A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Thursday 2 July 2015 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Dr Maarten Ambaum
Dr Karen Ayers
Professor Victor Becerra
Professor Dianne Berry
Professor Jonathan Bignell
Ms Helen Bilton
Dr lan Bland
Professor Gavin Brooks
Professor Laurie Butler
Dr David Carter
Professor Ben Cosh
Dr John Creighton
Ms Christina Duckett
Professor Richard Ellis
Professor Richard Frazier
Dr Carol Fuller
Professor Roger Gibbard
Professor Roberta Gilchrist
Professor Paul Glaister
Professor Stuart Green
Mr Bruce Howell
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Dr Emma Mayhew
Professor Steve Mithen
Professor Julian Park
Dr Daisy Powell
Mr Enzo Raimo

Professor Ros Richards
Mrs Edith Rigby
Professor Virginie Ruiz
Professor David Stack
Professor Philip Stratton-Lake
Dr Catherine Tissot
Mr Richard Tranter
Professor Hugo Tucker
Professor Robert Van de Noort
Professor Sue Walker
Dr Susan Walsh
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Dominik Zaum
The University Secretary

Students:
Mr Ben Cooper
Ms Nina Hager
Mr Niall Hamilton
Mr James Hart
Mr Oli Ratcliffe

In attendance:
Mr David Savage
Ms Louise Sharman

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the new Student Union officers to their first meeting of the Senate.

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

Carol Prior, who joined the University in 1974 as Executive Assistant in the Student Records Office until 2001, and became Helpdesk Manager for Student and Applicant Services until 2014. She was also Warden for Sibly Hall 2010 – 2012 and
Sheila Boyd, who joined the University as Assistant Data Processing Officer in 1971, and was granted Academic Staff status in 1974. She became Data Processing Officer in 1980 until her retirement in March 1991.

Emeritus Professor George “Harry” Parkinson, who joined the University as Assistant Lecturer in Philosophy in 1949. He was awarded the personal title of Professor of Philosophy in 1974, and became Head of the Department of Philosophy and Chair of Philosophy in 1983 until his retirement in 1989.

Dr David Gervais, who was appointed Lecturer in the Department of English in 1971. He retired in 1991.

Sharon Renew, who joined the Charlie Waller Institute in 2011 as a temporary administrator and became Programme Administrator for the PGDip in Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment HI Intensity programme until her death in June 2015.

Miss Katie Henderson, who worked in the Admissions Office from 2013 until her death in June 2015.

15/23 The Minutes (15/01-15/15) of the meeting held on 11 March 2015 were confirmed and signed.

15/24 New Year Honours

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

CBE – Professor James Adams, former professor in Classics, for services to Latin Scholarship.

OBE - Professor Averil MacDonald, Professor Emerita, for services to higher education.

MBE – Ms Kate Arnold-Forster, Head of Museums and Special Collections and Director of the Museum of English Rural Life, for services to university museums.

MBE – Professor Patricia Leopold, sessional lecturer (School of Law) and advocate of pro bono activities, for services to higher education.

BEM – Mr Trevor Pitman, Technical Manager (School of Biological Sciences), for services to higher education.

15/25 Report of a Committee of Selection (Item 2b)

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

i) PVC Appointment

ii) Associate Professor in Coaching
Associate Professor in Coaching
Professor of Public Engagement with History
Academic Director Physician Associate Programme
Professor in International Business
Professor in Economics
Professor of Cardiovascular Biology
Associate Professor in Information Design
Associate Professor in Landscape Ecology
Associate Professor in Endocrinology
Professor of Education
Associate Professor in Literature and Book History

15/26 **Elections (Item 2c)**

(i) **Election of five Professors to the Senate**

Five vacancies remain for the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

(ii) **Election of seven members of the Academic and Academic-related Staff, excluding Professors, to the Senate:**

Four nominations were received:

Dr M. Nicholls  
Dr P. Hatcher  
Dr I. Bland  
Dr C.J. Smith

Accordingly, Dr Nicholls, Dr Hatcher, Dr Smith and Dr Bland have been elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

Three vacancies remain for the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

15/27 **Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)**

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

a) **The appointment of the following Heads of School:**

Professor Parveen Yaqoob, Head of the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy for a four year period with effect from 1 August 2015.

Professor Uma Kambhampati, Head of the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations for a four year period with effect from 1 August 2015.

Dr Nick Branch as Head of the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science for a four year period with effect from 1 August 2015.

b) **The appointment of Professor Roberta Gilchrist, Professor Adrian Williams, Professor Dominik Zaum, Professor Richard Bennett and Dr Phil Newton as Research Deans.**
c) The appointment of Dr David Carter, Professor Clare Furneaux, Professor Roger Gibbard, Dr Orla Kennedy and Dr Elizabeth McCrum as Teaching and Learning Deans.

d) To note that Professor Matthew Almond had been elected, by the Faculty Management Board, as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science for the period ending 31 July 2016.

e) The Conservative manifesto pledged to introduce a TEF, or Teaching Excellence Framework. Professor Brooks was chairman of a Leadership Foundation group monitoring TEF developments.

f) The Higher Education Academy had reported on the potential adoption of a national grade-point average system (GPA) to represent the cumulative and summative achievement of students. It was proposed that a dual-running system should be introduced, after which there should be a review with the clear intention that a single GPA system then be introduced.

g) HEFCE had published its second phase consultation document on the future arrangements for quality assurance. It continued to emphasise the fundamental principles of institutional autonomy and co-regulation. However, HEFCE had highlighted a new emphasis on data about student academic outcomes rather than internal systems and processes, the need to strengthen the external examiner system and an enhanced role for universities’ own internal quality assurance systems.

h) Congratulations go to Dr Elizabeth Page, Associate Professor of Chemistry Education and Dr Paddy Woodman, Director of Student Development and Access who had both been awarded National Teaching Fellowships.

i) Following the retirement of Shirley Williams as inaugural Director of Open Online Courses (DOOC) on 31 July, Matthew Nicholls has been appointed as DOOC on a 0.3 FTE basis for two years as from 1 August 2015.

j) There were continuing concerns about the next phase of spending reductions and how these would impact on higher education. We already know that some £450 million would be cut from the budget of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in the current financial year although, as yet, it was not known how this would impact individual institutions.

k) The University was now ranked in the top 30 of the Complete University Guide. The University was also in the UK top 25 universities in the Leiden rankings which measured the performance of the 750 universities worldwide deemed to have the largest scientific output, with respect to scientific impact and collaboration.

l) REDACTED – S.43
m) The Executive Board had recently given consideration to longer-term student number projections, both in terms of what was feasible as well as what was desirable.

n) Later this month, Professor Tony Downes would brief Council on developments on Malaysia. The new campus building would be open for students arriving to start courses in September.

o) Her Majesty The Queen and the Privy Council had given approval to the Charter.

p) The Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) is the body with responsibility for making markets work well and is charged by the Government with enforcing consumer law. Recent information has been provided laying out how universities should comply with their obligations under consider law in areas such as information provision, terms and conditions and student complaints’ handling. To ensure compliance, the CMA will begin a series of reviews of universities in the autumn.

15/28 Presentation on the Global Strategy

The Senate received a presentation from Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Mr Raimo) (copy inserted in Minute Book) on the University’s Global Strategy.

15/29 Report of the Strategy and Finance Committee (Item 5a)

The Senate received a Report of the meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 15 June 2015. It was noted that the Committee had approved for onward transmission to the Council the Report of the Review of the School of Systems Engineering and its recommendation that, in accordance with the University’s Review and Restructuring Policy, a Consultation Group be established.

15/30 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 5b)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 16, 30 March, 20 April, 5, 18 May, 1, 8, 15 and 22 June 2015.

a) The Senate, for its part, approved recommendations in regard to student attendance at meetings of the Senate.

b) The Senate approved proposals in regard to changes to the committee structure in relation to teaching and learning, research and to global engagement. It was noted that the University Secretary would during the course of 2015/16 review the remainder of the committee structure with a view to reducing the number of committees required, and the amount of repetitive reporting.

The sabbatical officers expressed some concerns in regard to changes to the Sub-Committee on Student Support. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) clarified
the changes and noted that there was an error in one of the documents submitted. The University Secretary assured the sabbatical officers that student representation on committees would be taken into consideration in thinking about possible new structures.

c) Review of the School of Systems Engineering

The Senate received for consideration and comment the Review of the School of Systems Engineering.

It was noted that at its meeting on 9 February 2015 the Board had agreed to establish a Review of the School of Systems Engineering (SSE) in response to the School’s performance in the Research Excellence Framework 2014.

The Review Group was asked to determine progress of SSE following the review undertaken in 2009-10, including strategic, academic and financial aspects.

It was noted that the Review Group had considered a number of options for the future of the School. The Review had sought to protect and develop the best aspects of SSE’s existing activity for the benefit of the University as a whole. Four scenarios were proposed:

1) Replace SSE with a School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering
2) Create a Department of Computer Science and Engineering within the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
3) Reduce and distribute SSE activity
4) Disinvest in all SSE activities

Having considered the four scenarios in depth, and taking full account of the information, data and feedback received throughout the Review period, the University Executive Board agreed scenario 3. It was the considered and unanimous view of the members of the Review Group that this scenario was the best option to maintain and enhance the University’s efficiency, effectiveness and financial viability and, in doing so, protected (as far as is possible) the current and future employment of all categories of University staff.

The reasons for recommending scenario 3 were that it provided a framework for:

- Retaining and strengthening the areas of world-class and impactful research currently in SSE that provided a close fit with the University’s Research Strategy 2020;
- Retaining and strengthening the areas of teaching currently in SSE that were most relevant and attractive to current and future students;
- Strengthening the leadership for these areas of research and teaching through the utilization of the effective leadership and efficient structures that were available in other Schools without significantly disrupting the management in any single School;
- Placing these areas of research and teaching onto pathways of financial sustainability.

The Review Group did not consider that any other of the scenarios was able to deliver these four outcomes.
The Board agreed the recommendation that scenario 3 be progressed with the caveat that further consideration be given to determining the best organisational location for the Centre for Bio-Engineering for an initial period of no more than five years; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Van de Noort) was asked to give this matter further consideration.

As the report’s recommendation pointed to a reduction in the number of academic staff (as defined by Statute XXXIII), it be recommended to the Council through the Strategy and Finance Committee that in accordance with the University’s Review and Restructuring Policy, a Restructuring Committee be established with the following membership:

Lay Member of the Council (Chair)
One further member of the Council
One member of the academic staff nominated by the Senate
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Van de Noort)
Dean of the Faculty of Science (Professor Cosh)
Head of School or office holder of equivalent standing (Dr E. McCrum)
The Director of Human Resources or his nominee (Miss R. Thorns)

The Board noted that Statute XXXIII stipulated that no individual who had been identified as being at risk of redundancy might serve and the membership would be varied accordingly by substitution with an office holder of equivalent standing.

REDACTED – S.40 (2)

15/31 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 18 March, 28 April and 16 June 2015.

As part of the reform of the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances, the Ordinances had been substantially rationalised so that the new Ordinances, to be effective from 1 August 2015, enshrined only the fundamental principles and structures governing the University’s operation. The detailed content of the current Ordinances, as it related to teaching and learning, remained important for the governance of the University’s programmes and needed to be retained, but with the status of regulations rather than Ordinances. The change in status did not require or imply any change in the content. The Senate approved a proposal that the Ordinances, in their current format but subject to technical amendment to ensure consistency of referencing, be designated Governing Regulations. Reference to the Governing Regulations would be included in the University Credit and Qualifications Framework and the relevant Frameworks for Classification and Progression. It was anticipated that this would be an interim measure pending a comprehensive revision of policies, procedures and regulations, including their structure, format and formulation, which would be brought forward in the course of 2015/16. This revision would be driven by two major developments, currently in process: the review of the student contract; and the development of the new academic structure, which involved the removal of Faculties.
It was noted that the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) had published a good practice framework for the consideration of academic appeals. The framework would inform the way that the OIA considered complaints from students about matters that first arise and were raised with the University from 2015-16 onwards. A Working Group has reviewed the University’s Procedures for considering appeals of results and associated documents and prepared a number of draft changes to the process to: formalise existing practice; reflect structural changes in the process and a change to the arrangements for appeals; and to reflect the good practice framework. Senate approved the draft changes to the Procedures for considering appeals of results and associated documents, with effect from 2015-16. Senate also approved associated amendments to the Student complaints procedure, with effect from 2015-16.

In regard to item 5 the Senate noted that the Board had approved a new simplified set of KPIs and targets which had been developed for the Teaching and Learning Strategy.

In regard to item 6 the Senate noted that the Board had approved a recommendation that time be allocated during the Enhancement Week for School/Departmental activities (Monday – Wednesday) and central activities (Thursday – Friday). The Board had also agreed that coursework deadlines should not be set during Enhancement Week or for the Monday following.

In regard to item 17 b) the Senate noted that a number of recommendations had been agreed in relation to changes to the Disabled Students’ Allowance.

15/32 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 4 June 2015.

In regard to item 2 it was noted that the University Executive Board had endorsed the Plan and given approval in principle to the associated costs, subject to further scrutiny of the additional posts in research support by an Implementation Group. The Implementation Group has now completed its deliberations and finalised these costs. A brochure summary of the 2020 Research Plan was being prepared for circulation later in the year. Professor Mithen thanked members of the Board for their support in this matter.

The Senate noted that 2014/15 had been a year of transformation in terms of introducing a new research organisation, management and leadership structures. The University had made huge progress in enhancing its ability to build its research activity, achievements and reputation.

REDACTED – S.43
The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science held on 18 March, 29 April and 3 June 2015.

The Dean formally recorded his thanks to colleagues within the Faculty.

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 19 March, 28 April and 22 May 2015 and a meeting of the Board held jointly with the Management Board of the Faculty of Science held on 3 June 2015.

It was noted that Heads of School in the Faculty were ready to mobilise experience and expertise to assist the new Dean of Diversity and Inclusion in submission of the next bid for Athena Swan.

The Board had requested more frequent, detailed communication on the progress and process of the Professional and Administrative Services review.

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Henley Business School held on 18 March 2015.

The Deputy Dean of the Henley Business School thanked Professor Clark, Professor Ghobadian, Professor Gibbard and Professor Crosby who were stepping down from their Head of School positions and welcomed Professor Godley, Dr Kakabadse, and Mrs Hughes as new Heads of School.

The Senate noted the following key highlights and achievements:

- The Business School had been ranked 29th in the world custom programmes and 33rd in the world for open programmes in the 2015 Financial Times rankings.
- The Business School had been ranked 36th in the world in the 2015 Economist MBA rankings.

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the International Project Board held on 3 June 2015.
The Senate approved the Report of the International Project Board held on 24 March and 19 May 2015.

15/38 Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees (Item 6h)

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 22 June 2015, subject to one amendment in regard to the opening of the University of Reading Malaysia campus to include YB Dato’ Seri Idris Bin Jusoh in place of Tan Sri Muhyiddin bin Yassin.

15/39 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Spring Term 2015 (Item 6 i)

The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Spring Term 2015.

15/40 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 7a)

The Senate:

1) re-appointed Dr R. Everitt to the University Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2018.

2) re-appointed Dr A.K. Ho to the University Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2018.

3) re-appointed Dr A. Christakou to the University Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2018.

4) re-appointed Dr N. Spinks to the University Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2018.

5) re-appointed Professor J. Lovegrove to the University Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2018.

6) re-appointed Professor D. Berry to Appeals against the decision of Personal Titles to serve until 31 July 2018.

7) appointed Professor W. Hayes (vice Professor A. Godley) to the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2018.

8) appointed Dr C. Padgett (vice Dr J. Creighton) to the Standing Disciplinary Committee to serve until 31 July 2018.
9) appointed Professor D. Brauner (*vice* Professor A. Knapp) as a 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 2016.

10) appointed Dr R. Harris (*vice* Dr C. Tissot) 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 2018.

11) Re-appointed Dr R. Foxley as a non-professorial member, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2018.

12) appointed Professor S. Andrews (*vice* Professor R. Bennett) 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.

13) appointed Professor P. Miskell (*vice* Professor P. Byrne) as a professorial member on the nomination of the Henley Business School to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2017.

14) appointed Dr J. Doak (*vice* vacancy) as a non-professorial member on the nomination of the Henley Business School to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2018.

15) re-appointed Dr C. Padgett, Henley Business School, as a non-professorial member to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2018.

16) appointed Professor P. Glaister (*vice* Professor S. Chandler-Wilde) as a professorial member on the nomination of the Faculty of Science to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2018.

17) re-appointed Professor A. Wade, Faculty of Science, as a professorial member to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2018.

15/41 Membership of Senate (Item 7 b)

The Senate agreed a proposal that Research Deans and Teaching and Learning Deans be appointed to membership of the Senate with effect from 1 August 2015.

15/42 Retirement of Professors (Item 7c)

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:
15/43 Other Retirements (Item 7 d)

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:

Miss Anne Pallant (1 April 2015)
Mr Peter Osborne (1 April 2015)
Mr Charles Dawkins (1 May 2015)
Mr Bryan Parkes (1 May 2015)
Mr Alan Brand (1 May 2015)
Mrs Valerie Baker (21 September 2015)
Dr Alan Bell (1 October 2015)

15/44 List of Meetings 2015-16

The Senate received the final version of the list of meetings for 2015-16 for its information.

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting