



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 21 November 2022

Report of the Senate

Date: 12 October 2022
Chair: The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC)
Secretary: J Strachan

FOR INFORMATION

1. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

- 1.1 The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) presented the report, including:
- (a) Truss Government: It was thought to be unlikely that HE policy will be a high priority for this government. Liz Truss could face early challenges to her leadership and difficulty in implementing her policy programme. The Department for Education's focus was anticipated to be on poor quality degree courses, graduate outcomes, and vocational training. There was thought to be a risk to research funding and the Government's target to increase total Research & Development investment to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.
 - (b) Undergraduate Admissions: The University anticipated it would finish the 2022 recruitment cycle above target for both home and international undergraduate students. The University had seen increased diversity with higher numbers of home students from underrepresented backgrounds through its contextual admissions policy and an increase in international students from a range of countries. UG recruitment has benefitted from a range of measures this year, including a city campaign in collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield City Council. Colleagues across the institution were thanked for their work in developing the UG offer and moving the University towards its student population aims.
- 1.2 Discussion covered the impact of increased recruitment on the student experience.

2. Review of Student Protection Plan, 2022

- 2.1 Senate considered an updated version of the University's Student Protection Plan and approved its submission to the Office for Students for their approval and subsequent publication.
- 2.2 During discussion it was clarified that the inclusion of the section on industrial action had been included following discussions the University had with the OfS.

3. Senate Annual Academic Assurance Report

- 3.1 Senate considered the Annual Academic Assurance Report 2021/22 and agreed that it be submitted for consideration and approval at Council's meeting on 21 November 2022. See agenda item 8.4 on Council's agenda.

4. Report of the Council

- 4.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 11 July 2022.

5. Reports of Committees of Senate

- 5.1 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Report of the Senate Academic Assurance Committee
(Meeting held on 20 September 2022)

Senate received the report and approved the Committee's updated Terms of Reference and Membership for 2022-23. Senate noted the six themes of the Committee's Business Plan that the Committee planned to examine or revisit, for assurance across the 2022-23 academic year.

Discussion focused on clarity regarding aspects of the themes in the Business Plan.

- (b) Report of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
(Business conducted by correspondence)

Senate received the Report and approved the following:

- (i) that the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) be renamed as the Senate Education Committee (SEC).
- (ii) In relation to Assessment Regulations: Degree Algorithms, that Senate agrees in principle:
- (a) Calculation 2 is removed from the General Regulations for First Degrees and degree awards therefore based on a single algorithm
- (b) Existing borderline rules are replaced within the General Regulations for First Degrees
- (c) Exemptions relating to award calculation within programme regulations are removed, other than where these meet pre-agreed criteria for exemption
- (iii) The new, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes, and title changes and new exit routes recommended by Faculties between 11 May 2022 and 9 September 2022.

Detailed discussion focused on the Assessment Regulations including the background to the current regulations, the approach to implementation, the impact on students, and consultation with students.

- (c) Report from the Chair of the Senate Research and Innovation Committee

Senate received and noted the Report including, the University will match the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) uplift for the PGR stipends that it funds; a roadmap for future REF preparations; an update on a Knowledge Exchange support service design project; and a new unified Intellectual Property policy would be proposed to Senate in December 2022.

- (d) Report of the Senate University Research Ethics Committee
(Meeting held on 14 September 2022)

Senate received the Report and approved the revised Ethics Policy Governing Research Involving Human Participants, Personal Data and Human Tissue.

Discussion covered future proofing references to training within the policy and the ethics review process.

- (e) Report of the Senate Nominations Committee
(Business conducted by Chair's action)

Senate received and approved the report, including approval of two appointments to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.

6. Other Matters

- 6.1 Senate received and noted a Provisional Senate Business Schedule 2022-23 and the Annual Report of the Military Education Committee.

