Senate – Minutes
15 July 2020

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Dr M. Anderson; Professor P. Ashwin; Professor P. Barker; Professor P. Bates; Professor A. Belton; Ms J. Bennett; Professor Dame S. Black; Professor S. Bradley; Mr T. Buckley; Professor K. Cain; 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; Professor A. L. Heathwaite; Professor H. Hinds; Dr D. Hird; Dr W. Hollmann; Dr G. Hopkinson; Dr A. Jarvis; Professor R. W. L. Jones; Professor A. W. Laing; Professor C. Leitch; M V. Mathews; Dr J. McDowell; Ms B. Morgan; Professor J. Mottram; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor U. Papen; Professor G. Pawlina; Professor M. Piacentini; Ms P. Pickles; Professor R. Pickup; Ms M. Ritchie; Mr O. Robinson; Professor J. E. Taylor; Dr W. Tych; Professor I. Tyler; Professor Catherine Walshe; Dr N. Watson; Dr K. Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms M. Ashraf; Mr A. Barker; Mr P. T. Boustead; Mr J. S. W. Dickinson, Mr S. Franklin; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms H. Knight; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Professor P. M. Atkinson; Dr C. Hardy; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley; Professor J. Rycroft-Malone; Ms Aro Nugawela; Professor J. Sweeney; Professor J. Wild; Professor Maurizio Zanardi.

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Oliver Robinson declared that he was a member of Lancaster City Council. It was determined that this did not represent a conflict on any items on the agenda.

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 22 April 2020.

4.2 It was noted that Council had approved the process for the revocation of honorary awards. A case was now being considered under these procedures and it was noted that Chair’s action would be taken as required if the recommendation was clear and unanimous.
5. UNIVERSITY SENATE: ACTIONS AND DECISIONS BY CORRESPONDENCE  

5.1 Senate noted the actions and decisions made by correspondence.

6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

(i) A report on the external environment including the re-introduction of student number controls; the publication from the Office for Students of temporary additional conditions of registration; the declassification of EU students as Home students in relation to fees from 2021; and the government publication of a Roadmap for Research (a targeted investment in research and development) and offer of research support packages, details of which remained forthcoming.

(ii) The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University was seeking to make budget savings in light of potential lost income resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in relation to international income.

(iii) It was reported that the NSS results had just been published. Lancaster’s overall satisfaction remained at 87% while much of the sector had seen decreasing scores. There were however a number of areas where there had been a fall in satisfaction which required focus. Further analysis would follow in due course.

(iv) The Vice-Chancellor had established a Strategic Race Advisory Group, chaired by Professor Ram Prasad, with the intention of signing up to the Race Equality Charter by April 2021 and seeking institutional status awards thereafter.

(v) The Vice-Chancellor reported that he would be visiting departments, divisions and colleges to discuss priorities and strategy.

6.2 Senate noted the report.

7. SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE

7.1 Senate noted the report.

8. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY  

Restricted and Commercial in Confidence

9. STRATEGIC PLAN 2025: DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT  

Restricted and Confidential
10. REVIEW OF TEMPORARY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS  PAPER F

10.1 Senate was reminded that in order to manage aspects of risk associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, Council, at its meeting held on 27 March 2020, had approved temporary governance arrangements for Senate, its committees and the joint committee of Council and Senate, including the use of reduced membership requirements. These had been discussed and recommended by the Senate at its extraordinary meeting held on 26 March 2020, and had been, as required, captured in a change to Ordinance 5. Senate received a review of these arrangements noting that where they had been used they had proved effective.

10.2 Fortunately there had not been the requirement to use the reduced membership requirement, and it was anticipated that this would continue to be the case. However, to be prudent, Senate was asked to recommend to Council that the measures be kept in place until such time as the Covid-19 pandemic was declared over.

10.3 Senate agreed to recommend to the Council the proposals for the remaining period of the Covid-19 pandemic as set out.

11. EMERITUS PROFESSOR APPOINTMENTS: ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20  PAPER G

11.1 Senate noted the report.

12. FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS  PAPER H

12.1 Senate noted the report.

13. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS  PAPER I

13.1 Senate noted the reports.

14. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES  PAPER J

14.1 Senate noted the report.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15.1 The next meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 24 September 2020.