A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Thursday 27 June 2013 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

Dr J W Bell
Professor J C Bignell
Dr I M Bland
Professor G Brooks
Dr L T Butler
Dr D M Carter
Dr G K Cook
Mr A J Doak
Professor T A Downes
Professor J A Ellis
Professor R H Ellis
Professor J M Félix
Dr M D E Fellowes
Dr C L Fuller
Professor P R Ghandhi
Professor A Ghobadian
Mr R Gibbard
Professor R.L. Gilchrist
Dr P Glaister
Professor M J Gooding
Professor A C Goodwyn
Professor C J Hilson
Professor Y Kalyuzhnova
Dr O B Kennedy
Dr S Knox
Professor K Liu
Dr A M Macfadyen

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 P M Riddell
Professor P Robinson
Professor A Rugman
Dr V F Ruiz
Professor I C Rutherford
Dr R S Sherratt
Dr A Thies
Professor G H Tucker
Professor S F Walker
Professor A C Williams
Professor C M Williams

The University Secretary

Students:
Mr J Fletcher
Mr N Cook

By invitation:
Mr M Kelleher

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:

Dr Alex Andrew who had been appointed Lecturer in Applied Physical Sciences in 1965 and had retired in 1981.
Emeritus Professor Ben Arnold who had been appointed Lecturer in Medieval History in 1974 and retired as Professor in 2004.

Dr Paul Harris who had joined the staff of the University in 1958 and had retired as Lecturer in Agriculture in 1997.

Dr Rob Morrison who had been appointed Lecturer in Education in 1963 and had retired as Senior Lecturer in 1988.

Emeritus Professor Jack Wrigley CBE who had joined the staff of the University in 1967, had been appointed Professor of Education in 1974 and had served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 1982 until his retirement in 1988.

*13/23 The Minutes (13/01-13/21) of the meeting held on 13 March 2013 were confirmed and signed.

13/24 Birthday Honours

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

OBE – Professor Christine Williams, for services to higher education and nutrition science

MBE – Mrs Muriel Hirst, for services to the University of Reading.

Professor Williams was present at the meeting and the Senate responded with acclaim.

13/25 Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2(b))

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Professorship (part-time) of Marketing and Reputation
* (ii) Executive Professorship of Marketing and Reputation
* (iii) Professorship of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
* (iv) Professorship of Crop Science
* (v) Readership in Multilingual Language Acquisition and/or Literacy
* (vi) Associate Professorship in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
* (vii) Associate Professorship in Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing
* (viii) Hugh Sinclair Professorship of Human Nutrition
* (ix) Professorship of Law [1]
* (x) Professorship of Law [2]
* (xi) Professorship of Econometrics
* (xii) Associate Professorship in Finance
* (xiii) Associate Professorship in Marketing
* (xiv) Head of Executive Education
* (xv) Director of Student, Learning and Teaching Services.
Elections (Item 2(c))

(i) Election of five Professors to the Senate: It was reported that two nominations had been received, those of

Professor Paul Glaister  
Professor David Stack.

Accordingly, Professor Glaister and Professor Stack had each been elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016.

Subsequently, one further nomination had been received, that of:

Professor Roger Matthews.

The Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Professor Matthews additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016. Two vacancies remained, one for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016 and the other for the period from 1 October 2013 to 31 July 2014.

(ii) Election of seven members of the Academic and Academic-related Staff, excluding Professors, to the Senate: Seven nominations had been received and, accordingly,

Dr Karen Ayres  
Dr Ann Chippindale  
Dr John Creighton  
Dr Clare Furneaux  
Dr Elizabeth McCrum  
Dr John Preston  
Dr Susan Walsh

had each been elected to serve. It had been determined by the drawing of lots that Dr Ayres, Dr Creighton, Dr Furneaux and Dr McCrum would each serve for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016, that Dr Walsh would serve for the period from 1 October 2013 to 31 July 2015 and that Dr Chippindale and Dr Preston would each serve for the period from 1 October 2013 to 31 July 2014.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

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

(a) the award of Principal Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy to Professor Julian Park and Dr Paddy Woodman and of a National Teaching Fellowship to Dr Anne Crook, significant achievements that brought great credit to the individuals concerned and to the University;

(b) the planned launch in the Autumn Term 2013 of the University’s first Massive Open On-line Course (MOOC) on App Development, an initiative led locally by Professor Park and Professor Shirley Williams;
progress towards the opening of the University’s Malaysian campus in 2015. Physically, ground clearance at the site in Johor Bahru continued and the final details of the building scheme had recently been agreed. Academically, it had been agreed that Psychology be included amongst the first phase of subjects to be offered and a Director of Recruitment had recently taken up appointment;

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen) had recently visited Kurdistan and met with large numbers of potential students already in possession of scholarships to study overseas. The Vice-Chancellor thanked those Schools that were working with Professor Mithen to attract such students to Reading;

the University’s Open Days were of growing significance in an increasingly competitive market and those held 21 and 22 June had attracted positive feedback. While interest in the University from potential undergraduate students was holding steady, intense activity across the University to convert such interest into applications, applications into first-choice acceptances, and firm acceptances into eventual admissions must perforce continue and increase;

preparations for the Research Excellence Framework 2014 were largely complete and thanks were due to all those who had contributed to the University’s submission under the leadership of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams);

the outcomes of recent Spending Review appeared likely to have a neutral effect on the higher education and science budgets overall but the impact of a requirement placed on HEFCE to reduce spending from its T-budget by £45m had yet to be analysed. Meanwhile, HEFCE consultations on flexibility in student number controls and on the contribution of universities to economic growth and development were underway.

The Vice-Chancellor turned then to a presentation on the University’s forward Strategy (copy inserted in Minute Book) which, it had been agreed, was to be based on three broad domains (Securing sustainable societies; Educating for 21st century lives; Advancing policy and practice) underpinned by academic excellence, financial strength and global engagement. To carry this forward, seven work streams had been established, each of which would drive discrete projects and be led by a member of senior management under the overall direction of a Programme Board which the Vice-Chancellor would himself chair. It was the intention that the widest possible range of colleagues should have an involvement in shaping the detail of this work and ensuring its effective delivery as the University looked forward not only to its ninetieth anniversary in 2016 but also to its centenary of its Royal Charter in 2026.

Professor Gilchrist commented that the broad domains identified within the strategy appeared potentially to underplay the University’s strengths in a number of areas but most particularly in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Both the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) sought to counter this perception by suggesting that the theme of ‘securing sustainable societies’ embraced wider contributions to culture and values than might at first appear.

13/28 Report of the Strategy and Finance Committee

* The Senate received a Report of the meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 10 June 2013.
In relation to item 2 (Executive Decision-Making), Professor Rugman sought reassurance that the proposed arrangements would not diminish the contribution of the academic voice to University-level decision-making. In response, the Vice-Chancellor drew attention to the safeguards that he had put in place to secure the continued engagement and involvement of the Deans while those Pro-Vice-Chancellors present, together with the University Secretary, described the constitutional and practical interrelationships between Boards and Committees that would continue to obtain at School, Faculty and University levels.

In relation to item 4 (Staff Fee Waivers), the Vice-Chancellor explained that reference to the staff fee waiver was not included within individual contracts of employment but instead formed part of Rules for Staff which had the status of being “in amplification of and additional to terms and conditions of service set out in each employee’s contract of employment”. The recommendation of the Strategy and Finance Committee to the Council that this concession be withdrawn, a recommendation upon which the Senate was to have been invited to comment, was therefore premature and had been withdrawn pending further discussion with UCU in the Autumn Term.

13/29 Report of the Senior Management Board

* The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the Senior Management Board held on 11 March, 7 May and 3 June 2013 and approved the recommendations contained therein.

In relation to item 1 (Structure of the Academic Year), the Senate pronounced itself content with the outcome of the wide-ranging consultation exercise that had been conducted and agreed that it had no further comment to make in the matter.

In relation to item 4 (Review of the Centre for Applied Microscopy), the Senate noted the recommendations that, since there was no longer to be the role of Director of the Centre for Applied Microscopy within the new structure, there be a reduction in the number of Academic Staff as defined by Statute XXXIII and that a Restructuring Committee be established in accordance with the University’s Review and Restructuring Policy. The Senate agreed that it had no comment to make to the Council in the matter.

13/30 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 20 March, 20 May and 13 June 2013 subject to a modification to the Procedure for Appeals against termination of registration resulting from failure to submit a thesis by the Maximum Registration Date such that any appeal must be submitted within 28 (and not 10) days of the expiry of a Maximum Registration Date. The Senate further agreed to recommend to the Council:

(a) alterations to Ordinances IV (Degrees awarded by examination), IX (Graduate Certificates and Diplomas Undergraduate Diplomas and Certificates of Higher Education), I (Degrees of Bachelor), LI (Degrees of Bachelor (for part-time students)), LII (Degrees of Bachelor of Arts (Education) in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science), LIII (Degree of Bachelor of Science in the Faculty of Science (for External Students), LIV (Degrees of Integrated Master),
LV (Degrees of Master), LXI (Postgraduate Diplomas), LXII (Postgraduate Certificates), LXIII (Post-Experience Diplomas and Certificates), LXV (Undergraduate Diplomas and Diplomas of Higher Education in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science), LXVI (Certificates of Higher Education in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science), LXIX (Degree of Master of Science (Postgraduate) awarded jointly with other institutions), LXXI (Graduate Diplomas), LXXII (Ordinary Degrees), LXXIII (Graduate Certificates) and LXXVI (Professional Graduate Certificate in Education) to remove all references to length of study for taught programmes given that such information is now more appropriately contained within guidelines accompanying the University’s Credit and Qualifications Framework;

(b) alterations to Ordinance IV (Degrees awarded by examination) to provide for the award of the Foundation Degree with Merit or Distinction.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) expressed his particular thanks to the Associate Deans (Teaching and Learning) for their leadership of a number of developments over the past Session. In response to a question from Professor Rugman, Professor Brooks clarified that the fifteen working day turnaround time for feedback and the communication of assessment criteria included neither University closure days nor Bank Holidays.

13/31 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 30 May 2013.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) thanked all those who had contributed to the work of the REF Impact Steering Group against a tight timetable but to great effect, most notably in relation to impact case studies. Increased levels of student involvement in the research planning process were to be welcomed and it was to be hoped that a fall in research income might yet be recovered in the final quarter of the current financial year and the first quarter of the next.

13/32 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 20 March, 24 April and 29 May 2013.

The Dean drew particular attention to the hosting of meetings of two major subject associations by the Faculty and thanked all those officeholders who were stepping down at the end of the Session.

13/33 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 21 March and 24 April 2013 and of a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science on 29 May 2013.
The Dean referred to the budgetary imbalances that were affecting Schools in consequence of the incorporation of a number of previously discrete elements within the overall tuition fee. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the issue and suggested that it be raised in the context of the Three-Year Planning Process. The Senate joined the Dean in offering congratulations to Katherine Livingstone, a research student in the School of Biological Sciences, whose work had attracted national attention.

13/34 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 20 March and 25 April 2013 and of a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences on 29 May 2013.

13/35 Report of the Management Board of the Henley Business School (Item 5(f))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Henley Business School held on 20 March and 1 May 2013.

13/36 Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees (Item 5(g))

* The Senate, for its part, approved the Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees held on 17 June 2013.

13/37 Reports of the Standing Disciplinary Committee (Item 5(h))

(a) The Senate approved a Report on Disciplinary Arrangements and agreed to recommend to the Council alterations to the Regulations for Conduct to provide for additional arrangements in regard to breaches of discipline which occur in the community;

(b) The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Spring Term 2013.

Dr Macfadyen, speaking as Warden of St Patrick’s Hall, regretted the lack of a written report in relation to his Hall but commented that it had, in fact, been a particularly difficult year. The physical arrangement of the Hall was not, he felt, conducive to peaceful co-existence or to the equitable imposition of fines and charges. Accordingly, a number of residents were likely to leave the University with a feeling of resentment and it was suggested that such steps as might be possible be taken to minimise any reputational damage arising from this unfortunate situation.
(a) The Senate:

(i) re-appointed Professor F.H.M. Le Saux and appointed Professor G. Marston (vice Dr A.J. Thorpe) to the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on the Arts to serve until 31 July 2016;

(ii) appointed Professor H.M.I. Osborn (vice Professor R.B. Potter) as an alternate member to the Committee appointed to hear appeals against decisions of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Personal Titles to serve until 31 July 2016;

(iii) appointed Professor G.H. Tucker (vice Professor R.H. Ellis) as an alternate to the Vice-Chancellor as Chair of the Standing Disciplinary Committee to serve until 31 July 2015;

(iv) appointed Professor R.S. Sherratt (vice Dr G.K. Cook) as a member of the Standing Disciplinary Committee to serve until 31 July 2016;

(v) re-appointed Dr P.J. Almond as an alternate member and appointed Mr A.J. Doak, Dr C. Houston-Price, Mrs G. Kilner and Dr M.J. Proven as additional alternate members to the Standing Disciplinary Committee to serve until 31 July 2016;

(vi) re-appointed Professor A.F. Knapp as a professorial member and Professor D.S. Oderberg as a professorial alternate member on the nomination of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2016;

(vii) re-appointed Professor M.H. Gordon as a professorial member and Professor R.M. Bennett as a professorial alternate member on the nomination of the Faculty of Life Sciences to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2016;

(viii) appointed Dr E. McSorley (vice Dr R.A. Frazier) as a non-professorial member and Dr H. Osbahr (vice Dr E. McSorley) as a non-professorial alternate member on the nomination of the Faculty of Life Sciences to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2016;

(ix) appointed Dr M.E. Lewis (vice Dr R.S. Sherratt) as a non-professorial alternate member on the nomination of the Faculty of Science to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2016;

(x) appointed Professor A.C. Godley (vice Professor V.A. Gibson) to the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2015;
(xi) re-appointed Professor M.W. Shaw to the Committee for the Museum of English Rural Life to serve until 31 July 2016;

(xii) re-appointed Dr P.J. Almond to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2016.

(xiii) appointed Professor A. Ghobadian (vice Professor P.R. Ghandhi) and re-appointed Professor G. Brooks to the panel from which the membership of a Tribunal is drawn under the terms of Statute XXXIII to serve until 31 July 2016;

(xiv) appointed Dr B. Cosh (vice Professor P.R. Ghandhi) to the panel from which the membership of a Grievance Committee is drawn under the terms of Statute XXXIII to serve until 31 July 2016;

(xv) re-appointed Professor R. Auchmuty, Professor G.R. Gibson and Professor C.M.S. Sutcliffe 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;

(xvi) re-appointed Dr A.S. Grandison to the NFU/Unigate Scholarship Fund Committee to serve until 31 December 2016.

(b) The Senate agreed that

(i) Professor Dianne Berry be co-opted to the Senate for a further period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016; and

(ii) Professor Susan Breau be co-opted to the Senate for the period from 1 September 2013 to 31 July 2014.

13/39 Retirement of Professors

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance XIV the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred on each of the following with effect from 1 October 2013 unless otherwise stated:

Professor Andrew Baum (1 September 2013)
Professor Alan Evans
Professor Sandy Ghandhi.

13/40 Retirements

The Senate noted that the following members of the Academic Staff were to retire from 30 September 2013 (unless otherwise stated) and agreed to recommend to Council that each be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years:

Ms Eleanor Allan (30 June 2013)
Dr Trevor Davies
Jennifer Ghandhi
Ms Wendy Gibbons
13/41 List of Meetings 2013-14

* The Senate received the final version of the list of meetings for 2013-14 for its information.

13/42 Thanks and farewell

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the student representatives for their positive and constructive engagement with the University on behalf of the student body throughout the past Session and wished them well for the future. He welcomed the President-elect of the Students’ Union, who was attending the meeting by invitation, and expressed confidence that this mutually beneficial relationship would both continue and develop.

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Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting

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