

Web Update from Senate

Meeting on 6 April 2022

The following issues were discussed at the meeting of Senate on 6 April 2022:

Institutional update

The Vice-Chancellor presented a report on key issues facing the University, with a particular focus during the meeting on staff issues.

Formal examinations: priorities and strategy

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) set out principles, priorities and strategy for formal examinations, both in the academic year 2022/23 and thereafter. The approach was informed by three areas of work: Curriculum Transformation; performance on feedback and assessment in the National Student Survey (NSS); and the transition to a “new normal” post-Covid. Senate agreed the principles and direction of travel and further detail would be forthcoming at its June meeting.

Academic KPIs

Senate reviewed analysis of Key Performance Indicators aligned to the University strategy. It agreed to align its KPIs with those of Council in future, enabling Senate to provide assurance to Council on such matters, in line with expectations from the Office for Students (OfS).

Curriculum Transformation

Senate received an update on Curriculum Transformation and approved proposals for PGT Individual Mitigating Circumstances and PGT exit awards.

Research misconduct

Senate agreed to recommend to Council amendments to the Procedure for Inquiring into Allegations of Misconduct in Research and Scholarship.

PGT outcomes and standards

Senate agreed to recommend to council a report on PGT outcomes and completion rates in 2020/21. It also noted a report on quality assurance for PGT courses.

Council, Senate, Students' Union Committee

On a vote of 16 (for) and 11 (against), Senate agreed to recommend to Council the disbanding of CSSU on the basis that provision for the student voice to be heard was now routinely embedded into the practice of governance committees; and that the Student Experience Board was a more appropriate place for operational matters to be considered.

Appeals policy

Senate agreed to recommend to Council a new appeals policy and procedure with the intention of streamlining the process for students and reducing the risks associated with inconsistency of practice.

Senate matters

On the basis of her expertise on Curriculum Transformation, Senate approved the continued attendance of Dr Marion Harney at Senate at the expiry of her term as an elected member on 31 July 2022. Senate also formally delegated authority to the Vice-Chancellor for taking decisions on student expulsions.

Interim update on industrial action in 2021/22

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) provided an interim update on the impact of industrial action on teaching delivery in 2021/22. It was noted that contingency planning was underway to assure the safety and quality of awards and progression at the end of Semester 2.