

Senate – Minutes
16 June 2021

PRESENT: Professor Andy Schofield, Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Dr Marina Anderson; Professor Paul Ashwin; Professor Peter M. Atkinson; Professor Phil Barker; Professor Alex Belton; Ms Jean Bennett; Professor Dame Sue Black; Dr Chris Boyko; Professor Steve Bradley; Mr Tom Buckley; Professor Kate Cain; Professor Paul Connolly; Mr Sam Davis; Dr Catherine Easton; Professor Adrian Friday; Professor Magnus George; Mr Atree Ghosh; Professor Ian Gregory; Ms Charu Gupta; Professor Simon C. Guy; Professor Niall Hayes; Professor A. Louise Heathwaite; Professor Linda Hendry; Dr Derek Hird; Dr Willem Hollmann; Dr Andrew Jarvis; Professor Roger J. L. Jones; Professor Angus W. Laing; Professor Claire Leitch; Dr Jennifer Logue; Mr Sam Maesschalck; Ms Anastasiia Makareva; Professor Alan Marsden; Dr James McDowell; Professor Claudio Paoloni; Professor Uta Papen; Professor Anthony Patterson (*for Professor Gill Hopkinson*); Professor Efthymios Pavlidis; Professor Grzegorz Pawlina; Ms Pam Pickles; Mr Oliver Robinson; Professor Sharon Ruston; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone; Professor Joe Sweeney; Professor Jane E. Taylor; Dr Wlodek Tych; Professor Imogen Tyler; Professor Catherine Walshe; Professor Nigel Watson; Dr Karen Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Misbah Ashraf; Mr Andrew Barker; Mr Paul T. Boustead; Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt (*for item 3*); Mr John S. W. Dickinson; Ms Heather Knight; Mr Simon J. Jennings; Ms Alison M. Mullan; Ms Nicola C. Owen; Mrs Sarah J. Randall-Paley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr Andrew Burgess; Mr Stuart Franklin; Dr Claire Hardy; Professor Gill Hopkinson.

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND THANKS

- 1.1 Senate noted the apologies.
- 1.2 The Vice-Chancellor formally recorded thanks to those for whom this was their last meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 No new declarations of interest were made.

3. PRO-CHANCELLOR: INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Senate welcomed the Pro-Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt.

- 3.2 The Pro-Chancellor thanked Senate for allowing him to attend and paid tribute to this predecessor, Lord Liddle, for his service. He also recorded his formal thanks to the whole University for the work undertaken in the extraordinary year to support students and the ongoing work of the University in the face of the Covid-19 national emergency.
- 3.3 The Pro-Chancellor set out his position on higher education, noting the challenges both locally and across the sector. He emphasised his support for the fundamental capacities of education and noted student welfare and the need for interconnectivity as key priorities.
- 3.4 Senate thanked the Pro-Chancellor for this attendance, noting that further engagement between Council and Senate was being planned.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

- 4.1 The following question to the Vice-Chancellor had been received from:

Sam Maesschalck, Student representative

The pandemic has shown that PGR students very much fall between the cracks, as we're still in an area somewhere between students and staff. The new University Strategy only talks about enhancing the PGR student experience and support employability but does not include a clear link to the research and work PGR students do for the University. Given the UCU has adopted a policy to campaign to recognise PGRs as members of staff, similar to many other European countries, what is the University position on this?

- 4.2 The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University's position remained that PGR students were considered students and set out the reasons for this reflecting on elements such as educational purpose, management of intellectual property and broad institutional governance structures. He further noted, however, that there were differences between PGR and other students and that the University was working to improve PGR provision.
- 4.3 It was noted in discussion that the Covid-19 national emergency had highlighted particular issues for PGR students and these were being considered through the Doctoral Academy and other forums.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 21 APRIL 2021

PAPER A

- 5.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021.
- 5.2 It was noted that both matters that had been referred to Council for approval, the contingency arrangements for conferring degrees and the revocation of the honorary degree, had been duly approved.

6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

- (i) The University had appointed a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education). The name was currently embargoed but would be released shortly.
- (ii) Work was proceeding on bringing the campus out of the government restrictions while recognising that the situation remained fluid and subject to change.
- (iii) The recent Complete University Guide had moved Lancaster to eleventh. The data was being analysed to support decision-making around the institutional response.
- (iv) Congratulations were recorded to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) who had recently presented her maiden speech in the House of Lords on the topic of education and the life chances it provided.

6.2 Senate noted the report.

7. SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD (UEB) BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE (30 MARCH 2021 TO 18 MAY 2021)

PAPER B

7.1 Senate noted the report.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs): DRAFT FOR COMMENT

PAPER C

Restricted and Commercial in Confidence

9. UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OUTCOMES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

PAPER D

9.1 Senate received the undergraduate degree outcomes for the academic year 2019/20 noting that the year had been affected by the Covid-19 national emergency. Outcomes were reviewed and it was noted that they remained in line with the sector.

9.2 Senate noted that the report would be passed to Council.

10. JOINT FACULTY TEACHING COMMITTEE (JFTC)

PAPER E

10.1 Senate received a proposal to extend the period of operation for the Joint Faculty Teaching Committee for an additional year. This, it was noted, would allow the committee to continue to oversee adjustments required to manage the impact of the Covid-19 national emergency.

10.2 In discussion the following points were made.

- The broader review associated with work overseen by this committee would allow an opportunity to further reflect on what constituted major and minor change in curriculum and assessment.
- Communication to academic colleagues on the work of the committee would be advantageous.
- The relationship between the committee and the incoming Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) would be clarified upon arrival.

10.3 Senate agreed to extend the period of operation for the Joint Faculty Teaching Committee for the academic year 2021/22.

11. RACE EQUALITY CHARTER

PAPER F

11.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor presented an update report on the University's engagement with the Race Equality Charter. The University had signed up in April 2021 and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor set out the structures and procedures that would take the work forward.

11.2 Senate noted the report.

12. PEOPLE AND CULTURE PLAN GROUNDWORK

PAPER G

12.1 Senate noted that in January 2020, a desktop exercise was undertaken to consider the workstreams associated with People and Values in support of the University's Strategy refresh. Senate received a report on this and related work that would collectively inform the development of the People and Culture Plan.

12.2 It was noted that work would continue and agreed that a substantive paper would come to the next meeting.

13. REVIEW OF EDI GOVERNANCE

PAPER H

13.1 Senate received a paper setting out proposals in relation to the governance structures for equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) work within the University. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that the proposals would give both Senate and Council greater assurance in relation to EDI priorities while also providing wider opportunities for engagement through forums and task and finish groups.

13.2 It was noted that the new structures would allow for greater engagement with students around EDI concerns and this was welcomed.

13.3 Senate agreed to the proposed changes to the EDI governance arrangements, including membership of the EDI Committee, noting that as the Committee was a joint committee with Council approval would also be required.

14. UPDATED ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS CRITERIA FOR 2021/22

PAPER I

- 14.1 Senate received presentation from the Director of People and Organisational Effectiveness on proposed updates to the academic promotions criteria. This set out the proposed changes, their connectivity with the University Strategy and the consultation process undertaken to date.
- 14.2 The following points were noted in discussion.
- The criteria were in line with the University Strategy in emphasising research, engagement and teaching.
 - The new criteria did not remove anything from the previous criteria; it clarified the principles rather than detailing specific roles.
- 14.3 The role of Senate in decision-making around academic matters was noted and Senate confirmed that it was satisfied that it had sufficient information to make a decision.
- 14.4 It was noted that the process would be kept under review through the Promotions Committee.
- 14.5 Senate approved the update promotions criteria.

15. TEMPORARY GOVERNANCE MEASURES DURING THE PANDEMIC

PAPER J

- 15.1 The Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) reminded Senate that temporary governance measures, including delegations to Senate Sub-Committee chairs to recommend changes to committee memberships for approval by Chair's action had been introduced during the Covid-19 national emergency. She reported that there had been no requirement to invoke and presented a proposal that they be removed.
- 15.2 While the formal measures were no longer required, it was noted that significant good practice had been identified through the period, including the efficacy of virtual committee meetings. Where good practice had been identified this would be continued.
- 15.3 Senate approved the removal of the delegated powers to Senate Sub-Committee chairs to recommend changes to committee memberships for approval by Chair's action and recommended to Council the removal of temporary Ordinance clause 5.C.

16. EDUCATION COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

PAPER K

- 16.1 Senate approved minor changes to the terms of reference and membership of the Education Committee.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 17. PROFESSOR EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS: ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21** **PAPER L**
- 17.1 Senate noted the report of the appointments.
- 18. HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS** **PAPER M**
- 18.1 Senate noted the report of the appointments.
- 19. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS** **PAPER N**
- 19.1 Senate noted the written reports of meetings.
- 20. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES** **PAPER O**
- 20.1 Senate noted the report of new and revised programmes.
- 21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 21.1 The next meeting (via Teams) will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 September 2021. There will also be an in person joint Council and Senate meeting held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday 24 September 2021, with a lunch from 12:00 p.m. (venue to be confirmed).