

Senate – Minutes
21 April 2021

PRESENT: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Dr M. Anderson; Professor P. Ashwin; Professor P. M. Atkinson; Professor P. Barker; Professor A. Belton; Ms J. Bennett; Professor Dame S. Black; Dr C. Boyko; Professor S. Bradley; Mr T. Buckley; Professor K. Cain; Professor P. Connolly; Mr S. Davis; Dr C. Easton; Professor A. Friday; Professor M. George; Mr A. Ghosh; Professor I. Gregory; Ms C. Gupta; Professor S. C. Guy; Dr C. Hardy; Professor N. Hayes; Professor A. L. Heathwaite; Professor L. Hendry; Dr D. Hird; Dr A. Jarvis; Professor R. Jones; Ms H. Knight; Professor A. Laing; Professor C. Leitch; Dr J. Logue; Mr S. Maesschalck; Ms A. Makareva; Dr A. Marsden; Dr J. McDowell; Professor C. Paoloni; Professor U. Papen; Professor A. Patterson (*for Dr G. Hopkinson*); Professor E. Pavlidis; Professor G. Pawlina; Ms P. Pickles; Mr O. Robinson; Professor S. Ruston; Professor J. Rycroft-Malone; Professor J. Sweeney; Professor J. E. Taylor; Dr W. Tych; Professor I. Tyler; Professor Catherine Walshe; Professor N. Watson; Dr K. Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms M. Ashraf; Mr A. Barker; Mr P. T. Boustead; Mr J. S. W. Dickinson; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms A. M. Mullan; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dr W. Hollmann; Dr G. Hopkinson; Mr A. Burgess; Mr S. Franklin.

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND 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

The following question to the Vice-Chancellor had been received from:

Atree Ghosh, SU Vice President Union Development

In the long term, are there plans for the institution to return to an entirely in-person delivery once more, thereby ending the blended approach? If so, how?

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University was planning to return to primarily in-person delivery for the academic year 2021/22, government advice permitting. However, the University would also reflect on those positive attributes of online delivery and how these could be incorporated into teaching in the longer-term.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 10 FEBRUARY 2021

PAPER A

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021.

5. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

- (i) Professor Leitch and Professor Rycroft-Malone had been elected as the Senate representatives on Council. He recorded his thanks for all who had participated.
- (ii) Congratulations to all who had been elected as the Student Officers for 2021/22, as well as to Misbah Ashraf for her appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Students' Union on a permanent basis.
- (iii) The University had conducted an audit of its teaching provision looking at deliverables against published expectations. He reported that Senate could be reassured that the audit had evidenced that the University had met expectations.
- (iv) The Government had reported that their intention was that all students would be able to return to face-to-face teaching from 17 May. The Vice-Chancellor reported on the associated planning within the University, noting that the campus had been and remained open throughout the pandemic, operating in line with restrictions.
- (v) More generally, it was noted that the national vaccine roll-out appeared effective and it was anticipated that a further easing of restrictions would be forthcoming. The University would reflect on its own experience identifying how the return to more standard operating processes could retain the agility and flexibility demonstrated by staff throughout the national emergency.
- (vi) The OfS had written to all universities asking that they review institutional approaches to managing sexual misconduct.
- (vii) The University was on track to submit to the Race Equality Charter in April 2021.

5.2 Senate noted the report.

6. SUMMARY OF UEB BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE (2 FEBRUARY TO 16 MARCH 2021 INCLUDING JOINT MEETINGS HELD WITH PSEG)

PAPER B

6.1 Senate noted the report.

- 6.2 In discussion it was noted that the reported work on curriculum transformation was primarily related to undergraduate provision and would involve both the Students' Union and student academic representatives. The potential impact on postgraduate students would also be kept under review, including through engagement with the Doctoral Academy.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7. **HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS APRIL 2021** **PAPER C**
Restricted and Confidential
8. **PROCEDURE FOR THE REVOCATION FOR HONORARY AWARDS: INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** **PAPER D**
Restricted and Confidential
9. **CONFERRAL CONTINGENCY PROTOCOL: UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS** **PAPER E**
- 9.1 Senate was reminded that in April 2020 the Senate and Council approved via Chairs' action the Conferral Contingency Protocol whereby students completing Lancaster University programmes can formally receive their degrees without the need for: (i) Senior Officers to confer the degrees in person; and/or (ii) a graduation ceremony to take place.
- 9.2 Senate received a report on implementation alongside a recommendation for a renewal of the Conferral Contingency Protocol, subject to minor amendments.
- 9.3 Senate supported the recommendation to renew the protocol ahead of presentation to Council.
10. **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: DRAFT FORWARD PLAN** **PAPER F**
Restricted and Commercial in Confidence

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

11. **SENATE CHAIR'S ACTIONS** **PAPER G**
- 11.1 Senate noted the Chair's actions made on its behalf since the last meeting.
12. **FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: APPOINTMENTS** **PAPER H**
- 12.1 Senate noted the report of the appointments.

- 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. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF SENATE BUSINESS** **PAPER K**
- 15.1 Senate noted the Forward Schedule.
- 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 16.1 The next meeting will be held at 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday 16 June 2021.