A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Thursday 3 July 2014 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Dr Maarten Ambaum
Dr Karen Ayres
Dr Jonathan Bell
Professor Dianne Berry
Professor Jonathan Bignell
Ms Helen Bilton
Professor Susan Breau
Professor Gavin Brooks
Dr Laurie Butler
Professor Peter Byrne
Professor Simon Chandler-Wilde
Dr David Carter
Dr Ann Chippindale
Dr Ben Cosh
Mr Joe Doak
Professor Tony Downes
Professor Alison Donnell
Professor Richard Ellis
Dr Mark Fellowes
Professor Abby Ghobadian
Mr Roger Gibbard
Professor Roberta Gilchrist
Professor Andy Goodwyn
Professor Stuart Green
Dr Paul Hatcher
Professor Chris Hilson
Mr Bruce Howell
Professor Yelena Kalyuzhnova
Professor Peter Kruschwitz
Dr Simone Knox
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Professor George Marston
Professor Steven Mithen
Mrs Susan Mott

Dr Steven Musson
Professor Helen Osborn
Dr John Preston
Professor Ros Richards
Professor Patricia Riddell
Professor Peter Robinson
Professor Virginie Ruiz
Professor Françoise Le Saux
Dr Libby Schweber
Professor Simon Sherratt
Mr Richard Tranter
Professor Hugo Tucker
Professor Sue Walker
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Christine Williams

The University Secretary

Students:
Mr Mark Kelleher
Ms Sophie Davies
Mr Josh Cave

Faculty Representatives:
Ms Ioanna Evangelou (AH&SS)

In attendance:
Ms Chloe Bartlett
Ms Sara Chandran
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 David Beever who had been appointed Professor of Animal Production in 1992 and had retired in 2004.

Sir William Benyon who had served as a member of the Council from 1966 to 2000 and had remained a member of the Court until the time of his death.

Dr Michael Brock who had served as a member of the Council from 1978 and had been its Vice-President from 1982 to 1986.

Emeritus Professor Peter Dunn who had been appointed Professor of Engineering Science in 1965 and had retired in 1992.

Emeritus Professor Andrew Gilbert who had been appointed Lecturer in Chemistry in 1965 and had retired as Professor of Photochemistry in 2002.

Miss Gloria Goldman who had joined the staff of the University in 1967, had been appointed Director of the Careers Advisory Service in 1984 and had retired in 1990.

Mr Alan Harrison who had joined the staff of the University in 1953 and had retired as Reader in Agricultural Economics and Management in 1991.

Emeritus Professor Sir James Holt, historian of the first fifty years of this University, who had been Professor of History from 1966 to 1978 and had served as Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences from 1972 until 1976.

Emeritus Professor Rob Potter who had been appointed Professor of Geography in 2003 and had retired in 2013.

Dr John Sutton who had joined the staff of the University in 1992 and had retired as Principal Research Fellow in Agriculture in 2002.

Emeritus Professor Alan Wild who had joined the staff of the University in 1944, had served as Dean of the Faculty of Science from 1981 until 1984 and had retired as Professor of Soil Science in 1989.

14/22 The Minutes (14/01-14/20) of the meeting held on 12 March 2014 were confirmed and signed.

14/23 Birthday Honours 2014

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

Knight Bachelor – Dr Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum and a member of the University Court, for services to museums.

CBE – Dr Christie Peacock, a graduate (BSc Agriculture, 1980; PhD, 1984) and an honorary graduate (HonDSc, 2011) of this University, for services to agricultural
development in Africa.

CBE – Professor Alastair Adair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Ulster and a graduate (PhD Land Management, 1992) of this University.

OBE – John Simpson, formerly Chief Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary and a graduate of this University (MA Medieval Studies, 1976), for services to literature.

14/24 Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2(b))

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

* (i) Professorship of Marketing
* (ii) Head of Development and Estate Management
* (iii) Head of Partnership Programmes, Henley Business School
* (iv) Head of Open Programmes, Henley Business School
* (v) Business Development Director: Custom Programmes, Henley Business School
* (vi) Director of Student Support Services
* (vii) Associate Professorship in Spanish

14/25 Elections (Item 2(c))

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

Professor Annalisa Marzano
Professor Giovanni Razzu.

Accordingly, Professor Marzano and Professor Razzu had each been elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2017

Subsequently, two further nominations had been received, those of:

Professor Peter Kruschwitz
Professor Sue Walker.

The Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Professor Kruschwitz and Professor Walker additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2017.

(ii) Election of five members of the Academic and Academic-related Staff, excluding Professors, to the Senate: It was reported that one nomination had been received, that of

Dr Catherine Tissot.
Accordingly, Dr Tissot had been elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2017.

Subsequently, three further nominations had been received, those of:

Ms Christina Duckett  
Dr Carol Fuller  
Dr Daisy Powell.

The Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate, had agreed that Ms Duckett, Dr Fuller and Dr Powell each additionally be deemed elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2017. One vacancy remained for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2016.

(iii) Election of one member of the Senate not being a registered student of the University to the Council: It was reported that the Senate, constituted as at 1 August 2014, would be invited by correspondence to elect one of its number not being a registered student of the University to membership of the Council (vice Dr Ben Cosh) to serve for the period to 31 July 2017.

14/26 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

(a) the Vice-Chancellor reported that he had appointed Dr John Gibbs to be Acting Head of the School of Arts and Communication Design for the Spring Term 2015;

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

(i) a number of external factors that continued to bear upon the University, not least the imminent removal of Student Number Control, the inevitable uncertainty that preceded the announcement of the outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework 2014, increased competition amongst universities and abiding financial pressures;

(ii) an improvement in the numbers of those accepting the University’s offers of admission across the board in the face of a reduction in undergraduate applications. It was believed that this success could be attributed to a number of factors, not least a focussed publicity campaign, an increased digital presence and the efforts of all those who had contributed to the recent Open Days;

(iii) the encouraging position in regard to research income which could be expected to benefit further from the identification of additional research domains designed to strengthen the distinctiveness of what Reading had to offer to the funder of research;
(iv) a number of international opportunities that continued to be pursued, most notably in Europe and Asia. The Vice-Chancellor commented that the work undertaken by colleagues in more difficult and unstable parts of the world bore testament to the power of international collaboration in working for the common good;

(v) the success of Professor Matthew Almond in being named as a National Teaching Fellow and the establishment within the University of the FLAIR framework which had been accredited by the Higher Education Academy and represented a significant step for the training and further professional development of those involved with teaching and learning. The Henley Business School and the Reading School of Pharmacy were to be congratulated on securing re-accreditation from the relevant professional bodies;

(vi) the exercise to reform the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances which had been initiated by the Council and of which the Senate could expect to hear more at its next meeting. In the context of this exercise, the opportunity would be taken to reflect upon the roles of Faculties and of Deans and, naturally, the views of the Senate would be sought;

(vii) the continued success of fundraising in the University, underpinned by the support of its alumni and facilitated by staff in areas such as the Reading Real Estate Foundation which had recently been shortlisted for a Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award;

(viii) the contribution to the work of the Senate that had been made its student members in the course of the past Session; by the Dean of the Faculty of Science (Professor Marston) who was shortly to take up appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at Northumbria; by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) who would be continuing to pursue her academic interests on a part-time basis within the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development; by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Downes) who was to become founder Provost and Chief Executive Officer of the University of Reading Malaysia; and by the University Secretary (Mr Hodgson) who was to retire from the full-time service of the University after thirty-six years. The Senate endorsed the Vice-Chancellor’s thanks to these colleagues with acclamation.

14/27 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 4(b))

* The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 3, 17 and 31 March, 6 and 19 May and 2 and 16 June 2014.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen) and the Head
of University Administration (Dr Messer) for their leadership of the History of Art, History and English Projects.

14/28  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 19 March, 1 May, 23 May and 19 June 2014.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) reported that the Board had appointed Dr Orla Kennedy to be Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Life Sciences (vice Professor Julian Park) and had appointed Dr Elizabeth McCrum to be Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Science (vice Dr Kennedy) for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2018.

In regard to item 23(b), Professor Brooks explained that the Academic Excellence Scheme, which had been launched on a pilot basis, would henceforth be applied universally, save to those programmes over which the University did not have complete jurisdiction.

14/29  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 5 June 2014.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Williams) noted that the University appeared to be on target to meet, or even to exceed, the ambitious target for research income that it had set itself for the year ending 31 July 2014. In concluding her final Report to the Senate, Professor Williams made particular mention of the contribution of Professor Marston in chairing the Open Access and Research Data Management Working Groups and extended thanks to all those who had been of support to her work throughout six years as Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

14/30  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 February, 19 March, 6 May and 4 June 2014.

14/31  Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences (Item 5(d))

* The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 20 March and 2 May 2014 and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 4 June 2014.
Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science (Item 5(e))

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 19 March and 1 May 2014 and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 4 June 2014.

In concluding his final Report to the Senate, Professor Marston made particular mention of the work of the Heads of School in the Faculty and of the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning). Dr Ben Cosh had been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science (vice Professor Marston) with effect from 1 August 2014 for a period of up to two years, the relevant Faculty Management Board having foregone its right to proceed to an election on this occasion, and the Senate joined Professor Marston in wishing him well.

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

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Henley Business School held on 19 March 2014.

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 meeting of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees held on 23 June 2014.

Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Spring Term 2014 (Item 5(h))

The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Spring Term 2014.

Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 6(a))

(a) The Senate:

(i) re-appointed Professor P. Robinson and appointed Dr R.S. Garfield and Professor P.M. Miskell (vice Professor G. Marston and Professor S.J. Mithen) to the Senate Standing Committee on the Arts to serve until 31 July 2017;

(ii) re-appointed Professor D.C. Berry to the Committee appointed to hear appeals against decisions of the Senate Standing Committee on Personal Titles to serve until 31 July 2017;
(iii) re-appointed Dr E.M. Page to the Standing Disciplinary Committee to serve until 31 July 2017;

(iv) appointed Dr C. Tissot (vice Dr E. McCrum) as a non-professorial 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 2015;

(v) appointed Professor H.M.I. Osborn (vice Professor M.H. Gordon) as a professorial member on the nomination of the Faculty of Life Sciences to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2016;

(vi) re-appointed Professor P.J. Byrne as a professorial member and Professor C.M.S. Sutcliffe as a professorial alternate member on the nomination of the Henley Business School to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2017;

(vii) appointed Professor V.A. Gibson, Professor A. Marzano, Professor J.M. Preston and Professor K.P. Shine (vice Professor J.A. Ellis, Professor S.J. Graham, Professor E.J. Highwood and Professor P. Kruschwitz) to the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2016;

(viii) appointed Professor A.J. Donnell (vice Professor S.F. Walker) to the Committee for the Museum of English Rural Life to serve until 31 July 2017;

(ix) appointed Professor S.C. Breau and Professor S.D. Green (vice Professor J.A. Ellis and Professor A. Ghobadian) to the Senate Standing Committee on Personal Titles to serve until 31 July 2017;

(x) appointed Dr E.M. McCrum (vice Dr B. Cosh) to the Joint University/UCU Committee to serve until 31 July 2017;

(xi) re-appointed Dr J. Wright (as Chair), J.F.S. Burchardt and Professor M.A. Gosney to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2017;

(xii) re-appointed Professor J.C. Bignell, Professor C.J. Hilson and Professor R.A. Rastall to the panel from which the membership of a Tribunal is drawn under the terms of Statute XXXIII to serve until 31 July 2017;

(xiii) appointed Professor J.L.G. Board (vice Professor M.G. Fulford) to the panel from which the membership of a Grievance Committee is drawn under the terms of Statute XXXIII to serve until 31 July 2017;
appointed Professor R.L. Gilchrist (vice Professor K.M. 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 2017;

re-appointed Professor P. Glaister to the Court of the University of Surrey to serve until 30 June 2017;

appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Mr Raimo) to be Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (vice Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen)) to serve until 31 July 2018.

The Senate agreed that Professor Tony Downes, Provost and Chief Executive Officer, University of Reading Malaysia, be co-opted to membership with effect from 1 August 2014.

Retirement of Professors

(a) The Senate received a report that it had been agreed on its behalf by the Vice-Chancellor and by the President on behalf of the Council in agreeing that the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon Professor Simon Dentith with effect from 1 June 2014.

(b) The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance XXIV the title of Professor Emeritus (or Professor Emerita as appropriate) be conferred upon each of the following with effect from the date indicated:

Professor Viv Edwards (1 August 2014)
Professor Michael Gordon (1 October 2014)
Professor Anna Gruetzner-Robins (1 October 2014)
Professor Sir Brian Hoskins (1 May 2014)
Professor Averil Macdonald (1 August 2014)
Professor Elizabeth Williamson (1 September 2014).

Retirement of the University Secretary

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance XXIV the title of University Secretary Emeritus be conferred upon Mr Keith Hodgson with effect from 1 August 2014.

Other Retirements

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that each of the following be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years with effect from 1 October 2014 unless otherwise stated:
Dr Nicola Bradbury  
Mr Trevor Gibson (1 August 2014)  
Mr Martin Heaps (1 April 2014)  
Dr Alistair Grandison  
Mr Keith Hutchinson  
Mrs Mary Maclean  
Mr Stephen Mika  
Ms Rose-Ann Movsovic  
Miss Pamela Rummings (1 July 2014)  
Mrs Delia Salter  
Dr Demetris Savva  
Mrs Christine Storey (1 August 2014)  
Mr Christopher Wagstaff.

14/40 List of Meetings 2014-15

* The Senate received the final version of the list of meetings for 2014-15 for its information.