Senate – Minutes
12 February 2020

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor P. Ashwin; Professor P. M. Atkinson; Professor P. Barker; Professor P. Bates; Professor A. Belton; Ms J. Bennett; Professor Dame S. Black; Dr C. Boyko; Mr T. Buckley; Professor K. Cain; Professor P. Connolly; Professor A. Dawson; Ms T. Douglas; Professor A. Friday; Professor M. George; Professor A. Gillespie; Dr K. Grant; Professor I. Gregory; Dr C. Hardy; Professor H. Hinds; Dr D. Hird; Dr W. Hollmann; Professor S. R. A. Huttly; Dr A. Jarvis; Ms B. Morgan; Professor J. Mottram; Mr G. Nuttall; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor G. Pawlina; Professor M. Piacentini; Ms P. Pickles; Ms M. Ritchie; Ms G. Shewani; Professor J. Sweeney; Professor J. E. Taylor; Dr W. Tych; Professor I. Tyler; Dr N. Watson; Professor J. Wild; Dr K. Wright; Professor M. Zanardi.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms M. Ashraf; Mr A. Barker; Mr J. Dickinson, Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. Randall-Paley, Mrs L Taher-Bates (for item 11).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr P. T. Boustead; Professor J. Boylan; Mr A. Burgess; Dr P. Chakraborty; Professor P. R. Fielden; Mr S. Franklin; Professor S. C. Guy; Professor A. L. Heathwaite; Dr G. Hopkinson; Ms H. Knight; Professor A. W. Laing; Ms A. Mullan; Professor U. Papen; Professor R. Pickup; Professor J. Rycroft-Malone; Dr G. Vince.

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

1.2 Senate recorded its thanks to Professor Huttly, for whom this was her last meeting. The Vice-Chancellor thanked her for her contributions to the University during her tenure as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and EDI).

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 6 November 2019.
5. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

(i) Corona Virus – The University was actively managing the impact of the corona virus, both at Lancaster and through its overseas activities. Following advice provided by Public Health England the University was monitoring the situation and would take decisions through its emergency management protocols as required.

(ii) Eden North Project – Work was continuing to develop the project, with positive news anticipated. Lancaster University was an anchor partner with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) leading on behalf of the University.

(iii) Industrial Action – UCU had announced that further strike action was planned for March 2020. The University recognised the impact on staff and students and was working to mitigate this. It was noted that the Students’ Union Advice Services was receiving a large number of enquiries about the industrial action.

5.2 Senate noted the report.

6. SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE  

6.1 Senate noted the report.

7. YEAR END KPI PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018-19  

7.1 Senate received the Year End KPI performance report for 2018-19.

7.2 The requirement to balance entry tariff score with other KPIs such as widening participation and financial sustainability was noted and it was reported that the projections of the current cycle indicated that the University was in a strong position.

7.3 Senate noted the report.

8. TEACHING AND RESEARCH FOCUSED STAFF CAPTURE WITHIN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS  

8.1 Senate received a report on how staff on teaching- and research-focused staff had access to governance and management arrangements and structures, including Senate. It was noted that management structures were effective and that the University did not take contract type into consideration in terms of management arrangements. Similarly, access to other governance structures for staff on a variety of different contracts was considered sufficient and effective.

8.2 Senate considered if any change was required in relation to Senate membership and agreed that current arrangements were satisfactory.
9. **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**  

9.1 The Senate received the annual report on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, noting the related papers on the subjects of Athena SWAN and Gender Pay Gap. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and EDI) noted that the scheduled refresh of the University Strategy and People Strategy would provide opportunity to embed EDI aspects. She also noted that the Race Equality Charter was due to be discussed at UMAG in March 2020.

9.2 In discussion it was noted that work was being taken forward in relation to the University’s response to national consultations about bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct. This would be an opportunity to ensure that the policies were fit for purpose, with clear processes for implementation, and training available as required.

9.3 Senate noted the report.

10. **STRATEGIC PLAN RENEWAL: WORK TO DATE AND PLANNED TIMETABLE**  

10.1 Senate received a report on the planning for the renewal of the Strategic Plan. The Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) noted that she and others were in regular discussion with the incoming Vice-Chancellor in relation to the new plan.

10.2 The Director of Strategic Planning and Governance outlined the timetable for development, noting that initial work would focus on a review of institutional values with strategic content following thereafter. Senate, it was noted, would have two further opportunities to consider the strategy as it developed, before formal approval by Council.

10.3 In discussion it was noted that the student engagement was scheduled for June and July; this could prove challenging as many students would not be present on campus. It was agreed that the timetable would be reviewed, and that the consultation would be designed to be inclusive, drawing voices from all parts of the institution.

10.4 Senate noted the report.

11. **CONTEXTUAL ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATIONS**  

Mrs L Taher-Bates joined for this item.

11.1 The Director of Recruitment, Admissions and International Development introduced a paper relating to contextual admissions considerations whereby the University would take socioeconomic measures into account when considering entry tariff requirements. This, it was noted, would feature within the broader institutional approach to widening participation. By implementing, Lancaster University would provide greater transparency to prospective students on decision-making.
11.2 In discussion the following clarifications were given:

- it was not expected to have a significant impact on the institutional KPI around entry tariff;
- consideration would, in the first instance, only apply to undergraduate admissions;
- this would carry a specific regional focus, and would contribute to the University’s civic commitment to regional development.

11.3 In discussion it was noted that any change to the admissions process would require concomitant changes to support structures to ensure students were given the opportunities to succeed. This would include curriculum redesign to ensure this aligned with student experience and inclusivity.

11.4 In relation to regional development it was noted that there were opportunities to consider developments in partnership with Eden North.

11.5 Senate noted the report, noting that further work would be taken forward by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Development).

12. RESEARCH COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION  PAPER H

12.1 Senate approved the minor amendment to the composition of the Research Committee.

13. SENATE CHAIR’S ACTION  PAPER I

13.1 Senate noted the report.

14. HEADSHIP OF DEPARTMENT: APPOINTMENT  PAPER J

14.1 Senate noted the report.

15. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS  PAPER K

15.1 Senate noted the reports.

16. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES  PAPER L

16.1 Senate noted the report.

17. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS  PAPER M

17.1 Senate noted the report.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18.1 The next meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 April 2020 in Lecture Theatre 3, Management School.