

SENATE - away morning and short first meeting

Wednesday, 13th September 2023 9:00 am

Wessex House 1 Lecture Theatre | Senate

15341.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - S23/24 - 01

Purpose - For Approval

Decision by Katie Anderton

The minutes of the meeting of Senate on 7 June 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

15342.0 Actions and Matters Arising

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

It was noted that there were currently no outstanding actions to be reported on.

15343.0 Role of the Senate - S23/24 - 02

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

It was questioned when Senate would see the recommendations of the Senate Effectiveness Working group. The Vice-Chancellor explained that the Halpin Partnership had recently completed a report. It was planned that the Senate Effectiveness Working group would meet to discuss the report, and decide on the best process for dissemination to Senate.

15344.0 Marking and Assessment Boycott - S23/24 - 03

Purpose - For Approval

Decision by Katie Anderton

Senate approved all the recommendations set out in all three papers subject to the following amendments being made to paper 3 point 16 'For clarity, normal External Examiner input, including at Boards, to resolve outstanding 2022-23 outcomes will be required. At Boards this includes input:'.

Minute by Gregory Noakes

The following minute was taken from the discussion held at the Senate Development Session.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) thanked colleagues across the University for all the work they had done in advance of the launch of the Curriculum Transformation. Its implementation was being monitored to identify anything that might need to be improved.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) presented three papers on Marking and Assessment Boycott that Senate would be asked to formally approve at its formal meeting following this development session. They explained that at this point they were seeking views, comments, and questions on the papers.

The Director of Academic Registry noted that previous feedback from external examiners had been very complimentary of the previous MAB policy. It was highlighted that the University's reputation is heavily dependent upon the quality and standards of its degrees. The proposed approach will ensure that degrees will retain their integrity.

It was questioned whether staff union members would be required to declare a conflict of interest on this matter as previously done at the last meeting. The Vice-Chancellor explained that it would not be required as Senate were not being asked to formally vote on this.

Clarification was sought on one of the abbreviations used within S2324 - 03 - Paper 2 appendix 2 and it was agreed that this would be checked.

It was questioned if under this proposal external examiners would still be expected to carry out their normal tasks of moderation and the Director of Academic Registry assured Senate that they would. The intention of the proposal was to build reasonable flexibility into the system to enable it to adapt better to potential disruptions.

It was questioned to what extent were regular disruptions to marking and assessments becoming the new 'norm' for the University given the various types of disruptions experienced over the past five years. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) explained that over the next year they hoped to look at having contingency plans put in place for such disruptions that the University could fall back on when the need arose.

15345.0 Research Advisory Board - S23/24 - 04

Purpose - For Approval

Decision by Katie Anderton

Senate approved the formation of a Research Advisory Board subject to appointing an additional student member.

Minute by Gregory Noakes

It was questioned if the Research Advisory Board's membership was too similar to the Research Knowledge and Exchange Committee's membership. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) explained that there are differences between the two memberships which would allow each to be more effective in their respective roles.

It was suggested and agreed that the Research Advisory Board would benefit from having a student member on it as the Terms of Reference refers to dealing with student issues.

15346.0 Chair of Academic Staff Committee - S23/24 - 05

Purpose - For Approval

Decision by Katie Anderton

Senate approved the appointment of the Vice-President (Community & Inclusion) as Chair of the Academic Staff Committee (as recommended in S2324 - 05 option 1) on the basis that the Chair would be asked to review the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Minute by Gregory Noakes

It was questioned if this was a temporary or permanent amendment to the Academic Staff Committee Terms of Reference and the Director of HR explained that there was plan for a more thorough review later in the year alongside CPER.

It was questioned what actions are being taken to embed equality, diversity, and inclusion as a culture within this area of work. The Director of HR explained that this would also be considered as part of the wider review of CPER later in the year.

The Vice-Chancellor proposed that given the views of Senate, the Chair be asked to consider the Terms of Reference and report to Senate.

15347.0 Boards of Studies

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

The Board of Studies minutes were noted.

15348.0 Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee - S23/24 - 06

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

The Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee report was noted.

15349.0 CSSU Update - S23/24 - 07

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

The Council/Senate/Students' Union Committee review report was noted.

15350.0 Council Update - S23/24 - 08

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

An update from the Council meeting held on 13 July 2023 was noted.

15351.0 Any Other Business

Purpose - For Noting

Minute by Gregory Noakes

No other business was identified for discussion.