Senate

14/47 A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 22 October 2014 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond
Dr Maarten Ambaum
Dr Karen Ayres
Dr Laura Bennett
Professor Dianne Berry
Professor Jonathan Bignell
Ms Helen Bilton
Professor John Board
Professor Laurie Butler
Professor Simon Chandler-Wilde
Dr David Carter
Professor Ben Cosh
Professor Judi Ellis
Professor Richard Ellis
Professor Richard Frazier
Dr Carol Fuller
Dr Clare Furneaux
Mr Roger Gibbard
Professor Ginny Gibson
Professor Roberta Gilchrist
Professor Paul Glaister
Professor Andy Goodwyn
Professor Suzanne Graham
Professor Stuart Green
Professor Yelena Kalyuzhnova
Dr Orla Kennedy
Dr Emma Mayhew
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Dr Liam McGuffin
Professor Annalisa Marzano
Professor Roger Matthews
Professor Julian Park
Dr Daisy Powell
Professor Giovanni Razzu

Professor Ros Richards
Professor Patricia Riddell
Mrs Edith Rigby
Professor Peter Robinson
Professor Virginie Ruiz
Professor Françoise Le Saux
Dr Libby Schweb
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
Dr Sue Walsh
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Dominik Zaum
The University Secretary

Students:

Ms Natalie Harper
Ms Sara Chandran
Ms Tilly Corless
Ms Chloe Bartlett

Faculty Representatives:

Ms Emma Wise (AH&SS)
Mr Anup Kocheril Kurian (S)

In attendance:

Ms Louise Sharman

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:
Mr Jim Hillier who came to the Bulmershe College of Higher Education to join the Department of Film & Drama in 1979. He was Head of the Department of Film & Drama from 1996 to 2001, and retired in 2005.

Emeritus Professor Sir Peter Hall who was appointed Professor of Geography from January 1968, served as Head of Department of Geography from 1969 to 1981, as well as Dean of the Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies from 1975 to 1978 and retired in 1989.

Professor Walter Redfern joined the University in 1960 as Assistant Lecturer in French, becoming a lecturer in 1963. He then went on to gain the Personal Title of Reader in 1972 and of Professor of French in 1980. He retired from the University in 2005.

14/48 The Minutes (14/21-14/40) of the meeting held on 3 July 2014 were confirmed and signed.

14/49 Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2a)

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

(i) Associate Professor in Creative Writing
(ii) Associate Professor in Marketing
(iii) Director of Campaigns and Student Engagement
(iv) Professor of Creative Writing
(v) Associate Professor in Financial Accounting/Financial Management
(vi) Associate Professor in Accounting & Financial Management

14/50 Elections (Item 2 b)

(i) Election of six members of each School other than the Head of School to the Senate to serve for the period to 31 July 2017. It was reported that the following had been elected:

Law: Dr Laura Bennett
Education: Professor Suzanne Graham
Politics, Economics and International Relations: Dr Emma Mayhew
Humanities: Professor Helen Parish
Henley Business School: Mrs Edith Rigby
Henley Business School: Mr David Stannard

(ii) Election of twelve Professors to the Senate: It was reported that a further vacancy remains in this Class for the period to 31 July 2016.

(iii) Election of twelve members of the Academic and Academic-related Staff not being Professors to the Senate: It was reported that a further vacancy remains in this Class for the period to 31 July 2016.

(iv) Appointment of one member of the Senate not being a registered student of the University to the Council. The Senate received a report that one nomination had been received and that, accordingly

Professor S. Walker
had been appointed by the Senate to membership of the Council in Class 4 for the period ending 31 July 2017.

(v) Election to the Senate of one member by and from amongst the registered students of each Faculty for the Session 2014-15: It was reported that the following had been elected:

- Arts, Humanities and Social Science: Ms Emma Wise
- Arts, Humanities and Social Science: Ms Emily Crye
- Henley Business School: Mr Tom Hurrell
- Life Sciences: Mr Tim Seeborne
- Science: Mr Anup Kocheril Kurian

14/51 Students’ Union (item 2c)

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):

- The President (Ms Natalie Harper)
- The Education Officer (Ms Sara Chandran)
- The Welfare Officer (Ms Tilly Corless)
- The Student Engagement Officer (Mr Charlie Holman)
- The Community and Development Officer (Ms Chloe Bartlett).

14/52 Membership of the Senate 2014/15 (item 2d)

The Senate received a list of its members for the session 2014/15.

14/53 Senate Standing Orders (item 2 e)

The Senate received for its information, the Senate Standing Orders.

14/54 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

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

a) The campaign being launched by Universities UK ahead of the 2015 general election entitled Back Universities. The campaign was intended to highlight three areas where politicians of all parties should think about higher education and its value to the nation:

   i) Research and innovation – making the case for closing the gap between the UK’s investment in research and innovation and that of its major competitors.
   
   ii) International students and immigration – calling on government and universities to work together to attract qualified international students and staff to the UK.
   
   iii) Student funding – highlighting the need to develop a sustainable student funding system.
If the Science budget were protected for a further three year period in 2015/2016 it would mean that the overall budget had been at a standstill, in cash terms, since 2007. This was certainly not the case in other countries where growth rates had been in double digits.

In regard to students and immigration, this built upon UUK’s recent report which measured the voting public’s views towards international students and immigration more generally. The report found that – the public did not see international students as immigrants; targeting international students would be unpopular and would fail to address public concerns about immigration; 60% of people believed that international students brought money into their local economy.

On the third issue of sustainable funding, UUK was already undertaking detailed work on this issue; the Vice-Chancellor was part of the panel leading on this.

b) REDACTED S.43

c) The work being undertaking by Professor Mithen in developing a comprehensive new research strategy. The outcomes of which would be influenced by the REF results due to be published in the third week of December.

d) The University had been shortlisted for three THE Leadership and Management Awards in the categories of outstanding research, widening participation, and the business school of the year.

e) The University was 37th in the NSS, 33rd in the Sunday Times/The Times league table, 202nd in the QS World Rankings, but had dropped out of the top 200 in the THE league table.

f) Professor Mithen and Mr Raimo were currently in China meeting with the Chinese Ministry of Education regarding the proposed UK-China College involving the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology. Initial feedback on the proposal was positive; a decision would be taken before the Chinese New Year.
14/55 Reform of the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances (Item 4)

The Senate received a presentation from the Director of Legal Services on the Reform of the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances.

The Charter, the University’s core constitutional document, was drawn up when Reading became an independent institution in 1926. Granted by Privy Council, acting on the authority of the monarch, it constituted the University as a legal entity.

The Charter has barely been touched since 1926 and, alongside the Statutes and Ordinances, was anachronistic, complex, and, in some cases, not compliant with employment law. As the University moved towards its centenary year, there was a need for governance structures that were fit for purpose.

The key proposed reforms included:

- Setting out the objectives of the University, its powers and the structure of the governing bodies more clearly, to ensure greater accountability at all levels.
- Enshrining academic freedom for the first time rather than it being set out in Statute. Specific provision on the principle of academic freedom would be made within the Charter.
- Statutes had been removed entirely, leaving a Charter and Ordinances. Key provisions from the Statutes had been elevated to the Charter itself or moved to the Ordinances or, for detailed matters, would be set out in revised regulations, policies and procedures.
- Making explicit the University’s commitment to fair and equal treatment of every employee and student.
- Making it less adversarial and more straightforward to resolve disciplinary or grievance issues.
- Bringing employment provisions up-to-date so that the University could meet its legal obligations fully and in good time.

As a result of the updates to the Charter and Ordinances employment contracts would need to be updated. Many contracts referred to the Statutes, and this would no longer be relevant. This was an opportunity for the University to review and update all contracts, as well as to standardise them. The updates would reflect best practice and would ensure compliance with all relevant laws. Benefits such as pension, holiday entitlement, sick pay and notice pay would be unchanged. There would be no substantive changes to contractual rights; rather, contracts would be refreshed to provide clarity and consistency across the University.

The Senate noted that the process of consultation to date had included discussions with UCU, RUSU, Deans, as well as discussions at the Council, the University Executive Board, and at Heads of School meetings. The University was now formally consulting with UCU and the Staff Forum on HR related aspects. Members of the Senate were encouraged to send in any comments to the consultation.
The final draft of the proposed Charter and Ordinances would be submitted to the Council on 21 November 2014 for a first resolution, to the Senate on 3 December 2014, and then to Council on 23 January 2015 for a final resolution.

14/56 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 5b)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 30 June, 14 July, 15 and 30 September 2014.

14/57 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term (Item 6 a)

The Senate received a Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee of disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term 2014 for breaches of discipline other than academic misconduct and neglect of work.

14/58 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 6 b)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 15 July and 16 September 2014 and agreed to recommend to the Council:

(a) alterations to Ordinance III (Degrees Diplomas and Certificates) and to Ordinance I (Degrees of Bachelor) to provide for the introduction of a degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm).

14/59 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences (Item 6 c)

The Senate approved the Report of a meeting of the Management Board of the Faculty of Life Sciences held on 24 September 2014.

14/60 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 7a)

The Senate appointed Professor B. Whalley (vice Professor M. Gosney) to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2017.

14/61 Retirement of Professors (Item 7b)

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

Professor L. Bunce (1 October 2014)
Professor C. Gray (1 October 2014)

14/62 Other Retirements (Item 7 c)

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:

- Mr Jon Barrett (1 September 2014)
- Mrs Stephanie Curran (1 August 2014)
- Mrs Phillipa Hardman (1 August 2014)
- Mr Philip Sainsbury (1 August 2014)
- Mrs Jean Scott-Barr (1 October 2014)
- Mr Alan Sielicki (1 October 2014)
- Dr Richard Steward (1 October 2014)
- Dr Inge Weber-Newth (1 June 2014)

Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting