

**SENATE****22ND OCTOBER 2008****REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY****1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 As the statutory representative body for academic staff, the Academic Assembly may, under its terms of reference, discuss and declare an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University, including any matters referred to it by the Senate and, if it so decides, submit resolutions to the Senate.
- 1.2 The membership of Academic Assembly is prescribed by Statute 22.1 as follows: 'The Academic Assembly of the University shall consist of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the full-time members of the Academic Staff, the University Librarian, the holders of such other posts in the University and such other Members of the University as may be designated by the Senate'.
- Three groups have been designated as members of Academic Assembly by Senate:
- \* Part-time members of academic staff (0.33FTE or above), October 1988, minute 7563
  - \* Teaching Fellows, January 1993, minute 9031
  - \* Senior research staff and permanent University Research Officers, February 1997, minute 10279.
- 1.3 There has been debate in Academic Assembly over the past three years as to whether the current membership as defined in Statute 22.1 is sufficiently inclusive. Although the majority of academic staff have the traditional job titles (for example, lecturer, senior lecturer, professor, research officer or fellow), new titles and roles have been created for posts whose principal activity is concerned with academic matters.
- 1.4 In June 2006 Senate agreed that there were anomalies in the membership of Academic Assembly (eg exclusion of Directors of Teaching from the membership) and subsequently (October 2006) agreed that a proposal for revised membership be submitted to a future meeting of Senate when the new academic staff groupings had been clarified by the implementation of pay modernisation.
- 1.5 The implementation of the single pay spine has led to the replacement of staff groups with new job families. The job family that covers those involved with research, scholarship and teaching and the management and leadership of these activities is that of the "Research and Education Job Family". This Family will include those posts-holders whose job title and contract currently exclude them from membership of Academic Assembly but whose daily work directly impacts on the areas within its remit. A list of those covered by the Research and Education Job Family is attached to this paper as Annex 1.
- 1.6 While the Education and Research Job Family provides a definition for future membership of Academic Assembly, the current membership makes a distinction between academic staff employed more than 0.33 FTE and those whose hours fall below this threshold. The provisions do not allow part-time members of academic

staff working less than 0.33 FTE to become members of Academic Assembly. At their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008, Academic Assembly agreed that the exclusion from membership of staff working less than 0.33 FTE be removed and that a proposal should be put to Senate that the provisions of Statute 22.1 be amended to the effect that all staff in the Education and Research Job Family should have full membership of Academic Assembly.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Academic Assembly recommends to Senate:

- 2.1
  - i) that full membership of Academic Assembly be extended to all staff in the Education and Research Job Family, as listed on Annex 1 and replacing the previous groups designated by Senate (see paragraph 1.2 above)
  - ii) pursuant to (i) above, that the current exclusion of part-time staff with an FTE of less than 0.33 from the membership of Academic Assembly be removed.

F J Wikeley  
Chair of Academic Assembly

October 2008

## **JOBS IN EDUCATION & RESEARCH JOB FAMILY**

### **Academic Roles:**

Professor  
Reader  
Senior Lecturer  
Lecturer

### **Roles Primarily Concerned with Research :**

Professorial Fellow  
Senior Research Fellow  
Research Fellow  
Research Officer  
Research Assistant

(This group includes variations on these job titles including :Academic Fellow, Royal Society Research Fellow, Marie Curie Fellow, RCUK Fellow, GWR Fellow  
Senior Industrial Fellow, Synthetic Organic Chemist, Clinical Research Fellow)

### **Roles Primarily Concerned with Teaching :**

Director of Teaching  
Director of Studies  
Senior Teaching Fellow  
Teaching Fellow

(This group includes variations on these job titles including : Lector, Course Director/Leader, Graduate Teaching Associate, Studio Leader)

Clinical Academics