

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

MEETING OF SENATE

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Wednesday 2 March 2022 in Council Room 1 & 2, Fielding Johnson Building**

Present: Edmund Burke (Chair)

Y Amrani	P Baker
H Barton	H O'Connor
K Cowman	S Davies
A Deeb	S Dudley
A Ellis	S Fishwick
I Forristal	S Handa
K Herbert	R Holland
R Jenkins	E Jones
S Kyd	D Ladley
L Liu	L Masterman
A Ng	H O'Connor
K Paterson	M Purnell
J Schwabe	J Shaw
L Smith	I Somerville
R Thomas	S Williams

C Wilkins

In attendance: G Green (Registrar and Secretary) and Rebecca Lord (Assistant Secretary).

In attendance for 22/M03a) Teaching Excellence Framework: Dawn Kemp, Head of Education Services. In attendance for 22/M03c) Strategy: Aash Khadia, Director of Planning.

Observers: Jose Carvajal Lopez (UCU representative), Joe Suffield (Governance Officer) and Kevin Joyce (Governance Officer).

Apologies for absence were received from N Canagarajah, Emma Bunce, John Challis, Liz Draper, Rob Fryer, Caroline Morley, Tom Robinson, Lisa Smith, Hugo Williams and David Wright.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

22/M01 WELCOME

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor welcomed Senators, attendees and observers to the meeting. In particular, he welcomed the following colleagues to their first meeting of Senate:

- Ian Forristal, Director, Research and Enterprise Division
- Dan Ladley, Dean of the School of Business
- Steve Williams, University Librarian

Senate observed a minute's silence to commemorate former University Vice-Chancellor, Sir Bob Burgess, who had passed away last week.

22/M02 STANDING BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

(b) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Senate **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 as an accurate record.

(c) Matters Arising

Senate **noted** that all matters arising had been completed.

(d) Chair's Business

(i) Update from the Chair

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided a report on key University developments.

Senators noted that the Government's response to the Augar Report had been released. Professor Burke noted that there had been no reduction in the headline tuition fee. However, fees would be frozen until 2024-25, resulting in a real-terms decline in funding. Concern was raised regarding the serious inflationary challenges/pressures that the University is facing, such as significant increase in energy costs.

It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had completed a set of visits to all schools, departments and divisions. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided a summary of feedback received from colleagues during these visits. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor was leading a review into one of the common areas of feedback: academic promotions.

It was confirmed that the REF2021 results would be available to the University on 9 May 2022, embargoed to 12 May 2022. Senators would be informed on the key highlights of the University's performance shortly after the results have been received.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor expressed regret over the continued national dispute with UCU. The University position remains that the USS pension scheme needs to be affordable to staff, particularly new entrants, and the University. The UCU proposal, which the USS Joint Negotiation Committee had rejected last week, would have increased costs to the University by between £3.5 and £7.5 million per year.

Senators were provided with an outline of the University's response to the current conflict in Ukraine. Situational analysis had been completed and was being widened to include other countries such as Poland. Communications had been sent to staff and students from the effected nationalities. Heads of School would be updated with regard to any further communications with impacted students. It was noted that staff and students would be provided with the opportunity to make donations in support of those affected by the war, an initiative led by the Students' Union. In addition, the University was working with UUK to review the University's research collaborations with Russia and clarifying the visa situation for impacted students.

(ii) Q & A session

A question was raised in relation to the Government's commitment to a Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) covering up to four years of post-18 education and requesting the consideration of approaches that the University should take to ensure that it was positioning undergraduate, postgraduate taught and modular offers, and the potential relationships between them, as strategically and competitively as possible for the next 5-10 years.

In response, Senate noted that the LLE was planned to be implemented in 2025. However, there was scope for the timeline for delivery to move as there remains significant work to be completed regarding the processes. A review was underway which includes the response to the OfS Consultation regarding the B conditions of registration.

(e) Summary Report of Items for Approval

Senate considered and **approved** a summary report of matters brought forward for approval from subcommittees and other areas:

1. Degree Outcomes Statement – Education Committee

Senate **endorsed** the draft degree outcomes statement for the 2019/20 academic year prior to its submission to Council.

2. Student Protection Plan – Education Committee

Senate **endorsed** the amendments to the Student Protection Plan.

3. External Examiners' Reports for Undergraduate Programmes – Education Committee

Senate **approved** the report prior to its submission to Council.

4. Proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 7.3 – Education Committee

Senate **approved** the proposed changes to Senate Regulation 7.3

5. Senate member nomination to Council

Senate **approved** Dr Catherine Morley as a nominated member of Senate on the University Council.

22/M03 BUSINESS TO CONSIDER

(a) Teaching Excellence Framework

Senate received an update on the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) from Professor Liz Jones, PVC Education, and Dawn Kemp, Head of Education Services, covering the University planning for the upcoming TEF submission.

Senate noted that the purpose of TEF was to incentivise excellence and focus was being placed on delivering a revised approach to regulate student outcomes. Universities are required to provide positive outcomes which are above the minimum quality requirements. A consultation on future design of the TEF scheme has been launched and was due to close on 17 March 2022.

The timeline for TEF 2022 submission was outlined, with the window opening for staff and student submissions in early September 2022, closing in mid-November 2022 and providers notified of provisional decisions in April-May 2023.

The preparations for the TEF submission will be managed by Education Services and a TEF Steering Group has been established to oversee the draft schedule for the programme. For Schools, there will be preparatory meetings to ensure readiness for submission.

Senate provided a number of comments and questions, which highlighted the keen interest taken in the future plans. There was general consensus to recognise the importance of research in teaching and the need to frame and communicate this effectively. It was noted that engagement with the Students' Union was underway regarding the student submission and the continued importance of ensuring NSS completion was highlighted.

(b) Establishment of Research Institutes

Senate received a report regarding the establishment of five Research Institutes from Professor Phil Baker, PVC Research and Enterprise.

Senate noted that Research Institutes would be flagships for interdisciplinary research excellence and would help to deliver upon aspirations set out in the World-Changing Research theme of the University Strategy. Work was underway with the Executive Board to clarify the objectives, KPIs and aspirations of the institutes and to consider the resource implications.

The governance, funding and monitoring model for these Institutes would be approved by the Executive Board in due course. However, there will be input throughout from the Colleges with the governance reporting route through Research and Enterprise Committee with oversight provided by Senate. In addition, it was proposed that an annual formal review of each institute would be undertaken once the Institutes were in place.

Senate **approved** the establishment of the five research institutes for onward reporting to Council.

(b) Strategy

Senate received a progress report on the delivery of the Strategic Plan from Aash Khadia, Director of Planning.

The Senate was informed that significant progress has been made in the delivery of the strategy and embedding the strategic themes within the University. The KPIs linked to each of the strategic aims had been reviewed by Executive Board and would be brought to a future meeting of Senate for consideration.

It was noted that each of the Strategy's enabling plans and supporting strategies, with the exception of the Internationalisation Plan, were anticipated to be completed by the end of the 2021/22 academic year.

A summary of the Strategy Reporting Framework was provided with the key reporting mechanisms highlighted, including reporting to Senate. The Planning Process would be utilised to further support the embedding of the Strategy into the University. Moving forward, plans were in place to ensure that easily accessible information was in place regarding the Strategy to sit alongside regular communication updates.

Senate **noted** the update on the progress of the University Strategy and a summary of the Strategic Reporting Framework.

22/M04 BUSINESS TO NOTE

(a) University Library and Learning Resources Task and Finish Group

Senate received a progress report on the University Library and Learning Resources Task and Finish group from Professor Richard Thomas, DPVC Research, which included a number of recommendations and a proposed Library Collection Development Strategy.

The updated Library Collection Development Strategy aims to articulate how the library information resources and collection will support the institution to meet its strategic goals in research and education. The following five aims were outlined, each with associated KPIs:

- 1: Develop a facilitated collection that embraces the digital environment
- 2: Create an inclusive and diverse collection that supports learning and research in print and digital environments
- 3: Preserve, develop, and promote the discovery of and access to our unique and distinctive collections
- 4: Work in partnership with staff and students to put user experience and needs at the heart of collection development
- 5: Create an open research environment that enables the production, dissemination and discovery of our scholarship

The KPIs were welcomed as they would measure the success of the strategy.

Senate noted that that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on library funding and the Planning Process would be used to review funding going forward. The current positive position of the University against some benchmarked institutions was highlighted. The importance of recognising all parts of Information Resources was raised and it was noted that the use of student placements to assist with supporting the current cataloguing backlog was being considered.

It was noted that there had been significant shifts across the sector regarding how library collections would operate in the future, and this will be reflected in the new strategy.

Senate considered and **endorsed** the seven recommendations made in the report.

(b) Reports from Committees

a. Education Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meetings of the Education Committee held on 16 November 2021 and 26 January 2022

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the reports.

b. Research and Enterprise Committee

Senate **noted** reports from the meetings of the Research and Enterprise Committee held on 3 February 2022.

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the reports.

c. Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board

Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Reputation, Recruitment and Performance Board held on 7 December 2021.

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the report.

d. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Senate **noted** the report of the meeting of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee held on 24 November 2021.

Senate **noted** the other business set out and **approved** the report.

e. University Officer appointments

Senate **received** for information a list of all the University Officer appointments made since 3 November 2021.

f. Programmes Approved and Withdrawn

Senate **noted** the report of programmes approved in principle, in full and those withdrawn since its last meeting.

g. Outcomes of Senate Discipline Panels

Senate **received** the outcomes of recent Senate Student Discipline Panels.

22/M05

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Senate noted the final meeting scheduled for 2021-2022 was as follows:

Wednesday 22 June 2022, 2.00pm

Duration of meeting: 118 minutes