn Term 2012 (Item 5(g))

* The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Autumn Term 2012.

13/14 Retirement of a Professor

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance XIV the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred on Professor R.B. Potter with effect from 1 February 2013.

13/15 Retirements

The Senate noted that the following members of the Academic Staff had retired and agreed to recommend to Council that each be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years with effect from the date stated:

Mrs G. Hassell (1 March 2013)
Mr H. Jarvis (16 February 2013)
Mr D. Keeley (1 January 2013)
Ms A.C. Quinn (1 January 2013).

13/16 National Student Survey

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the importance of securing as high a return rate to the National Student Survey as possible and, in welcoming the assistance that the Students’ Union were giving to the University through the raising of awareness, urged all colleagues to encourage their students to participate.

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting