

Senate – Minutes **4 November 2020**

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Dr M. Anderson; Professor P. Ashwin; Ms F. Askari; Professor P. M. Atkinson; Professor P. Barker; Professor A. Belton; Ms J. Bennett; Professor Dame S. Black; Dr C. Boyko; Professor S. Bradley; Professor K. Cain; Professor P. Connolly; Professor N. A. Davies; Professor A. Friday; Professor M. George; Dr K. Grant; Professor I. Gregory; Professor S. C. Guy; Dr Claire Hardy; Professor Niall Hayes; Professor A. L. Heathwaite; Professor L. Hendry; Dr D. Hird; Dr W. Hollmann; Dr G. Hopkinson; Dr A. Jarvis; Professor C. Leitch; Mr S. Maesschalck; Ms V. Mathews; Dr J. McDowell; Dr P. McKean; Ms B. Morgan; Professor J. Mottram; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor U. Papen; Professor G. Pawlina; Ms P. Pickles; Mr O. Robinson; Professor S. Ruston; Professor J. Rycroft-Malone; Professor J. E. Taylor; Professor I. Tyler; Professor Catherine Walshe; Professor J. Wild; Dr K. Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P. T. Boustead; Mr S. Davis; Mr J. S. W. Dickinson, Ms C. Gupta; Ms C. Harrison (*for item 8*); Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms H. Knight; Ms A. Makareva; Ms A. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley; Ms L. Taher-Bates (*for item 12*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr A. Barker; Mr T. Buckley; Mr A. Burgess; Dr P. Chakraborty; Mr S. Franklin; Professor A. Gillespie; Dr J. Logue; Professor M. Piacentini.

INTRODUCTION

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 No new declarations of interest were made.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Senate noted that a question had been received in relation to having more BAME members on Senate. The Vice-Chancellor had provided an answer to the individual directly.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 24 SEPTEMBER 2020 PAPER A

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020.

5. MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF COUNCIL AND SENATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2020 PAPER B

5.1 Senate approved the minutes of the joint meeting of Council and Senate held on 25 September 2020.

6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

- (i) The region was again subject to lock down restrictions in relation to the Covid-19 national emergency. These restrictions were different from those imposed in March 2020 and details were being communicated to both staff and students. He noted that the University was to remain open for both teaching and research, while ensuring the focus on safety was maintained. The University remained in close communication with UUK and OfS to ensure that it was acting in accordance with national guidance.
- (ii) the financial situation for the University was stable, if constrained, with positive signals in relation to potential fee income.

6.2 In discussion it was noted that the University was part way through a voluntary severance scheme process and at this stage there were currently no plans to go beyond these actions.

6.3 Senate noted the report.

7. SUMMARY OF UMAG BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE

PAPER C

7.1 Senate noted the report.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. DEVELOPING LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S VALUES

PAPER D

8.1 Catherine Harrison, Deputy Director of Human Resources, joined for this item and introduced a discussion to review the University's values statement. This statement would, in turn, inform the new University Strategy. She noted that the values needed to be intrinsic to University activities and behaviours and that six had emerged through consultations across the University. Academic freedom, it was noted, was not one of the six, this was inherent in higher education legislation and the University's governing instruments and did not need specific articulation in this document.

8.2 In discussion the following viewpoints were noted.

- Social and environmental responsibility were inherently and essentially compatible.
- The concept of 'community' would need careful consideration as it could be perceived as both including and excluding; civic engagement should be emphasised.

- The values did not explicitly mention partnerships or the University's current partners.
- The translation of the values into the strategy would be critical.

8.3 It was noted that further comments could be sent to Catherine Harrison directly.

8.4 Senate noted the development of the values and that these would be incorporated alongside the University Strategy currently being drafted by the Director of Strategic Planning and Governance. The Strategy would come back to Senate for further consideration early in 2021.

9. REPORT ON ADMISSIONS **ORAL UPDATE**
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10. ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL ON TEACHING QUALITY ASSURANCE **PAPER E**

10.1 Senate received the annual report to Council on Teaching Quality Assurance, noting that the report including details of the exceptional arrangements that had been implemented to mitigate the national emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

10.2 It was noted that the report's production had focused the University on three aspects: the volume and balance of assessment; the inherent difficulties of a flexible curriculum; and the need for programme-level thinking. The Joint Faculty Teaching Committee, established by Senate to oversee the work, had proved valuable and would continue to operate.

10.3 Senate recorded its thanks to all staff involved, noting in particular the Associate Deans and the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Officers.

10.4 In discussion it was noted that guidance was being prepared for departments for the summer 2021 assessment period. It was further noted that a significant piece of work was underway in relation to curriculum reform and that this would come back to Senate in due course.

11. ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS REPORT 2019/20 **PAPER F**
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12. ANNUAL REPORT ON WIDENING PARTICIPATION **PAPER G**

12.1 Senate received the annual report on widening participation, noting that it was a requirement of the OfS. It was noted that the OfS had introduced new targets for widening participation and that the report represented the bridging year between the old and new requirements.

12.2 It was reported that a number of initiatives and programmes were being taken forward that would enhance opportunity and, in due course, participation.

12.3 Senate's attention was drawn to one programme in particular, Connecting Kids. This project worked with schools in the community to provide IT equipment to families to ensure access to education. This had been particularly effective during the national Covid-19 emergency.

12.4 Senate recorded its thanks to Leanne Taher-Bates and her team for its work and noted the report.

13. RESEARCH INTEGRITY REPORT 2019/20 PAPER H

13.1 Senate received the Research Integrity Report for 2019/20 noting the ongoing challenges facing the sector during the national emergency, particularly in relation to face-to-face research. It was noted that work was ongoing to continue to ensure integrity across all aspects of research, going beyond the traditional area of research ethics. Finally, it was noted that procedures for research misconduct were being reviewed.

13.2 Senate noted the report.

14. REF2021: PREPARATION UPDATE PAPER I
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ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

15. SENATE CHAIR'S ACTIONS PAPER J

15.1 Senate noted the Chair's actions made on its behalf since the last meeting.

16. ASSOCIATE DEAN APPOINTMENT PAPER K

16.1 Senate noted the report.

17. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS PAPER L

17.1 Senate noted the reports.

18. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES PAPER M

18.1 Senate noted the report.

19. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS PAPER N

19.1 Senate noted the Forward Schedule.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20.1 The next meeting will be held at 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday 10 February 2021.