



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 21 February 2022

Report of the Senate

Date: 8 December 2021
Chair: The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC)
Secretary: Dr T Strike

FOR INFORMATION

1. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

- 1.1 The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) presented the report, including:
- (a) Comprehensive Spending Review: An announcement from Government of its plans for HE funding and fees, including a response to the Augar Review, was still awaited. Following the Comprehensive Spending Review there was speculation that DfE would publish a HE White Paper by the end of November, but that did not happen. Recent reports suggested that DfE might produce a consultation instead.
 - (b) Horizon Europe: There was still no clarity on UK association to Horizon Europe. George Freeman MP, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, had announced a "financial safety net" for successful applicants to Horizon Europe, in a written statement to Parliament. The Government will guarantee funding for the first wave of eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe who have been unable to sign grant agreements with the EU. The guarantee is a short-term measure and funding would be delivered through UKRI. UKRI was expected to publish further details and information on the application process in the coming weeks. In an open letter to the UK research and development sector, which accompanied the announcement, the Minister said that the sector needed to be "realistic" if the UK was unable to associate to Horizon Europe.
 - (c) Knowledge Exchange: Research England has confirmed that the University will again receive the maximum HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund) allocation for 2021/22 of £4,785k. The funding will be central to achieving the University's plans to drive innovation through knowledge exchange and deliver against the stated priorities under the Innovation pillar of the University's 5-year vision.
 - (d) Innovation: The P&VC drew Senate's attention to two recent announcements:
 - (i) The University and ITM Power announced a new pioneering collaboration to advance the hydrogen sector in the UK. The proposed collaboration included an agreement in principle for a new ITM Power Gigafactory to be built at the University of Sheffield Innovation District. ITM Power and the University had also agreed to work together to jointly plan and fund a National Hydrogen Research Innovation and Skills centre, which will undertake research into the safe and efficient manufacture of hydrogen using low or zero carbon sources of energy.

- (ii) At a UK Small Modular Reactor programme event on 9 November at the University's Nuclear AMRC, Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, announced with Rolls Royce new funding for the programme. The Nuclear AMRC will work with Rolls-Royce SMR to develop the manufacturing capability for a variety of advanced processes, using the state-of-the-art machining, joining and testing facilities at its research factory in Rotherham. The centre will also support the design of a new UK factory for large SMR components.

- 1.2 During discussion on attainment gaps, it was clarified that BAME attainment gaps were part of the University's Access and Participation Plan. The University was also anticipated to have access via the Office for Students to the best practice in this area from other institutions.

2. Matters Arising on the Minutes

A member of Senate provided an opinion in advance of the meeting and the Chair determined it was for Senate to decide whether to accept the matter onto its agenda for consideration, and if so whether the proposed opinion was to be declared as an opinion of the Senate. A vote was taken to determine whether "the Chair admit the proposed opinion to the Senate agenda for consideration?" Senate decided not to admit the item.

3. Financial Results 2020-21

- 3.1 Senate received and noted the presentation, which included the headlines for 2020-21, an update for the current year, and planned processes for 2022-23.
- 3.2 Discussion focussed on the provision of student support, the effect of the pandemic on student support needs, and reports of delays in students being able to access support. The Executive Director of Academic Services would explore the issues raised and report to a future meeting of Senate.

4. Education Planning 2021-22

- 4.1 Senate received and noted the presentation, which covered the Interim Vice-President for Education and Deputy Vice-Presidents for Education Organisation Chart, priorities for the academic year, and the priorities of the Education pillar of the University Vision.
- 4.2 Discussion focussed on employability spend per student. It was recognised that students should not be disadvantaged by virtue of which Faculty they studied in and work was ongoing to ensure that this was the case.

5. Report of the Council

- 5.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on held on 18 October 2021.

6. Reports of committees

6.1 Committees of Senate

- 6.1.1 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Report of the Research Ethics Committee
(Meeting held on 3 November 2021)
- (i) Senate received and noted Report, including: the annual report of ethics decisions and summary of annual update forms submitted by departments for the period 01.09.20 – 31.08.21; an update on the on-going review of the Research Ethics Policy; and potential breaches of the Ethics Policy.
- (b) Report of the Senate Academic Assurance Committee
(Meeting held on 16 November 2021)
- Senate received and noted the report, including the Committee's updated Business Plan 2021-22.
- Discussion focused on award gaps and the potential impact of a return to pre-pandemic ways of learning.
- (c) Report of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
(Meeting held on 16 November 2021)
- (i) Senate approved a new University Policy on Quality and Compliance of Apprenticeships.
- (ii) Senate approved new, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes, and title changes and new exit routes approved by Faculties between 7 September 2021 and 1 November 2021.
- An update on the Institutional Placement Year Model outlined that from 2023 onwards all undergraduate students would have the opportunity to undertake a placement year as part of their programme of study.
- Discussion covered resourcing the Institutional Placement Year Model and the process for programme approvals was clarified.
- (d) Report of the Senate Research and Innovation Committee
(Meeting held on 11 November 2021)
- (i) Senate noted the Concordat to support the Career Development of Researchers Action Plan 2020-25.
- (ii) Senate endorsed and adopted the guidance note: Obtaining research governance approval from Local Authorities for social care research projects will be introduced with immediate effect.
- (iii) Senate endorsed the recommendations of the Clinical Trials Sponsorship report.
- (e) Report of the Senate Nominations Committee
(Business conducted by Chair's Action)
- Senate approved the appointment of a Senate Representative to the Senate Academic Assurance Committee.