LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate
held on 27 April 2016

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor P. Ashwin; Professor A. M. Atherton; Professor P. Atkinson; Professor P. Bates; Ms J. Bennett; Dr P. Bishop; Professor S. Bradley; Mr T. Buckley; Professor S. Bushell; Professor K. Cain; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Mr F. Dawes; Professor S. P. Decent; Mrs R. Fligelstone; Dr A. Gilchrist; Professor A. Gillespie; Mr B. Harper; Mr W. Hedley; Professor B. Hollingsworth; Professor M. Hughes; Professor N. Johnson; Dr R. Lauder; Professor A. Lazarev; Professor C. Leitch; Mr P. Montague; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor I. Paya; Professor M. Piacentini; Ms C. Povah; Professor E. Semino; Professor S. Skogly; Professor M. M. Smyth; Mr W. Strupczewski; Mr J. Thornberry; Dr W. Tych; Dr J. Unger; Professor T. Vurdubakis; Dr S. Walter; Professor J. Whittle; Mr S. Wright; Professor M. B. Wright; Dr S. Young.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P. Boustead; Mr A. Burg-Broquere (for item S.2016/33); Mr J. S. W. Dickinson; Mr S. Franklin; Dr I. Lyne; Mr P. Maggs; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Ms J. Prudence; Mr M. Swindlehurst.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dr A. Collins; Professor P. R. Fielden; Mr R. Gould; Professor R. Jones; Professor A. W. Laing; Professor C. May-Chahal; Dr C. Melville; Professor J. F. O’Hanlon; Mr M. Topps.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

No questions had been received for the current meeting.

MINUTES

S.2016/26 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2 March 2016

Documents: SEC/2016/2/0419; SEC/2016/2/0320

RESOLUTION: the Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2016.
SECTION 1: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

S.2016/27  Report of the Vice-Chancellor

Ref: 1.2

PROPOSAL (Vice-Chancellor): the Senate was invited to receive for information an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on items of interest.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Ms Jocelyn Prudence as the interim Director of Governance Services. He then reported on the following items.

Comprehensive Spending Review

The implementation of the comprehensive spending review had been clarified via a letter from HEFCE, the contents of which were embargoed until 6 May.

Quality Assurance (QA) and Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

The development of new quality assurance arrangements and the implementation of the TEF were both still subject to detailed consideration by BIS, but an outcome was expected soon in anticipation of a HE Bill, with an initial implementation of the TEF still planned for 2016/17.

Complete University Guide

The Vice-Chancellor reported that Lancaster had held its 9th place ranking in the Complete University Guide. He also noted that individual subjects were placed in the top 10 in eighteen of the thirty-four subject areas; a significant achievement demonstrating the breadth of the quality of Lancaster provision.

Roses 2016

The Vice-Chancellor wished all the Lancaster teams that were taking part success in the upcoming Roses tournament.

RESOLUTION: the Senate agreed to note the report.

S.2016/28  Summary of UMAG Business Relevant to Senate

Ref: 1.3; document: SEC/2016/2/0452

RESOLUTION: the Senate agreed to note the report.
RESOLUTION: the Senate noted the schedule of Senate business for 2015/16.

SECTION 2: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION

S.2016/30 Honorary Degree and University Fellowship Confirmations 2016

Ref: 2.5; document: SEC/2016/2/0443 (Restricted and Confidential)

PROPOSAL (Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary): the Senate was invited to approve the recommendations of the Honorary Degrees Committee for honorary degrees and University fellowships.

The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary introduced the six recommendations for honorary degrees and one for University fellowship.

RESOLUTION: the Senate approved the recommendations of the Honorary Degree Committee.

ACTION: HH

S.2016/31 Report of the Review of the Lancaster University-Sunway University Teaching Partnership

Ref: 2.6; document: SEC/2016/2/0451

PROPOSAL (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)): the Senate was invited to receive a report on the Lancaster University-Sunway University teaching partnership review and approve the recommendation to renew the Memorandum of Agreement for a further five years.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) reported to the Senate that a team, including an external member and the President of the Students’ Union, had recently completed a periodic quality review of all aspects of the Sunway partnership. The partnership continued to demonstrate success both in terms of the quality of the provision and in student growth. The panel recommended the renewal of the partnership and, through the review, made a number of recommendations to take the partnership forward, including the development of new strategic aspects relating to research.
In discussion it was noted that the proportion of students at Sunway achieving Upper Second or First class degrees continued to lag behind those at Lancaster, but the Pro-Vice-Chancellor assured members that this issue was being actively reviewed to identify if there were structural aspects that could be considered, such as the volume of assessment.

**RESOLUTION:** the Senate agreed to renew the partnership for a further five years, from 2016 to 2021.

**ACTION:** SB

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**Proposed Changes to the Library Rules**

Ref: 3.13; document: SEC/2016/2/0301

**PROPOSAL** (Provost for Student Experience, Colleges and the Library): the Senate was invited to approve the minor revisions to the Library Rules proposed by the Library Policy Committee, as set out in the document.

On the request of a Senator this item was moved from section 4 to section 2 of the agenda.

The Provost for Student Experience, Colleges and the Library introduced changes to the Library Rules, noting that most were designed to ensure that the rules reflected decisions taken by other bodies regarding items such as membership of the University, officer titles and other similar changes.

In discussion it was suggested that section 2.3, regarding membership, could be reworded to more positively encourage retired staff to continue to associate themselves with the University. This approach, it was noted, was in keeping with the work being developed around staff alumni arrangements. The Senate agreed that those undertaking that investigation would take this matter into consideration as part of the wider discussions about entitlements for staff, noting that there were potential licensing and access requirements that would need to be met.

On all other aspects of the changes there were no issues raised by Senators.

**RESOLUTION:** the Senate agreed the minor proposals, noting that section 2.3 would be revised to reflect the potential for access to the library for retired staff.

**ACTION:** Director of Library Services
SECTION 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

S.2016/33 Estates Masterplan

Ref: 3.7; document: SEC/2016/2/0215

PROPOSAL (Director of Estates): the Senate was invited to receive and discuss a presentation on the development of a new Estates Masterplan.

Mr Burg-Broquere, Director of Estates and Mr Dixon from John McAslam and Partners provided a presentation on ideas emerging from the Estates Masterplan consultation. The Masterplan was a high-level, conceptual consultation that, if accepted, would then inform Estates planning for the next five years.

In discussion the following points were noted.

- There was a strong message across all elements about maximising connectivity across the campus for all members of the University community.

- It was noted that the particular implications for disabled students would be considered at the next Equality and Diversity Committee.

- The location of specific activities of the Faculty of Health and Medicine within the Health Innovation Centre would require consideration to ensure it did not lead to experiences of isolation, particularly for the students. With reference to the weather, there was some concern about the current expectation that there would not be a covered walkway along the journey.

- The new Masterplan should be mindful of the University’s place and presentation in the landscape.

- Traffic and parking was being considered as part of the University’s Masterplan, although it was noted that traffic access off campus was subject to separate discussions with the Highways Agency.

- There were a number of options being considered in relation to a better use of the underpass.

- Any developments needed to be tested to ensure fitness for academic purpose.

- As part of the University’s environmental commitments, more facilities for those on bicycles, such as drying rooms, had been recommended for inclusion in the plan.
It was noted that the final report of the Estates Masterplan would be made available to Senate at a future meeting, noting that it would be considered by Estates Committee for recommendation for final approval by the Council.

ACTION: Director of Facilities

S.2016/34  Update Report of the Development of Lancaster University College at Beijing Jiaotong University

Ref: 3.8; document: SEC/2016/2/0453

PROPOSAL (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)): the Senate was invited to receive and discuss the paper regarding the development of Lancaster University College at Beijing Jiaotong University.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) reminded Senate that the development of Lancaster University College at Beijing Jiaotong University had been approved in principle in September 2015, subject to completion of due diligence and the approval of a business plan by the University Council, both of which had been completed. Lancaster and BJTU had submitted an application to the Chinese Ministry of Education, and on 18 April 2016 Lancaster had received the letter granting formal approval for an institute to 2024.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, along with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Facilities would be visiting Beijing shortly to continue discussions, and an implementation group would be established to oversee work both through the group as well as through a series of subcommittees.

A further paper providing more detail would come to the Senate in June.

RESOLUTION: the Senate received the paper regarding the development of Lancaster University College at Beijing Jiaotong University.

ACTION: SB

S.2016/35  Health Innovation Campus: Update

Ref: 3.9; document: SEC/2016/2/0454

PROPOSAL (Deputy Vice-Chancellor): the Senate was invited to receive and discuss a report updating activity in relation to the Health Innovation Campus.
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the development of the Health Innovation Campus. The campus would provide a broad range of health-related activities covering teaching, research and engagement. Work was currently in train to stimulate investment, with healthy ageing as the first area of focus within a broader remit of health innovation. The University was finalising funding arrangements with the LEP for National Growth Deal, and would be approaching ERDF for additional funds. Work was expected to start on site from May 2016.

In discussion the following points were noted.

- The campus will focus on leadership within an interdisciplinary and organisational context, with strong links to businesses and the public.
- The three phases of the project were currently scheduled for 2016, 2019 and post-2025.
- The interdisciplinary nature of the project needed to be reflected in the infrastructure design.
- As partners came into the University the intention was that they would have engagements across the whole University.

The Health Innovation Campus would be a significant project for the University, with many being involved in its development.

**RESOLUTION:** the Senate noted the report.

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**S.2016/36** Research

**Ref:** 3.10

**PROPOSAL (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)):** the Senate was invited to receive for information and to discuss a series of papers relating to aspects of research.

**(A) UPDATE FOR SENATE ON RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT**

**Document:** SEC/2016/2/0455

The Senate received a paper detailing work being undertaken following discussions at the last meeting of Senate regarding research enhancement. It was noted that two working groups were taking forward the implementation and that a further paper would come to the Senate in the Michaelmas Term of 2016.
(B) **REVISED RESEARCH ETHICS APPROVAL PROCEDURES AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**

Document: SEC/2016/2/0459

The Senate received a paper detailing work being undertaken to review principles and procedures for approval of research ethics. This had arisen from the work undertaken within the thematic review of research support. Principles were now agreed and work was continuing to finalise procedure.

In discussion the following points were noted.

- The new arrangements, and the work undertaken to develop them, were welcome.

- Within research ethics it was necessary to acknowledge both the work required in its scrutiny, but also the additional benefits such scrutiny brought.

- Consistency of approach, particularly in relation to student research ethical procedures, was welcomed.

(C) **RESEARCH CENTRES**

Document: SEC/2016/2/460

The Senate received a paper detailing the establishment of a working group to review the University’s approach to and management of Research Centres. This review was focused on securing the best approach to the management of the research centres, not as a means to judge the centres themselves. Indications were that the centres provided positive benefits to the University; this review was to look at related governance and what could be done to maximise said benefits. Research Committee and then Senate would consider the outcome report in due course.

(D) **SCIENCE AND INNOVATION AUDIT**

Document: SEC/2016/2/0458

The Senate received a paper providing information on the outcome of the University’s expression of interest in relation to the national science and innovation audit. These audits, Senators were reminded, were sought by the government to provide it with a better understanding of the geographical location of innovative scientific development in the UK so as to inform government decisions around future large-scale investment. Lancaster, who had submitted an expression of interest with Sheffield University,
the respective LEPs and business partners around a theme of advanced manufacturing, was one of only five successful applications. The audit would take place over the summer, due for completion in the autumn of 2016.

The Vice-Chancellor recorded his thanks to Dion Williams and the Enterprise Team for their work and leadership in this venture.

RESOLUTION: the Senate noted the reports.

S.2016/37 Lancaster University Arts Strategy

Ref: 3.11; documents: SEC/2016/2/0469; SEC/2015/2/0766

PROPOSAL (Deputy Vice-Chancellor): the Senate was invited to receive and discuss the Lancaster University Arts Strategy.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the Lancaster University Arts Strategy. The strategy signalled changes to arts provision at Lancaster with a repositioning of Live@LICA to Lancaster Arts; a reflection on the recognition that there were art related interests and activities across the whole of the University community. It also moved the University away from a strategy that focused on Arts Council priorities to one with a broader vision for the future. The Arts Council, he reported, was very supportive of the new strategy, and had been fully involved in its creation.

In discussion the strategy was welcomed as being far-reaching and ambitious. It was noted that this would require investment, including capital works around projects such as the refurbishment of the Great Hall. It was noted that this was included as part of considerations for long-term capital planning.

RESOLUTION: the Senate noted the report.

S.2016/38 Review of MOOCs

Ref: 3.12; document: SEC/2016/2/0462 (Restricted and Commercially Sensitive)
SECTION 4: ITEMS FOR DECISION UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DISCUSSION

The item under this section was moved to section 2 (see minute S.2016/32 above).

SECTION 5: ITEMS FOR REPORT

S.2016/39 Written Reports of Meetings

Ref: 5.14

RESOLUTION: the Senate received the following written reports of meetings and, where appropriate, confirmed the actions taken:

(i) Council, meeting of 29 January 2016 (SEC/2016/2/0422)
(ii) Enterprise and Innovation Committee, meetings of 20 March 2015 (SEC/2016/2/0423), 10 July 2015 (SEC/2016/2/0465) and 19 November 2015 (SEC/2016/2/0464)
(iii) Equality and Diversity Committee, meeting of 15 January 2016 (SEC/2016/2/0467)
(iv) Research Committee, meeting of 22 January 2016 (SEC/2016/2/0468)
(v) Ruskin Library Board, meeting of 27 November 2015 (SEC/2016/2/0466)
(vi) College Syndicate reports:
   (a) Bowland College Syndicate, meeting of 3 November 2015 (SEC/2016/2/0338)
   (b) Furness College Syndicate, meeting of 29 February 2016 (SEC/2016/2/0372)
   (c) Fylde College Syndicate, meeting of 29 February 2016 (SEC/2016/2/0463)