Senate

13/51 A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 16 October 2013 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Dr Karen Ayres
Dr Jonathan Bell
Professor Dianne Berry
Professor Jonathan Bignell
Ms Helen Bilton
Dr Ian Bland
Professor Susan Breau
Professor Gavin Brooks
Dr Laurie Butler
Professor Peter Byrne
Dr David Carter
Dr Ann Chippindale
Dr Ben Cosh
Professor Tony Downes
Professor Richard Ellis
Professor Richard Frazier
Professor Paul Glaister
Professor Mike Gooding
Professor Andy Goodwyn
Professor Stuart Green
Dr Paul Hatcher
Professor Chris Hilson
Mr Bruce Howell
Professor Yelena Kalyuzhnova
Dr Orla Kennedy
Dr Liam McGuffin
Professor George Marston
Professor Roger Matthews

Professor Geoff Meen
Professor Helen Osborn
Dr Ben Potter
Ms Ros Richards
Professor Alan Rugman
Professor Virginie Ruiz
Professor Françoise Le Saux
Dr Libby Schweber
Professor David Stack
Professor Hugo Tucker
Professor Sue Walker
Dr Susan Walsh

The University Secretary

Students:
Mr Mark Kelleher
Ms Emma Jackson
Ms Sophie Davies

Faculty Representatives:
Ms Ioanna Evangelou (AH&SS)
Mr Florian Marcus (AH&SS)
Mr Plamen Hristov (HBS)
Mr Scott Tytheridge (LS)
Mr Anup Kocheril Kurian (S)

In attendance:
Dr Richard 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 meeting of the Senate:

Emeritus Professor Bill Coupe who had been appointed Lecturer in German in 1973, had been promoted to Reader in 1967 and had resigned to take up a Chair at the University of Southampton in 1971 but had returned to Reading in 1974 as Professor of German until his retirement in 1994.

Emeritus Professor Margaret Davies who had been appointed Assistant Lecturer in French in 1965 and had retired as Professor of French in 1988.
Dr Roland Fox who had been appointed Lecturer in Horticulture in 1984 and had retired in 2007.

Revd Dr David Lloyd who had been appointed Assistant Lecturer in Agriculture in 1955 and had retired as Senior Lecturer in 1983.

Emeritus Professor David Moore who had been appointed Reader in 1968 and had retired as Professor of Botany in 1994.

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.

*13/52 The Minutes (13/22-13/42) of the meeting held on 27 June 2013 were confirmed and signed, subject to the correction of “School of Biological Sciences” to read “School of Agriculture, Policy and Development/School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy (Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences)” within Minute 13/33.

Arising on the Minutes:

Minute 13/30: 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 had agreed on behalf of the Senate and the President had agreed on behalf of the Council alterations to Ordinances IV (Degrees awarded by Examination), XVII (Conduct and Discipline, Student Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study, Academic Misconduct and Performance in Examinations, and Fitness to Practise) and LXVIII (Foundation Degrees).

Items of Report

13/53 Reports of Committees of Selection

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Regius Professorship of Meteorology and Climate Science
* (ii) Professorship of Behavioural Economics
* (iii) Professorship of Classics
* (iv) Associate Professorship in Second Language Education
* (v) Professorship of Economics
* (vi) Professorship of Environment and Development
* (vii) Associate Professorship in Hormesis and Metabolic Adaptation

13/54 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 2016: It was reported that the following had been elected:
Agriculture, Policy and Development:  Mr Richard Tranter
Archeology, Geography and Environmental Science:  Dr Steven Musson
Arts and Communication Design:  Professor Paul Luna
Biological Sciences:  Dr Liam McGuffin
Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy:  Professor Richard Frazier
Construction Management and Engineering:  Dr Libby Schweber
Institute of Education:  Dr Eileen Hyder
International Study and Language Institute:  Mr Bruce Howell
Mathematical and Physical Sciences:  Dr Maarten Ambaum
Systems Engineering:  Dr Ben Potter.

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

Professor Virginie Ruiz

Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Professor Ruiz additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016. A further vacancy remained in this Class for the period to 31 July 2014.

(iii) Election to the Senate of one member by and from amongst the registered students of each Faculty for the Session 2013-14:  It was reported that the following had been elected:

Arts, Humanities and Social Science:  Ms Ioanna Evangelou
Arts, Humanities and Social Science:  Mr Florian Marcus
Henley Business School:  Mr Plamen Hristov
Life Sciences:  Mr Scott Tytheridge
Science:  Mr Anup Kocheril Kurian.

13/55  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 2013-14:

The President (Mr Mark Kelleher)
The Education Office (Ms Emma Jackson)
The Welfare Officer (Ms Sophie Davies)
The Student Engagement Officer (Mr Josh Cave)
The Community and Development Officer (Ms Katy Ashford).

13/56  Membership of the Senate 2013-14 (Item 2(d))

* The Senate received a list of its members for the Session 2013-14.
The Senate received, for its information, the Senate Standing Orders.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

(a) The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had appointed Professor Philip Stratton-Lake to be Acting Head of the School of Literature and Languages for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2013.

(b) The Vice-Chancellor addressed the Senate (copy inserted in Minute Book). Prefacing his remarks by reference to a recent speech in which the President of Universities UK had spoken of the enduring value of universities and of the higher education sector’s inherent durability born of surmounting the innumerable challenges it had faced over many years, the Vice-Chancellor:

(i) noted that work on the further development of the University’s strategic vision towards 2026 was to be shared with colleagues in a series of meetings across all campuses in the coming weeks;

(ii) commended the achievements of those colleagues who brought distinction to the University and, in particular, congratulated Professor Keith Shine FRS on his appointment to the Regius Professorship of Meteorology and Climate Science;

(iii) reported that more Home and EU undergraduate students with A Level grades of ABB+ had been recruited than in 2012 but still fewer than the target that the University had set for 2013: that the University had consciously exceeded its Student Number Control (comprising Home and EU undergraduate students with A Level grades of lower than ABB) by 100; and that the target for Overseas undergraduate students had been exceeded. More disappointingly, there were early indications that Postgraduate Taught student admissions had fallen well below target and work was in hand to quantify the effects of this;

(iv) drew attention to initiatives in the field of teaching and learning, most notably the active engagement of Schools with improved enhancement arrangements and the overwhelming success of the University’s first Massive Open On-line Programme (MOOC) on the FutureLearn platform. Those who had led this initiative, together with those who had newly been nominated for National Teaching Fellowships, were to be congratulated;

(v) welcomed the appointment of fifty-four new colleagues recruited in consequence of the Academic Investment Project, thanked all those who had been instrumental in its success, and outlined the arrangements that were in place for deriving positive publicity from this notable achievement;

(vi) observed that the international dimension to the University’s activities continued to flourish with the appointment of further regional managers in the Reading International Office, participation in prestigious events overseas and good progress towards the physical establishment of the University of Reading Malaysia;
(vii) commented that, despite maintaining its position amongst the world’s top 200 universities, the University’s ranking had fallen in *The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide* relative to the previous year’s *Times Good University Guide* and the outcomes from the National Student Survey did not reflect as well on the University as they might. Analysis of the factors that bear on this situation was underway and the University remained committed to doing all it reasonably could to enhance the student experience;

(viii) suggested that the University’s achievement in being shortlisted for four *THE* awards and two further *THE* leadership and management awards was symbolic of its commitment to innovation and entrepreneurial activity.

**13/59 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 4)**

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 16 September and 1 October 2013.

In regard to item 2 (Final Report of the Academic Investment Project), Professor Rugman noted the expectation that the colleagues recruited under the aegis of the Project would generate significant additional research income but enquired as to the evidence for their also having the potential to attract students and to inspire the development of new programmes of study. By way of immediate example, Professor Berry spoke of the arrival of some twenty additional research students and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) reported that the areas of focus for the Project had all recruited strongly in the current undergraduate admissions round.

**13/60 Report (and Supplementary Report) on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term 2013 (Item 5(a))**

* The Senate received a Report and a Supplementary Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term 2013 for breaches of discipline other than academic misconduct and neglect of work.

**13/61 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 6(a))**

The Senate

(i) appointed Professor Julian Park (*vice* Dr Paddy Woodman) to the Committee on Personal Titles to serve until 31 July 2016;

(ii) appointed Professor Susan Breau (*vice* Professor Mary Bryden) to the panel from which the membership of an Appeal Body is drawn under the terms of Statute XXXIII to serve until 31 July 2016;

(iii) appointed, on the nomination of the Henley Business School, Dr Carol Padgett (*vice* Dr Maria Gee) as a non-professorial member and Dr Renata Stenka (*vice* Dr Carol Padgett) as a non-professorial alternate member to the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2016.
13/62 Retirement of Professors (Item 6(b))

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance XXIV the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred with effect from the date indicated on:-

- Professor Mary Bryden (1 November 2013)
- Professor Geoffrey Mitchell (9 October 2013)
- Professor Ian Rowland (1 January 2014)
- Professor Bruce Traill (1 January 2014).

13/63 Retirements (Item 6(c))

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that the title of Honorary Fellow be conferred for a period of five years with effect from the date indicated on:-

- Mr Timothy Holt (31 August 2013)
- Mrs Julia Shepherd (30 September 2013)
- Mrs Jane Standley (30 June 2013)
- Dr Margaret Yates (30 September 2013).

13/64 Meetings in the Session 2013-14 (Item 7)

Further meetings of the Senate had been scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 4 December 2013 at 2.15pm
- Wednesday 15 January 2014 (reserve)
- Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 2.15pm
- Wednesday 14 May 2014 at 2.15pm (reserve)
- Thursday 3 July 2014 at 2.15pm.

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