

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

## SENATE

25th March 2015

## MINUTES

Present: Professor Sir David Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor and Principal, in the Chair); Professor D Adams; Mr J Armer; Professor K Armour; Professor T Arnull; Dr D Bailey; Professor J S Bale (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor S Becker (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor J Bridgeman; Professor M Calvert; Professor H Draper; Mr R Eagleton; Professor J Frampton; Dr D Fuller; 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 E Jenkinson (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Mr G Kallika; Professor P Kumar; Professor A Lymer; Professor J Martin; Professor H Mehanna; Professor C Miall; Professor M Nimmo (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Dr A Phillips; Professor Z Pikramenou; Professor S Quigley; Dr C Ray; Professor C Ross; Mr E Sainsbury; Dr I Sansom; Dr D Shepherd; Professor M Simmons; Professor M Stringer (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Professor A Tickell (Provost and Vice-Principal); Dr K Voelz; Professor G Watson; Professor M Webber.

Also present: Ms C Gilbert (Director of External Relations); Mrs C McDonough (Assistant Secretary); Mr L Sanders (Registrar & Secretary).

Apologies: Professor M Fox; Dr D Ghica; Dr H Laville; Professor M Press (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Dr R Santos; Professor G Schaffer; Dr N Wilkin; Professor M Whitby (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College); Professor R Williams (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College).

Absent: Dr E Fulton; Professor S Hunston; Dr D Moran; Professor S Wolff.

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

### 15/01 Membership

**Noted:** the election of Mr Robert Eagleton as the first year student member of Senate.

### 15/02 Minutes of previous meeting

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2014 be approved (SEN.15.03.01), subject to deletion of Mr J Armer from the list of those in attendance at the meeting.

### 15/03 Matters Arising

**Noted:** there were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 15/04 Vice-Chancellor's Items

**Considered:** a report from the Vice-Chancellor (SEN.15.03.02).

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(1) Senior Appointments

**Reported** that:

- (a) the interviews for the next Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Transfer) would be held on 21st April 2015. The appointment would be made by Council on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor who would consult Senate on the recommended candidate by correspondence;
- (b) internal expressions of interest in the vacancy for Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences had been invited. The appointment would be made by Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee. Senate would be notified of the appointment in due course;
- (c) the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) had been created to take responsibility for strategic oversight and delivery of the University's growing international profile, to shape the University's international strategy and to deepen existing collaborations and develop other opportunities in both research and education which would facilitate the continued growth of the University's international student community. The vacancy would be advertised shortly and the appointment would be made by Council on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor who would consult Senate on the recommended candidate by correspondence;
- (d) the future configuration of the posts of Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor was currently being considered. A further update would be provided to the next meeting of Senate.

(2) Budget Announcement

**Reported** the key features for the University of the recent budget announcement by the government:

- (a) the government had announced that it would be investing an initial £60m in the Energy Research Accelerator in the Midlands Universities;
- (b) as part of the government's creation of science catapult centres across the country, it was supporting a new Energy Systems Catapult in Birmingham to bring together researchers and industry in order to develop new technologies and products;
- (c) £138m of funding towards the UK Collaboratorium for Research in Infrastructure and Cities (UKCRIC), subject to a satisfactory business case being approved by the Secretary of State post-election and the provision of substantial co-funding. The UKCRIC would apply research to ensure that the UK's infrastructure was resilient and responsive to environmental and economic impacts. It would have hubs in London, and further centres initially in Birmingham, Newcastle, Sheffield and Southampton.

15/05 Recruitment and Admissions Update

**COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE**

15/06 Education Update

**Considered:** an overview of progress with the main areas of current activity in respect of education (SEN.15.03.04).

**Reported:**

- (a) that, in respect of the National Grade Point Average (GPA) Pilot, two alternative GPA system models had emerged and would be subject to consultation across the sector. The Russell Group was expected to adopt a common model which would first be applied on graduation of the 2016 entry cohort;
- (b) the successful introduction of the Teaching Awards. To date, there had been over 300 nominations received, demonstrating the enthusiasm of the student body in taking the time to recognise the positive input of their teachers;

- (c) that, under the original concept of 'Electives', it was envisaged that there would be net inflow/outflow for each School or Department such that overall activity would be 'cost neutral'. In theory, the same principle would apply to MOMDs across all participating academic units. However, it was recognised that the compact process might have to consider whether there was a need for some 'resource transfer' if a School was net 'provider' with cost implications;
- (d) that the Guild of Students had been involved from the outset in the work on introduction of the enhanced transcript from July 2016.

15/07 Research Excellence Framework (REF)

**COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE**

15/08 Research Grants Performance

**COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE**

15/09 Strategic Framework 2015-2020

**Considered:** progress with development of the next phase of the Strategic Framework 2015-2020 (SEN.15.03.07).

**Reported** that:

- (a) UEB and the University Leadership Forum (ULF) had both dedicated a significant amount of time during the past two months to discussion of the Strategic Framework. The approach with both groups was to start with a range of scenarios in order to stimulate thinking and shape the discussion;
- (b) four themes for the Strategic Framework had been identified:
  - (i) Research;
  - (ii) Education;
  - (iii) Influence (encapsulating engagement, impact, global and civic);
  - (iv) Resources (including environment, finance, and estate).
- (c) the Key Performance Targets would be reviewed as part of the Strategic Framework process;
- (d) the first draft of the Framework document would be presented to Council on 22nd April 2015;
- (e) the Framework would be suitable for a number of formats, including digital;
- (f) Senate would receive a further update in June, including the latest draft of the Framework document.

15/10 Reprioritising Investment and Resource: Neuroscience/Pharmacology

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15/11 Report from Heads of Colleges

**Noted:** the report from the Heads of Colleges regarding recent developments (SEN.15.03.09).

15/12 Report from the Nominations Committee

**Considered:** a report from the meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 24th February 2015 (SEN.15.03.10).

**Resolved:** that the recommendations be approved as set out in Paper SEN.15.03.10.

15/13 Report from the Research Committee

**Noted:** a report from the meetings of the Research Committee held on 18th November 2014 and 17th February 2015 (SEN.15.03.11).

15/14 Report from the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

**Noted:** a report from the meeting of the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee held on 4th February 2015 (SEN.15.03.12).

15/15 Report from the University Education Committee

**Noted:** a report from the meetings of the University Education Committee held on 4th December 2014 and 22nd January 2015 (SEN.15.03.13).

15/16 Report from the University Quality Assurance Committee

**Noted:** a report from the meetings of the University Quality Assurance Committee held on 2nd December 2014, 28th January 2015 and 25th February 2015 (SEN.15.03.14).

15/17 Report to Senate on the work of Council-approved Panels during 2014

**Noted:** the report to Senate on the work of Council-approved Panels during 2014 (SEN.15.03.15).

15/18 Senate Nominees on Council-approved Panels

**Resolved:** that the list of nominees approved by Senate to serve on Council-appointed Panels be approved (SEN.15.03.16).

15/19 Programme of Meetings 2014/15

**Noted:** that the final meeting of Senate for 2014/15 would be held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 2.00p.m.

15/20 Any Other Business

(1) Professor Eric Jenkinson

On behalf of Senate, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal thanked Professor Eric Jenkinson for his service and commitment to the University, particularly as Head of the School of Immunity and Infection (2000-2011) and his outstanding leadership of the College of MDS as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College during a period of significant transition since 2011.