



Minutes Meeting of the Senate

Date: 14 December 2022

Present: The President & Vice-Chancellor in the Chair

Dr R Bellaby, Dr B Birdi, Professor R Blakeley, Professor G Brown, Professor C Buck, Dr J Burr, A Clements, Professor J Cordiner, Professor C Deery, Professor J Derrick, Professor N Dibben, Professor S Fitzmaurice, Professor A Fleming, Professor J Flint, S Foxley, Professor G Gee, Professor V Gillet, Dr S Hale, L Hand, Professor S Hartley, Professor N Hughes, Professor P Hatton, M Jones, Professor J Kirby, Dr W Kitchen, Professor R Lawthom, Professor J Litster, Dr C Majewski, Dr S Marsh, Professor Matthew Marshall, Professor Michelle Marshall, Professor S McIntosh, Professor C Miller, Professor E Milne, Professor T Moore, Professor D Mowbray, N Musa, Dr S D North, O Nwabueze, Professor J Oakley, Professor A Pacey, Professor G Panoutsos, A Patterson, Dr E Poku, Dr B Purvis, Professor D Robinson, Professor L Robson, A Romaine, H Sadiq, Dr R Simpson, Professor C Stokes, Professor M Strong, R Sykes, Professor C H Tan, Professor K Taylor-Jones, Professor A Tiwari, Professor M T Vincent, Dr N Walkinshaw.

Secretary: J Strachan (Interim)

In attendance: Professor W Baird, M Borland, D Cadman, B Cook, K Clements, A Davison, Professor J Harrison, V Jackson, D Lodge, S Rasul, L Wild.

Apologies: The Senate received apologies from 23 members.

Welcome

The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) welcomed members to the meeting, including four new Students' Union representatives: Nana Musa, Onyedikachi Nwabueze, Alice Patterson; and Heather Sadiq.

A motion was submitted relating to the effects on academic matters of the industrial action over pay, pensions and working conditions. The University Secretary explained that pay, pensions and conditions were not within the remit of Senate however, the impact of the industrial action on the student experience was a matter for Senate and its committees. This matter was scheduled to be considered by the Senate Education Committee on 9 February 2023, with a report coming to the next meeting of Senate

1. President & Vice-Chancellor's Report

The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) presented the report and provided updates:

- (a) International students: There had been political and media speculation around restricting international student numbers and/or family members that they can bring with them. The University had shared a briefing on the benefits of international students with all our regional MPs and will continue to make the case. The Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan said that the DfE remained committed to the international education strategy, but also spoken of the need to expand the breadth of countries that can benefit from UK education. The need to diversify international student recruitment was not a new issue for the University and work was taking place to target new and expanding international markets.
- (b) Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill: The House of Lords had amended government legislation to ban universities from using Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) in bullying and harassment cases, including but not limited to sexual misconduct. Peers had also removed the new legal route proposed by the government for those who argue their free speech had been infringed to take a university to court, though MPs may reinstate the “statutory tort”. The University does not use NDAs in the cases outlined in the Bill and earlier this year signed up for the #CantBuyMySilence pledge committing to not using NDAs in these circumstances. The tort has been of concern for the sector as it could be open to abuse. The vote to remove it, supported by those in the Lords with legal expertise, was significant as it has been made in response to very strong lobbying from the Russell Group, to which the University contributed. The University will continue to pressure not to reintroduce the tort and to understand its broader obligations under the Bill and ensure compliance with any new requirements.
- (c) Student Registration: As of 1 December census point the University had registered 13,100 new entrants which was under target. It was over target on UG Home students, and slightly over on UG Overseas target. The University was under target on PGT Home and was currently undertaking work to understand the long-term implications.

In response to a submitted question it was clarified that the report did not cover pay, pensions and conditions as these issues were not within Senate’s remit. The impact of industrial action on the student experience was due to be considered at the next meeting of the Senate Education Committee and at the Senate Research and Innovation Committee.

In response to a submitted question regarding industrial action and the impact on students’ education it was highlighted that the University was supporting efforts to find a resolution to the pay negotiation round. The University was engaging with the government and the opposition regarding funding for research and education and it was believed there was a good understanding of the limitations of the funding model, however there was less clarity on potential solutions. Regarding lost learning from action short of strike, there would be opportunities to recover lost learning during the course of study and it would be premature to define conclusively how to respond at this stage, noting that the potential impact would vary from student to student.

In response to a written question regarding sustainability, it was disappointing to see a drop in the University’s People and Planet league table position given the significant work that

has been undertaken. The website has been updated to reflect the University's work in this area. The ongoing participation and cooperation of student representatives on both the Sustainability Steering and Delivery Groups was welcomed and appreciated.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

In relation to item 9, Recommendation to change the name of an Academic Department, Professor Jackie Harrison, the HoD of the Department of Journalism Studies is not a member of Senate and attended to present a proposal to Senate. The FVP Social Sciences gave apologies for this meeting of Senate. None of the elected members of Senate were from the Department of Journalism Studies.

Under agenda item 10, NSS Overview and item 14, Report of the Senate Research and Innovation Committee, discussion was anticipated to cover issues relating to the industrial action. There will be members of Senate who are also members of trade unions and who may hold or be perceived to hold a conflict of interest.

Dr Sam Marsh declared a conflict of interest in relation to some of the questions submitted in advance and his role with the Sheffield University and College Union.

No other conflicts of interest were declared.

Senate noted these conflicts but it was not necessary to exclude any member from the meeting, acting only in their capacity as members of Senate acting in the University's best interests.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following a discussion regarding the accuracy of item 10, Report of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022, having been circulated, were approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

There were 3 other matters arising on the Minutes that were not covered elsewhere on the Agenda:

- (a) **Item 4 (b), Senate Questionnaire:** The Senate Questionnaire Small Group had met and was looking to conclude its work for the June meeting of Senate.
- (b) **Item 4 (c), Report of the Senate University Research Ethics Committee:** A response has been sent to the Senate University Research Ethics Committee regarding workload allocations for the Chair and Deputy Chair.
- (c) **Item 4 (d), Alternative meeting room options:** A map and directions for the route to the meeting room via the lift were included in the email when the meeting papers were sent to members of Senate.

5. Matters Requiring Approval

Senate received and noted a summary of the matters for which Senate's formal approval was sought.

6. Financial Results 2021-22

Senate received and noted a presentation on the Financial Results 2021-22, which covered the annual report & financial statements 2021-22, the financial background, challenges and financial forecasts.

In response to a submitted question it was clarified that some departments were experiencing issues with the recruitment and retention of academic staff, and where that was the case HR were working with the department.

During discussion it was outlined that the additional payments to all members of staff was used as a system that was simple and straightforward to implement.

7. Knowledge Exchange Update

Senate received and noted a presentation, which included Knowledge Exchange (KE) activity, definition and KPI, Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) 2022, KEF metrics, support for KE, the Partnerships and KE service, and building KE capacity.

During discussion it was outlined that work was being undertaken by HR regarding the Academic Career Pathway rewarding staff working on knowledge exchange. An offer of assistance from the Students' Union was welcomed.

8. University Policies for approval:

(a) Intellectual Property Policy

Senate considered and approved a proposed Intellectual Property policy. The Intellectual Property policy would provide a unified source of information, clarify existing positions and update with respect to the current sector environment, particularly with respect to Open Research and Open Educational Materials.

In response to submitted questions it was confirmed that the link in Paragraph 5.ii would be updated. It was confirmed that the approval route was via Senate Education Committee and Senate Research & Innovation Committee to Senate. The policy was not within the scope of the University's recognition agreement with campus trade unions.

In response to a submitted question regarding ownership of performance rights of lecture capture recordings, the University had sought legal advice as copyright was a complex area of law. The University owned the copyright in the educational materials which have been developed during the course of an academic's employment. The 'performance' co-exists with the materials as it relies on their delivery. The University had no interest in the performance rights, but they were impossible to disentangle from the material delivered for which the University does own the copyright. Furthermore, there was nothing in the proposed policy which would change the existing lecture capture policy.

During discussion, it was clarified that a PGR student owned the copyright to their thesis, but that this was usually publically available. The University had a policy on embargoes which could apply, for example if the research had been commercially

funded. Members of staff or students with queries regarding intellectual property which may have the potential to be commercialised should contact the Commercialisation Team in Research Services.

(b) Research Publications and Copyright Policy

Senate considered and approved a proposed Research Publications and Copyright Policy. The proposed Policy reflected the University's rights retention strategy in response to Plan S, and current funder expectations for open access to research outputs.

During discussion, it was clarified that the policy would be communicated widely within the University and set out why the policy was required and its anticipated impact. Staff from the Library would be able to visit departments to explain how the policy would work in practice.

(c) Open Educational Resources Policy

Senate considered and approved a new University policy for Open Educational Resources. It was highlighted that the policy would assist in making learning, teaching and research materials more widely available.

9. Recommendation to change the name of an Academic Department

Senate considered and approved a proposal to change the name of the Department of Journalism Studies to the School of Journalism, Media and Communication. The name change was proposed as a more accurate representation of the Department's current and future activities, current portfolio of programmes, research strengths and ambitions, and continuing diversification of staff recruitment in line with the One University agenda.

During discussion, concern was expressed about the potential impact of adding "media and communication" into the name and the risk that this might impact on other departments' provision. Reassurance was provided that this would not be the case.

In accordance with Regulation IX (1.1.8) and Regulation II (6.2.2), Senate recommended to Council approval of the change of name of the Department of Journalism Studies to the School of Journalism, Media and Communication effective from September 2023.

10. National Student Survey Overview

Senate received and noted a presentation, which included the importance of the National Student Survey (NSS), NSS 2022 headline results, TEF insights into NSS, high variability in performance across departments, overall satisfaction rankings within the Russell Group, comparison to the rest of the sector, a focus on larger cohort departments can bring institutional benefits, a multi-level approach to the student experience and NSS, OfS changes to NSS from 2023, and next steps.

During discussion, it was clarified that the NSS data did not cover equality, diversity and inclusion aspects, but institutions were able to request the full data.

REPORTS FROM STATUTORY BODIES

- 11. Report on the Proceedings of the Council**
(Meetings held on 24 October and 21 November 2022)

Senate received and noted the Report on the Proceedings of the Council.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

- 12. Report of the Senate Academic Assurance Committee**
(Meeting held on 15 November 2022)

Senate received and noted the report including: an update on the Committee revisiting the topic of PGR submission rates; and an update on the Committee's consideration of Knowledge Exchange activity.

- 13. Report of the Senate Education Committee**
(Meeting held on 17 November 2022)

Senate received the Report and approved the following:

- a) New, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes, and title changes and new exit routes recommended by Faculties between 10 September 2022 to 8 November 2022.
- (b) Changes to Regulation XIV General University Regulations relating to UKVI compliance.
- (c) A new Student Support Approach that will replace the existing Student Support Strategy.
- (d) Amendments to the Senate Education Committee Terms of Reference to refer to "education" rather than "learning and teaching", and for the reference to "freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions" be extended to students undertaking our degree programmes.

- 14. Report of the Senate Research and Innovation Committee**
(Meeting held on 3 November 2022)

Senate received and noted the report including: an update from the Research and Innovation Strategy Group which included the development of a new Research Cultures Steering Group; revised membership of the Committee; and an update on research governance and integrity.

- 15. Report of the Senate University Research Ethics Committee**
(Meeting held on 16 November 2022)

Senate received and noted the report including, revised data protection and security questions in the ethics application form; Committee discussions for considering academic

or scientific review prior to an application being submitted for ethics approval; work to consider how equality, diversity and inclusion should be addressed as part of the ethics review procedure; Committee consideration of a report on the ethics applications processed across the University for the period September 2021 to August 2022 inclusive.

REPORT FROM JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND COUNCIL

16. Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee
(Business conducted by correspondence)

Senate received and noted the report.

OTHER MATTERS

17. Students' Union Annual Report: Complaints and Discipline 2021-22

Senate received and noted the report.

18. Major Research Grants and Contracts

A report listing major research grants and contracts awarded since the last meeting of the Senate was received and noted.

In response to a question regarding the University receiving funding from companies that have links to defence, it was highlighted that the University had due diligence processes to assess potential new and ongoing research partnerships. This included a wide range of checks including legal status, credit checks, links to sanctioned countries, ethical risk, corporate governance and checks on key individuals. All new research partnerships and projects were assessed on the own merits against the University's Code of Ethics to ensure projects will be undertaken in line with good research practices and in an ethical and legal manner.

19. Any Other Business

There was no other business.