

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

SENATE

13th November 2013

MINUTES

Present: Professor D S Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor and Principal, in the Chair); Professor D Adams; Professor T Arnall; Dr D Bailey; Professor J S Bale (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor J Bridgeman; Dr M Calvert; Miss H Craig; Professor T Dafforn; Mr John Dolan; Professor I Fairchild; Dr S Forcer; Professor P Fryer; Dr E Fulton; Dr D Ghica; Dr J Green (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor J K Heath (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor M Hilton; Professor E Jenkinson (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr Giannis Kallika; Professor P Kumar; Ms E Lee; Professor P Lumley; Professor A Lymer; Mr M Afroozi Milani; Dr K Nightingale; Professor E W Peck (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor T Ponman; Professor M C Press (Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of College); Professor S Quigley; Dr C Ray; Professor C Ross; Professor J E Rowe; Professor A Sanders; Dr I Sansom; Dr R Santos; Dr A Siniver; Dr D Shepherd; Professor M D Stringer (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor A Tickell (Provost and Vice-Principal); Professor M Webber; Dr G Watson; Professor M Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor R Williams (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor S Wolff.

Also present: Mr P Ashby (Head of Market Research); Mr B Casey (Director of Academic Services); Mr P Clack (Director of International Relations); Ms C Gilbert (Director of External Relations); Ms C McDonough (Assistant Secretary); Mr L Sanders (Registrar & Secretary); Mr R Smith (Director of Admissions)

Apologies: Professor K Armour; Professor K Chipman (Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of College); Professor J Frampton; Dr H Laville; Dr R May; Professor C Miall; Dr J Phillimore; Dr G Schaffer;

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

13/33 Membership and Terms of Reference of Senate

Considered: the membership of Senate for 2013/14 and its terms of reference (SEN.13.11.01).

Reported that:

- (a) one of the five student members was currently a first year representative;
- (b) the first year representative was not normally elected until after the first two meetings of Senate in the academic year.

Agreed:

- (a) to co-opt four members on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor as set out in Paper SEN.13.11.01;
- (b) that, where the election of the next first year representative student member was not in time for the elected student to join the meetings of Senate in the Autumn term, the first year representative student member may, with the permission of the Chair, remain a member of Senate for twelve months from their election to Senate to enable their successor to be elected.

13/34 Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed: that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2013 be approved (SEN.13.11.02). There were no matters arising.

13/35 Vice-Chancellor's Items

Noted: a report from the Vice-Chancellor on a number of items for information (SEN.13.11.03).

13/36 Admissions and Recruitment 2013 - Update

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13/37 National Student Survey

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13/38 Teaching Academy – A Vision for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Educational Enhancement at Birmingham

Considered: the proposed establishment of a Teaching Academy to sit alongside the Centre for Learning and Academic Development (CLAD) (SEN.13.11.06).

Reported that:

- (a) the establishment of the Teaching Academy had been endorsed by UEB;
- (b) the academic-led part-time role of Director of the Teaching Academy would provide advice and expertise in areas including the development of major initiatives, identifying enhancement priorities and CPD needs of mid-career staff, mentoring for National Teaching Fellowship applications, career development and promotion and the future strategy for teaching-related events;
- (c) it had originally been proposed that membership should not be automatic for all academic staff. However, it had been recognised that there might be concern among students if some of their teaching was delivered by staff who were not members of the Academy. For this reason, an alternative proposal had been developed for all members of staff who taught students to be members of the Academy but with different 'levels' of membership (e.g. Senior, Principal) that reflected experience, leadership and innovation in teaching;
- (d) it was important to ensure that there was effective liaison between the Teaching Academy and the Graduate School in respect of the educational enhancement needs of PGT and PGR;
- (e) the creation of Birmingham (Teaching) Fellows would represent a high profile and distinctive commitment to innovation and excellence in teaching and educational enhancement.

Agreed:

- (a) the establishment of the Teaching Academy which would be launched for the start of the 2014/15 academic year;
- (b) that an update on the Teaching Academy would be submitted to Senate in November 2014.

13/39 Developing the International Education Centre (IEC) with Jinan University

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13/40 Operational Feasibility Study Report for Nursing

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13/41 Report from the Nominations Committee

Considered: a report from the meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 15th October 2013 (SEN.13.11.09).

Agreed: that the recommendations be approved as set out in Paper SEN.13.11.09.

13/42 Report from the Research Committee

Received: a report from the meeting of the Research Committee held on 21st October 2013 (SEN.13.11.10).

Reported that:

- (a) the Research Committee would be holding an awayday in April 2014 to discuss revision of the University's Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy;
- (b) the goals of the Impact Strategy recommended to Senate for approval by the Impact Strategy Working Group were:
 - (i) To enable all members of the University to engage in activities that facilitate the positive impact of the University's research;
 - (ii) To enhance further the pro-active and structured engagement with research users and beneficiaries to expand and maximise the University's impact;
 - (iii) To ensure the University has appropriate resources and mechanisms to collect, evaluate and communicate internally and externally what the impact of the University's research is.

Agreed: the Impact Strategy be approved as set out at Appendix 1 to Paper SEN.13.11.10.

13/43 Report from the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

Received: a report from the meeting of the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee held on 30th October 2013 (SEN.13.11.11). This included one item for recommendation to Council in respect of amendment of the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech on Campus.

Recommended: to Council that the amendments to the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech on Campus as set out in Paper SEN.13.11.11 be approved.

13/44 Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 Update

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13/45 Alternative Modes of Delivery Update

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13/46 Key Information Sets (KIS)

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- 13/47 Report on Progress with the Grade Point Average (GPA) Implementation
- Received**: a report regarding the University's involvement in a national pilot for Grade Point Average (GPA) (SEN.13.11.15).
- 13/48 Report from the University Education Committee
- Received**: a report from the meetings of the University Education Committee held on 27th June and 24th October 2013 (SEN.13.11.16).
- 13/49 Report from the University Quality Assurance Committee
- Received**: a report from the meeting of the University Quality Assurance Committee held on 9th October 2013 (SEN.13.11.17).
- 13/50 Reports from Heads of College
- Received**: reports from the Heads of College regarding recent developments (SEN.13.11.18).
- 13/51 Programme of Meetings 2013/14
- Noted**: the remaining meetings of Senate for 2013/14 as follows:
- Wednesday 19th March 2014
Wednesday 11th June 2014
- 13/52 Any Other Business
- (1) The Times and Sunday Times University of the Year 2013/14
- Noted**: the award of the title of The Times and Sunday Times University of the Year 2013/14. This was a wonderful achievement which recognised a huge team effort and demonstrated how the ethos of the University was being recognised and celebrated externally.