

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

SENATE

10th June 2015

MINUTES

Present: Professor Sir David Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor and Principal, in the Chair); Professor D Adams (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr J Armer; Professor T Arnull; Professor J S Bale (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor S Becker (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Dr A Davies; Professor H Draper; Dr D Fuller; Dr D Ghica; Professor J Green (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor A Guariglia; Professor D Hannah; Mr A Hayden; Professor J K Heath (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Mr G Hughes; Professor P Kumar; Dr H Laville; Professor J Martin; Professor C Miall; Dr D Moran; Professor M Nimmo (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor S Quigley; Dr C Ray; Mr E Sainsbury; Dr I Sansom; Professor G Schaffer; Professor M Simmons; Professor A Tickell (Provost and Vice-Principal); Dr K Voelz; Professor M Webber. Professor M Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Dr N Wilkin; Professor R Williams (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College).

Also present: Ms I Lenga (Guild Education Officer 2015/16); Ms C Gilbert (Director of External Relations) for Minute 15/25; Ms O Kew-Fickus (Director of Strategic Planning), for Minute 15/24; Professor M Sterling for Minute 15/31; Mrs C McDonough (Assistant Secretary); Mr L Sanders (Registrar & Secretary).

Apologies: Professor K Armour; Professor J Bridgeman; Professor M Calvert; Mr R Eagleton; Professor M Fox; Mr G Kallika; Professor A Lymer; Professor H Mehanna; Dr A Phillips; Professor Z Pikramenou; Professor C Ross; Dr R Santos; Professor D Shepherd; Professor S Wolff.

Absent: Dr D Bailey; Professor J Frampton; Dr E Fulton; Professor S Hunston; Professor G Watson.

Papers: The minute book contains copies of all written papers or reports to which reference is made below unless indicated otherwise.

Note: The record of attendance at Senate for 2013/14 and 2014/15 has been appended to these minutes at the request of the Vice-Chancellor.

15/21 Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2015 be approved (SEN.15.06.01).

15/22 Matters Arising

Noted: there were no matters arising from the minutes.

15/23 Vice-Chancellor's Items

Considered: a report from the Vice-Chancellor (SEN.15.06.02).

(1) Post-Election Landscape

Reported that

- (a) the University was working to position itself effectively to respond in the post-election higher education environment, noting that there was uncertainty over the EU referendum, regional devolution, immigration and the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on higher education;
- (b) a saving of £450m in the budget of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills had been confirmed for 2015/16 but the detail of how this would affect the University's income had not been announced. The CSR and Chancellor's budget in July were expected to give more information on cuts from 2016/17 onwards, noting that the budget of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills would not be protected from future public spending reductions and higher education represented the largest proportion of that budget;
- (c) it was important for the University to protect its position in the volatile higher education environment, particularly by:
 - (i) continuing to generate and diversify its income (particularly through effective recruitment of international and postgraduate students and through research grant capture);
 - (ii) promotion of regional initiatives (such as the Energy Research Accelerator and the M6 Universities collaboration).

(2) Senior Appointments (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equalities))

Reported that:

- (a) the role of the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equalities) would provide oversight of the University's equality and diversity strategy and would develop and implement a renewed Equality Scheme and Action Plan for the University;
- (b) the interviews for Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equalities) had been held the previous week and Professor Una Martin, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, had thus been nominated by the Vice-Chancellor for appointment to the role (SEN.15.06.17 (tabled)). Professor Martin joined the University in 1996 and had recently been successful with her promotion application to Professor in Medical Education from August 2015. Professor Martin was also a Consultant Physician with a special interest in Hypertension;
- (c) the interviews for the role of Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Staffing) had been re-scheduled. Senate would therefore be consulted on the appointment of the recommended candidate by correspondence in due course.

Resolved: that the support of Senate for the appointment of Professor Una Martin as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equalities) be confirmed, noting that the view of Senate would be reported to Council when it considered the nomination on 1st July 2015.

15/24 Strategic Framework 2015-2020 and Key Performance Targets

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15/25 Recruitment and Admissions Update

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15/26 Quality Assurance

(1) Undergraduate (UG)/Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Annual Review 2013/14

Considered: the outcome of UG/PGT Annual Review 2013/14 (SEN.15.06.05A).

Noted that:

- (a) the vast majority of annual review summary forms had been completed well, demonstrating good engagement with the process, providing useful summaries of Schools' provision and performance, and raising no significant concerns;
- (b) the best examples of good practice and educational enhancement identified through the annual review process would be disseminated;
- (c) in a small number of cases identified by the UG Annual Review, Schools had been asked to provide additional detail or clarification, for report back to UQAC as appropriate. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) would report any concerns arising from the report back to UQAC to UEB in due course.

(2) UG and PGT External Examiners Reports for 2013/14

Considered: UG and PGT External Examiners Reports for 2013/14 (SEN.15.06.05B)

Noted that:

- (a) the comments made by UG external examiners in their reports had been overwhelmingly positive in nature, confirming the University's high academic standards and robust assessment procedures;
 - (b) the vast majority of comments made in postgraduate taught external examiner reports had been positive in nature, confirming that academic standards were consistent with those across the sector;
 - (c) As expected, some isolated issues had been raised. However, none of these were considered a serious problem and external examiners generally confirmed that Schools had responded positively and constructively to feedback from previous years;
- (3) Student Complaints, Appeals and Grievances to Council and Complaints to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA)

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15/27 Research Grants Performance

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15/28 Open Access and Open Research Data Requirements and Implications for Pure

Considered: the update on delivering Open Access (OA) and Open Data (OD) compliance (SEN.15.06.07).

Reported: the steps being taken by the University to ensure compliance with OA and OD requirements.

(1) OA Compliance

Noted that:

- (a) based on the current information from HEFCE on its expectations for the next REF, the University was working on the assumption that all publications had to be accessible from April 2016 from the point of acceptance;

- (b) Pure had been mandated as the source of publications data for promotions and discretionary awards, starting in Autumn 2015, and would also be used for REF progress monitoring and for the recording of information about impact. The Head of the School of Computer Science had been involved in the planning for the use of this software and was content with the arrangements. These included the appointment of a Pure Manager to manage the implementation and provide support;
- (c) there was concern that Pure was difficult to access off campus. The Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Transfer) undertook to investigate this, recognising the desirability of ensuring that academics could access the system remotely;
- (d) it would be the responsibility of academics to ensure that their publications on Pure were up to date. This was especially important given that the information on Pure would be used for submission to the REF, judgement of cases for promotion and to inform annual performance review. Senate was assured that this was not an onerous task and that full guidance was being provided to communicate these arrangements to academic staff. Colleges and Schools might wish to involve local Professional Services' staff in supporting academics to update Pure, but it was the academic's responsibility to keep their Pure publications records up to date. A programme of visits to schools and departments was currently underway to promote these compliance activities and UEB would monitor progress periodically.

(2) OD Compliance

Noted:

- (a) that the EPSRC was leading the way in the UK with respect to Open Access to Research data. Its policy came into force on 1st May 2011 with a compliance deadline (now passed) of 1st May 2015. The requirements were complex and took the form of a series of expectations with respect to the storage, preservation and accessibility of data generated through EPSRC-funded research;
- (b) the expectation that the open data requirements would be extended to other funders in due course.

15/29 Life Sciences Strategy

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15/30 Report from Heads of Colleges

Noted: the report from the Heads of Colleges regarding recent developments (SEN.15.06.11), including the outcome of the consultation on Neuroscience/Pharmacology which would be reported to Council on 1st July 2015. Senate was assured that arrangements were in place for ongoing communication with students about the progress of the proposal.

15/31 Proposals: School of Engineering

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15/32 Update on the Development of the International Education Centre at Jinan University, Guangzhou

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15/33 Report from the Nominations Committee

Considered: a report from the meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 19th May 2015

(SEN.15.06.12).

Resolved: that the recommendations for the award of an honorary degree and re-appointment of Public Orators be approved as set out in Paper SEN.15.06.12.

15/34 Report from the Research Committee

Noted: a report from the meeting of the Research Committee held on 12th May 2015 (SEN.15.06.13).

15/35 Report from the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

Noted: a report from the meetings of the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee held on 1st April and 5th May 2015 (SEN.15.06.14).

15/36 Report from the University Education Committee

Noted: a report from the meetings of the University Education Committee held on 14th May 2015 (SEN.15.06.15).

15/37 Report from the University Quality Assurance Committee

Noted: a report from the meetings of the University Quality Assurance Committee held on 17th March and 13th May 2015 (SEN.15.06.16).

15/38 Programme of Meetings 2015/16

Noted: the programme of meetings of Senate for 2015/16:
Wednesday 11th November 2015 at 2.00pm
Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 2.00pm
Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 2.00pm

15/39 Any Other Business

(1) Retiring Members

On behalf of Senate, the Vice-Chancellor thanked:

- (a) all members who would be retiring from Senate at the end of the session;
- (b) Professor John Heath, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Estates and Infrastructure) who would be completing his term of office at the end of July 2015;
- (c) Professor Richard Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, who had been appointed as the next Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University on 1st September 2015.