Senate – Minutes
11 September 2019

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor D. Angwin; Professor P. Ashwin; Professor P. M. Atkinson; Professor P. Barker; Dr A. Belton; Ms J. Bennett; Professor Dame S. Black; Dr C. Boyko; Professor J. Boylan; Mr T. Buckley; Professor S. P. Decent; Professor A. Friday; Professor A. Gillespie; Professor I. Gregory; Professor S. C. Guy; Professor A. L. Heathwaite; Dr G. Hopkinson; Professor M. Hughes; Dr A. Jarvis; Professor R. W. L. Jones; Ms N. Miller (for Dr W. Tych); Ms B. Morgan; Professor J. Mottram; Mr G. Nuttall; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor U. Papen; Ms P. Pickles; Professor R. Pickup; Professor G. Pawlina; Professor J. Rycroft-Malone; Professor J. E. Taylor; Dr G. Vince; Dr N. Watson; Professor J. Wild; Dr K. Wright; Professor M. Zanardi.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A. Barker; Professor S. Bradley; Mr P. T. Boustead; Dr G. A. F. Carden (for item 7.2); Ms C. Geddes; Ms H. Hunter; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Professor N. Paul (for item 6.5); Ms S. Randall-Paley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr D. Barcroft; Professor P. Bates; Professor K. Cain; Dr P. Chakraborty; Professor A. Dawson; Professor J. Faulconbridge; Professor P. R. Fielden; Mr S. Franklin; Ms O. Gomez-Cash; Dr C. Hardy; Professor H. Hinds; Dr W. Hollmann; Professor S. R. A. Huttly; Ms C. John; Ms H. Knight; Professor A. W. Laing; Professor M. Piacentini; Professor J. Sweeney; Ms E. Tinsley; Dr W. Tych; Professor C. Walshe.

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

1.2 Senate welcomed new members and noted thanks to outgoing members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

No questions had been received for the current meeting.

4. MINUTES

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019.
5. SECTION 1: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE DECISION)

5.1 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

(i) the Government announcement of a new post study work visa system, which would allow international students to remain in the UK for two years after graduation;
(ii) that the University’s REF Code of Practice had been approved;
(iii) that the University had had to recently manage a serious data breach and thanking staff who were responsible for managing the incident.

5.1.2 Professor Steve Bradley provided an oral report, including:

(i) student recruitment for the 2019-20 intake, which showed that the University had performed well in relation to its growth targets for all undergraduate recruitment. Postgraduate numbers were not yet confirmed, but the indications were that the University should also perform well against targets. The Vice-Chancellor thanked staff for their ongoing efforts to achieve these outcomes;
(ii) the University had received notification from the OfS that its five-year Access and Participation Plan had been approved, which was positive, but noted there were conditions relating to monitoring access and attainment progress and achievement. It continued to be important that the University worked proactively to deliver and achieve its targets in this area;
(iii) UA92 had enrolled its first intake and was, in light of enrolments, looking at its business plan. The opening of the building was to be launched the following week.

5.1.3 Senate noted the report.

5.2 SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE

5.2.1 Senate noted the report.

6. SECTION 2: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION REQUIRING DECISION

6.1 SENATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

6.1.1 The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary introduced the report, noting that Senate was considered to be operating effectively, but there were some recommendations arising from the review, in particular intended to better clarify the role and purpose of Senate and its supporting mechanisms. The following three agenda items brought forward proposals relating to the outcomes of this review.
6.1.2 Senate discussed in particular whether the provision for elected lecturers should be redefined/broadened to focus on early career academics and encompass teaching-focused and research-focused staff. There was no consensus at this point, but it was noted that the membership should be relevant and able to contribute to the business of Senate. Senate agreed that there should be a further report which sets out how teaching-focused and research-focused staff interests were captured and represented within the University management and governance structures, together with consideration of how these staff categories related to informing the business of Senate, in order that Senate could take a view on the need to amend its membership composition in relation to the elected appointments.

6.1.3 Members also welcomed proposals for increased clarity about the role of Senate in relation to the University Leadership Group and the focus of Senate’s role in consideration of the papers.

6.1.4 Senate approved the recommendations and suggestions as set out in the report (noting that there are further specific approvals set out in following items) and agreed to recommend to Council the amendment of Ordinance 5C.2 (as set out at paragraph 16, recommendation 2).

6.2 SENATE STANDING ORDERS PAPER D

6.2.1 Senate approved the revised Standing Orders to replace the current version, subject to retaining the provision for submitting questions to the Vice-Chancellor as a standing agenda item, and agreed to recommend to Council that Ordinance 5C.3 be removed as this is covered in Standing Orders. The revised Standing Orders would be circulated to the next Senate as an information item in order that Senate received the final version.

6.3 COLLABORATIVE PROVISION GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS PAPER E

6.3.1 Senate noted the proposals were intended to better clarify governance and management responsibilities for collaborative provision, and approved the proposals as set out in the paper to take immediate effect, including the terms of reference and membership composition for the Collaborative Partnership Sub-Committee (subject to a minor amendment to the membership), the disestablishment of International Committee and Collaborative Provision Oversight Committee, and the revised reporting arrangements for the Collaborative Teaching Provision Committee (to be renamed Regional Partnerships Teaching Committee) and Partnership Management Groups.
6.4 STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

6.4.1 Senate approved for implementation following Council approval (as it would be a joint committee):

(a) the establishment of the Student Experience Committee, as set out in the paper;
(b) the laying down of the Colleges and Student Experience Committee (CSEC), University and Students’ Union Joint Committee and Disciplinary Committee; and
(c) the laying down of CSEC’s Delegation Schedule.

6.4.2 The approval was subject to the following points, which would be reflected in the proposal to Council:

(a) that the Chair of the Board of Discipline was included in the membership of the Committee;
(b) there was work to ensure that the Committee proactively addressed the student experience of the broader student body (e.g. so not limited to an undergraduate focus or format of study) and to ensure there was sufficient coverage of EDI-related matters, noting that the Chair would be asked to ensure these points were addressed both in terms of nominations to student membership and the focus of business of the Committee. The Committee would be asked to reflect on whether the issues had been satisfactorily addressed after a period of operation;
(c) to ensure that student discipline and complaints arrangements were treated as distinct matters;
(d) to provide the opportunity for the annual meeting of staff with responsibility for student discipline to make recommendations/suggestions concerning the disciplinary arrangements to feed into the governance structures.

6.5 PROPOSAL FOR A UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRE

6.5.1 Senate approved that the Centre for Global Eco-Innovation becomes a University Research Centre.

7. SECTION 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT REQUIRING DECISION

7.1 BRIEFING ON 2019 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY (NSS) RESULTS

7.1.1 Senate noted the report.

7.2 MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE TO SENATE: UA92

7.2.1 Senate noted the report.
7.3 APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

7.3.1 The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary provided an update on the work of the Appointment Committee for the Vice-Chancellor.

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

There were no items under Section 4 for this agenda.

9. SECTION 5: ITEMS FOR REPORT

9.1 SENATE CHAIR’S ACTION

9.1.1 Senate noted the report.

9.2 FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS

9.2.1 Senate noted the report.

9.3 WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

9.3.1 Senate noted the reports.

9.4 NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES

9.4.1 Senate noted the report.

9.5 FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS

9.5.1 Senate noted the report.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6 November 2019 in Lecture Theatre 3, Management School.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Stephen Decent for his significant contributions to the University in his Pro-Vice-Chancellor roles, ahead of him leaving to take up a post at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Hilary Hunter as Committee Secretary ahead of her leaving the University.

The Vice-Chancellor also thanked Senate for the important role it had played during his tenure as this would be his last meeting before leaving the University.