SENATE – MINUTES
10 May 2017

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor P. Ashwin; Professor A. M. Atherton; Professor P. Atkinson; Dr S. Awanis; Professor P. Barker; Professor P. Bates; Dr P. Bishop; Professor S. Bradley; Mr T. Buckley; Professor S. Bushell; Professor K. Cain; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Dr A. Collins; Mr N. Dearman; Professor S. P. Decent; Professor M. Ehrgott; Professor J. Faulconbridge; Professor R. Geyer; Ms O. Gomez-Cash; Professor S. Guy; Professor S. R. A. Huttly; Ms R. L. Jones; Professor R. W. L. Jones; Mr M. Khokhar; Professor A. W. Laing; Professor A. Lazarev; Dr A. Leeson; Professor C. Leitch; Professor N. Lockett; Professor C. May-Chahal; Mr P. Montague; Professor J. Mottram; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor M. Piacentini; Ms C. Povah; Ms A. Pradhan; Professor E. Semino; Professor M. M. Smyth; Mr D. Tsang; Dr W. Tych; Ms T. Walters; Dr S. Weare; Professor M. B. Wright; Professor S. Young; Professor M. Zanardi.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr C. Cottam (for Ms C. Geddes); Mr S. Franklin; Dr P. Harness (for item 6); Ms R. Hughes; Ms H. Hunter; Mr S. J. Jennings; Mr P. Maggs; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dr C. Baker; Ms J. Bennett; Mr P. Boustead; Professor P. R. Fielden; Professor A. Friday; Dr K. Grant; Dr S. Hughes; Dr R. Isba; Ms A. Jennings; Professor N. Johnson; Ms M. Rahman; Mr M. Swindlehurst.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

No questions had been received for the current meeting.

1. MINUTES PAPER A

1.1 The minutes of the Senate meeting held on 8 March 2017 were approved.

SECTION 1: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DISCUSSION)

2. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

(a) the University Community Day held on 6 May had been successful with an estimated 2000 visitors. The Vice-Chancellor thanked staff for supporting the event;
(b) the General Medical Council had granted degree-awarding powers for the Lancaster Medical School MBChB programme;
(c) the University had performed strongly at the recent 2017 Roses Tournament, but narrowly missed victory against York University. The Vice-Chancellor congratulated participants on their achievements;
(d) the University had maintained ninth position in the Complete University Guide league table;
Professor Keith Beven had been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society; the recent election announcement had fast-tracked the Higher Education and Research Bill, resulting in a number of amendments, in particular that performance in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) would not be linked to tuition fee increases until 2020, and that fee rises would be linked to inflation during this period. There had been no amendment to remove international students from the immigration figures. In addition, due to the elections the TEF results had been delayed and would be published on 14 June. In advance of enacting the purdah period, there had been an allocation of spending to research councils to support the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund around the 1000 PhD studentships announced in the Spring Budget.

2.2 Senate noted the report.

3. SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE PAPER B

3.1 Senate noted the report.

4. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS PAPER C

4.1 Senate noted the report.

SECTION 2: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION

There were no items under Section 2 for this agenda.

SECTION 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

5. STRATEGY 2020: STRATEGY UPDATE: DRAFT TEXT AND UNIVERSITY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PAPER D

5.1 The Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director of Strategic Planning and Governance introduced the report, in particular noting that the Strategy Update and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were an almost final version following extensive consultation and development, they were intended for internal and external audiences, and that the final version would be published in a leaflet format.

5.2 Key points from the discussion included: to ensure effective structure and prioritisation of successes and objectives; ensure language around teaching fully reflected student engagement in the process; identifying the inter-relation between the three priorities; and strengthening the language concerning our engagement aspiration.

5.3 Senate noted the report and that Council would be requested to approve the Strategy Update and KPIs at its meeting on 25 May subject to any further amendments in light of Senate discussion.
6. DIGITAL LANCASTER 2.0

6.1 The Director of Information Systems Services introduced the report highlighting that the draft Digital Strategy 2.0 had been subject to wide consultation and was aligned with the Strategy Update, and that key objectives related to digital fluency, digital services and innovation.

6.2 Key points from the discussion included: ensuring an effective implementation plan was in place that would be overseen by the Digital Strategy Advisory Group, and that the user perspective would support the identification of priorities; terminology of ‘researchers’ should be used to embrace relevant staff and students; processes for measurement and evaluation of impact and success; ability to identify student support needs; and addressing cultural challenges to support implementation and managing expectations.

6.3 Senate noted the report and that feedback would be taken into consideration as part of the final document submitted to Council.

7. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY: UPDATE

8. UNDERGRADUATE NON-CONTINUATION

9. UPDATE ON RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) PREPARATIONS

10. REFLECTIONS ON THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK IN YEAR TWO

11. APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR OFFICERS

11.1 Senate noted the report setting out the appointment process for senior officers of the University.

SECTION 4: ITEMS FOR DECISION UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DISCUSSION

There were no items under Section 4 for this agenda.

SECTION 5: ITEMS FOR REPORT

12. CONSULTATION ON SECOND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF)

12.1 Senate noted the response to the consultation.
13. **FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS**  

13.1 Senate noted the report.

14. **WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS**  

14.1 Senate noted the reports.

15. **NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES**  

15.1 Senate noted the report.