
Meeting: SENATE

Date and Time: Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 2.15 pm

Venue: Remote by MS Teams

Present Prof I White (Vice-Chancellor and President), (Chair)

Prof B Morley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost)	Prof M McManus (Elected by Professoriate)
Prof J Knight (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research))	Prof G Sankaran (Elected by Professoriate)
Prof P Lambert (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching))	Prof A Zalewska (Elected by Professoriate)
Dr C Wilson (Vice-President (Student Experience))	Dr P Allen (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof S Brammer (Dean, School of Management)	Dr R Branston (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof N Brook (Dean, Faculty of Science)	Dr M Carley (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof D Galbreath (Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences)	Dr R Chawla-Duggan (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof J White (Chair of Academic Assembly)	Dr S Gheduzzi (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Ms K Robinson (University Librarian)	Dr M Harney (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof B Rayton (Chair of CPAC)	Dr N Johnston (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof A Abbas (Elected by Professoriate)	Dr F Loughton (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof D Bird (Elected by Professoriate)	Dr D Moon (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof M Davidson (Elected by Professoriate)	Dr P Shepherd (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof J Davenport (Elected by Professoriate)	Dr J Troyer (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof C Frost (Elected by Professoriate)	Dr S Wharton (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof M Hejmadi (Elected by Professoriate)	Dr J Zang (Elected by Academic Assembly)
Prof T Ibell (Elected by Professoriate)	Mr F Masala (SU President)
Prof R Kelsh (Elected by Professoriate)	Ms A Willingham (SU Education Officer)
	Dr F KH Ho (SU Postgraduate Officer)
	Mr P-R Hall (elected student member)

Observers:

Dr C Bonfield - Acting Academic Director, Centre for Learning & Teaching
Ms A Butler - Chief Digital and Information Officer

In Attendance:

Ms C Evans - Director of Strategic Comms & Engagement (minute 14930)
Dr C Harris - Governance Manager (back-up Secretary)
Dr N Kemp - Director of Policy, Planning & Compliance (minute 14931)
Ms J Medland - Project Manager (minute 14933)
Ms A Pater - Deputy Director (Academic Governance & Compliance) (Secretary)
Ms R Sheer - Acting Director of Academic Registry
Ms C Slack - SU Head of Student Voice & Engagement

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from. Prof J Barnett, Prof J Bradshaw and Prof G Hawley. Dr R Chawla-Duggan left at 4pm.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially newly elected member **ACTION**
Dr Peter Allen, and those in attendance.

14925 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

14926 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Senate considered the previous minutes (paper S20/21-139). There was one suggestion re Minute 14896 to amend the opening of paragraph two to read, "One member queried what was meant by thought leadership, and said..."

Sec

Senate APPROVED the minutes with this amendment. They would later be signed by the Chair.

14927 MATTERS ARISING

Senate NOTED the following matters arising:

- 1) Minute 14894 - Council had agreed to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition on anti-Semitism as a reference point in the development of our staff and student processes.
- 2) Minute 14896 – Council had approved the additions to the membership of the Honorary Degrees Committee;
- 3) Minute 14897 – Council had approved the amendment to Ordinance 14.12;
- 4) Minute 14898 – Council had approved the Standing Orders for Joint Committees with one amendment (effective from 1 August): that the quorum should include at least one Council and one Senate member.

14928 FORMAL REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor introduced his report (paper S20/21-140). He noted that a large proportion of students had returned to their term-time accommodation and that more practical teaching was taking place in person. Numbers of COVID-19 cases were very low. He thanked everyone continuing to work hard responding to the Coronavirus pandemic but real challenges remain, particularly in terms of staff and student mental health. Recruitment and planning for the academic year 2021/2022 remained of much concern. Further government guidance was awaited regarding more teaching in-person would be allowed; currently not before 17 May. He congratulated Professor Jane White on her recent promotion.

The SU President reported the results of a student engagement survey; the results including some concerning statistics about loneliness and poor mental health.

Senate considered and NOTED the report.

14929 LEARNING AND TEACHING UPDATE

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) gave an update on COVID-19 arrangements (paper S20/21-141). He added the following:

- Point 18 (uncertainty regarding delivery for the 2021/22 academic year; priority has to be to ensure our provision remains adaptive and flexible rather than expect a return to 'business as usual'): this would give time to plan for the next academic year;
- There had been an Internal audit, as well as departmental review, of compliance with consumer law as regards commitments made to students, as requested by the Office for Students; this had confirmed University compliance;

- The Resilient Curriculum Project Team (RCPT) was now being chaired by Momna Hejmadi, meeting regularly. Over the past year it had provided important strategic and operational decision-making and consideration was being given to formalising its role under Senate; a proposal would be brought to Senate in June.

The discussion included these following points:

- Issues of academic integrity and detecting plagiarism; whether in-person exams should be re-introduced and considered in detail further by the Degree Outcomes Group and EQSC;;
- A request for more data about semester one 2020/21 exam results, and no detriment measures including exam deferrals, which would be considered first by the Degree Outcomes Group and EQSC;
- The need for a robust flow of decision-making from FLTQCs / Senate committee structure.

PVC
(L&T)

Senate considered and NOTED the report.

14930 DRAFT HIGH LEVEL UNIVERSITY STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Corinne Evans, the Director of Strategic Communications & Engagement, attended for this item.

The Vice-Chancellor presented the draft external University Strategy 2021-26 (paper S20/21-142). He reminded Senate of the work done on Our University/Our Future over the last 18 months, previously discussed by Senate in January and summarised the thrust of the strategy. The document set out the key strategic aims for the next five-year period.

Ms Evans thanked everyone who had had input into the development of the document, especially Director of Policy, Planning & Compliance and the Pro-Vice-Chancellors. She explained progress so far.

Points made in the discussion included:

- A request to highlight staff issues more in the document;
- A request to include a Staff Satisfaction Survey in section 8;
- A request for alternative ways of gauging student satisfaction other than through the National Student Survey;
- A request to refer to the Library in 4.8/4.9.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Ms Evans for all her work on the document.

Subject to consideration of the amendments discussed above, Senate RECOMMENDED the draft external University Strategy 2021-26 for consideration by Council and NOTED the plans for the development of its key sub-strategies.

CE

Members were invited to send any points of detail on the drafting to Angela Pater, by 9am on Monday 26 April.

All

14931 ACADEMIC KPIS

The Vice-Chancellor introduced the report (paper S20/21-143). The Director of Policy, Planning & Compliance attended for this item. She reminded Senate that it had received a paper in November 2020 on the existing KPIs, which had explained that a revised set was being developed. These proposed revisions were now presented to Senate. She explained that they were 'lag' not 'lead' KPIs because of the availability of comparative datasets. Pro-

Vice-Chancellors Jonathan Knight and Peter Lambert explained that the relevant drafts had been discussed respectively at RKEC and EQSC. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the targets would be reviewed annually.

Points made in the discussion included:

- That there was no KPI on PhD student numbers alone;
- The impact if the number of PhD extensions was reduced;
- The number of discipline cases as a KPI: a high bar; this was to ensure reporting was not discouraged;
- The need for more relevant comparator institutions now we had IAAPS;
- The difficulty of using international institutions as comparators as they did not make the same statutory data returns.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Dr Kemp for all her work on the KPIs.

Senate APPROVED:

- 1) the new suite of revised academic Key Performance Indicators for its regular performance monitoring report, with the initial targets or performance monitoring recommendations;
- 2) an updated set of benchmark institutions, aligning the benchmarking universities for the education and research KPIs. Loughborough would replace Warwick for all academic KPIs, with the exception of the enterprise KPIs where Cluster X should be used and the OIA complaints KPI where the OIA benchmarking group of similar sized universities (unspecified) would be used. These KPIs would form the academic KPIs from which the KPIs in the regular performance monitoring reports to Council would be drawn.

DoPPC

14932 **ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSFORMED CURRICULA**

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) introduced paper S20/21-144. He reminded Senate that it had been agreed in April 2020 that a new academic framework would be developed, with a flexible and enabling approach to curriculum transformation. This paper was requesting approval of the key elements; further details and timelines would then be brought to Senate. Dr Harney, the Chair of the curriculum transformation sub-group, expressed her positive experience of the pilot she had been involved in (ACE).

Points made in discussion included:

- A member requested a change to para 29 of Appendix 1:
'29. There must be no progression requirements within an undergraduate course year.'
To read: *'There should normally be no progression requirements within an undergraduate course year.'*
- Confirmation of the intention to reduce the number of summative assessments;
- That faculties may need trained staff if they were to make these approvals;
- That an adapted NFAAR was needed;
- The issue of removing all condonement possibilities for courses with professional accreditation, which meant units could not be 'trailed';
- That input now was very helpful in developing the processes.

Subject to this minor change to para 29, Senate:

- AGREED the core framework elements in Appendix 1 to replace previous material as the key information for the 2021 Academic Framework;
- AGREED the proposal detailed in Appendix 2 to use NFAAR as the basis of the assessment regulations;
- NOTED that the consultative approach would continue and that future proposals would build on the proposed framework features and assessment approach;
- NOTED that further details of the approval process, timescales, and approval information required would be proposed to its June meeting.

PVC
(L&T)

14933 **DIGITAL RECORDINGS FOR TEACHING POLICY**

Jenny Medland attended for this item. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) introduced paper S20/21-145. He highlighted the substantial consultation which had taken place. An SU member thanked him for all the work on developing the policy, which had the support of the SU. Jenny Medland reported that the Disabled Students Policy was also being reviewed.

Senate APPROVED the Digital Recordings for Teaching Policy, for implementation from the 2021/22 Academic Year.

PVC
(L&T)

14934 **STATUTE AND ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

The Vice-Chancellor invited the Secretary to present the report (paper S20/21-146). She explained that this was the informal stage of consulting Senate on proposed changes to Statutes and Ordinances in advance of consideration by Council, followed by informal consideration of the Statute changes by Privy Council and the Office for Students. It was noted that Senate had already agreed the changes in November 2020 and February 2021. It was agreed that one set of wording suggested in this paper for removal ('Vice-Presidents with an academic remit' in new Ordinance 9.4 (xvii), p6 of the paper) would remain, as it had been agreed by the Senate Effectiveness Review Group and Senate previously; this could be considered once discussion progressed on senior academic appointments processes. It was noted that the informal stage of consultation on Statute changes would be followed later in the year by a formal phase, once Privy Council comments had been received.

One member suggested a change to the revised Section 19.2 of Statutes (p4 of the paper), to insert "may" before "discuss, declare an opinion [&c.]"; as this was more precisely the wording of current 19.39 and, without it, the modal verb "shall" obliged Senate to do the subsequent actions without constraint. This was supported.

Senate considered the report and AGREED TO RECOMMEND to Council the changes to Statutes 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19 and Ordinances, with the above amendments. The key changes related to:

- 1) Senate membership and functions;
- 2) Student discipline;
- 3) Organisation of students;
- 4) Court reform;
- 5) Council term limits.

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The timeline in Appendix 5 was NOTED.

14935 **RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE NAMES**

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) introduced paper S20/21-148.

Senate APPROVED:

- 1) the revised membership of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee; with immediate effect;
- 2) a change of name for Faculty/School Research Committees to become Faculty/School Research and Knowledge Exchange Committees with immediate effect.

14936 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – COMMITTEES 2021/22 AND 2022/23**

Senate considered paper no S20/21-149.

Dr Wharton made a statement and asked a question:

‘Noting that there is no website for the Redundancy Committee, and given that Council has deemed it expedient since March 2020 to establish a standing Redundancy Committee in respect of Statute 25, in the interests of transparency may the names of its standing members be published? Through correspondence, I understand that those individuals are the Chair of Council, the Treasurer, and lay member Maria Bond. I further understand that work is proceeding on a website, with particular attention being paid to terminology in order to avoid confusion and to avoid raising unnecessary concern amongst staff. Speaking personally, I find it deeply regrettable that Council has seen fit to establish a standing Redundancy Committee, whose existence is arguably against the spirit of Statute 25. It is further regrettable that academic members of Council at the time chose to acquiesce in the decision or that, if they did not, they appear not to have sought to have their disquiet or opposition noted.’

Senate AGREED TO RECOMMEND to Council the calendars of meetings for the next two academic years.

14937 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There had been a request to discuss this item (originally in Part III).

The Secretary reported that the Vice-Chancellor had used urgent business powers to approve revised summer Graduation dates and arrangements, following consultation with Senate members (ref UB17).

Senate NOTED paper no S20/21-150 and the update. It also indicated that it was content that the Vice-Chancellor use his urgent business powers for any necessary further approvals of revised summer Graduation dates and arrangements.

14938 **INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH THREE YEAR REPORT**

Senate NOTED the three-year report on the IPR (paper S20/21-151) which would next be considered by Council.

14939 UNIVERSITY INDEPENDENT ADVISOR FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Senate NOTED paper S20/21-152.

14940 REGISTER OF COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS

Senate NOTED paper S20/21-153.

14941 STUDENTS' UNION OFFICERS FOR 2021/22

Senate NOTED paper S20/21-154.

14942 STUDENT CASE MONITORING DATA 2019/20 – ACADEMIC APPEALS

Senate NOTED paper S20/21-155.

14943 MINUTES OF BOARDS OF STUDIES

Senate RECEIVED the minutes of the following meetings of Boards of Studies (papers S20/21-156A-160B):

Faculty of Engineering & Design	24 February and 24 March 2021
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	24 February 2021
Faculty of Science	24 February 2021
School of Management	24 February and 24 March 2021
Board of Studies (Doctoral)	2 December 2020 and 20 January 2021

14944 MINUTES OF SENATE AND JOINT SENATE/COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Senate RECEIVED the minutes of the following meetings (papers S20/21-161 – 167):

Academic Ethics and Integrity Committee	2 February 2021
Courses & Partnerships Approval Committee	10 March 2021
Council/Senate/Students' Union Committee	18 February 2021
Education, Quality and Standards Committee	19 January 2021
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee	11 February 2021
Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee	19 January and 2 February 2021
University Doctoral Studies Committee	28 January 2021

14945 COUNCIL

Senate received minutes of Council on 26 November, paper S20/21-168.

14946 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Senate received notes of Executive Board (January-March) paper no S20/21-169.

14947 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21

Senate noted the final meeting of the year would be on 9 June 2021 at 2.15pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.25pm