Senate – Minutes
22 April 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; Professor J. Boylan; Mr T. Buckley; Professor K. Cain; Dr P. Chakraborty; Professor P. Connolly; Professor N. A. Davies; Professor A. Dawson; Ms T. Douglas; Professor J. Faulconbridge; Professor P. R. Fielden; Professor A. Friday; Professor M. George; Professor A. Gillespie; Dr K. Grant; Professor I. Gregory; Professor S. C. Guy; Dr C. Hardy; Professor H. Hinds; Dr D. Hird; Dr W. Hollmann; Dr G. Hopkinson; Dr A. Jarvis; Professor R. W. L. Jones; Professor M. Joyce (for Professor Heathwaite); Professor A. W. Laing; Professor C. Leitch; M V. Mathews; Ms B. Morgan; Professor J. Mottram; Mr G. Nuttall; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor U. Papen; Professor G. Pawlina; Professor M. Piacentini; Professor R. Pickup; Ms M. Ritchie; Professor J. Rycroft-Malone; Ms G. Shewani; Professor J. Sweeney; Professor J. E. Taylor; Dr W. Tych; Professor I. Tyler; Dr G. Vince; Professor Catherine Walshe; Dr N. Watson; Professor J. Wild; Dr K. Wright; Professor M. Zanardi.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms M. Ashraf; Mr A. Barker; Ms S. Davies (for item 12); Mr J. S. W. Dickinson, Mr S. Franklin; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms H. Knight; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr P. T. Boustead; Professor A. L. Heathwaite; Ms P. Pickles.

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 questions had been received for the current meeting.

4. MINUTES PAPER A

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2020.

5. MINUTES: EXTRAORDINARY MEETING PAPER B

5.1 Senate approved the minutes of the extraordinary held on 26 March 2020.
6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

6.1 The Vice-Chancellor provided an oral report, including the following.

(i) The Vice-Chancellor updated members in relation to Covid-19. He recorded his personal thanks to all staff for their contributions during the pandemic. He outlined the institutional planning for both short- and medium-term development, assuring Senators that he and other senior staff were in regular contact with peers at the national level. The impact across the sector was significant with some predicting financial losses as high as £7 billion. The government was supporting the sector by providing access to furlough support for staff. Through this support and other actions taken internally, for example in relation to the capital programme, the University was taking prudent actions to protect the institution. Nonetheless, it was anticipated that the University would end the financial year in deficit, and planning was underway for the next financial year where the impact could be equally significant. Academic delivery was being reviewed and both partnership and online opportunities were being investigated.

(ii) The Vice-Chancellor noted that the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Schofield, would start on 1 May. He also welcomed Professor Maria Piacentini into her new role as interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and EDI).

6.2 Senate noted the report.

7. OFFICE FOR STUDENT (OfS) REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS PAPER C DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

7.1 Senate noted the report.

8. SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE PAPER D

8.1 Senate noted the report.

9. HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER E APRIL 2020 Restricted and Confidential

10. REVOCATION OF HONORARY AWARDS AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY: PROPOSED PROCEDURE PAPER F

10.1 Senate received a paper setting out a proposed procedure around the revocation of Honorary Awards (honorary degrees, honorary fellowships or alumni awards) that the institution could invoke should the need arise to take action quickly to manage significant and immediate risk as well as to provide assurance to Senate and Council.
10.2 It was noted that the Honorary Degrees Committee had considered and recommended the proposal for onward approval. It was also noted that there are no current cases under consideration; this exercise was to ensure effective procedures were in place.

10.3 It was noted that the proposal would require a change to the wording to Ordinance 17.

10.4 Senate agreed to recommend to Council the approval of the procedure and criteria for consideration of the revocation of an ‘Honorary Award’, the delegations to determine the prima facie case for review, and an addition to Ordinance 17 (set out in the paper) to allow for the revocation of Honorary Awards to be dealt with using a separate procedure.

11. STRATEGIC PLAN RENEWAL: REVISED TIMETABLE  PAPER G

11.1 Senate received, for information, a revised indicative timetable for the production of an updated Strategic Plan for the University.

11.2 It was noted that the consultation period fell in the months that were going to be particularly busy given the changes to assessment in light of Covid-19.

11.3 The need to separate immediate planning requirements relating to Covid-19 from longer term strategic development was noted, albeit in acknowledgement of the challenge to longer-term thinking in the midst of the unknowns of the current situation.

11.4 Senate noted the revised timetable.

12. LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS POLICY  PAPER H

Ms S. Davies joined for this item.

12.1 Senate received a draft admissions policy proposed for implementation for the 2020/21 entry. It was noted that the proposal was designed to provide greater detail and clarity to applicants and had been developed to support equal opportunity access. It was also confirmed that the policy had been scrutinised against best practice in the sector.

12.2 It was noted that UUK had scheduled a review of fair admissions practice, but that this had been postponed owing to Covid-19. The outcomes of that review could require a further modification to the presented policy.

12.3 Senate approved the policy, noting that Council’s attention would be drawn to it owing to its role in providing assurance on OfS conditions of registration.
13. **STUDENT CONDUCT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

13.1 Senate received a set of two policies relating to Student Conduct – Dignity in Student Life and Student Sexual Misconduct – as well as revised Student Discipline Regulations. It was noted that a review had been undertaken in 2018/19 of the University’s policies and procedures relating to student bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct. That consultation included analysis of relevant sector practice and guidance and considered the views of stakeholders across the University and the Students’ Union. The results of that review have led to – amongst other things – the development of the two new policies presented; policies that separated sexual misconduct and bullying & harassment into distinct policies. This separation, it was noted, allowed specific information to be provided on the different types of misconduct; clarified that informal resolution methods were not appropriate in sexual misconduct cases; recognised the seriousness of the majority of the University’s sexual misconduct cases; and demonstrated that the University took both forms of misconduct seriously. The Student Discipline Regulations were presented for reapproval as they contained minor revisions to reflect the new policies.

13.2 It was confirmed that the changes would not cause a material detriment to students currently registered. Supporting guidance was being developed in collaboration with the Students’ Union and the policies would be reviewed after a year.

13.3 It was noted that the policy would apply to applicants once an offer had been accepted. It was further noted that the changes to regulations could not be applied retrospectively.

13.4 Senate agreed to recommend the two policies, along with the revision to the regulations, to the Council for approval.

14. **SAFEGUARDING IN RESEARCH**

15. **EDEN NORTH PROJECT**

16. **KPIs PERFORMANCE: MID-YEAR REPORT 2019-20**

17. **DRAFT DEGREE OUTCOMES STATEMENT**

18. **REAPPOINTMENT OF FACULTY DEANS:**
19. SENATE CHAIR’S ACTION

19.1 Senate noted the report.

20. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

20.1 Senate noted the reports.

21. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES

21.1 Senate noted the report.

22. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS

22.1 Senate noted the report. It was noted that the revised Freedom of Speech policy was on the forward schedule. Senate was assured that the policy would be subject to consultation before approval.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23.1 The next meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 17 June 2020.