SENATE – MINUTES
20 June 2018

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor N. Alexander; Professor A. M. Atherton; Professor P. Atkinson; Dr S. Awanis; Professor S. Bainbridge; Mr D. Barcroft; Professor P. Bates; Dr A. Belton; Ms J. Bennet; Mr T. Buckley; Professor K. Cain; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Dr A. Collins; Ms O. Gomez-Cash; Dr K. Grant; Professor B. Hollingsworth; Professor M. Hughes; Dr S. Hughes; Professor S. R. A. Huttly; Ms C. John; Professor N. Johnson; Professor A. W. Laing; Ms H. Laycock; Professor C. Leitch; Dr P. McKean (for Ms C. Povah); Mr P. Montague; Professor R. Pickup; Professor E. Semino; Ms B. Venkataramani; Dr N. Watson; Dr S. Weare; Professor M. Zanardi.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr C. Baker (for item 3.1); Professor A. Binley (for item 3.1); Mr P. Boustead; Dr C. Cross (for item 3.1); Mr N. Fragel (for item 3.1); Mr S. Franklin; Ms C. Geddes; Professor I. Gregory (for item 3.1); Dr C. Grover (for item 3.1); Dr P. Harness (for item 3.1); Professor H. Hinds (for item 3.1); Ms H. Hunter; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms H. Knight; Professor C. Lewis (for item 3.1); Mr P. Maggs; Dr A. Mauthe (for item 3.1); Mr I Meeks (Observer); Professor J. O’Hanlon (for item 3.1); Ms N. C. Owen; Professor U. Papen (for item 3.1); Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley; Professor V. Reid (for item 3.1); Professor M. Shackleton (for item 3.1); Dr C. Shirras (for item 3.1); Professor K. Zografas (for item 3.1).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Professor P. Ashwin; Professor P. Barker; Dr P. Bishop; Professor S. Bushell; Dr C. Edwards (for item 3.1); Professor S. Guy (for item 3.1); Professor N. Hayes (for item 3.1); Dr W. Hollmann; Dr R. Isba; Professor C. Jackson (for item 3.1); Professor R. W. L. Jones; Mr M. Khokhar; Mr P. Maggs; Professor C. May-Chahal; Professor J. Mottram; Ms A. Mullan; Ms J. O’Brien (for item 3.1); Professor C. Paoloni; Professor G. Pawlina; Professor M. Piacentini (for item 3.1); Ms C. Povah; Professor M. Stevenson (for item 3.1); Dr W. Tych; Professor C. Walshe (for item 3.1); Professor S. Wilkinson (for item 3.1); Mr J. Woolf; Professor M. B. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

1.2 Senate noted the thanks to members who were attending their final meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. SECTION 2a: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION

3.1 SENATE PRIORITIES FOR 2018-19

3.1.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the paper setting out progress against the 2017/18 priorities and the proposed priorities for 2018/19, noting the key proposed changes for the coming year: changing the emphasis and focus for the priority on increasing application numbers and removing the priority around entry tariff.

SPG/2018/2/0730
3.1.2 Discussion about removing the entry tariff priority included that:

(a) this area would continue to be scrutinised by Council through KPI reporting given that entry tariff remained important as an indicator of quality and for reputation;
(b) the removal for the current time reflected recruitment challenges due to the external context and the potential need for flexibility;
(c) there was no intention to reduce the entry tariff at this point and that the intent to sustain the relative tariff position and improve it in particular subject areas would continue.

3.1.3 Discussion also covered the importance and challenges of responding to the changing space needs due to growth.

3.1.4 Senate agreed the University Priorities for 2018/19 and confirmed that the University must ensure it maintained or improved its current entry tariff performance relative to other universities, while recognising that short term flexibility to ensure optimal sustainability was pragmatic.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

No questions had been received for the current meeting.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2018.

6. SECTION 1: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

(a) that the University had won the recent Roses tournament and congratulating students for their victory and organisers for their support;
(b) that the University had maintained ninth position in the Guardian University League Table, which was pleasing given that a new metric included was continuation, which was one of the University’s weaker performing areas. The University had also moved from 135th to 131st in the QS World University Rankings, which included ranking 98th for citations per faculty;
(c) an update on the USS pension dispute, including that the Joint Expert Panel had begun meeting, but there were financial risks to the sector and the University if the USS Board agreed to impose Rule 76.4 as an interim measure in the event that an agreement is not reached. He indicated an uplift in employer contributions was likely to be necessary and requests may need to be made in-year to budget holders to identify how cost savings could be achieved to accommodate the rise in unplanned pensions costs;
(d) that the unions were consulting on the pay offer from the employers.
6.1.2 The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary reported on upcoming recruitment activity for professional support staff members of Senate and Council (the latter as a Senate-appointed post).

6.1.3 Senate noted the report.

6.2 SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE PAPER C

6.2.1 Senate noted the report.

6.3 FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS PAPER D

6.3.1 Senate noted the report.

7. SECTION 2b: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION

7.1 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PAPER E
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)

7.2 REVISIONS TO SENATE’S STANDING COMMITTEES: INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY PAPER F

7.2.1 The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary introduced the paper setting out a proposal to bring together related strands of international work under a single umbrella committee.

7.2.2 Senate noted the rationale for the proposals and approved:

(a) the formation of an International Committee as a Standing Committee of Senate, including the Terms of Reference and composition of this as outlined at Annex C of the paper;
(b) the minimum requirements for the Terms of Reference for Partnership Management Groups as outlined at Annex D of the paper;
(c) the updated associated Senate Delegations as outlined at Annex E of the paper; and
(d) the disestablishment of the Collaborative Provision Oversight Committee (and its sub-committees) at a point when all its responsibilities and delegations are taken up by successor bodies.

7.3 CHANGES TO THE STUDENT DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK AND REGULATIONS PAPER G

7.3.1 The Provost for Student Experience, Colleges and the Library and the Director of Students, Education and Academic Services introduced the paper setting out changes to the University’s student disciplinary framework and proposed revisions to the regulations for handling non-academic breaches of University regulations, which follows the review of the framework in 2017 and associated recommendations approved by Senate in June 2017.

7.3.2 Senate:

(a) noted the development of the student disciplinary framework for handling non-academic breaches of University regulations, arising from the review outcomes reported to Senate in June 2017;
(b) approved the proposed revisions to the Student Discipline regulations at Appendix A of the paper, subject to a minor point to strengthen wording concerning advice and support for students;

(c) agreed to recommend to Council the minor amendment to Ordinance 6;

(d) noted the changes would come into effect from January 2019.

8. SECTION 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

8.1 UPDATE ON UA92

8.1.1 Senate noted the update.

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

There were no items under Section 4 for this meeting.

10. SECTION 5: ITEMS FOR REPORT

10.1 ASSOCIATE DEANS REVIEW: OUTCOME AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1.1 Senate noted the report.

10.2 SENATE CHAIR’S ACTIONS

10.2.1 Senate noted the report.

10.3 FACULTY DEPUTY DEAN, ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS

10.3.1 Senate noted the report and that there had been minor amendments concerning the dates for the Head of the Department of Psychology: Professor Lewis’ appointment would end on 31 August 2019 and Professor Cain’s appointment would start on 1 September 2019.

10.4 WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

10.4.1 Senate noted the reports.

10.5 NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES

10.5.1 Senate noted the report.