

## Summary of Senate meeting on 1 February 2023

### Research ambitions

Senate had a discussion on research ambitions, considering how the University could best support academic staff to deliver against its research income targets, and what Senate could do to support delivery of the research strategy. This was a wide-ranging discussion, which the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) anticipated would continue outside the meeting.

### Statement of Equality Objectives

Senate considered the institutional Statement of Equality Objectives, which it recommended to Council in fulfilment of the University's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act. It was very supportive of the wider programme of work being led by the Vice-President (Community & Inclusion).

### Race Equality Taskforce

The Vice-President (Community & Inclusion) introduced a report of the findings of the Race Equality Taskforce, the recommendations from which will be considered by University Executive Board. Senate commended the work of the Taskforce and supported the recommendations made in the report.

### Educational delivery

Senate considered and supported high-level principles and course expectations for blended teaching delivery. These principles will be recommended to the Educational Advisory Board for operational input and to the Education, Quality and Standards Committee (EQSC) for quality assurance: once this has taken place, more detailed proposals will be brought back to Senate for approval.

### Curriculum Transformation

Senate agreed adapted credit quanta for use in the articulation of Undergraduate Assessment Regulations for 2023/24. It commended work to reduce the volume and complexity of the regulations.

### Degree apprenticeships

Senate considered proposals to enhance oversight and assurance in relation to degree apprenticeships and approved the formation of a Degree Apprenticeships Strategy Board, reporting to the Education Advisory Board; and a Degree Apprenticeships Quality and Standards Board, reporting to EQSC. Assurance on progress in this area will be provided to Council later in February 2023.

### University Charter

As part of an ongoing review of the University's governance framework, Senate considered amendments to Charter and recommended them to Council for formal approval. If Council approves the amendments, they will be considered by Court later this year, before being submitted to the Privy Council for approval.

### Course and partnership approvals

Senate approved a PG Diploma and PG Certificate in Zero Carbon Futures as standalone courses. It also approved the University of Salamanca as a new strategic partner.

### Academic titles

Senate agreed in principle to the posthumous award of academic titles. Council will be asked to approve amendments to the University's governance framework to implement this decision. Senate also approved the introduction of the honorary title of Distinguished Professor.

### Student casework

Senate considered annual reports on student policy and safeguarding; student appeals; and cases taken to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator. It will provide assurance to Council on these matters later this month.

### Senate business and operations

Senate approved Terms of Reference and membership for a Senate Steering Group to direct a review of Senate's business and operations.

### Council effectiveness

Senate noted the findings of the independent review of Council effectiveness and the action plan Council had drawn up in response to it.

### Other matters

Senate approved academic year dates and the calendar of meetings for 2023/24; noted an annual report from the Library; noted student numbers as of 1 December 2022; considered an update from Council; and conferred a number of honorary titles.