

Senate

18/20 A meeting of the Senate was held in LO22, Room 03/04, London Road, on Thursday 28 June 2018 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor Matthew Almond
Professor Maarten Ambaum
Dr Cindy Becker
Professor Helen Bilton
Professor John Board
Dr David Carter
Dr Ann Chippindale
Dr Claire Collins
Professor Ben Cosh
Dr John Creighton
Professor Richard Frazier
Dr Carol Fuller
Professor Clare Furneaux
Professor Suzanne Graham
Dr Rebecca Harris
Professor Chris Harty
Professor Elizabeth McCrum
Dr Eugene McSorley
Professor Helen Parish
Dr Daisy Powell
Mr Enzo Raimo
Professor Jane Setter

Professor Simon Sherratt
Dr Calvin Smith
Professor Catherine Tissot
Professor Richard Tranter
Professor Robert Van de Noort
Professor Parveen Yaqoob
The University Secretary

Students:

Dan Bentley
Jason Dabydoyal
Lillie-Mae Firman
Ali Perry
Nozomi Tolworthy

In attendance:

Ms Louise Sharman
Dr Katrina Bicknell
Professor Ingo Bojak
Ms Rebecca Jerome
Dr Patrick Lewis

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the Senate, and in particular the new RUSU Officers and new Senators.

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:

Mr Frederick Robertson – Assistant Lecturer Classics in 1954, Lecturer 1956, Senior Lecturer and Senior Tutor in 1970, Head of Department Classics 1975, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences 1979-1982, Warden of Windsor Hall 1974-1980. Retired from the University in 1985.

Professor Peter (Tank) Waddington – Lecturer in Sociology 1976, Professor 1995, Warden of Windsor Hall. Left the University in 2005.

Derek Pike – Assistant Lecturer in Applied Stats 1968, Senior Lecturer 1989, Head of Department of Applied Statistics 2001-04. Left the University in 2004.

Dr Jim Ross – Lecturer in Botany 1973, Warden of Wells Hall 1993-2006, then warden of St Patricks before retiring in 2011.

Mr Tony Corley – Lecturer in Political Economy 1963, Senior Lecturer 1968. Retired 1988. Honorary Doctor of Letters 2005.

Emeritus Professor Philip Smith – Lecturer in Psychology 1981, Reader in 1987, Professor 1989. Head of Department of Psychology 1992-97. Retired from the University in 2006.

Professor Robert (Bob) Pearce – Senior Research Assistant in Economics in 1966, Research Economist in 1979, Senior Research Fellow 1985, Professor of International Business in 2007. Left the University in 2009.

Mr Mike Bott – Graduate Trainee Library Assistant 1969, Assistant Archivist 1971, Assistant Librarian 1976, Senior Assistant Librarian 1978, University Archivist 1985 before retiring in 2007.

Mr Peter Tolson – Technician in the School of Systems Engineering 1997 to 2016, Senior Research Technician in Biomedical Engineering since 2017.

18/21 The Minutes (18/01 - 18/16) of the meeting held on 7 March 2018 were approved.

18/22 Matters Arising

18/03 Student Number Growth and the Student Experience

The Senate received and noted a summary of the discussion points raised at the meeting of the Senate on 7 March 2018 in respect of Student Number Growth and the Student Experience.

18/06 Office for Students (OfS) Initial Registration

The Senate had received a copy of the OfS submission via email circulation on 8 May 2018.

The Senate received and noted the University's Access and Participation Plan. It was suggested that the Senate might like to consider widening participation for a discussion topic at an upcoming meeting.

The University Secretary informed the Senate that the OfS had allocated the University a named individual who would be the University's assessor. All providers had been advised to expect a lot of questions, given that this was a new process, and the OfS themselves were still developing their approach. The

University had been advised not to expect a formal decision until mid-September. Work had commenced on the next stage of OfS registration, due for August 2019.

Items for Presentation and Discussion

18/23 University's global presence, developments in TNE and lessons learnt on international partnerships (Item 4)

By way of background information the Senate received a presentation, prepared by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Mr Raimo), in regard to Global Engagement and international partnerships.

Professor Yaqoob and Dr Carter led a session on the implementation of the University's Global Engagement Strategy, and in particular the experiences of the International Study and Language Institute (ISLI), and the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy (SCFP).

The Senate noted:

- [Redacted, Section 43].
- [Redacted, Section 43].
- [Redacted, Section 43].
- [Redacted, Section 43].
- [Redacted, Section 43].
- [Redacted, Section 43].

The Senate were asked for their views on the following questions:

- 1) What impact internationalisation had on the student experience?
- 2) What impact internationalisation had on the staff experience?
- 3) What lessons had been learnt and was there anything that should be done differently?
- 4) What global engagement priorities should be for the next few years?
- 5) Does the University have a clear enough idea of what success looks like?

Comments reported back from Senators were collected and would be submitted to the Global Engagement Strategy Board for further discussion and action. In general Senate agreed that:

- a) the recruitment of large numbers of international students to Reading (whether individually or through partnerships) had big implications for the student experience; and
- b) the introduction of the International Tutor role in some Schools had gone a long way to mitigating these academic risks. It was a model that could be adopted more widely, but had to be properly resourced within Schools.

18/24 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 5)

The Senate received the Vice-Chancellor's address the Senate, noting in particular:

- a) Staffing matters – Senate congratulated Professor James Devenney who had been appointed Acting Head of the School of Law, Professor Helen Parish and Professor Emily West who had been appointed Acting Heads of the School of Humanities, and Professor Carol Wagstaff who had been appointed Acting Head of the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy. The Senate also congratulated Kate Clanchy (School of Literature and Languages) who had received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.
- b) Brexit – Government was shortly to publish a white paper on matters related to Brexit. This was likely to contain more detail on the future of Britain's science and research engagement with the European Union. It had been proposed that EU migrants who came to Britain during the Brexit implementation phase would have the right to gain settled status and settle permanently in the UK. The Government had also published its view of how Horizon Europe could best build on the achievements of earlier programmes in strengthening Europe's science base. Erasmus + exchange programme was likely to be open to any country in the world.
- c) OfS – the Access and Participation Plan had been submitted to the OfS; the University was still awaiting feedback on its submission.
- d) Schools that work for everyone – Following the 2016 green paper the Government had published a final response. A key feature of the original paper was that universities would be required to sponsor an underperforming school as a condition of access agreements. The response confirmed that a more flexible approach would be adopted, recognising the strength of ongoing partnerships.
- e) Opportunity for Everyone – UUK had launched a new digital campaign, the campaign featured inspirational real stories as to how higher education could transform lives.
- f) Sector progress to address harassment – UUK had recently published a report to explore sector progress in implementing the recommendations from the report by the UUK's Harassment Taskforce.
- g) HEP/Advance HE Student Experience Survey 2018 – More than 14,000 students had taken part in the survey. Highlights included:
 - 38% of students in the UK perceived 'good or very good' value from their course. This was a three percentage point improvement over last year's survey and reversed a five-year downward trend.
 - Fewer students studying in the UK, 32%, perceived 'poor' or 'very poor' value when compared with 34% in 2017.
 - There was a clear, statistically significant, improvement among students from England, representing the largest

number of students, where 35% report 'good' or 'very good' value.

- 68% of students who felt they received 'good' or 'very good' value for money regarded teaching quality as the most important factor behind this, while 62% of those who perceive 'poor' or 'very poor' value pointed to tuition fees as the most important factor.
- Students at institutions which secured a Gold award in the Teaching Excellence Framework were more likely to have received good value; but there was no noticeable difference on this measure between Silver and Bronze-rated institutions.

- h) Review of Tertiary Education Funding – work was continuing apace with a final report expected in the early autumn.
- i) Advance HE – the creation of Advance HE on 31 March 2018 had brought together the Equality Challenge Unit, the Higher Education Academy and the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education into a single organisation.
- j) Publication of the National Student Survey and other datasets – OfS was applying the Code of Practice for Statistics to its data publication in anticipation of its designation as a producer of official statistics by July 2018. This had implications for the pre-publication access that could be granted to NSS outcomes and Unistats data, as these would now be treated as official statistics.

18/25 Senate Membership of the Council (Item 6)

The Senate received a note from the University Secretary in respect of the ongoing review of the Council and in particular changes to membership.

The Senate agreed that exceptionally, and for one year only to 31 July 2019, that once elections to Senate of Heads of School were complete, Senate elect one of their members who is already on Council in a different class to take on in addition the role of the Senate representative on Council in Class 4 (*vice* Professor Walker).

18/26 Report of the University Executive Board (Item 7)

The Senate received a Report of the meetings of the University Executive Board held on 12, 19 March, 16, 30 April, 8, 14, 21, 29 May, 4 and 11 June 2018.

In regard to matters for recommendation 1) the Senate approved revisions to the Ordinances.

18/27 Report of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (Item 8)

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching and Learning (UBTL) held on 14 March, 23 April, 15 May and 12 June 2018.

In regard to items for approval, the Senate approved:

a) Revised Admissions Policy including appeals and complaints from applicants.

The Senate noted work that had been undertaken in respect of the Academic Tutor Project and the outcomes of the Annual Quality Assurance Reports 2016/17.

The Senate noted that the following policies had been introduced or revised/updated:

- The Assessment Handbook: variously, with immediate effect or from 2018-19. Changes for 2018-19 would be published over the Summer Vacation period.
- Revised guidance and templates for Periodic Review Responses/Action Plans and One-Year Follow-Up Reports (section 3 of the Guide to Policies and Procedures in Teaching and Learning) and exemplar Response/Action Plan and One-Year Follow-Up Report: with immediate effect.
- In respect of the 2017-18 reporting cycle, the revised Template and Guidelines for Annual Quality Assurance Reports.
- Revised guidance on Examiners' Meetings: with immediate effect.
- Apprenticeship Annual Review Form and accompanying guidance, with effect for the University's 2017-18 annual quality assurance monitoring cycle.
- *The University Policy, Procedure and Guidance for Apprenticeship Programmes*, with immediate effect.
- *Policy on and procedures for suspensions*: with immediate effect
- *Procedures for considering appeals of results*: with immediate effect.
- *Policy on and procedures relating to extenuating circumstances*: with immediate effect.
- [Redacted, Section 43].
- The revised *Policy on Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning* (formerly the *Policy on Module Evaluation*), with effect from 2018-19.
- The revised *Students with Parental Responsibilities Policy*, with immediate effect.

The University Programme Board and UBTL had also reapproved NUIST as an Institute Wide Partner for a further six years.

18/28 Report of the University Board for Research and Innovation (Item 9)

The Senate received and noted the report of the University Board for Research and

Innovation held on 12 June 2018.

18/29 Report of the Global Engagement Strategy Board (Item 10)

There was no report on this occasion.

18/30 Admissions Update (Item 11)

The Senate received a report from the Director of Global Recruitment and Admissions outlining a forecast summary of expected intake for 2018/19 entry together with an overview of activity delivered by Global Recruitment and Admissions.

[Redacted, Section 43].

Meetings were currently being held with all Schools to agree a strategy for Clearing and Adjustment in August 2018.

18/31 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 12)

The Senate received Reports from the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results held March to June 2018.

18/32 Report of the Student Appeals Committee (Item 13)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Student Appeals Committee held on 12 April and 16 May 2018, and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

18/33 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct (Item 14)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

18/34 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study (Item 15)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

18/35 Report of the Standing Committee on Fitness to Practise (Item 16)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Fitness to Practise and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

18/36 Report of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary sanctions including those imposed in the Halls of Residence (Item 17)

The Senate received the Report of the Standing Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary

sanctions including those imposed in the Halls of Residence.

18/37 Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees (Item 15)

The Senate, for its part, approved the Report of the meeting of the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees.

18/38 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 19 a)

The Senate:

Appeals against decisions of the Personal Titles Committee:

- a) Re-appointed Professor Dianne Berry to the Appeals against decisions of the Personal Titles Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.

Student Appeals Committee:

- a) Re-appointed Mrs G. Kilner to the Student Appeals Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- b) Re-appointed Dr C. Padgett to the Student Appeals Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- c) Appointed Dr A. Bicknell to the Student Appeals Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.

Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees:

- a) Appointed Professor Matthew Almond the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2021.

Research Ethics Committee:

- a) Re-appointed Dr A. Christakou to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- b) Re-appointed Dr R. Everitt to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- c) Re-appointed Dr A. Ho to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- d) Re-appointed Professor J. Lovegrove to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- e) Re-appointed Dr N. Spinks to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2021.
- d) Noted that one vacancy still remained.

Standing Committee on Examination Results:

- a) Appointed Dr C. Smith to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
- b) Appointed Dr M. Davies to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
- c) Appointed Ms M. Jay to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to

- serve until 31 July 2021.
- d) Appointed Dr M. Joseph to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
 - e) Appointed Ms A. Millmore to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
 - f) Re-appointed Professor P. Glaister to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
 - g) Re-appointed Dr R. Harris to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
 - h) Re-appointed Dr C. Padgett to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.
 - i) Re-appointed Professor A. Wade to the Standing Committee on Examination Results to serve until 31 July 2021.

18/39 Retirement of Professors (Item 19 b)

The Senate approved under the provisions of Ordinance B7 the title of Professor Emeritus/Emerita be conferred upon the following with effect from the date indicated:

Professor Nazima Rassool (31.3.2018)
Professor Peter Shewry (31.5.2018)
Professor Elizabeth Page (31.08.2018)

18/40 Other Retirements (Item 19 c)

The Senate approved that that the following be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years with effect from the date indicated:

Dr Gillian Hopper (30.06.2018)
Mr Lionel Warner (31.7.2018)
Mr Charles Kenderdine (31.7.2018)
Dr Timothy Williams (31.7.2018)
Mr Stephen Burt (31.7.2018)
Dr Richard McBain (31.8.2018)
Miss Deb Heighes (30.09.2018)

18/41 List of Meetings 2018-19

The Senate received the final version of the list of meetings for 2018-19 for its information.

18/42 Any other business

The Senate recorded its thanks to the outgoing RUSU officers. The Senate also thanked Professor Mithen, Professor Breau and Professor Pollman, as well as all other Senators whose terms of office were coming to an end.

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Student representatives withdrew from the remainder of the meeting
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