



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

Minutes Meeting of the Senate

Date: 11 October 2017

Present: The President & Vice-Chancellor, in the Chair
Ms S Allen, Dr R Archer, Mr M Ashman, Professor K Ayscough, Professor P Bath, Mrs E Bingham, Mr C Blackmore, Dr L Blank, Professor J Boxall, Professor C Buck, Professor T Burke, Professor N Clarke, Ms J Coley, Ms E Cordell, Professor S Fitzmaurice, Professor A Gartland, Professor B Gibson, Miss S Gopalakrishnan, Dr P Gould, Professor J Grasby, Professor J Gray, Professor D Hadley, Mrs S Hague, Professor J Haycock, Professor A Hindmoor, Mrs A Horn, Dr R Horn, Professor D Hornby, Professor M Hounslow, Miss L Hunt, Professor R F W Jackson, Ms H Johnstone, Professor S Keefe, Professor M Kinsey, Dr J Kirby, Dr W Kitchen, Mr N Latimer, Professor P Latreille, Professor J Litster, Dr A MacIntosh, Professor L Maltby, Mrs J Marriott, Professor J Marsh, Mr K Maxwell, Ms C McKeown, Mr S McMillan, Professor R K Moore, Professor W Morgan, Professor K Morris, Ms M Nolan, Professor D Oglethorpe, Miss E Packham, Dr A Patrick, Professor A Piette, Professor S Pitts, Dr C Priede, Mr M Rapiet, Mr D Reid, Dr E Simpson, Mr R Simpson, Professor N Sims, Professor M Siva-Jothy, Miss R Staves, Dr C Stokes, Professor P Styring, Mrs N Talbot, Professor G Valentine, Dr J Vanderhoven, Dr Roel Vismans, Professor G Waller, Professor S Walters, Dr S Want, Mr R Ward, Mr D Whittaker, Professor N Williams, Dr S Williams, Professor M Williamson, Dr L Wilson, Professor S Winder, Professor P Wright.

Secretary: Dr T Strike

In attendance: Mrs R Arnold, Mrs R Barker, Mr M Borland, Mrs K Clements, Professor P Crowther, Mrs H Dingle, Ms S M Stephens, Mr D Swinn, Mr L Wild, Ms T Wray.

Apologies: The Senate received apologies from 25 members.

WELCOME

The President & Vice-Chancellor welcomed members to the first meeting of the Senate in 2017-18, including new Heads of Departments, elected members and the Students' Union Sabbatical officers.

DEATHS

The Senate noted with regret the following deaths, which had occurred since the last meeting:

Dr Steve Ludlam, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, and a member of staff from 1993 to 2016. Aged 66.

Graham Maurice Sutcliffe, current postgraduate student in the School of Education, and

member of staff in the English Language Teaching Centre. Aged 59.

Neil Watson, Senior Clerical Officer in the Department of Finance, and a member of staff from 1977 to 2014. Aged 64.

Members stood in memory.

1. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S PRESENTATION AND REPORT

The Senate received a presentation from the President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC), in which attention was drawn to the following points:

- (a) Achievements: A Nobel Prize has been awarded for the observation of gravitational waves. Dr Ed Daw of the University of Sheffield is a member of the large international group whose work underpinned this discovery. Sheffield had risen 4 places in the *Times Higher Education* Global Rankings, with Social Sciences ranked 63rd globally and Arts & Humanities ranked 67th globally and members of Senate were thanked for their contributions towards these achievements. The University of Sheffield was the top university in the north of England for producing employable graduates, according to The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide for 2018. This was testament to the work of the Careers Service and staff there were thanked for their work.
- (b) Partnerships: The MindSphere lounge partnership with Siemens had launched at the Diamond. The AMRC had announced Boeing Sheffield and was looking to expand international partnerships in Korea and Malaysia. The Chinese ambassador to the UK had visited Sheffield for the first time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Sheffield Confucius Institute and to discuss new partnerships with top Chinese universities in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai.
- (c) Funding and finances: The Prime Minister had announced maximum tuition fee for home students would be fixed at £9,250 and the repayment threshold for students increased to £25k. There was uncertainty regarding the impact of changes to fees on future university funding. There was ongoing uncertainty concerning the impact of Brexit on both staff and students. The University would continue with efforts to develop new opportunities and to diversify its income streams. A review of the institution's financial model would be led by Professor David Oglethorpe, Dean of the Management School and include the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, the Director of Finance, and the Students' Union.
- (d) Review of university funding and tuition fees: The Prime Minister had announced a 'major review of tuition fees' in a bid to reduce student debt whilst the Labour party have confirmed their commitment to abolish tuition fees. The national debate on the issue of tuition fees now appeared to be highly polarised, party political and narrow.
- (e) The Sheffield HE Commission: The University's response has been to set up a Sheffield-led Independent Commission which would involve students, academics, graduates, industry, and policy makers in a wide discussion. The Commission's approach would be open, long-term and focused on educational purpose to inform government and the public while reflecting the University's founding principles and long-term aims. The institution was fortunate in possessing the capability to run a commission. The P&VC was of the view that there was an appetite in the country for an open-ended academic discussion of this type and was grateful for the support of the Students' Union President in establishing the Commission.
- (f) Policy (national): A consultation on the new regulatory framework for higher

education was anticipated to be published shortly and the University would look carefully at the consultation documents. The name of the 'Teaching Excellence Framework' would be changing to the 'Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework' to reflect a 'strong focus on student outcomes' and 'value for money' with the framework including new metrics on graduate earnings. Regarding the Industrial Strategy, universities and CATAPLULT centres, such as the AMRC, were seen as crucial for the Industrial Strategy, but further detail was awaited from government. The P&VC noted that Sheffield was 'well placed' on this issue.

- (g) Policy (international): In a recent speech the Prime Minister had said 'you are welcome here' to non-UK EU citizens, however their status was still to be resolved as part of Brexit negotiations. Regarding international students the University would be submitting evidence of the benefits of international students to the Home Office review and the University continues to lead the #WeAreInternational campaign.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017, having been circulated, were approved as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL

Senate received and noted a summary of the matters within the Reports from Committees of the Senate and Other Matters sections of the Agenda for which Senate's formal approval was sought.

5. SENATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW: ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY

Senate agreed a proposal to nominate members to join a Senate working group to consult on and propose to the President and Vice-Chancellor and to Senate the scope, terms of reference and membership of a Senate effectiveness review, to be considered by the Senate in December 2017. Senate noted the proposed terms of reference, membership and timing for the proposed joint Council and Senate task and finish group on Academic Standards and Quality.

It was clarified that there would be student representation on the Working Group and that the role of the external adviser would be to advise the Working Group, rather than to lead the group. Professor Lorraine Maltby, proposed Chair of the Working Group, emphasised the importance of the review being proposed by Senate and for Senate. Professor Maltby urged members of Senate to nominate themselves to be a member of the Working Group.

REPORTS FROM STATUTORY BODIES

6. REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL (Meeting held on 3 July 2017)

Senate received and noted the Report on the Proceedings of the Council.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

7. REPORT OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE

(Meetings held on 19 May 2017 and 5 July 2017)

Senate received and approved the Report, including:

- (a) Changes to University Regulations: Senate approved changes to the General Regulations of the Council and updates to University regulations to replace the “Board of Extra Faculty Provision” with the “Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee”.
- (b) Taught Collaborative Arrangements: Senate approved the partnerships and model of collaboration.
- (c) New, significantly amended and discontinued programmes: Senate approved new, significantly amended, suspended and discontinued programmes approved by Faculties since 11 May 2017.
- (d) Chair’s Approval: Senate noted that Chair’s approval on behalf of Senate was granted under delegated powers so that the changes set out in the report could be put into place for the start of the 2017-18 session.
- (e) Attention was drawn to the 3 learning and teaching priorities for 2017/18: programme level view, student engagement; and digital. The Teaching Excellence Framework year 3 will include subject level pilots, which the University had chosen not to take part in. There had been a successful student boycott at the University of the National Student Survey which resulted in the 50% threshold to publish the data not being met. The University was working with league table providers on the implications of this survey data not being available.

In discussion it was clarified in relation to Learning Analytics that there could be a benefit in students reflecting on the progress that they have achieved and care needs to be taken in using analytics. The issue of implementation of learning and teaching support plans was raised and the Vice-President for Education would look in to how the plans are implemented. It was clarified that the principles of Achieve More would continue as part of the learning experience although the brand would no longer be used. It was thought to be too early to assess the impact of TEF ratings on potential students and league table compilers. Early indications were that international online searches have been influenced by TEF ratings. The University continued to project a positive profile internationally.

8. REPORT OF THE RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 13 September 2017)

Senate received and approved the Report, including approval of a new Policy Note that seeks to clarify when ethics approval is required when undertaking activities related to demonstrating the impact of research.

Attention was drawn to data protection requirements. It was clarified that where ‘demonstration of impact’ data collected from human participants would also be used for the purposes of generating new knowledge ethics approval should be obtained before the collection of the data commences. The Data Protection Act 1998 will be replaced by General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on 25 May 2018. This would include key changes that may have significant implications, such as the requirement for consent to be a direct positive, affirmative action by the participant.

9. REPORT OF THE SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

(Meetings held on 13 July 2017 and 26 September 2017)

Senate received and approved the Report, including.

- (a) An update had been received regarding student recruitment and

undergraduate Home recruitment was challenging with demographic changes resulting in there being fewer 18 year olds in the country.

- (b) Key points from SBC's discussion with the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in March 2017 were the capital expenditure programme and the Committee's communication role with Senate.
- (c) Issues from SBC meetings with Vice-Presidents and Heads of Faculty included: variation in departmental budget setting processes; financial structures did not appear to support cross faculty working; investment in facilities; recruitment levels after the end of the recruitment pause; research income was used as a proxy for reputation
- (d) The Chair of SBC met with UEB in June and key points discussed included the understanding across the institution of the effect of depreciation on resource allocation and a variable level of financial understanding amongst Heads of Departments. UEB were asked how they will draw together the SDG work, the outcomes from the Faculty Reflection process and the planning outcomes to prepare a University response to address the financial deficit.

In responding to the question asked of UEB the P&VC highlighted the importance of UEB and noted its transparency in publishing its minutes. UEB was in a position to consider issues holistically before making recommendations to the P&VC.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

10. REPORTS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Meetings held on 8 May 2017 and 19 June 2017)

Senate received and noted the Reports of the Finance Committee.

11. REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 17 May 2017)

Senate received and noted the Report of the Health and Safety Committee.

12. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 14 June 2017)

Senate received and noted the Report of the Health and Safety Committee.

OTHER MATTERS

13. DRAFT FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2016-17

A report summarising the Draft Financial Results for the twelve months ended 31 July 2017 was received and noted.

14. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN

A Report on action taken since the last meeting of the Senate was received and noted.

15. MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

A Report listing major research grants and contracts awarded since the last meeting of the Senate was received and noted.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting

held on 13 December 2017

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