

## **Senate – Minutes**

### **8 February 2023**

**PRESENT:** Professor Andy J. Schofield, Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair); Professor Marina Anderson; Professor Paul Ashwin; Professor Peter Atkinson; Dylan Bahia; Professor Gordon Blower; Professor Steve Bradley; Professor Sarah Brearley; Professor Kate Cain; Dr Casey Cross; Professor Jonathan Culpeper; Professor Lola Dada; Professor Nigel Davies; Professor Fiona Edmonds; India Ellis; Dr Nicholas Evans; Rachel Fligelstone; Sarah Fox; Dr Bingbing Ge; Professor Robert Geyer; Professor Alisdair Gillespie; Professor Sarah Green; Professor Simon Guy; Professor Linda Hendry; Dr Derek Hird; Professor Willem Hollmann; Professor Gillian Hopkinson; Dr Allison Hui; Professor Roger Jones; Noah Katz; Sarah Kemp; Professor Claire Leitch; Dr Mark Limmer; Sam Maesschalck; Professor Alan Marsden; Dr James Mawdesley; Dr James McDowell; Professor Paul McKean; Dr Sandra Nolte; Professor Efthymios Pavlidis; Sonia Pasricha; Professor Nick Race; Professor Sharon Ruston; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone; Dr Yakubu Salifu; Professor Kirk Semple; Professor Vicky Singleton (*for Chris Grover*); Mihaela Timpau; Dr Nadia Von Benzon; Professor Nigel Watson; Professor Stephen Wilkinson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Misbah Ashraf; Andrew Barker; John S. W. Dickinson; Phill Dixon; Stuart Franklin; Simon J. Jennings; Professor Malcolm Joyce (*for item 14*); Heather Knight; Ben Matthews (*for item 12*); Nicola C. Owen; Sarah J. Randall-Paley; Professor Mark Stevenson (*for item 12*).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Andrew Burgess; Sherry Currington; Professor Catherine Easton; Professor Chris Grover; Professor Louise Heathwaite; Professor Lucas Introna; Alison M. Mullan; Professor Wendy Robinson; Dr Karen Wright; Professor Steve Young.

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

1.1 Senate noted the apologies.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 No 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 THE LAST MEETING: 2 NOVEMBER 2022**

**PAPER A**

4.1 Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

**PAPER B**

5.1 Senate noted the approval by correspondence.

## **6. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

## **ORAL UPDATE**

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

- (i) The joint meeting of Council and Senate had been seen as a positive opportunity for engagement between the two senior governance bodies.
- (ii) There had been changes within government departments. Research was now covered through: the Department of Science and Technology; the Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero; and the Department for Business and Trade; the latter of which would also likely cover international development.
- (iii) The Eden North project had received £50M in levelling up funding. This connected to both the University's impact and engagement agenda and was a very positive development for the region.
- (iv) There was a new Dean of FASS – Professor Edward Simpson from SOAS who would be joining in May 2023. Thanks were recorded to Professor Willem Hollman for his acting as Interim Dean.
- (v) Casey Cross and India Ellis had been meeting regularly to consider how the University could support student cost of living concerns within the University. Actions, overseen by a working group, had been focused through the Students' Union and Colleges. The University would continue to monitor and reflect on wider impact.
- (vi) The University was in another period of industrial dispute. The University was focussing on reducing the impact on the student experience while recognising the potential difficulties in reaching settlement in the current climate.

6.2 Senate noted the report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD (UEB) BUSINESS RELEVANT TO SENATE (18 OCTOBER 2022 TO 24 JANUARY 2023)**

## **PAPER C**

7.1 Elements of UEB's business were highlighted, including monitoring of performance data and project updates on such items as a progress review on the new Maths School in Preston, Campus in the Cloud and the Pathway Programme. The new approach to using data provided via the National Student Satisfaction survey to inform professional services delivery was noted as was a new employability plan under development.

- 7.2 A question was asked about student recruitment. It was reported that this was reviewed on a regular basis, with numbers consistent with last year's figures against a sector-wide overall reduction. Further clarity was also provided on Campus in the Cloud, noting that this was a new venture at an early stage of development. It was confirmed that should it proceed as a project that Senate would see a formal proposal in due course.
- 7.3 Senate noted the report.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **8. ANNUAL EDI REPORT 2021-22 PAPER D**

- 8.1 Senate received the annual EDI report noting its publication requirement as a public sector duty as well as its forward progress to Council in March. It was noted that this year's report had introduced examples of good practice linked to the University's values. It also provided reflection on the intersectionality between staff and students. For next year, the purpose and scope of the report would be considered in relation to the needs of its various audiences.
- 8.2 In discussion it was noted that PGR students often held staff roles as well and it was suggested that this data be gathered and analysed in EDI terms. It was noted that this would link to intersectionality, but care would be needed in interpretation given the low numbers in some categories.
- 8.3 It was noted that within the student data there was an 'other' category for gender but that this was not included with staff. It was agreed that the data would be checked to see if it could accommodate inclusion in both.
- 8.4 Senate approved the report for onward journey to Council.

**Action: Professor S Bradley to follow up on possible use of PGR data.**

### **9. GENDER PAY GAP REPORT 2022 PAPER E**

- 9.1 Senate received the Gender Pay Gap report, noting that its publication also fulfilled a statutory obligation. It was noted that some progress has been made and discussions were ongoing to identify future work. Progress was welcomed, as was the ongoing commitment to continuing performance.
- 9.2 Senate noted the report.

### **10. ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22 YEAR-END KPI REPORT PAPER F** *Restricted and Commercial in Confidence*

**11. ANNUAL COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP REPORT  
FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22**

**PAPER G**

- 11.1 The Senate received the annual collaborative partnership report noting the dynamic space within which these operated. The area of work, it was reported, was coming under closer external scrutiny via the OfS; a situation that was being discussed with the University's partners. In part this was in recognition of a changing geopolitical dimension and Senate noted that the University was taking a proactive approach to risk reporting both in internal management with each partner as well as strategically centrally. There was, it was noted, a new opportunity to develop a strategic connection between the partners which overall could lead to a co-ordinated approach under the concept of the international Lancaster Family.
- 11.2 In relation to regional partnerships it was noted that the University's FE partners were facing recruitment challenges. The University was supporting them in their recruitment work and Senate was assured that this did not reflect on quality and standards.
- 11.3 In discussion it was noted that while the concept of an international Lancaster Family had value for those students overseas, the benefits were less clear for Lancaster-based students. It was noted that this had been acknowledged and was being considered as a part of the curriculum transformation programme. It was also noted that the first credit-bearing module open to a mixed economy of students from both Lancaster and its partners was soon to be delivered as a pilot. This and wider developments around, for example, summer school and study abroad, aimed to provide access to benefits to all students.
- 11.4 Senate noted the report.

**12. INTERNATIONAL TEACHING PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL: UPDATE**  
*Restricted and Commercial in Confidence*

**PAPER H**

**13. RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND RIGHTS RETENTION POLICY**

**PAPER I**

- 13.1 Senate received the Research Publications and Rights Retention policy, noting that it had been developed collectively through the N8 building on the UKRI Open Access Policy. Similar developments were emerging across the sector with Lancaster in the vanguard. The policy would ensure that researchers complied with UKRI requirements. Aiming to launch in March 2023, collective action was being discussed across both the N8 and the Russell Group regarding the approach to those international journals which were not supportive of open access.
- 13.2 In discussion the following was noted.
- The policy lacked clarity on who constituted research active staff as it appeared to subsume those who did not have research as part of their contractual expectation. It was agreed that the wording would need to reflect contractual expectations; a task to be completed outside the meeting.

- Work would be undertaken with PhD students to help them understand the importance of access and how this could be facilitated by the Library.
- The importance of large group exceptionalism was noted albeit momentum was growing for greater open access globally.

13.5 Senate approved the policy in principle, subject to modified wording as noted above. Senate agreed that the finalised policy would be circulated once completed.

#### **14. RESEARCH INTEGRITY REPORT 2021/22 PAPER J**

14.1 Senate received the annual Research Integrity Report noting that it was a requirement under the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Research ethics data was presented and thanks recorded to those involved. This year, it was noted, the University had integrated research integrity into its ethics work. A new digital research ethical approval system, for which online training was also available, had been developed alongside additional support material for research misconduct procedures.

14.2 It was noted that there was a need to consider procedural overlap between research misconduct and the work of the Standing Academic Committee to ensure clarity for PhD students. It was agreed that Professor Gillespie and Professor Joyce, with Mr Dickinson, would undertake this clarification work.

14.3 Senate noted the report.

#### **15. HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER K** **FEBRUARY 2023** *Restricted and Confidential*

##### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **16. FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEANS AND HEADSHIPS OF DEPARTMENTS: PAPER L** **APPOINTMENTS**

16.1 Senate noted the report.

#### **17. CHAIR'S ACTIONS PAPER M**

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

#### **18. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS PAPER N**

18.1 Senate noted the following written reports of meetings:

- Council, meeting of 25 November 2022
- Education Committee, meeting of 17 November 2022
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, meeting of 19 January 2023

**19. NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMMES**

**PAPER O**

19.1 Senate noted the report of new and revised programmes.

**20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

20.1 There was no other business.

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

21.1 The next Senate meeting will be held in person at 13:00 on Wednesday 26 April 2023.