

## **Senate – Minutes**

### **2 November 2022**

**PRESENT:** Professor Andy J. Schofield, Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor Paul Ashwin; Professor Peter Atkinson; Ewan Bell; Professor Gordon Blower; Professor Steve Bradley; Professor Kate Cain; Professor Jonathan Culpeper; Professor Lola Dada; Professor Nigel Davies; Professor Catherine Easton; India Ellis; Dr Nicholas Evans; Rachel Fligelstone; Sarah Fox; Dr Bingbing Ge; Professor Robert Geyer; Professor Alisdair Gillespie; Professor Sarah Green; Dr Chris Grover; Professor Linda Hendry; Rebecca Heron; Dr Derek Hird; Dr Willem Hollmann; Dr Allison Hui; Professor Lucas Introna; Noah Katz; Sarah Kemp; Dr Mark Limmer; Sam Maesschalck; Dr James Mawdesley; Dr Paul McKean; Dr Sandra Nolte; Professor Efthymios Pavlidis; Professor Wendy Robinson; Professor Emma Rose (*for* Professor Alan Marsden); Professor Sharon Ruston; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone; Professor Kirk Semple; Leanne Taher-Bates; Dr Sayjda Talib (*for* Dr James McDowell); Dr Nadia Von Benzon; Professor Jim Wild; Professor Stephen Wilkinson; Professor Karen Wright; Professor Steve Young.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Misbah Ashraf; John S. W. Dickinson; Phill Dixon; Simon J. Jennings; Alison M. Mullan; Nicola C. Owen; Sarah J. Randall-Paley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Khushboo Agarwal; Professor Marina Anderson; Andrew Barker; Dr Sarah Brearley; Andrew Burgess; Dr Casey Cross; Sherry Currington; Professor Fiona Edmonds; Stuart Franklin; Professor Louise Heathwaite; Professor Gillian Hopkinson; Heather Knight; Ben Lane; Professor Claire Leitch, Professor Alan Marsden; Dr James McDowell; Dr Yakubu Salifu; Dr Nigel Watson.

### **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**

3.1 The following question to the Vice-Chancellor was received from James Mawdesley (Principal of Furness College).

*A recent survey of students has suggested that 82% of the students surveyed were worried about making ends meets, and that 52% had considered dropping out of university due to money worries*

(cf. <https://www.savethestudent.org/money/surveys/student-money-survey-2022-results.html>).

*Does the University have any imminent plans to expand student hardship provision as a response to the current cost of living crisis, either in terms of financial support or practical support (e.g. a food bank, provision of free sanitary products, etc.)?*

The Vice-Chancellor provided an answer which set out the actions being taken by the University to support students struggling financially including expansion to the hardship fund. He also paid tribute to the work of the Students' Union in this area. He reported that a University group, chaired by Bowland College Principal, Casey Cross, has been established to monitor the situation and report to senior management.

In discussion it was noted that the colleges were also considering what actions they could take and would co-ordinate these via the central group.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 15 JUNE 2022 PAPER A**

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022.

**5. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR ORAL UPDATE**

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

- (i) An update of the changes on ministerial positions within the government.
- (ii) An announcement that there would be a joint meeting of Senate and Council focusing on diversification.
- (iii) Two projects were in the exploratory phase: (1) Campus in the Cloud. This was considering the University's online provision and how any change would be managed in collaboration and balance with the University's other activities; and (2) a new international teaching partnership in Indonesia. This remained at an early phase with the University seeking government permission in state to progress a campus developed in partnership with Deacon University and Navitas.
- (iv) UKRI had announced new requirements around open access which were out of alignment with some publisher's requirements. The University was engaged in national discussions through the Library and would continue to work to influence decision-making.
- (v) Ofsted had visited the University to review the degree-level apprenticeship programme. The report had not yet been received but indications were that they had been satisfied with the provision.
- (vi) An update on league table position.
- (vii) UCU had received a national mandate for industrial action, although details of particular actions were not yet now. The University would continue to monitor.

In discussion it was noted, in relation to Campus in the Cloud, that Educational Research had been providing online-only provision and was happy to share experiences with those developing a University-wide model.

5.2 Senate noted the report.

**6. SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD (UEB) BUSINESS PAPER B  
RELEVANT TO SENATE (7 JUNE to 4 OCTOBER 2022)**

6.1 Senate noted the report.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**7. HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER C  
OCTOBER 2022**

7.1 Senate approved the recommendations from the Honorary Degrees Committee.

7.2 Senate received diversity data and noted that the Honorary Degrees Committee was not receiving a sufficiently diverse range of nominations. Senate discussed if there were structural barriers and considered options including simplifying the nomination form, improving communications and introducing a feasibility stage where a nominator could discuss a potential nominee prior to completing a full application.

**8. CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME PAPER D/  
PRESENTATION**

8.1 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) provided a presentation on the curriculum transformation programme recently launched by the University.

8.2 In discussion the following points were noted.

- An intention to streamline the curriculum was welcomed but it was recognised that this carried challenges.
- Consistency of approach would be critical to ensuring smooth implementation of new arrangements.
- PGR was not within the scope of this programme. The Doctoral Academy would continue to monitor that aspect of the University's work.
- Change would need to account for and ameliorate potential impact on diversity.
- The programme would need to consider workload impact on both academics and administrators involved in the implementing of any change.

8.3 It was noted that there would be other opportunities for engagement as the programme progressed.

**9. PROVISIONAL DEGREE OUTCOMES DATA 2021/22** **PAPER E**  
*Restricted and Confidential*

**10. NSS 2022 RESULTS** **PAPER F**  
*Restricted and Commercial in Confidence*

**11. ADMISSIONS REPORT** **PRESENTATION**

11.1 Senate received an oral report on admissions. It was noted that undergraduate recruitment had been successful, albeit with a more home and fewer overseas students than targeted. Postgraduate recruitment was down, in part due to a buoyant graduate labour market. The University was reviewing its approach to overseas recruitment as well as its scholarship portfolio.

11.2 It was noted in discussion that the last three years had seen significant changes in applicant behaviour.

11.3 Senate noted the report.

**12. ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 2021/2022** **PAPER G**  
*Restricted and Confidential*

**13. LANCASTER UNIVERSITY WIDENING PARTICIPATION 2021-22:** **PAPER H**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

13.1 Senate received the widening participation annual report, noting the impact of the pandemic on the previous year's work. It was noted that contextual admissions had been introduced, but that these were still at an early stage. Changes had taken place within the OfS but these had not significantly affected the University's widening participation submission which had been approved. A new access and participation plan was currently out for consultation, but it was not anticipated that there would be substantial change.

13.2 The Students' Union commended the work being done and asked how it could be better communicated. It was noted that there were potential data sensitivity issues relating to GDPR requirements, but the University was considering communication strategies.

13.3 Senate noted the report.

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**14. FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS** **PAPER I**  
**APPOINTMENTS**

14.1 Senate noted the report.

**15. CHAIR'S ACTIONS** **PAPER J**

15.1 Senate noted the report of Chair's actions since the last meeting.

## **16. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

## **PAPER K**

16.1 Senate noted the following written reports of meetings:

- Council, meeting of 7 July 2022
- Council, meeting of 14 October 2022
- Enterprise and Innovation Committee, meeting of 20 July 2022
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, meeting of 11 October 2022
- Student Experience Committee, meeting of 6 June 2022

16.2 In discussion the following points were noted.

- In relation to the Estates Strategy considered at Council, student number growth targets were considered when planning the estate and also featured within the annual planning process. This would also feature in the University's discussions with external suppliers of services to student and staff including, for example, Stage Coach.
- There was no current consideration about new University development in the city's Canal Quarter.
- While recognising an interdependence between the two, the governance expectation was that EDI Committee had more of a staff focus, with Student Experience Committee providing the concomitant focus for students.

## **17. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES**

## **PAPER L**

17.1 Senate noted the report of new and revised programmes.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

18.1 There was no other business.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

19.1 The next Senate meeting will be held via Teams at 13:00 on Wednesday 8 February 2023.