



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 24 February 2020

Report of the Senate

Date: 11 December 2019
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) Vision: A total of 32 events had been held with 1090 staff attending. There was one further event to go and the task of analysing the ideas and contributions had begun. Engagement with a large number of students had been led by the Students' Union.
 - (b) Industrial Action: This had been a difficult period for the university community and the P&VC expressed thanks to all colleagues for their constructive behaviour during the industrial action.
- 1.2 Discussion focussed on the process for developing the University's Vision and support for overseas PGR students.

2. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 2.1 Senate received and noted a presentation on the Mental Health Strategy and existing and planned activity. Discussion covered work regarding cultural barriers for international students and activity in relation to staff mental health.

3. Financial Results 2018-19

- 3.1 Senate received and noted a presentation. Discussion focussed on changes to employer contributions to USS and the target underlying surplus.

4. Report of the Council

Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 14 October 2019.

5. Reports of committees

5.1 Committees of Senate

- 5.1.1 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Research Ethics Committee
(Meeting held on 13 November 2019)

Senate received and approved the Report, including the development of a light-touch process for auditing ESCR-funded research projects, the inclusion of data collection tools as part of ethics applications, and the annual report of ethics reviews.

(b) Senate Academic Assurance Committee
(Meeting held on 19 November 2019)

Senate received and approved the Report. Attention was drawn to requests that Council had made, during consideration of Senate's Annual Academic Assurance Report at its November meeting, to Senate.

(c) Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
(Meeting held on 10 October 2019)

(i) The revised Dual and Interdisciplinary Programmes Policy, produced by the PLA Task and Finish Group.

(ii) New, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes, and title changes and new exit routes approved by Faculties between 14 May and 23 September 2019.

Attention was drawn to the revised annual reflection process for 2019/20 and that the University as a high tariff provider, along with other Russell Group institutions, is subject to enhanced monitoring in relation to access. Discussion focussed on the proposed Dual and Interdisciplinary Programmes Policy, 2019 National Student Survey results, and the process for proposed new, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes.

(d) Senate Nominations Committee
(Business by Chair's action)

Senate received and approved the report, including the appointment of Professor Sumon Bhaumik (Management School) to the Senate Research & Innovation Committee. Following Dr Janine Kirby's promotion to Professor, which meant that she was no longer eligible for the position of non-Professorial representative of the Senate on Council, the call for nominations for the vacancy would be circulated to members of Senate shortly.

(e) Senate Research and Innovation Committee

(i) Proposed amendments to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Attention was drawn to further changes to the Terms of Reference which would be proposed to Senate to reflect changes to governance arrangements for PGR quality assurance, previously endorsed in principle by Senate in June 2019. Additional work would be undertaken regarding the Research Excellence Framework and potential gender bias.

5.2 Other committees

5.2.1 Following the Senate Effectiveness Review, the following reports were circulated to members of Senate by email and not included on the Senate agenda: Estates Committee (meeting held on 14 October 2019); Finance Committee (meeting held on 21 October 2019).