

## Senate

16/76 A meeting of the Senate was held in The Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, Earley Gate, on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond  
Dr Cindy Becker  
Professor Dianne Berry  
Dr Helen Bilton  
Dr Nick Branch  
Dr Sarah Brewer  
Professor Gavin Brooks  
Professor Laurie Butler  
Dr David Carter  
Dr Ann Chippindale  
Dr Claire Collins  
Professor Philippa Darbre  
Professor Richard Frazier  
Professor Ginny Gibson  
Professor Stuart Green  
Dr Paul Hatcher  
Dr Orla Kennedy  
Professor Eric Kindel  
Dr Tim Lees  
Dr Elizabeth McCrum  
Dr Eugene McSorley

Professor Steve Mithen  
Mrs Edith Rigby  
Professor Jane Setter  
Professor Richard Tranter  
Professor Robert Van de Noort  
Professor Sue Walker  
Professor Parveen Yaqoob  
The University Secretary

**Students:**

Ben Cooper  
Niall Hamilton  
Molly Philpott

Gaia De Angelis  
Oliver St John

**In attendance:**

Ms Louise Sharman

16/77 The Minutes (16/54-16/72) of the meeting held on 12 October 2016 were approved.

16/78 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 2)

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

- i) The University's part in a Europe-wide consortium that had successfully bid for a Food KIC programme that brought together business, research centres and universities.
- ii) The 'Good' rating received by the Institute of Education across all areas in a recent Ofsted inspection of initial teacher training. The Institute was also one of 25 partnerships in the country to have been awarded a three year guarantee of core numbers for PGCE Secondary, PGCE Primary and BA Education from 2017.

- iii) The University's Special Collections and the Museum of English Rural Life which had recently received the Archive Accreditation Award from the National Archives.
- iv) Dr Elizabeth McCrum and Dr David Carter on becoming Principal Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.
- v) The appointment of Dr David Carter as the Head of the International Study and Language Institute from 1 August 2017.
- vi) The consultation from the Home Office on immigration.
- vii) The degree congregations held in South Africa where nearly 300 students received degrees, diplomas or certificates. According to the most recent Higher Education Statistics Agency data around 14% of the University's students were being educated outside the UK.
- viii) Universities UK had produced two important reports in recent weeks – Firstly, a report related to the task force on violence against women, harassment and hate; the University Secretary was leading a group to respond to this report. Secondly, a report on social mobility which would be considered as part of the University's work on widening participation and the Access Agreement.
- ix) The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement which announced an additional £2bn for research and development. As part of this new funding, a new Industrial Challenge Strategy Fund would back projects where the UK had a proven scientific strength and there was a significant economic opportunity for commercialisation.
- x) The first public lecture held by the School of Architecture.

16/79 Report of the Strategy and Finance Committee (Item 3a)

There was no report on this occasion.

16/80 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 3b)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 3, 10, 24 October and 7, 21 November 2016.

The Senate noted that under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015), section 26(I), the University had a duty, in exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the 'Prevent' duty). The University had submitted a number of documents to HEFCE under its Prevent Duty obligations including: Prevent Policy Statement, Prevent escalation flowchart, Safeguarding Policy, Training Plan, Draft Equality Policy, Policy on access by Staff and Students to Security-Sensitive Material. The Senate noted the significant training implications.

REDACTED S.43

In regard to item 3 it was noted that a Review of the Probationary Review Process had been established; members of the Senate welcomed the review.

16/81 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 4a)

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning held on 12, 31 October and 15 November 2016.

The Senate noted that HEFCE now required governing bodies of universities to provide them with the following assurances:

- The governing body had received and discussed a report and accompanying action plan relating to the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and student outcomes. This included evidence from the provider's own periodic review processes, which fully involved students and included embedded external peer or professional review.
- The methodologies used as a basis to improve the student academic experience and student outcomes were, to the best of our knowledge, robust and appropriate.
- The standards of awards for which we were responsible had been appropriately set and maintained.

The assurances would form part of the University's Annual Accountability Return to HEFCE, to be submitted not later than 1 December 2016, which contributed to HEFCE's Annual Provider Review of the University. The Annual Provider Review was HEFCE's core mechanism for assessing quality in funded higher education providers and determined eligibility to participate in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

In order to ensure appropriate consideration of these matters within the current cycle and to enable a report to be submitted on 1 December 2016, the University Board for Teaching and Learning prepared, for transmission to the Council, a report on the quality assurance and enhancement activities in respect of the student academic experience and student outcomes undertaken in the academic year 2015-16 and to date. The report outlined how the University ensured the continuous improvement of the academic student experience and student outcomes through its strategic teaching and learning projects and through its regular cycle of quality assurance and enhancement processes. It included the University's Action Plan for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, which was aligned with the University Strategy and measured against its key performance indicators for teaching and learning.

Due to the sequence of the Council and the Senate meetings and the deadline for the submission of the assurances (25 and 30 November, and 1 December respectively respectively), the report could not be received by the full Senate before the meeting of the Council. In this context, the President, acting on behalf of the Council, and the Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate, established a joint group of Council and Senate for the purpose of considering the report and, in turn, advising the Council in its consideration of the report. The Senate noted that the Council had approved the report at its meeting on 25 November 2016.

The Senate for its part approved the report. It was noted that the sequence and timing of the meetings of the Senate and the Council in 2017-18 would be reviewed in order to facilitate consideration of the report by the full Senate in advance of the Autumn Term meeting of the Council. The joint group would also give further consideration to the shape and content of future reports.

16/82 Report of the University Board for Research and Innovation (Item 4b)

The Senate noted that the University Board for Research and Innovation had met later this term. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mithen) gave an oral update, it was noted that:

- Caroline Knowles (Head of Research Communications and Engagement) and Professor Gibson (Deputy Dean, Henley Business School) had been appointed to the Board.
- A new set of Research Engagement Awards would be launched in the New Year. Categories would include Inspire (engaging young people), Inform (informing the public), Influence (policy/practice), Involve (collaboration), as well as an Early Career Researcher award.
- The first run through of the new research planning process was successful; plans would be informed by personal research plans next year.
- A sample of 600 outputs had been sent to external reviewers to calibrate our internal assessment processes. Outcomes would be received in January and would be fed back to the Research Divisions
- A project focussing on providing targeted support for potential REF impact case studies had assessed 150 projects.
- REDACTED S.43
- Dr Kou Muryama, School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, had been awarded a Leverhulme Research Leadership award of £1m.
- The University had been successful in leading a consortium for a Food KIC (North West Co Location Centre). The Food KIC was a platform of £350m which would give awards over five years. This was a huge achievement for the University and a good example of an academic/business partnership. Professor Ian Givens had been appointed as interim lead. Thanks were recorded to all those involved.
- The University was ranked at 29<sup>th</sup> in the THE table for awards with £10m from 24 awards; this was a drop off against performance in the previous year.

16/83 Report of the Global Engagement Strategy Board (Item 4c)

There was no report on this occasion.

16/84 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 4d)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results held in September and November 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions. The Senate welcomed the new format of the report which highlighted themes arising from the appeals process.

The Senate noted that mental health issues were cited in 50% of the appeals Received. These ranged from stress due to bereavement to complex ongoing mental health conditions; a large proportion of appeals received late were from students with mental health conditions who had been unable to engage with the process and its deadlines.

16/85 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct (Item 4e)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct held on 12 September and 17 October 2016 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

16/86 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement & Fitness to Study (Item 4f)

The Senate noted that there had been no cases of Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study since the last meeting.

16/87 Report of the Student Appeals Committee (Item 4g)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Student Appeals Committee held on 1 November 2016 and noted the outcome of the Committee's decisions.

16/88 Report on behalf of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions imposed in the Summer Term (Item 4h)

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.

16/89 Committee Membership (Item 5a)

The University Secretary informed the Senate that there were two vacancies for Senate representatives on the Joint Standing Committee on Personal Titles; expressions of interest were to be submitted the University Secretary no later than 12 December 2016.

The Senate appointed the Head of the Institute of Education to the Joint Standing Committee on the Arts.

16/90 Other Retirements (Item 5d)

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:

Mrs M.E. Simpson (31 October 2016)

16/91 Any other business

*Review of the Senate*

Professor Gibson, as Chair of the Senate Review, gave an oral update on progress with the Review. It was noted that the Review Group had met on three occasions and had been reflecting on changes to the internal and external context which impact the work of the Senate. The Review Group had noted that Senate did not always feel that it added value, or that it could provide input, or assure itself that the academic standards of the University were being upheld.

Senate was reminded that it was established by the Charter to exercise general responsibility for the academic standards of the University and regulate and superintend the education and research of the University.

Members of the Senate were asked to email any views or comments on Senate to Louise Sharman.

The Review Group would report on progress to Senate on 8 March 2017, a final report would be submitted to the meeting on 29 June 2017.

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