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Senate – Minutes

26 April 2023

PRESENT: Professor Andy J. Schofield, Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor Peter M. Atkinson; Professor Gordon Blower; Professor Steve Bradley; Professor Sarah Brearley; Professor Kate Cain; Dr Casey Cross; Professor Jonathan Culpeper; Professor Nigel A, J, Davies; Professor Catherine Easton; India Ellis; Dr Nicholas Evans; Sarah Fox; Professor Robert Geyer; Professor Alisdair A. Gillespie; Professor Sarah Green; Professor Chris Grover; Professor Simon C. Guy; Professor A. Louise Heathwaite; Professor Linda Hendry; Dr Derek Hird; Professor Willem Hollmann; Professor Gillian Hopkinson; Dr Allison Hui; Professor Roger W. L. Jones; Noah Katz; Sarah Kemp; Dr Mark Limmer; Sam Maesschalck; Professor Alan Marsden; Dr James Mawdesley; Dr Jan McArthur (*for Paul Ashwin*); Dr James McDowell; Dr Sandra Nolte; Professor Efthymios Pavlidis; Professor Wendy Robinson; Professor Sharon Ruston; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone; Dr Yakubu Salifu; Professor Kirk Semple; Leanne Taher-Bates; Professor Stephen Wilkinson; Dr Karen Wright; Professor Steve Young.

IN ATTENDANCE: Giles Carden (*for item 11*); John S. W. Dickinson; Phill Dixon; Kate Dunbavan (*for item 11*); Stuart Franklin; Simon J. Jennings; Heather Knight; Ben Matthews (*for item 10*); Alison M. Mullan; Nicola C. Owen; Sarah J. Randall-Paley; Professor Mark Stevenson (*for item 10*).

OBSERVERS: Jean Bennett; Dr Deborah Costain; Anna Galindo; Ben Gill; Joanne Humphrey; Glyn Jones; Dr Jemma Kerns; Dr Mark MacDonald; Professor Mal McMillan; Professor Stijn Mertens; Dr Rostislav Mikhaylovskiy; Sabhia Patel; Professor Corinna Peniston-Bird; Helen Quirk; Dr Annette Ryan; Kathryn Saban; Dr Elaine Taylor; Sarah Tooze-Froggatt; Sadie Whittam.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dr Marina Anderson; Professor Paul Ashwin; Dylan Bahia; Andrew Barker; Sherry Currington; Rachel Fligelstone; Dr Bingbing Ge; Professor Lucas Introna; Professor Claire Leitch; Professor Paul McKean; Dr Tom Mills; Paul Morris; Professor Nigel Watson.

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate welcomed the members of the Bonnington Leadership programme who were observing the meeting. Senate noted the apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

- 3.1 The question to the Vice-Chancellor received from Dylan Bahia was postponed to a later meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 8 FEBRUARY 2023

PAPER A

- 4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 There were no matters arising.

6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

ORAL UPDATE

- 6.1 The Vice-Chancellor provided an oral report, including the following.

- (i) There was progress in discussions in relation to ending the current industrial dispute.
- (ii) The University had implemented arrangements in line with those previously agreed by the Senate to manage actions being taken in relation to the industrial dispute and in particular the marking and assessment boycott. The concern of students was acknowledged, and Senate given assurance that effective measures were in place.
- (iii) The Office for Students was undertaking a review of the conditions of registration in relation to harassment and sexual misconduct. The University would be submitting a contribution and would discuss this with the Students' Union. It was noted that there could be another condition of registration in relation to freedom of speech, but that the OfS had not yet made a decision on this.
- (iv) The QAA was stepping back from its previous role to focus on European and international quality standards. The OfS would be picking up the remainder of QAA's previous mandate.
- (v) Congratulations were passed to the Students' Union for the smooth election of new student officers.
- (vi) Congratulations were also offered in relation to the triumph over the University of York at Roses.

- 6.2 Senate noted the report.

7. **SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD (UEB) BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE (7 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 4 APRIL 2023 INCLUDING JOINT MEETINGS WITH PSEG)** **PAPER B**
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- 7.1 Senate noted the report.
- ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
8. **HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS APRIL 2023** **PAPER C**
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9. **PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP JOINT FACULTY TEACHING COMMITTEE** **PAPER D**
- 9.1 Senate received a proposal to establish an international partnership joint faculty teaching committee, noting that this would support the current and likely future scale of TNE and other cross-border education at Lancaster University, would be an effective use of resources, and would provide better management of the course portfolio for TNE partnership provision requiring coordination, oversight, and clarity of process.
- 9.2 In discussion it was noted that this was an opportunity to ensure collaborative activity had collective oversight to ensure consistency of approach.
- 9.3 It was noted that the inclusion of any new substantial partnership under the auspices of the new committee would be determined in relation to the needs of the partnership.
- 9.4 Senate approved the establishment of an International Partnership Joint Faculty Teaching Committee.
10. **INTERNATIONAL TEACHING PARTNERSHIP** **PAPER E**
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11. **“CAMPUS IN THE CLOUD”: THE CASE FOR DEVELOPING ONLINE EDUCATION AT LANCASTER** **PAPER F**
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12. **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs): MID-YEAR REPORT FOR 2022-23** **PAPER G**
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- 12.1 Senate noted the report.

13. STUDENT RECRUITMENT UPDATE

ORAL UPDATE

- 13.1 Senate received a series of slides providing a student recruitment update. It was noted that undergraduate numbers were up on the previous year, although international recruitment remained a challenge.
- 13.2 In relation to postgraduate recruitment it was noted that the University was reflecting on the impact of the introduction of an application fee which had reduced the number of applications, as had been its intention, but was not expected to affect number or quality of admissions.
- 13.3 It was noted that the University was negotiating a new partnership for delivery on pre-university foundation programmes on campus.
- 13.4 Senate noted the report.

14. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SUB-DEGREE AWARD TO COMPLEMENT THE UNIVERSITY'S PORTFOLIO OF AWARDS

PAPER H

- 14.1 Senate noted that the University, on behalf of one of its partners, was exploring more flexible packages of learning beyond the traditional three-year honours degree and one-year postgraduate programme that have traditionally made up the vast majority of HE provision. Senate considered a proposal, based on a request from Blackpool and The Fylde College, for a 60-credit named award based on existing modules that formed part of a degree apprenticeship, designed to meet the needs of an employer partner. It was noted that this would require a new sub-degree award title to be added to the University's portfolio of awards and Senate considered a new award title, the University Certificate. The University Certificate would be flexible, ranging in credit size from 30 to 90 credits, stackable (that is could be used towards a larger award) and classified.
- 14.2 In discussion the following points were noted.
- Credit thresholds on some modules was as lower at 20 credits, but 30 credits was considered a sensible minimum.
 - The University Certificate would be named, unlike the Certificate of Higher Education.
 - This would not be used as an exit award and its use would need separate approval.
- 14.3 Senate approved the addition of a named University Certificate to its Portfolio of Awards and agreed that detailed academic regulations would be drawn up and approved through established routes to specify its use.

15. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK (KEF) NARRATIVES

PAPER I

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ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

16. FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS **PAPER J**

16.1 Senate noted the report.

17. SENATE CHAIR'S ACTIONS **PAPER K**

17.1 Senate noted the report of Chair's actions since the last meeting.

18. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS **PAPER L**

18.1 Senate noted the following written reports of meetings:

- Council, meeting of 27 January 2023
- Council, meeting of 24 March 2023
- Enterprise and Innovation Committee, meeting of 20 February 2023
- Research Committee, meeting of 28 November 2023
- Research Committee, meeting of 1 March 2023
- Student Experience Committee, meeting of 13 February 2023

19. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES **PAPER M**

19.1 Senate noted the report of new and revised programmes.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20.1 There was no other business.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21.1 The next Senate meeting will be held online via Teams 13:00 on Wednesday 14 June 2023.