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**Senate – Minutes**

**15 June 2022**

**PRESENT:** Professor Andy J. Schofield, Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Dr Marina Anderson; Professor Paul Ashwin; Professor Phil Barker; Ewan Bell; Professor Alex Belton; Professor Dame Sue M. Black; Dr Chris Boyko; Professor Steve Bradley; Professor Kate Cain; Professor Paul Connolly; Dr Ana Costa; Professor Jonathan Culpeper; Professor Nigel Davies; Professor Catherine Easton; Rachel Fligelstone; Sarah Fox; Professor Magnus George; Professor Rober Geyer; Dr Claire Hardy; Professor Niall Hayes; Professor Manus Hayne (*for Professor Roger Jones*); Professor Louise Heathwaite (*for items 1-5*); Rebecca Heron; Dr Derek Hird; Dr Willem Hollmann; Professor Gillian Hopkinson; Dr Andrew Jarvis; Sam Maesschalck; Professor Alan Marsden; Dr James Mawdesley; Dr James McDowell; Dr Paul McKean; Dr Sandra Nolte; Professor Claudio Paoloni; Professor Efthymios Pavlidis; Professor Wendy Robinson; Professor Sharon Ruston; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone; Professor Jane E. Taylor; Professor Imogen Tyler; Professor Catherine Walshe; Professor Nigel Watson; Professor Jim Wild; Professor Karen Wright.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Misbah Ashraf; Andrew Barker; John S. W. Dickinson; India Ellis (Observer); Yvonne Fox (*for item 5*); James Fuller (Observer); Gillian Hemus; Simon J. Jennings; Professor Maolcom Joyce (*for item 5*); Noah Katz (Observer); Alison M. Mullan; Nicola C. Owen; Sarah J. Randall-Paley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Dr Lorna Ashton; Professor Peter M. Atkinson; Stuart Franklin; Professor Simon C. Guy; Professor Roger W. L. Jones; Heather Knight; Ben Lane; Professor Claire Leitch; Dr Jennifer Logue; Gayatri Shewani.

**INTRODUCTION**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 No new declarations of interest were made.

**3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

3.1 There were no questions to the Vice-Chancellor.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 27 APRIL 2022**

**PAPER A**

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the joint meeting held on 27 April 2022.

**5. RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) 2021  
EXERCISE RESULTS**

**PAPER B/  
PRESENTATION**

5.1 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) provided Senate with Lancaster's results from the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) along with comparative data with other universities. (The presentation slides are available via the Senate Teams site.)

5.2 In discussion the following points were noted.

- The positive results were thanks to the collective work of many across the University.
- The more detailed results provided material that would help focus strategic thinking, including identifying areas of investment.
- The research environment was noted as an area of strength and a focus for future strategic development.
- The University remained committed to interdisciplinary research and would consider how this was reflected in the REF results as part of future planning.
- The University would be considering if there was good practice to be identified to enhance the creation of 4\* outputs.
- Both results and approach differed across the University and a 'one size fits all' plan would not be effective.

5.3 Senate was reminded of the importance of continuing to collect engagement and impact data so as to support future impact case studies.

5.4 Senate recorded its thanks to all those who had contributed to the REF and noted the report.

**6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

6.1 The Vice-Chancellor provided an oral report, including the following.

- (i) There had been concern voiced nationally about Confucius Institutes and their possible negative impact on freedom of speech. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed both the University's commitment to free speech and that it had seen no evidence to suggest the Confucius Institute had done anything to curtail this. It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor would be liaising with UUK to encourage a collective response from all universities with Confucius Institutes.
- (ii) The government had appointed Professor Edward Peck as its Student Support Champion with a particular focus on supporting student mental health.

- (iii) The Council had recently conducted an away day focusing on the University's strategic priorities. Details were available on the University's website.
- (iv) The University was hosting a Family Fun which members were encouraged to attend.
- (v) Graduations ceremonies would be taking place in July. The Vice-Chancellor encouraged as many people as possible to attend.
- (vi) The following league table results were reported: QS Global – 146<sup>th</sup>, Complete University Guide – 11<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that Lancaster's research intensity was ranked third in the country and that this provided a powerful message to students about the quality of teaching and associated employability enhancement.
- (vii) Senate elections would soon be closing and members were asked to encourage all eligible persons to vote.

6.2 Senate noted the report.

**7. SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD (UEB) BUSINESS PAPER C  
RELEVANT TO SENATE (12 APRIL TO 24 MAY 2022 AND  
INCLUDING THE JOINT MEETINGS WITH PSEG)  
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7.1 Senate noted the report.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**8. RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING TO THE PAPER D  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

8.1 Senate approved the renaming of the Department of Engineering to the School of Engineering, noting that while the name would be with immediate effect there would be a transition period for implementation.

**9. UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OUTCOMES FOR ACADEMIC PAPER E  
YEAR 2020/21  
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**10. LIBRARY REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22 PAPER F**

10.1 Senate received the Library Report for 2021/22, noting that this was the first report in what was being considered for an annual process.

10.2 The report highlighted the work of the Library, and drew attention to the recent invitation to join Research Libraries UK, the leading sector body for influencing policy and decision-making. Lancaster would be joining and the Director was congratulated for overseeing the successful application.

- 10.3 It was further noted that the Library was the best used in the sector, highlighting its centrality to the University community. In relation to this, it was noted that the Library was working with the local community by offering residents cards to be able to access on-shelf materials.
- 10.4 Senate congratulated the Director on the successes of 2021/22 and noted the report.

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**11. PROFESSOR EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS: ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 PAPER G**

- 11.1 Senate noted the report.

**12. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS PAPER H**

- 12.1 Senate noted the following written reports of meetings:

- Council, meeting of 20 May 2022
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, meeting of 28 April 2022
- Research Committee, meeting of 21 February 2022

**13. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES PAPER I**

- 13.1 Senate noted the report of new and revised programmes.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 14.1 The next Senate meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday 28 September 2022.