

Senate – Minutes

9 February 2022

(via Teams)

PRESENT: Professor Andy J. Schofield, Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor Marina Anderson; Dr Lorna Ashton; Professor Paul Ashwin; Professor Peter M. Atkinson; Professor Phil Barker; Professor Alex Belton; Professor Dame Sue M. Black; Dr Chris Boyko; Professor Steve Bradley; Professor Kate Cain; Dr Pavel Chakraborty; Professor Paul Connolly; Dr Casey Cross; Professor Jonathan Culpeper; Sarah Fox; Professor Magnus George; Professor Robert Geyer; Professor Ian Gregory; Professor Simon C. Guy; Professor Niall Hayes; Professor A. Louise Heathwaite; Rebecca Heron; Dr Derek Hird; Dr Willem Hollmann; Professor Gill Hopkinson; Dr Andrew Jarvis; Professor Roger W. L. Jones; Professor Claire M. Leitch; Dr Jennifer Logue; Professor Alan Marsden; Dr James Mawdesley; Dr James McDowell; Dr Paul McKean; Dr Sandra Nolte; Professor Claudio Paoloni; Professor Efthymios Pavlidis; Oliver Robinson; Professor Wendy Robinson; Professor Sharon Ruston; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone; Gayatri Shewani; Professor Jane E. Taylor; Professor Imogen Tyler; Professor Catherine Walshe; Professor Nigel Watson; Professor Jim Wild; Dr Karen Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Misbah Ashraf; Andrew Barker; Paul T. Boustead; John S. W. Dickinson; Stuart Franklin; Catherine Harrison (*for items 9 and 10*); Simon J. Jennings; Heather Knight; Alison M. Mullan; Nicola C. Owen; Sarah J. Randall-Paley; Akhtar Zaman (*for item 10*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Rachel Fligelstone; Dr Claire Hardy.

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND THANKS

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

3.1 There were no questions to the Vice-Chancellor.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 3 NOVEMBER 2021

PAPER A

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021.

5. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

(i) In relation to operational matters of the University.

The University continued to move back to pre-pandemic arrangements, particularly in relation to face-to-face teaching. Overseas travel restrictions continued to affect some students, but numbers were reducing.

Industrial action had been announced and would proceed over the next month. Dialogue was continuing between management and the trade unions albeit in recognition of the national-level disputes involved, such as USS pensions. In relation to this point, it was noted that discussions between USS and UUK were at a critical juncture with regard to future arrangements. Senate was assured that institution preparation or managing the impact of the industrial action on students was progressing based on previous arrangements.

(ii) In relation to national affairs

The government had recently published its “Levelling Up” White Paper. This represented a significant opportunity for the University given its already strong regional engagement.

The Office for Students had recently launched consultations on both its oversight of standards (so called condition B3) and the future of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). On the former, the OfS was to determine minimum expectations on standards and the metrics by which these could, by proxy, be measured. The demographic aspects of the metrics being suggested were complex and while Lancaster was in a strong position this would require vigilance to maintain. On the TEF, the consultation was proposing changes designed to incentivise excellent and narrow attainment gaps. It was noted that there was a tight timetable on the consultations and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) was leading on the University’s response.

(iii) Honorary degrees

The Senate was reminded that the deadline for nominations for honorary degrees was near and a reminder was made to encourage a diversity of nominations.

(iv) Fair Access

It was noted that the OfS had appointed a new Director of Fair Access and Participation, John Blake. He had announced that OfS was moving forward the deadline for the renewal of universities’ access and participation action plans from 2025 to 2023. The expectations remained broadly in line with previous ones, pending the outcome of the consultations previously reported.

5.2 In discussion the possible implications of the national discussions re. the USS negotiations were rehearsed. It was noted that the UUK proposal balanced staff and employer requirements for affordability and, as such, was supported by the University.

5.3 Senate noted the report.

**6. SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD (UEB) BUSINESS PAPER B
RELEVANT TO SENATE (2 NOVEMBER 2021 TO 18 JANUARY 2022)**

6.1 Senate noted the report.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7. RESEARCH INTEGRITY REPORT 2020/21 PAPER C

7.1 Senate received the Research Integrity Report for 2020/21 noting that it was, in part, fulfilling the University's obligations under the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and would be published on the University's website once approved. The report had been considered by Research Committee and the University Executive Board as well as Council; the latter happening out of synch owing to the scheduling.

7.2 Senate expressed its confidence in the report and the processes it described.

7.3 Senate noted the report.

**8. KPIs PERFORMANCE: FORMAT AND YEAR-END REPORT FOR 2020-21 PAPER D
*Some Restricted and Commercial in Confidence content***

9. PEOPLE AND CULTURE PLAN PAPER E

9.1 Senate received the People and Culture Plan, noting that an earlier iteration had been circulated to members for information and input. The Plan, it was noted, had been designed to support the University's Strategic Plan and described the people contribution required for delivery and achievement. The University was currently developing an implementation and action plan.

9.2 In discussion it was noted that PGR students carried similar conditions to some staff members in terms of their relation to the University. This, it was suggested, could be reflected in the plan. It was also suggested that there could be greater clarity on the subjects, objects and mechanisms of transformation referenced in the plan, as well as on what was intended by the expression 'University Leadership Group'.

9.3 Senate noted the report.

10. ANNUAL EDI REPORT 2020-21

PAPER F

- 10.1 Senate received the University's EDI report for 2020-21, noting that this was public-facing and would be published. Senate reviewed the key aspects of the policy noting the examples of good practice, the metrics by which these were measured as well as the resulting action plan for future work.
- 10.2 In discussion, caution was voiced in the use of the BAME category. Its heterogeneous nature was acknowledged and its utility as an identity marker debated.
- 10.3 Senate noted that the report would proceed to EDI Committee and then Council. Following approval there, it would be published on the University website.
- 10.4 Senate noted the report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

11. SENATE CHAIR'S ACTION

PAPER G

- 11.1 Senate noted the actions made by the Chair of Senate since the last meeting.

12. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

PAPER H

- 12.1 Senate noted the following written reports of meetings:
- Council, meeting of 26 November 2021
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, meeting of 20 October 2021
 - Enterprise and Innovation Committee, meeting of 11 November 2021
 - Research Committee, meeting of 21 December 2021

13. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES

PAPER I

- 13.1 Senate noted the report of new and revised programmes.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 14.1 The next Senate meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday 27 April 2022 in Lecture Theatre 3, Management School.