



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 12 February 2018

Report of the Senate

Date: 13 December 2017
Chair: The President & Vice-Chancellor
Secretary: Dr T Strike

For Approval

1. Change to the Name of an Academic Department

- 1.1 Senate received and endorsed a proposal to change the name of the Department of Landscape to the Department of Landscape Architecture. Attention was drawn to the belief that the change of name would contribute positively to aiding recruitment and professional standing within the discipline nationally and internationally.
- 1.2 Council are recommended to approve the proposal.

For information

2. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

- 2.1 The Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor presented the report, including:
 - (a) EU Negotiations: Confirmation of a deal for the first stage of EU negotiations included assurances about Horizon 2020 and positive statements about the future of non UK EU citizens.
 - (b) International staff and students: A change in immigration rules to enable 'world-leading scientists and researchers' endorsed under the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route to apply for settlement after three years had been announced. A relaxation of the labour market test when hiring international researchers and members of established research teams and allowing the UK's Research Councils and other select organisations to sponsor researchers was also announced by Government. Work was being undertaken with University staff and campus unions to address concerns for overseas staff, in particular non-UK EU staff. The University was hopeful of being involved in an expansion to the pilot scheme to ease access to post-study work for international students. The WeAreInternational campaign continued to gather support and develop collaborations with similar initiatives, for example the President & Vice-Chancellor was invited by the NUS to speak at a national event for its StudentsoftheWorld campaign.
 - (c) Autumn Budget: The budget document confirmed the previously announced tuition fees freeze and an increase in the repayment threshold to £25,000 in April 2018. There was no announcement regarding the major review of university funding, or further changes to current tuition fee arrangements. The announcement of a further £2.3 billion investment in R&D in 2021-22 from the National Productivity

Investment Fund (NPIF) was positive. A new Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation including AI fellowships was announced, which linked to work underway in the Department of Computer Science.

- (d) Industrial Strategy: The University had made a significant contribution to this agenda through the Industrial Strategy Commission, a joint initiative of SPERI and the University of Manchester. Professor Richard Jones would be advising on the metrics for the new framework for Knowledge Exchange in research. Plans for the AMRC Asia's Industry 4.0 Centre had been announced. The University was a key player regarding regional economic growth and had been involved in coordination work with anchor institutions through the Sheffield City Region Vision work. This was particularly important given the lack of progress on devolution. Regarding skills, nationally the number of people starting an apprenticeship had halved but AMRC TC continued to recruit strongly. Sheffield would host the National Technician Development Centre, with over £500k of funding from HEFCE.
- (e) Office for Students (OfS): The OfS would become a legal entity on 1 January 2018 and there would be a new regulatory framework which would mean a significant cultural shift for the sector and the institution. Applications for university registration need to be submitted in April 2018, with an announcement of registered universities in July 2018. The anticipated consultation on 'accelerated degrees' had been published and the University would respond. Work was being undertaken to understand and respond to the implications of moving to a more regulatory model of governance.
- (f) Working with students: The relationship with the Students' Union officers was valued and key issues of shared concern included the challenge of employability in the UK and overseas, and student mental health.
- (g) Developing our faculties: There had been strong performance across a number of faculties with top 100 rankings for Medicine, Dentistry and Health, Engineering, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities. There were specific challenges for Science and a Task Force had been established, which would help the Faculty address the challenges faced, as well as to make the most of opportunities offered to develop the research and teaching strengths of Science scholarship at the University.
- (h) Financial challenges: Constrained public finances would mean that the increased regulatory burden would be matched by ongoing real terms reductions in public funding. The UK was continuing to lose market share of international students. Regarding pensions, there was a specific challenge for Russell Group universities as they had a large proportion of staff in the USS pension. A decision had been taken by Council to have a one year pause on new capital projects.
- (i) Business development: 2018 would see the opening of Boeing Sheffield and McLaren production facilities. The University had a Global Engagement strategy for overseas markets. A key area of opportunity was China and the President & Vice-Chancellor had met with the Vice-Premier and was currently in Beijing holding meetings with university and industrial partners.

3. REF Preparations

- 3.1 Senate received and noted a verbal update from the Vice-President for Research and Innovation regarding preparations for REF 2021, which would see significant changes to the process. A second REF Stocktake exercise had been conducted within the University, the outcome of which was generally positive. In general, it was anticipated for REF 2021 that there would be a shift upwards in the expectation of what constituted a good REF submission.

4. Research Priorities and Institutes

- 4.1 Senate received a report and presentation and approved proposals which included a future structure for university research institutes sitting above two lower levels of research centres, with central funding to support their formation and delivery. There would be an open competition within the university to identify potential priorities. Any resulting proposals would follow for consideration by Senate in June and recommendation to Council where appropriate.

5. Senate Effectiveness Review

- 5.1 Senate received and approved the Report, including approval of the scope for a Senate Effectiveness Review. It was envisaged that a review of the effectiveness of Senate would be informed by, strengthen and complement the work of the joint Council and Senate Task and Finish Group, and that cross-membership of the respective groups would ensure connectivity between the two. It was emphasised that the role of an external adviser to the Review would be to advise the Review and not to assess. Senate would be updated on 21 March with a final report due to the Senate on 20 June and to the Council from Senate on 9 July.

6 Report of the Council

- 6.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 16 October 2017.

7 Reports of committees

7.1 Committees of Senate

- 7.1.2 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

(a) Learning and Teaching Committee

(Meetings held on 26 September 2017 and 21 November 2017)

Senate approved new, significantly amended, suspended and discontinued programmes approved by Faculties in the period 27 June-7 November 2017.

Senate discussed online courses and the relationship between learning and teaching and the Student Lifecycle Project.

Research and Innovation Committee

(Meeting held on 15 November 2017)

Senate approved a proposed policy and process for managing security sensitive research. This would enable the institution to meet the duty on Universities to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' under the UK Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

(b) Research Ethics Committee

(Meeting held on 15 November 2017)

Senate approved:

- (i) Amended General Principles and Statements to provide clarity regarding ethics approval for collaborative projects
- (ii) Amended Research Ethics Policy Note number 1 'Defining Human Research Participants, Personal Data and Human Tissue' to provide clarity regarding ethics approval for research involving experts.

(iii) Approval of amended Research Ethics Policy Note number 5 'Ethics Review of Health and Social Care Research in the UK' to ensure that the Ethics Policy referred to the new national Policy Framework, and drew on the revised definitions within it.

(c) Senate Budget Committee
(Meeting held on 16 November 2017)

Senate received and approved the Report, including: the importance of enhancing the understanding of the budget setting process; the Minute of the Committee's meeting with the President & Vice-Chancellor; how the 2017/18 Budget Pack was used within faculties and departments to enhance the links between planning and financial planning.

7.2 Other committees

7.2.1 Senate received for information the reports of the Estates Committee (meeting held on 2 October 2017), Finance Committee (meeting held on 12 October 2017), Health and Safety Committee (meeting held on 23 October 2017), Human Resources Committee (meeting held on 11 October 2017) which were approved by Council at its meeting on 27 November 2017. Senate also received the following annual reports 2016-17: the Library; Cases reviewed externally by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator; Discipline Committee and Disciplinary Appeals Committee; Appeals Committee of Senate relating to Progress of Students.

8. Quarterly Financial Results

8.1 Senate received for information the Quarterly Financial Results for the three months ended 31 October 2017.