

Web Update from Senate

Meeting on 17 November 2021

The following issues were discussed at the meeting of Senate on 17 November 2021:

Institutional update

The Vice-Chancellor presented a **report** on key issues facing the University. He thanked colleagues and the Students' Union for their hard work in making the start of the 2021/22 academic year a success.

Admissions

Senate received an update on admissions rates for both undergraduates and postgraduates for the current academic year. The University had, for the first time, achieved its milestone Widening Participation targets and was prioritising the achievement of even more challenging targets in the coming year. Senate discussed the University's response to changes in the overseas student market, some of which were structural.

Curriculum Transformation

Senate received an update on Curriculum Transformation and:

- approved the development and roll-out for adapted postgraduate taught (PGT) regulations and the implementation of the 50% FHEQ level 7 passmark for PGT courses;
- approved specific proposals for the 50% passmark module result mark scheme;
- approved the adoption of standard conventions for variants of undergraduate courses; and
- approved changes to relevant course titles and available course variants in keeping with these conventions.

Education Governance

Senate approved the creation of an Education Board, the Terms of Reference for will be published on the website. The Education Board will replace the Resilient Curriculum Project (Team) and, pending Senate agreement in February, may eventually assume some of the education quality responsibilities previously delegated by Senate to the Education Quality and Standards Committee (EQSC). The three EQSC sub-groups were stood down

Student survey results

Senate considered an analysis of the results of the National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), Professional Doctorate Experience Survey (PDES) and Postgraduate Taught Education Survey (PTES).

Degree outcomes

Senate considered a paper on degree outcomes and noted that the Degree Outcomes Group would be analysing reports on the data at a departmental level and would report back to

Senate in 2022. It was noted that targeted support would be required for academics and departments to tackle the reasons underlying gaps in attainment.

Academic KPIs

Senate considered a report on the University's performance against its academic KPIs. It sought further clarification outside the meeting in relation to the lack of targets on the number of female professors and on staff wellbeing.

Renewal of student exchanges

Senate approved, with immediate effect, a proposed approach to the renewal of exchanges to allow routine renewals, which pose no risk, to be approved by Heads of Departments, or the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) in the School of Management, as appropriate.

Academic integrity

Senate approved the signature by the University of Bath of the QAA Academic Integrity Charter. It noted an update on work being carried out to tackle the illegal publication of University of Bath content on student websites.

Student case monitoring

Senate considered updates on student cases, including a report from the Postgraduate Independent Adviser for the 2020/21 academic year. A task and finish group had been established to respond to some of the recommendations made in the Independent Adviser's report.

Academic year dates

Senate approved academic year dates for 2023/24 and amendments to assessment period dates in 2021/22.

Single Annual Academic Promotions round

On a vote of 15 for, 16 against and 3 abstentions, Senate decided against moving to a single annual academic promotions round.

New course approvals

Senate approved a new online MSc Engineering Business Management course for 2022/23 entry, on the recommendation of the Courses and Partnerships Approval Committee.

Conferment of Honorary Degrees

Senate approved new criteria for the award of Honorary Masters Degrees and the introduction of a Master of the University (MUniv) award.