
Meeting: ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY

Date and time: Wednesday 28 October 2020 at 1.15pm

Venue: Via MS Teams

Present: Dr J White (Chair)
and 20 members

Attending by invitation: Ms H South

In attendance: Mrs P Chesters, Chair of Council
Dr C Harris, Secretary to Academic Assembly

ACTION

713 WELCOME

The Chair thanked members for attending the meeting and welcomed them. She explained that she was conscious of the number of members required for quoracy but was minded to continue. A member pointed out that quoracy was only an issue if it was challenged.

714 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020 (Paper AA20/21-007 refers) were approved and would be signed later by the Chair.

715 MATTERS ARISING

There were none not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

716 RELEVANT DECISION OF SENATE

The Chair reminded members of Academic Assembly that reports of the meetings of Senate could be found at:
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/statutory-bodies-committees/bodies-and-committees-senate/Senate/minutes/index.html>

She drew attention to the following Senate approvals:

- (1) June:
 - to establish a new Curriculum Committee to speed up the process for managing changes required over the coming year;
 - changes to Regulation 7 (Discipline);

- initial recommendations from the Senate Effectiveness Review; and
- to be considered by Council: changes to Statutes, Ordinances, the Annual Statement of Research Integrity, the Degree Outcomes Statement.

(2) October:

- amendments to the Career Progression in the Education and Research Job Family document (CER);
- changes to Regulation 8 (Discipline) and Regulations for Apprentices;
- change of committee names from Equality and Diversity Committee to 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee'; from University Research Committee to 'Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee'; from University Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee to 'Education, Quality and Standards Committee'.

717 COUNCIL UPDATE

Mrs Pamela Chesters, Chair of Council, gave an oral presentation (see Appendix 1).

[There was a suggestion that the meeting should be recorded for the benefit of absent members but agreed that a summary of this item would be circulated shortly].

SEC

There were no questions as the talk was very comprehensive.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Council for her presentation.

718 REVIEW OF ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY

The Chair introduced the amended terms of reference for the review (Paper AA20/21-008a) and basic information on two possible review chairs (Paper AA20/21-008b). She advised that the terms of reference now included a short introduction, as previously requested.

The terms of reference were AGREED.

The Chair explained that both possible review chairs were previously unknown to her but that she had spoken with them to discuss the review and gain their agreement to undertake it. She explained that she had deliberately not supplied much information other than weblinks as she wanted to remain impartial and objective.

In response to a question about why they would be good as review chair, the Chair stated that they had been suggested by others, they had significant experience of working in universities and understanding governance structures, including experience of the University of Bath (some universities do not have an Academic Assembly) and a breadth of experience.

There was a discussion and vote on the review chair, and it was AGREED to invite Jeff Thompson.

CHAIR

Suggestions for improving engagement with the Assembly were made:

- A member commented that she was never made aware of the Assembly on starting work at the University so suggested that the review consider communication about the Assembly;
- More formally scheduling the meetings by inserting the meeting in Outlook calendars was endorsed, as had happened previously; this would be done for the May meeting.

SEC

719 ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Climate Emergency Response Working Group

The Chair had circulated an update from the Working Group prior to the meeting, which detailed progress working closely with the Climate Emergency Response Working Group

Accountability and Transparency Working Group

The Chair reminded members that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that the Working Group continue; members had been requested and two had come forward. The Chair would discuss how to proceed with these two members; one requested that the call for members happen again.

720 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair announced that there had been one nomination for Chair of Academic Assembly 2021-2024, and she was pleased to announce that Dr Alan Hayes of the Department of Computer Science had been appointed. She advised that he was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement for British Computer Society accreditation at the University of Sheffield.

It was noted by an Academic Assembly-elected Senator that it would be helpful if more Senators attended Academic Assembly meetings.

721 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The final meeting in 2020/21 was noted as:

Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 12.30pm, the Vice-Chancellor's address.

The meeting concluded at 2.15pm
