



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 26 February 2019

Report of the Senate

Date: 12 December 2018
Chair: The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC)
Secretary: Dr T Strike

For information

1. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

- 1.1 The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) presented the report, including:
- (a) Review of Post-18 Education and Funding: The Augar Review, the independent panel supporting the Review, was expected to complete its work in February 2019. There had been media reports, some based on leaks, on the ideas that were under consideration.
 - (b) All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Students: Following its Inquiry the APPG published a report with 12 recommendations, including establishing a target to grow international student numbers with a commitment to remove students from the target to reduce net migration, and a post-study work visa allowing up to two years of work experience in the UK. The University Secretary's Office provided secretariat and policy support to the review, with the intention of helping inform the Immigration Bill.
 - (c) Brexit: The situation was viewed a very fluid. The following points had been made to senior civil servants regarding future immigration policy under a no deal Brexit: it should facilitate the easy movement of researchers; and the Government would have to reconsider the salary thresholds. Scenario planning, risk assessment and planning were being undertaken within the university and nationally. Within the University a Brexit Coordination Group would, if necessary, begin meeting from January. Communications would shortly be sent to staff and students.
 - (d) Budget 2018: There were very few new announcements of direct relevance to higher education. There was a headline figure of £1.6 billion of investment to support the Government's industrial strategy.
 - (e) Annual Planning Round: This would involve considering the appropriate balance between teaching, research, and knowledge exchange.
 - (f) Research awards: The value of new research grant and contract awards for the previous 12 months was encouraging.
 - (g) Research development: The University had undertaken a comprehensive process to identify the first group of University Research Institutes (URI) and staff were encouraged to engage with the URIs.
 - (h) Impact, innovation and knowledge exchange: In October 2018 Business Secretary, Greg Clark MP, officially opened Boeing Sheffield, following which the University had a private meeting with the Minister at which the University's and the city's priorities were outlined.

- (i) Alumni Volunteering: The Northern City Connections event in November involved students from widening participation backgrounds meeting alumni and highlighted opportunities available to them. It was hoped to engage more alumni in this type of event.
- (j) Our place: locally and globally: Work was taking place on an International Strategy, which would determine the geographical priorities and the activities. Post-Brexit a European Strategy would be developed.
- (k) Pensions: The employers, through Universities UK, appeared to broadly support the recommendations of the Joint Expert Panel, which was welcome. A response from the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) was awaited.
- (l) Ministerial appointment: Chris Skidmore MP had been appointed Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation.

2. Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework 2018/19 (TEF YEAR 4)

- 2.1 Senate received a presentation which provided an update on TEF. The University's approach was to focus on teaching excellence and on doing the 'right thing' for students. Sheffield would make a (re-)submission for provider level TEF in early 2019, with the award level announced in the summer of 2019. Departments were encouraged to: continue to develop the Programme Level Approach (PLA); focus on enhancing assessment and feedback; communicate with students; reflect on outcomes; and reflect on the feedback on TEF Action Plans. Discussion included lobbying activity, BME attainment gaps, and student evaluation questionnaire.

3. Report of the Council

- 3.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 22 October 2018.

4. Reports of committees

4.1 Committees of Senate

- 4.1.1 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Learning and Teaching Committee
(Meeting held on 29 October 2018)
 - (i) Terms of Reference: Senate approved updated membership and terms of reference for Learning and Teaching Committee.
 - (ii) Apprenticeships approval process: Senate approved a process for its approval of out of cycle apprenticeship proposals.
 - (iii) New and significantly amended, suspended & discontinued Programmes: Senate approved new, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes, and title changes and new exit routes approved by Faculties between 28 June – 16 October 2018.

Attention was drawn to the benefits of the updated Terms of Reference. It was clarified that the out of cycle approval process would only be used on an exceptional basis.

- (b) Research Ethics Committee
(Meeting held on 14 November 2018)

Senate received and approved the Report including, Research Excellence Framework (REF) preparations; the new University Postgraduate Research Committee's five work streams; the University planned to respond to the consultation on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of

Researchers; the University was developing a Knowledge Exchange strategy; and the Plan S open access initiative.

(c) Senate Academic Assurance Committee
(Meeting held on 20 November 2018)

Senate received and approved the Report. Attention was drawn to the three themes the Committee would look at in depth during 2018/19: external examiners; grade inflation; and professional accreditation.

(d) Senate Budget Committee
(Meeting held on 13 November 2018)

Senate received and approved the Report, including: the Minutes of the Committee's meeting with the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor would be provided to Senate in March 2019; and the underlying surplus reported in the Financial Results for 2017/18 had followed a deficit for each of the preceding three years. Discussion covered the challenges associated with financial forecasting.

4.2 Other committees

4.2.1 Following the Senate Effectiveness Review the following reports were circulated to members of Senate by email and not included on the Senate agenda: Finance Committee (meeting held on 15 October 2018); Health and Safety Committee (meeting held on 23 October 2018); and the Human Resources Committee (meeting held 17 October 2018)

5. Changes to Students' Union Complaints and Discipline Regulations

5.1 Senate approved the new procedure for complaints and disciplinary matters dealt with by the Students' Union and contained in the amended Bye-Law 15. Senate approval was sought as it is required under Clause 12.2 of the Students' Union Constitution. University oversight of Students' Union complaints is a requirement of the Education Act 1994.

6. Student Complaints

6.1 Senate received for information the following summary Annual Reports:

- (i) Students' Union Complaints and Discipline Annual Report 2017-18
- (ii) Annual Report of Cases Reviewed Externally by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator 2017-18
- (iii) Annual Report of the Appeals Committee of the Senate 2017-18
- (iv) Annual Report of the Discipline Committee and the Disciplinary Appeals Committee of the Senate 2017-18
- (v) Annual Report on Student Case Reviews 2017-18. (This is a separate item on the Council agenda)
- (vi) Annual Review of Student Formal Procedure Cases 2017-18

7. Draft Financial Results

7.1 Senate received for information the Quarterly Financial Results for the three months ended 31 October 2018.