SENATE – MINUTES

7 November 2018

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor N. Alexander; Professor D. Angwin; Professor A. Atherton; Professor P. M. Atkinson; Professor P. Barker; Professor P. Bates; Professor S. M. Black; Dr A. Belton; Ms J. Bennett; Professor J. Boylan; Professor A. Chetwynd; Dr A. Collins; Professor A. Dawson; Professor S. P. Decent; Professor J. Faulconbridge; Ms O. Gomez-Cash; Dr K. Grant; Professor S. C. Guy; Professor H. Hinds; Dr W. Hollmann; Dr S. Hughes; Professor C. Jackson; Professor R. D. Jessop (for Dr C. Grover); Professor R. W. L. Jones; Professor A. W. Laing; Professor C. Lewis; Ms R. Llystyn Jones; Mr I. Meeks; Professor J. Mottram; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor U. Papen; Professor G. Pawlina; Professor M. Piacentini; Ms P. Pickles; Professor R. Pickup; Ms C. Povah; Professor J. E. Taylor; Dr W. Tych; Professor C. Walshe; Dr N. Watson; Dr S. Weare; Dr K. Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms M. Ashraf (observer); Dr G. Carden (observer); Mr S. Franklin; Professor C. Gaskell (for item 5.1); Ms C. Geddes; Ms H. Hunter; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms H. Knight; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr D. Barcroft; Mr P. T. Boustead; Mr T. Buckley; Professor P. R. Fielden; Professor A. Friday; Dr C. Grover; Mr P. Maggs; Professor J. Sweeney; Dr G. Vince; Professor M. Zanardi.

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

No eligible questions had been received for the current meeting.

4. MINUTES

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018.

5. SECTION 3a: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

5.1 MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
6. **SECTION 1: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DECISION)**

6.1 **REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

6.1.1 The Vice-Chancellor provided an oral report, including:

(a) the Joint Expert Panel (JEP) on the USS Pension Scheme had published its report and the University had responded to a UUK consultation about the report outcomes;

(b) the UCU and Unison ballots had voted in favour of industrial action, but had not met the threshold turnout and, therefore, there was no mandate for industrial action at the moment over pay for the current round of negotiation;

(c) an update on the outcomes of recent Athena SWAN award submissions, including that FHM had its silver award renewed, but the University had not achieved silver award status, although its bronze award had been extended for a further year and there were various points to work through ahead of submission for renewal in 2019. It was also noted that Athena SWAN activity was part of a broader range of activity to ensure that the University was working towards its equality, diversity and inclusion objectives;

(d) admissions numbers for 2018/19 were positive with an increase on the previous year despite the demographic downturn of 18 year-olds in the UK;

(e) the initial institutional TEF ratings had been extended by a year to allow for a further year of subject-level pilot activity;

(f) league table results: the University had risen to 146th position from 150th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and had maintained 6th position in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide ranking.

6.1.2 Senate noted the report.

6.2 **SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE**

6.2.1 Senate noted the report.

7. **SECTION 2: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION**

7.1 **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

(Paper D)

(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)

7.2 **ANNUAL REPORT TO UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON TEACHING QUALITY ASSURANCE**

(Paper E)

7.2.1 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) introduced the report, which summarised the University’s academic quality assurance processes undertaken in 2017/18, including information on regular bodies and activities with responsibility for matters of assurance and maintenance of standards, to provide evidence to Council for its annual return in this area to the Office for Students.

7.2.2 Senate recommended the report to Council.
7.3 HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE  

7.3.1 Senate approved the recommendations from the Honorary Degrees Committee for the award of Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowship.

8. SECTION 3b: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

8.1 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOCTORAL ACADEMY AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  

8.1.1 Senate noted the plans for further development of the Doctoral Academy at the University and establishment of a PGR Advisory Group.

8.1.2 Key points from the discussion included:

(a) the proposals would complement departmental provision;
(b) timing to implement was subject to resourcing points under consideration;
(c) the suggestion that the PGR student representatives on the Advisory Group should have a representative background.

8.2 SENIOR TEAM STRUCTURE AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

8.2.1 The Vice-Chancellor introduced the paper setting out proposals for comment by Senate for the future structure of the senior leadership team afforded by the forthcoming departure of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

8.2.2 Senate agreed that it was fully supportive of the proposals. One comment concerning a proposed role-title was noted and would be considered further by the Vice-Chancellor as part of finalising the proposals for Council.

9. SECTION 4: ITEMS FOR DECISION UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DISCUSSION

9.1 Senate approved proposed amendments to the Education Committee’s terms of reference and membership composition. This was circulated to Senate under item 10.3, but considered at this point in the meeting as a decision was required.

10. SECTION 5: ITEMS FOR REPORT

10.1 SENATE CHAIR’S ACTIONS

10.1.1 Senate noted the report.

10.2 FACULTY DEPUTY DEAN AND HEADSHIP OF DEPARTMENT: APPOINTMENTS

10.2.1 Senate noted the report.

10.3 WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

10.3.1 Senate noted the reports. (The decision element was taken under section 4 above.)
10.4 NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES

10.4.1 Senate noted the report.

10.5 FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS

10.5.1 Senate noted the report.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 30 January 2019 in Training Suite 1, Lancaster House Hotel.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Professor Andrew Atherton was warmly thanked for his work and significant contributions to the University ahead of his leaving the University to take up the position of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee.