Senate

15/01  A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond
Dr Maarten Ambeum
Professor Victor Becerra
Dr Laura Bennett
Professor Dianne Berry
Dr Ian Bland
Professor Gavin Brooks
Professor Laurie Butler
Dr David Carter
Dr John Creighton
Professor Alison Donnell
Ms Christina Duckett
Professor Richard Ellis
Professor Mark Fellowes
Professor Richard Frazier
Dr Carol Fuller
Dr Clare Furneaux
Professor Abby Ghobadian
Professor Roger Gibbard
Dr John Gibbs
Professor Ginny Gibson
Professor Roberta Gilchrist
Professor Paul Glaister
Professor Andy Goodwyn
Professor Suzanne Graham
Professor Stuart Green
Mr Bruce Howell
Professor Yelena Kalyuzhnova
Dr Orla Kennedy
Professor Kecheng Liu
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Dr Liam McGuffin
Professor Annalisa Marzano
Professor Roger Matthews

Professor Steve Mithen
Mrs Sue Mott
Professor Julian Park
Dr Daisy Powell
Mr Enzo Raimo
Professor Giovanni Razzu
Professor Shirley Reynolds
Professor Ros Richards
Professor Patricia Riddell
Mrs Edith Rigby
Professor Peter Robinson
Professor Françoise Le Saux
Dr Libby Schweber
Professor David Stack
Mr David Stannard
Professor Philip Stratton-Lake
Dr Catherine Tissot
Mr Richard Tranter
Professor Hugo Tucker
Professor Robert Van de Noort
Professor Sue Walker
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Dominik Zaum
The University Secretary

Students:

Ms Sara Chandran
Ms Tilly Corless
Mr Charlie Holman

In attendance:

Ms Louise Sharman

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:

Professor Christopher Salveson, former Head of Department of English. He retired in 2000.

Mr James Thompson, University Librarian 1967-1987.

Sir John Mason, who received an honorary DSc in 1998.

Professor Peter Byrne, Professor of Real Estate Dynamics and Head of the School of Real Estate & Planning.

15/02 The Minutes (14/69-14/84) of the meeting held on 3 December 2014 were confirmed and signed.

15/03 New Year Honours

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

OBE – Emeritus Professor Ian Mills, FRS, for services to Chemistry and Metrology.

15/04 Report of a Committee of Selection (Item 2b)

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

i) Associate Professor in Marketing
ii) Head of the Institute of Education
iii) Professor in Real Estate Appraisal

15/05 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

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

a) The 2014 REF results were encouraging for the University, but there was still more to do for the University to maintain and enhance its position in the next such exercise.

b) REDACTED – S.43

c) A formal review was being undertaken of the School of Systems Engineering.

d) Professor Gavin Brooks’ current period of office as Pro-Vice-Chancellor would come to an end on 31 July 2015. With the approval of the Appointments Committee a Pro-Vice-Chancellor would be appointed for a four year period with effect from 1 August 2015. Professor Brooks was eligible to stand again as he had completed his first term. A formal recommendation would be made through the Senate to the Council in July 2015.
The success of Future Learn, the consortium put together to offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

The HEFCE letter for 2015-16 emphasised continuity of policy intent in teaching, research and knowledge exchange. The letter was silent on 2016-17 but it was wise to make prudent assumptions of flat cash. HEFCE had held back £35m for growth in student numbers to be distributed in January 2016.

In terms of research funding in the aftermath of the REF, the budget would be the same as 2014/15 in cash terms. It would also be distributed according to the REF weightings of 65:20:15. The 4*:3* ratio would be amended to 4:1 from 3:1 from 2015-16.

The University was unsuccessful in its bid for funding under the HEFCE STEM capital scheme.

HEFCE had announced a review of quality assessment arrangements across the sector.

UUK had recently issued a report on the future regulation in HE. Amongst other things it recommended: the establishment of a register of approved HE providers; giving the current register greater regulatory status; a new Council for Higher Education for England; proposals for how student protection concerns could be addressed in a risk-based and proportionate way.

A review of the National Student Survey had suggested some alterations to include questions on student engagement.

UUK had published a good practice guide to student mental health in HE.

15/06 Academic Structures (Item 4)

On 20 January the University published proposals for a revised academic structure. None of the comments received raised any objections to what was proposed; rather, they posed helpful and constructive questions, the majority of which were around implementation.

On the basis of the feedback received the University Executive Board made only one change to the proposal. Given the size, scale and range of the Business School, and its particular requirements around its triple accreditation, the Dean of the Henley Business School would report directly to the Vice-Chancellor. This was an arrangement common in other universities.

The Senate approved the following recommendations:

1) The University no longer have a Faculty structure with effect from 1 August 2016.
2) The role of Dean of the Faculty, and Faculty Director of Research cease with effect from 31 July 2016.

3) Schools continue as they are currently constituted.

4) Henley Business School, which acts as both a Faculty and a School under the current arrangements, will act as a School under the new arrangements.

5) Heads of School continue normally to be internal appointments.

6) Heads of School would be appointed on a six-year fixed-term basis, with the possibility of extension on a case-by-case basis as determined by the University Executive Board.

7) Line management of Heads of School transfer to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resource), with the exception of the Dean of the Henley Business School who would report directly to the Vice-Chancellor.

8) Heads of School would be responsible for the academic and financial performance of their School and would also be responsible for contributing to the leadership and broader good of the University.

15/07 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 5)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 8 December 2014, 19 January, 2, 9, 16 February, 2 March 2015 and noted in particular:

a) It had been agreed that the School of Architecture be housed at London Road (LO46) on an interim basis and that a permanent home be found in a refurbished URS building from 2018.

b) The Board had approved a proposal to change the name of the School of Construction Management and Engineering to the School of the Built Environment, which would comprise two departments, namely the new School of Architecture and the existing School of Construction Management and Engineering, with effect from 1 August 2015.

15/08 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 6 a)

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 20 November, 8 December 2014, 14 January, 4 February and 24 February 2015.

The Senate approved amendments to the Admissions Policy which had been updated...
in light of the QAA Quality Code Chapter B2.

In regard to item 6 the Senate noted that the Board had approved a proposal for the development of a University-wide curriculum framework.

In regard to item 8 the Senate noted that a report on the Student Academic Success project had been received by the Board. A number of recommendations and targeted initiatives would be taken forward with particular Schools.

In regard to item 12 the Senate noted that a Working Group had been established to develop detailed plans for future Enhancement Weeks.

In regard to item 14 on branch campuses the Senate was reminded that programmes offered at the University of Reading Malaysia (UoRM) were University of Reading programmes and were owned by the relevant Reading-based Boards of Studies. The amendment of policies and procedures to accommodate UoRM was governed by the principle that programme-related matters and matters related to academic standards would remain the responsibility of Reading-based bodies, with some limited delegation of operational responsibility, while student-related matters were generally best dealt with locally and were therefore devolved more fully to UoRM.

In regard to item 19 the Senate noted that the longer term vision for e-assessment was that all summative coursework would be submitted, marked and graded electronically.

15/09 Report of the University Board for Research and Innovation (Item 6 b)

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the University Board for Research and Innovation held on 23 February 2015.

The Senate congratulated Professor Dominik Zaum, Professor Roberta Gilchrist and Professor Adrian Williams on their appointment as Research Deans. The University was recruiting externally for the other two positions.

In regard to item 3 the Senate noted that the Research Plan 2020 would be submitted to the University Executive Board for approval on 16 March 2015.

15/10 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science (Item 6 c)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science held on 8 December 2014, 21 January and 19 February 2015.
15/11 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences (Item 6 d)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 10 December 2014, 15 January and 5 February 2015 and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 18 February 2015.

In considering the new academic structure the Dean reminded the Senate of the imperative for the University to ensure strong ‘academic voice’ in decision-making, to support Heads of Schools, and to acknowledge the importance of ‘faculty’ in the mission of the University.

15/12 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science (Item 6 e)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 9 December 2014 and 19 January 2015 and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 18 February 2015.

15/13 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Autumn Term 2014 (Item 6 f)

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

15/14 Retirement of Professors (Item 7 a)

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance XXIV the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred on Professor Paul Croll with effect from 1 January 2015.

15/15 Other Retirements (Item 7 b)

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 the date indicated:

Dr Susan Malvern (1 January 2015)
Mr Roderic Vaughan (1 February 2015)
Mrs Ruth Salisbury (1 February 2015)

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting