LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate
held on 21 September 2016

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor A. M. Atherton; Professor P. Ashwin; Professor P. M. Atkinson; Professor P. Barker; Professor P. Bates; Ms J. Bennett; Dr P. Bishop; Professor S. Bradley; Professor S. Bushell; Professor K. Cain; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Dr A. Collins; Mr F. Dawes; Mr N. Dearman; Professor S. P. Decent; Professor M. Ehrngott; Professor P. R. Fielden; Dr A. Gilchrist; Professor A. Gillespie; Ms O. Gomez-Cash; Dr K. Grant; Professor S. Guy; Professor R. Haley (for Professor R. Jones); Professor B. Hollingsworth; Professor W. Hollmann (for Professor S. Skogly); Professor M. Hughes; Professor S. R. A. Huttly; Professor N. Johnson; Ms R. Jones; Professor A. W. Laing; Dr R. Lauder; Professor A. Lazarev; Professor C. Leitch; Professor C. May-Chahal; Mr P. Montague; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor I. Paya; Professor M. Piacentini; Ms C. Povah; Dr R. Rigby; Professor E. Semino; Professor M. M. Smyth; Mr J. Thornberry; Dr W. Tych; Dr J. Unger; Dr S. Walter; Professor J. Whittle; Professor M. B. Wright; Dr S. Young.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P. Bousted; Mr S. Franklin; Ms C. Geddes; Ms H. Hunter; Mr S. J. Jennings; Dr I. Lyne; Mr P. Maggs; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley; Dr J. Taylor (for item S.2016/61).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr T. Buckley; Professor R. Jones; Dr C. Melville; Professor S. Skogly; Ms T. Walters.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

No eligible questions had been received for the current meeting.

MINUTES

S.2016/57 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 June 2016

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 (SEC/2016/2/0761).

SECTION 1: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

S.2016/58 Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor provided an oral report on national and University activities of interest to Senate, including:

(a) that the impact of Brexit to the University remained unclear, but the University continued to monitor the situation in order to respond proactively;
(b) an overview of sector developments including: the HE Bill and White Paper; the resulting relationship between chartered universities and the new Office for Students (OfS); the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), noting the University's strong performance in the mock TEF conducted by the Times Higher Education (THE); UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) relationship with the Research Councils; and, key outcomes from the Stern Review of the Research Excellence Framework (REF);

(c) the University had achieved 91% on the overall satisfaction score in the 2016 National Student Survey, providing an 8th place ranking. There had been a strong performance from many departments and the Library investment had contributed to improved scores for learning resources. The results reflected further work was needed to improve performance for student satisfaction on assessment and feedback;

(d) the recent recruitment round had been strong, including for Home/EU undergraduate students, although recruitment for undergraduate international numbers was challenging and below target. Postgraduate forecast numbers appeared to be increasing, but final numbers would be known at registration.

S.2016/59 Summary of UMAG Business Relevant to Senate

The report (SEC/2016/2/1082) was noted.

S.2016/60 Forward Schedule of Senate Business

The report (SEC/2016/2/1033) was noted.

SECTION 2: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION

S.2016/61 Strategic Partnership Opportunity: Approval and Next Steps

(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)

S.2016/62 Review of Higher Education Innovation Fund Activities at Lancaster University

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the report (SEC/2016/2/1070), summarising the outcomes of a review of the University’s HEIF activities, including that although the University had performed well in the past there were a number of issues to address in an increasingly competitive environment, in particular exposure to major one-off grants and the future uncertainty of European structural funding, low levels of income from contract research, and establishing an institutional approach. In order to address these considerations the review proposed the need to develop internal mechanisms and a strategy to maximise future HEIF funding, aligned with the delivery of the University Strategy and to focus on university-business knowledge exchange.

Key points from discussion included:

(a) the need to optimise HEIF-eligible income aligned with the University strategy, and to have in place a clear monitoring framework;

(b) that the approach provided for secondment opportunities;
(c) the annual allocation process included faculty representation in order to take account of all local activities and ensure any potential impacts were managed.

Senate approved the strategic approach for HEIF activities, and noted that detailed consideration of the recommendations, including the development of the delivery plan, will be taken forward by the Enterprise and Innovation Committee.

S.2016/63 Future Configuration of Student Numbers: Next Steps

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the report (SEC/2016/2/1071; SEC/2016/2/0574) setting out proposals for future growth of student numbers, highlighting the strong performance in the recent recruitment round supported the projections, although departmental performance would require close monitoring for subject-level fluctuations.

Key points from discussion included:

(a) the implications and resource requirements related to growth were being carefully considered including space needs for teaching, student support and extra-curricular activities at Bailrigg;
(b) ensuring that partners have the resource and capacity to accommodate growth;
(c) growth of distance learning students numbers would be factored in following further internal work, including the implementation of the PGT review and development of a distance learning strategy, in order to ensure projections were realistic, but net additional;
(d) the need to ensure Colleges were appropriately resourced;
(e) that the balance of priorities between growth and tariff would need to be tailored for departments.

Senate approved the projected student numbers (as set out in the paper to Council – an annex to the main paper) and noted the proposed way forward.

SECTION 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

S.2016/64 Implications of Teaching Excellence Framework and the new HEFCE Quality Assessment Model

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) introduced the report (SEC/2016/2/1074), noting that the HEFCE Quality Assessment Model was still evolving, including the recent requirement for governing bodies to provide annual assurance in this area. Technical guidance for TEF Year 2 was due to be published and applications had to be submitted in January with outcomes known in May. Senate noted the report.

S.2016/65 Higher Education Review Action Plan Update

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) introduced the report (SEC/2016/2/1078) containing the updated action plan following the Higher Education Review in 2015. Senate noted the report.
S.2016/66  **Update for Senate: Research Grant Performance**  

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) introduced the report (SEC/2016/2/1076) stating that the University had performed well in relation to its targets for research income and receipt of awards from the Research Councils and that it was important to retain this momentum. Senate noted the report.

S.2016/67  **Update Report on the Establishment of Lancaster University College at Beijing Jiaotong University**  

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) introduced the report (SEC/2016/2/1075) which set out progress in establishing the new partnership, including recruitment of the first cohort of students in August, next steps for delivery of programmes, and ambitions for growth over time. Senate noted the report.

**SECTION 4: ITEMS FOR DECISION UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DISCUSSION**

There were no items under Section 4 on this agenda.

**SECTION 5: ITEMS FOR REPORT**

S.2016/68  **Thematic Review of Colleges: Final Update on Actions**  

Senate noted the report (SEC/2016/2/1079).

S.2016/69  **Written Reports of Meetings**  

Senate noted the reports as set out on the agenda.

S.2016/70  **New and Revalidated Programmes**  

Senate noted the report (SEC/2016/3/0575).