

Senate

16/54 A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond
Dr Maarten Ambaum
Professor Richard Bennett
Dr Helen Bilton
Dr Sarah Brewer
Professor Gavin Brooks
Dr David Carter
Dr Ann Chippindale
Dr Claire Collins
Dr John Creighton
Professor Philippa Darbre
Professor Richard Frazier
Professor Clare Furneaux
Professor Roger Gibbard
Professor Ginny Gibson
Professor Suzanne Graham
Professor Stuart Green
Dr Richard Harris
Dr Paul Hatcher
Dr Orla Kennedy
Professor Eric Kindel
Professor Peter Kruschwitz
Dr Tim Lees
Dr Elizabeth McCrum
Dr Eugene McSorley
Professor Steve Mithen
Professor Chuks Okereke
Professor Julian Park

Dr Daisy Powell
Mr Enzo Raimo
Professor Ros Richards
Professor Patricia Riddell
Mrs Edith Rigby
Professor Jane Setter
Dr Catherine Tissot
Mr Richard Tranter
Professor Robert Van de Noort
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Parveen Yaqoob
The University Secretary

Students:

Ben Cooper
Niall Hamilton
Sed Joshi
Pip Oppenheimer
Molly Philpott

Helen Bonney
Gaia De Angelis
Oliver St John
Edward White

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 Eric Roberts, who joined the University in 1968 as Professor of Crop Production in the Department of Agriculture, Head of the Department of Agriculture in 1971, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture in 1977 and 1989, Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1982. He retired from the University in 1995.

16/55 The Minutes (16/23-16/50) of the meeting held on 30 June 2016 were approved.

16/56 Reports of Committees of Selection (Item 2a)

The Senate received the following Reports of Committees of Selection:

- i) Professor Executive Development
- ii) Executive Director - TVCTU

16/57 Membership of the Senate 2016/17 (item 2b)

The Senate received a list of its members for the session 2016/17.

16/58 Senate Standing Orders (item 2c)

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

16/59 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 3)

It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had approved, on behalf of the Senate, the

- a) appointment of Dr Karen Ayers as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Examination Results for 2016/17.
- b) following committee appointments:

Student Appeals Committee:

Professor E.M Page	31.7.2017
Professor R.S Sherratt	31.7.2017
Professor P.J. Almond	31.7.2019
Dr C. Padgett	31.7.2018
Mr A.J. Doak	31.7.2017
Mrs G. Kilner	31.7.2018
Dr M.J. Proven	31.7.2019

Standing Committee on Examination Results:

All existing members with membership ending on 31.7.2016 be extended to 31.7.2017.

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

- i) The strong admissions round in 2016 despite increasing competitiveness across the sector. REDACTED S.43 Most disciplines had seen have seen an encouraging rise in numbers, with Schools using the new planning and resourcing arrangements to meet their targets in a variety of ways. REDACTED S.43
- ii) His appreciation for the hard work and effort of colleagues into the recent open days. Nearly 10,000 guests had attended the October Open Days; it was hoped that this would translate into another strong year for firm applications.

- iii) The University's programmes at Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) and Nanjing University Institute of science and Technology (NUIST). Around 4000 Reading students were now pursuing degrees and advanced qualifications outside the UK. Such partnerships, alongside activities in Malaysia and South Africa, were important ways for the University to grow without putting pressure of facilities in the UK.
- iv) Staff talks this term would highlight the range of external pressures that were impacting universities. These include: Brexit, the Stern Review of REF, the Higher Education and Research Bill, and the uncertain funding context.
- v) The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Government published on 29 September 2016 its response to the technical consultation. Key changes included: ratings had been amended from outstanding/excellent/meets expectations to Gold/Silver/Bronze; a short contextual note describing the nature of provision would be provided; a highly skilled employment and further study metric would be included; more splits on how data would be analysed would be included; an appeals process in terms of the procedural irregularity not the rating outcome; commendations would not be issued in Year Two. It was clear from the documentation that awards would be driven by the metrics.

In addition to the TEF, HEFCE had recently published a revised operating model for quality assurance; the new approach included a role for governing bodies to provide annual assurance about the quality of higher education provision. It was reported that all HEFCE-funded providers would be required to submit by 1 December 2016 assurances about the continuous improvement of the students' academic experience and of student outcomes, and the reliability of degree standards. If the annual assessment in any year was not acceptable then any TEF rating could be withdrawn.

- vi) Work had started on the capital programme as seen in the Library, the Chancellors Building, and the refurbishment of the Van Emden lecture theatre. Inevitably the University would face delays and setbacks given the size and range of the programme.
- vii) University Strategic Initiatives Fund had approved funding for a number of important projects REDACTED S.43
- viii) REDACTED S.43
- ix) The University had retained its position in the top 200 of universities worldwide in the QS and THE rankings.
- x) The Department of Fine Art had been successful in leading a major bid to the Arts Council England to fund Reading International, a three-year programme to embed the arts into the fabric of the town.
- xi) The Museum of English Rural Life would reopen next week following its £2m refurbishment.

In response to the Vice-Chancellor's address a number of comments were raised by the Senate.

The Students' Union Education Officer spoke out in opposition to the TEF. The Senate noted that the Students' Union whilst supporting the monitoring of teaching

excellence, and the creation of a framework that students could use to ensure they were receiving a good quality education, were opposed to the Government's plans to introduce the TEF and had launched a campaign, 'TEF Off'. The Education Officer informed the Senate that the metrics used, such as in the National Student Survey, did not monitor teaching excellence, but instead monitored the satisfaction of a student's experience. There was also very limited opportunity for students to contribute. Most importantly the Students' Union were strongly opposed to plans to link the TEF to an increase in tuition fees.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Senate that the University had already decided to raise fees to £9250 from 2017/18 for new students only and that no decision had been taken on any fee increases beyond that.

Dr Hatcher asked the Vice-Chancellor to comment on the implementation of the Professional and Administrative Services review and issues that were arising in some areas. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that there were a number of teething issues but the University was working to address these as a matter of priority. The Senate were reminded that additional transitional resource had been provided to Schools to help manage the transition and that further consideration would be given as to whether that level of resource was right.

In relation to the capital programme and the redevelopment of the St Patrick's Hall site Professor Kruschwitz asked whether the Latin inscription could be given to Classics for its preservation. The Vice-Chancellor agreed that it could be.

The Vice-Chancellor was asked about the current situation in relation to the number of students still in local hotels. The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Senate that the University only provided an accommodation guarantee for those students who had put Reading as first choice. The Senate noted that as of 12 October, 13 students were still in hotels and 30 students were commuting and looking for local accommodation. It was reported that the redevelopment of the St Patrick's Hall site would give the University more rooms in the future but that consideration was being given to how pressures could be eased in the shorter term.

The Education Officer stated that increasing student numbers was not only increasing pressure on accommodation places but also on support services, staff, space and facilities on campus. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Van de Noort) replied that student numbers were in line with planned targets and the University had in place a system to address any issues raised by increased numbers. In regards to accommodation he assured the Senate that the estate redevelopment was being planned to exceed the student growth target. The Senate were reminded that any feedback on any aspect of the Schools or Services could be considered through the University's planning process.

16/60 Report of the Strategy and Finance Committee (Item 4a)

There was no report on this occasion.

16/61 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 4b)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 27 June, 11 July, 12 and 26 September 2016.

In particular the Senate noted the project type approach that had been undertaken with Chemistry, Italian, and Modern Languages. This collaborative approach had worked well and had generated positive results for Film, Theatre and Television.

16/62 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 5a)

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 12 July and 21 September 2016.

In regard the items for approval, the Senate approved:

- A proposal on future arrangements for reporting between the University Board for Teaching and Learning and the new School Boards for Teaching and Learning.
- Revised membership and terms of reference for the renamed Sub-Committee on Student Experience and Employability for 2016-17.
- Arrangements for the use of the designation of Recognised Teacher Status at Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST).

In regard to matters for report the Senate noted:

- The requirement for the University to provide an annual report on quality assurance matters to HEFCE by 1 December 2016.
- League table and survey results (National Student Survey, Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, UK Engagement Survey, Destination of Leavers of Higher Education)

In response to a question in relation to alterations to programme the Senate noted that the removal of the Rural Enterprise pathway to the BSc in Real Estate did not reflect an abandonment of rural topics which would be continued at postgraduate level, and also at undergraduate level through optional modules.

In regard to the NSS Dr Hatcher sought assurance that feedback on individual members of staff would be anonymised. It was confirmed that names would be redacted, but that thereafter this was a matter for Heads of Schools.

16/63 Report of the University Board for Research and Innovation (Item 5b)

The Senate noted that the University Board for Research and Innovation had not met yet this term. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen) gave an oral update, it

was noted that:

- All of the new research structures/organisation was now in place.
- The University was confident of achieving its REDACTED S.43 research income target for 2016/17. REDACTED S.43
- Notable awards included – Dr Robbie Girling in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development had received an award of £500k from a NERC responsive mode application; Professor Susanne Clausen in Fine Art had been awarded £345k by the Arts Council for Reading International; Dr Liz Stephens in Geography and Environmental Sciences had been awarded £700k from NERC.
- Universities UK were lobbying Government to ensure that universities still had access to Horizon 2020 following Brexit.

16/64 Report of the Global Engagement Strategy Board (Item 5c)

The Senate noted that the Global Engagement Strategy Board had not met yet this term. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Mr Raimo) gave an oral update, it was noted that:

- REDACTED S.43
- REDACTED S.43
- The Chief Operating Officer at UoRM was leaving in November to take up a post elsewhere. Recruitment was in hand to find a successor but in the meantime Mr David Savage would cover the role.
- The international partnerships team had now been established within the International Study and Language Institute; Mr Steve Thomas had been appointed as head.
- REDACTED S.43
- A group had been established to consider the consequences of Brexit.

16/65 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term (Item 5d)

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.

16/66 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 5e)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results held on 23 June, 19, 20 and 21 July, 9 and 15 August 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

16/67 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct (Item 5f)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct held on 30 June and 22 August 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

16/68 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement & Fitness to Study (Item 5g)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study held on 18 August 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

16/69 Report of the Standing Committee on Fitness to Practise (Item 5h)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Fitness to Practise held on 26 July 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

16/70 Report of the Standing Disciplinary Committee (Item 5i)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Disciplinary Committee held on 5 July 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

16/71 Retirement of Professors (Item 6a)

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

Professor Nicholas Battey (30 September 2016)
Professor Paul Sharkey (30 September 2016)
Professor Elizabeth Robertson (30 September 2016)
Professor Virginie Ruiz (30 September 2016)

16/72 Other Retirements (Item 7d)

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

Mr John Scarrott (29 July 2016)
Mr Ross Reynolds (30 September 2016)
Dr John Schollar (30 September 2016)

.....
Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting
.....