Senate

16/23  A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Thursday 30 June 2016 at 2.15 pm.

Present:  The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond  Professor Annalisa Marzano
Dr Maarten Ambaum  Dr Emma Mayhew
Dr Cindy Becker  Professor Steve Mithen
Dr Laura Bennett  Dr Matthew Nicholls
Professor Richard Bennett  Professor Julian Park
Professor Dianne Berry  Mr Enzo Raimo
Professor Jonathan Bignell  Professor Ros Richards
Professor Susan Breau  Professor Patricia Riddell
Professor Gavin Brooks  Dr Calvin Smith
Professor Laurie Butler  Mr David Stannard
Professor Ben Cosh  Dr Craig Steel
Professor Alison Donnell  Mr Richard Tranter
Professor Richard Ellis  Professor Robert Van de Noort
Professor Richard Frazier  Professor Adrian Williams
Dr Carol Fuller  Professor Parveen Yaqoob
Professor Clare Furneaux  Professor Dominic Zaum
Professor Ginny Gibson  The University Secretary
Professor Roberta Gilchrist
Professor Andrew Godley
Professor Stuart Green
Dr Paul Hatcher
Mr Bruce Howell
Mrs Cathy Hughes
Professor Uma Kambhampati
Dr Orla Kennedy
Professor Eric Kindel
Professor Peter Kruschwitz
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Dr Eugene McSorley

Students:
Mr Ben Cooper
Mr Niall Hamilton
Mr Sed Joshi
Ms Pip Oppenheimer
Ms Molly Philpott

In attendance:
Ms Louise Sharman

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


Emeritus Professor Martin Upton, Lecturer in Agricultural Economics in 1966, Reader in 1978, Professor in 1988. He retired from the University in 1999.
Emeritus Professor Robert Pearce, Professor of Meteorology and Head of the Department of Geophysics in 1970. He retired from the University in 1990.

Dr Bernard Mackey, who joined the ARFC Institute of Food Research in 1991. He retired from the University in 2011.

Mrs Anne Hardy, Sessional Lecturer in the School of Continuing Education and the Department of English and American Literature. She left the University in 2010.

Mr Ted Bell, Assistant Registrar in 1959. He retired in 1991.

Mr Paul Moss, Senior Administrative Assistant/Sub-Warden for the National College of Food Technology from 1979. He transferred to the Office of the Registrar in 1982, became Examination Officer in 1989, Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food in 1993, and moved to RISIS in 2001. He retired from the University on 2007.

16/24 The Minutes (16/01-16/19) of the meeting held on 9 March 2016 were approved.

16/25 Birthday Honours (item 2a)

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

- OBE – Professor Alan John Thorpe, Emeritus Professor, for services to Environmental Science and Research.
- OBE – Dr Roger Coates, PhD Physics, for services to Nuclear Safety and Radiological Protection.
- BEM – Mr Ian Rodney May, Head of Building Maintenance, for services to Higher Education and to the community in Reading.

16/26 Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2b)

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

i) Associate Professor of Theatre
ii) Professor of Neurodegenerative Disease
iii) Professor in Art
iv) Associate Professor in Accounting and Financial Management
v) Associate Professor in Psychology
vi) Associate Professor in Human Resources Management
vii) Associate Professor in Accounting and Financial Management

16/27 Elections (Item 2c)

(i) Election of five Professors to the Senate. Five nominations were received,
those of:

Professor Matthew Almond
Professor Richard Frazier
Professor Ginny Gibson
Professor Paul Glaister
Professor Jane Setter

Accordingly, Professor Almond, Professor Frazier, Professor Gibson, Professor Glaister, and Professor Setter have been elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2019.

(ii) Election of three members of the Academic Staff (Lecturers and Associate Professors), to the Senate. Three nominations were received:

Dr Helen Bilton
Dr Claire Collins
Dr John Creighton

Accordingly, Dr Bilton, Dr Collins and Dr Creighton have been elected to serve for the period from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2019.

16/28 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had approved, on behalf of the Senate, the Framework for Classification and Progression for First Degrees.

The Vice-Chancellor addressed the Senate, referring in particular to:

a) Brexit – Firstly, the Vice-Chancellor expressed the University’s unreserved support, and commitment to all staff and students from wherever in the world they came from. The University’s message was unambiguous – ‘You are equal partners, friends and colleagues. You play a vital role in the life of the University. And we are proud of your outstanding contributions (past, present and future). The University of Reading would always assert and celebrate its role as a place of enlightenment in the finest European tradition, where the pursuit of knowledge was nurtured, promoted and cherished’. It was acknowledged that this was an anxious time; the University would assist its staff and students in all practical ways. Secondly he underlined that, for the moment, it was business as usual. The Department of Business, innovation and Skills had confirmed that there was no change to visa requirements or the immigration status of EU nationals. The Student Loans Company had also announced that all existing EU national students, and those starting in September 2016, would still be able to access tuition loans for the full duration of their course. There was no change to terms or conditions for either staff or students here at the University of Reading.

b) REDACTED (43) The University would plan for a degree of uncertainty around student numbers following the referendum result.

c) White Paper – the six yearly Higher Education Review for established providers would be replaced by a light-touch annual monitoring. This desk-based approach, called the Annual Provider Review, would build on existing data analysis and assurance
arrangements. The QAA would verify the approach the University takes to its own periodic review processes through a one-off scrutiny process in 2016/17. The White Papers also included changes to research infrastructure with the establishment of a single research funding body, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

d) Collaboration – although all universities would continue to be responsible for their own destiny, collaboration continued to be an important principle, for that reason, Reading was a founding members of the 210 Collaboration Network. The S10 network was a group of universities geographically co-located who shared broad aims, size and profile (UEA, Surrey, Sussex, Royal Holloway, Goldsmiths, Kent, Essex, City and Brunel).

e) Efficiency and Effectiveness – The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that 2015/16 had been a difficult year and that the programme had caused concern, anxiety and upset. Clearly there was much to do to ensure full and successful implementation, and to do so in a way that rebuilds trust and support where it has been lost.

f) Budget 2016/17 – which included 30 new members of academic staff and planning for a surplus of £5.9m on the Academic Group.

g) Capital Projects – the University’s Council had backed a number of major capital projects including: the Health and Life Sciences Building, refurbishment of the Library and URS Building, two projects for the Henley Business School, and the Thames Valley Science Park.

h) Strategic Investment Fund – an amount of £1M, increasing in subsequent years, had been set aside to kick start new ideas and projects.

16/29 Review of the Effectiveness of the Senate (Item 4)

The Senate approved the establishment of a Group to review the Effectiveness of the Senate with the following membership and terms of reference:

Dr David Carter
Professor Richard Frazier
Professor Ginny Gibson (Chair)
Professor Peter Kruschwitz
President of RUSU or his nominee
Head of Governance (Secretary)

(a) to consider whether the terms of reference of Senate are being fulfilled;
(b) to consider the membership of Senate, both in terms of size and composition, including but not limited to reference to the University’s diversity target for membership for the Senate;
(c) to consider whether the format of Senate would benefit from alteration;
(d) to consider whether the volume and nature of paperwork is optimal;
(e) to consider how well the Senate discharges its responsibility to ensure that the quality of the University’s teaching and research is maintained;
(f) to make recommendations to the Senate by the end of the summer term 2017.
16/30 Report of the Strategy and Finance Committee (Item 5a)

There was no report on this occasion.

16/31 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 5b)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 14 March, 18 April, 3 and 31 May, and 13 June 2016.

In regard to matters for recommendation 1) the Senate approved revisions to the Ordinances to reflect changes to the Charter and the new academic structure.

In regard to matters for report 5) the Senate noted that the University Executive Board was minded to charge fees of £9250 (Home/EU Undergraduate) for new students from 2017/18.

In regard to matters for report 6) the Senate noted that a project had been established to consider the current position and future opportunities for growing and enhancing Chemistry provision.

In regard to matters for report 7) the Senate noted the establishment of a Feasibility Group for the Electronic Management of Assessment Programme (EMA). It was reported that Dr Emma Mayhew had been appointed as academic lead for the programme; the Senate congratulated Dr Mayhew on her appointment.

16/32 Report on the Personal Titles Process (Item 5c)

The Senate received the final report of the Working Group on the Personal Titles Process. The Working Group had been tasked with producing a workable process which provided greater transparency than hitherto, maintained the proper standards that needed to be reached to achieve academic promotion, and addressed the issue that not enough women put themselves forward into the formal process. Following the changes to academic structures, it was also required to devise a process without Faculties.

The University Secretary informed the Senate that the Working Group had consulted widely, including Deans, Heads of School, the University Research Committee, Teaching and Learning Strategy Board, School Directors of Teaching and Learning, and UCU. The University Secretary thanked those staff involved for their constructive and thoughtful feedback, and in particular to Cherry Bennett in HR for all her work on the project.

The Senate noted that a series of training sessions would be held in due course for all those involved in the new process.

The Senate thanked the University Secretary and approved the report.

On related matters it was noted that a review of the Probationary Review process would be undertaken during 2016/17 and consideration would be given to the promotion process for Teaching Fellows at Grade 6.
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) gave an oral update to the Senate on recent developments in regard to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) explaining in particular the various stages under TEF1, 2, 3, and 4, and drawing the Senate’s attention to the mock TEF results published in the Times Higher Education.

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 16 March, 25 April, 18 May and 14 June 2016.

In regard the items for approval, the Senate approved:

- The draft Governing Regulation *Degree of Doctor of Philosophy awarded by published works*, with effect from 2016-17, to replace the previous Governing Regulation LXX *Degree of Doctor of Philosophy awarded by publication*.
- Revisions to the Ordinances – Ordinance C3.1.3 to read Master of Business Administration. Ordinance c (Annex 2) to remove reference to the Post-Experience Certificate.
- Revisions to the *Quality management and enhancement processes at the University of Reading Policy* in light of the removal of Faculties and Faculty Boards for Teaching and Learning from 1 August 2016. It was noted that the policy might be subject to additional amendments in light of ongoing work in respect of student representation, as well as the Curriculum Framework.
- Revisions to the arrangements for the operation of the Committee on Postgraduate Research Studies from 2016/17.
- Revisions to the following Teaching and Learning Policies:
  - Code of Practice on the Assessment of Taught Programmes
  - University-wide Framework for Classification and Progression for First Degrees
  - Marking Criteria and Classification Framework for Taught Postgraduate Programmes
  - Examination and Assessment Procedures Handbook
  - Governing Regulations

In regard to matters for report the Senate noted:

- Changes to procedures for cases of academic misconduct, student complaints and appeals.
- That the Board had approved various changes to Enhancement Week including: renaming the week ‘Week 6’, communicating the purpose of ‘Week6’ to students, giving oversight of the week to a Teaching and Learning Dean, use of the week be discussed as part of the SPERT process.
- That the Board had considered a paper on issues arising out of cross-campus moderation between the University and the University of Reading Malaysia.
- Excellent results in the Guardian University Guide: Accounting (9th), Agriculture and Food (3rd), Building and Town and Country Planning (3rd), Design and Crafts (5th), Earth and Marine Sciences (8th), Education (8th), Film Production (5th), English and Creative
Writing (10th).

- That the following staff had been awarded University Teaching Fellowships: Dr Laura Bennett, Dr Andrew Charlton-Perez, Dr Philippa Cranwell, Dr Rhianedd Smith, Dr Rachel Pye.

16/34 Report of the University Board for Research and Innovation (Item 6b)

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the University Board for Research and Innovation held on 14 June 2016.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor referred to Brexit and the potential impact on research. The Senate noted that around 15% of the University’s research income came from the EU. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor informed the Senate that for the time being it was ‘business as usual’, there was no reason to doubt that any existing EU awards were under threat and assurances had been made in respect of the University’s application to the EU Food KIC.

The Senate noted that applications for ERC grants often took around two years to submit. It was important to submit more and better awards in the future; consideration would be given to how such applications could be incentivised. Work was also being undertaken in regard to research communications, the key message being that Reading was an internationally engaged, outward looking, collaborative University.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor encouraged members of the Senate to remain fully engaged with the EU funding bodies and European partners.

16/35 Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science (Item 6c)

The Senate approved the Report of the meetings of the Management Board of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science held on 16 March, 28 April and 2 June 2016.

It was reported that in the post-Faculty structure a Community of Practice would meet twice termly, to be led by Professor Bignell in the Autumn Term.

16/36 Joint Report of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science and Life Sciences (Item 6d)

The Senate approved the Joint Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Faculty of Science and Life Sciences held on 27 April and 1 June 2016. In regard to item 4 viii) the Senate noted the opportunity to engage in the consultation around the ending of NHS bursaries for nursing and allied health professional.

The Dean paid tribute to the Faculty structure within the University and its heritage. He informed the Senate that he was very proud of the achievements of students, staff and alumni and the need to maintain the Life Sciences brand going forward.
The Vice-Chancellor expressed his thanks to all colleagues who had held the post of Dean of Faculty and in particular to Professor Almond and Professor Ellis for their tremendous leadership, passionate advocacy, and wonderful contributions to the University.

16/37 Report of the Management Board of the Henley Business School (Item 6e)

The Senate approved the Report of the meeting of the Management Board of the Henley Business School held on 16 March 2016.

The Deputy Dean reminded members of the Senate that Deans had been very important in contributing to the good order and leadership of the University. They had proved valuable in collating the views of Schools and bringing these forward to the Senate for discussion; it was important this continue.

16/38 Report of the Global Engagement Strategy Board (Item 6f)

The Senate received the Report of the Global Engagement Strategy Board. The Senate noted in particular that:

- Progress had been made with NUIST in launching two new programmes (Environmental Science, and Mathematics) in September 2016.
- An increased admission quota had been given for Beijing Institute of Technology.
- A contract had been signed with the Cambridge Education Group to develop a programme that would run alongside the International Foundation Programme aimed at students wanting a pathway in Arts and Communications.
- The University of Reading Malaysia had recruited around 300 students (43) with a further intake due shortly.
- Two successful bids for British Council Thai-UK Partnership Grants to explore transnational education opportunities

16/39 Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees (Item 6g)

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 14 June 2016.

16/40 Report of the Senate Committee on the Personal Title of Professor and Associate Professor (Item 6h)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Senate Committee on the Personal Title of Professor and Associate Professor held on 6 May 2016 and congratulated all those staff on their promotions.

16/41 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the
Spring Term (Item 6i)

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

16/42 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 6j)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results held on 10 March and 25 April 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Mr Raimo) thanked Helen Dent for her work in supporting SSCER.

16/43 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct (Item 6k)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct held on 9 June 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions.

16/44 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement & Fitness to Study (Item 6l)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study held on 23 March, 27 May, and 10 June 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee’s decisions. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks) thanked both Helen Taylor and Helen Dent for their work in supporting the committee.

16/45 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 7a)

The Senate:

a) Re-appointed Professor P. Almond to the University Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2019.

b) Re-appointed Professor G. Gibson to the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees for one further year to serve until 31 July 2017.

c) Re-appointed Professor K. Shine to the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees for one further year to serve until 31 July 2017.

d) appointed Dr J. Gibbs to the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2019

e) appointed Dr J. Waters to the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2019

f) Re-appointed Professor M. Shaw for the Committee for the Museum of English Rural Life to serve until 31 July 2019.

g) Re-appointed Professor F.H.M. Le Saux to the Arts Committee to serve until 31 July 2019.
16/46  **Chancellor (Item 7b)**

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that the title of Chancellor Emeritus be conferred upon Sir John Madejski.

16/47  **Retirement of Professors (Item 7c)**

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that under the provisions of Ordinance B7 the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon the following with effect from the date indicated:

- Professor Paul Luna (31 August 2016)
- Professor Roger Stern (29 July 2016)
- Professor Andrew Kempe (31 August 2016)
- Professor Elizabeth Taylor (31 August 2016)

16/48  **Other Retirements (Item 7d)**

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Council that the following be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years with effect from the date indicated:

- Dr Mary Dyson (31 March 2016)
- Mr Mark Rodgers (29 April 2016)
- Ms Elizabeth Westgarth (30 April 2016)
- Mr Peter Race (31 August 2016)
- Mrs Deidre Burrell (31 August 2016)
- Ms Verna Care (30 September 2016)

16/49  **List of Meetings 2016-17**

The Senate received the final version of the list of meetings for 2016-17 for its information.

16/50  **Any other business**

The Senate thanked the outgoing RUSU officers and welcomed the incoming officers.

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*Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting*

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