



**SENATE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Present**

Prof John Vinney (Chair)	Vice-Chancellor
Jim Andrews	Chief Operating Officer
Prof Katherine Appleton	Professoriate Representative (FST)
Ade Balogun	President 2018/19, Students' Union
Michael Barry	Professional Services Staff Representative
Dr Carol Clark	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FHSS)
Dr Bryce Dyer	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FST)
Dr Luciana Esteves	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FST)
Lenrick Greaves	Vice-President (Education) 2018/19, Students' Union
Alan James	General Manager, Students' Union BU
Dr Fiona Knight	Professional Services Staff Representative
Prof Tim Lloyd	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FM)
Jacky Mack (Secretary)	Head of Academic Services
Dr Dermot McCarthy	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FM)
Prof Dinusha Mendis	Professoriate Representative (FMC)
Prof Jane Murphy	Professoriate Representative (FHSS)
Julie Northam	Head of Research & Knowledge Exchange Office
Prof Keith Phalp	Executive Dean (FST)
Karl Rawstrone	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FMC)
Prof Tim Rees	Professoriate Representative (FM)
Prof Michael Silk	Deputy Chair of Academic Standards and Education Committee
Prof Kerstin Stutterheim	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FMC)
Prof Stephen Tee	Executive Dean (FHSS) & Acting Executive Dean (FM)

**In attendance**

Jack Guymmer (Clerk)	Academic Quality Team Leader
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**Apologies**

Dr Catherine Angell	Faculty Academic Staff Representative (FHSS)
Mandi Barron	Head of Student Services
Prof Tim McIntyre-Bhatty (Deputy Chair)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Dr Richard Scullion	Executive Dean (FMC)

**18/023 APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

**18/024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**18/025 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2018**

**18/026 Accuracy (SEN-18-025)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record, subject to the following amendments:

- The reference to '2017/18' in the membership section on page 1 would be changed to '2018/19' for both the Students' Union (SU) President and Vice-President (Education).
- With regards to the minute on page 5, "*the SU Vice-President (Education) was of the view that placements should be compulsory for all programmes*"; the SU Vice-President (Education) advised that he was neither in support nor against the notion of a compulsory placement. Instead, the point they were raising was linked more to the fact that students needed to be supported whilst on placement.

**18/027 Matters Arising**

Following the last meeting, Senators were advised that the Senate Terms of Reference had been revised and re-submitted for endorsement below (18/029).

**18/028 Report of Electronic Senate meeting of 30 January to 6 February 2019 (SEN-18-026)**

**Noted:** The report of the Electronic Senate meeting of 30 January to 6 February 2019 was noted.

**18/029 Senate Terms of Reference (SEN-18-027)**

The Senate membership had been revised to include one Research Ethics Committee Panel Chair from the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). The amendment reflected ongoing discussion and was in line with the changes which had been approved at the last meeting of Senate in October 2018, whereby the Deputy Chairs from Academic Standards and Education Committee (ASEC) and the Research and Professional Practice Committee (RPPC) were added to the membership to help strengthen the link between Senate and its sub-committees.

**Endorsed:** members endorsed the Senate Terms of Reference for approval by the University Board.

**18/030 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**18/031 HE Sector and BU2025 Update**

HE Sector

The government had launched the Parliamentary review of the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF), which was being independently chaired by Dame Shirley Pearce. The review was assessing if TEF was fit for purpose and value for money, the value the TEF was adding to the sector, to prospective students and the taxpayer, and the effectiveness of the measures that it used. The consultation was due to close on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, with the review concluding in summer 2019.

In parallel, subject level TEF was entering a second year of piloting. The University received a silver TEF award in 2017 and was not required to enter the TEF again until 2020, for awards to be issued in 2021. As well as changes made as a result of the Parliamentary review, it was expected that the 2020 version of the TEF would include the outcomes from the second year of the pilot exercise.

The consultation on how the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) could work was due to close on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Preparations were also underway for the next Research Excellence and Framework (REF) exercise. In addition to performing well in each of these frameworks, it was important that the University continued to lobby and position itself so the connections between education, research and practice were emphasised.

The interim report of the Review of Post-18 Education had been delayed, having originally been expected in mid-February. The final report was planned for the end of March 2019,

however it appeared increasing likely that the report would be pushed back further due to the government's priorities and ongoing uncertainty with the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

There was no further update on the status of the Brexit negotiations, other than there had been an increased focus by Universities and different bodies across the sector in planning for a 'no-deal' scenario. This led to discussion about the impact on staff and students in the event that an agreement between the UK and EU was not reached. Whilst the priority of the University was to safeguard staff, students and funding, it was considered that scenarios relating to a 'no-deal' were difficult to manage and forecast as there was still significant uncertainty. It was reported that advice had been issued to stakeholders via internal channels, and would continue to be updated regularly as events developed.

In terms of regional developments, it was a time of significant change, as work continued on preparations for the local councils joining into a new combined authority, and the merger of the local NHS Foundation Trusts. It was considered that the University had an important role to play in terms of embedding partnership working and influencing developments. Further consideration was being given to how the University could impact on this agenda, including links to the Local Enterprise Partnership and making the most of opportunities.

Despite the number of reviews, changes and uncertainty in the sector, both nationally and regionally, the University was well placed to work with its stakeholders and partners to capitalise on these opportunities.

#### BU2025

The Strategic Plan; BU2025, was approaching the end of its first cycle, having been launched in March 2018. Budget and horizon planning for the next three years had begun to take the plan through to its mid-point, with the proposed three year plan being considered at the University Board in the summer 2019.

The Faculty Academic Staff Representative for the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) noted that concerns had been raised within FST in relation to the research themes linked to the strategic investment areas. In particular, it was reported that uncertainty around the definitions was creating issues with how staff interacted with one another. There had been a recent situation where outward facing media, produced by Marketing & Communications, had interpreted the research themes differently to that of academic staff, to the point where some staff felt excluded from participating in research. Whilst it was emphasised that the strategic investment areas were still evolving, it was agreed that it would be important to resolve any disconnects in order to prevent staff from feeling excluded. The Chief Operating Officer agreed to liaise with the Director of Marketing & Communications offline to discuss the issue relating to internal communications.

**Action: Chief Operating Officer**

18/032 **FOR DISCUSSION**

18/033 **Update on the strategic investment area of Medical Science**

The Executive Deans for the Faculty of Health and Social Science (FHSS) and FST opened the discussion and presented an update on the strategic investment area of Medical Science:

- Medical Science related to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease, and was integral to meeting the grand challenge of an ageing society. In addition to the need for innovation in Medical Science through technology, the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) had specific calls on early diagnosis and precision medicine, healthy ageing and leading-edge health care. The University had significant strength and expertise in orthopedics, primary care, dementia, healthy ageing, general practice, healthcare workforce, technology and innovation. As a result, it was considered that the University was well placed to respond to these calls and make a significant contribution both regionally and nationally.

- The University had seen a growth in applied research and knowledge exchange in the area of medical science, not only in healthy ageing but across a whole range of preventative issues. The University's educational portfolio had expanded to include Medical and Biomedical Science, Physician Associate Studies and Advanced Practice, with exploration of wider potential for programmes in medicine. The University was being approached more than in the past to respond to specific calls and to work on projects which presented further opportunities for growth. However, it was considered that the University could only take advantage of these opportunities if there was a more joined-up approach to bring together activity across Faculties to enable the University to respond to opportunities in a more confident and coherent matter.
- In terms of progress, £2.4 million from Local Growth Fund income had been secured which had helped globalise the Orthopaedic Research Institute and establish the Institute of Medical Imaging & Visualisation. The funds had also enabled the University to purchase an MRI scanner and related equipment. It was expected that this would help transform the University's potential and enable the University to bid for larger research grants. The University was awaiting the outcome of its bid for European Regional Development Funding to establish a Digital Healthcare Catalyst (DHC). If successful, the DHC would see the University work in collaboration with industry stakeholders to develop new products which could be tested within the marketplace.
- One future potential was the development of a clinical trials unit. The unit would extend the University's capacity to conduct randomised controlled clinical trials, for which outputs could be submitted as part of the REF. In response to workforce shortages, it was anticipated that the new MRI scanner would open up scope to develop new education provision for radiologist and technician training. The partnership between BU and the Dorset Integrated Care System (DICS) opened the possibility of establishing a Medical Academy. The Academy would enable strong partnership around staffing appointments and would create shared roles in both clinical and academic settings. A significant aspiration was the development of undergraduate programmes in medicine; however, this was dependent on a variety of factors, including the success of other areas linked to the strategic investment area.

The Professoriate Representative for the Faculty of Management (FM) asked for an update on the most recent call for expressions of interest linked to the strategic investment area of Medical Science. It was reported that 27 expressions of interest had been received across all Faculties. Individuals who had submitted an expression of interest had been contacted, with some bids being supported and others requiring further development. Where there had been an overlap, these bids had been bought together to strengthen their potential. A second call for expressions of interest would be announced shortly.

The Chair thanked the Executive Deans for FHSS and FST for their input. It was noted that another update on progress would be provided in due course.

#### 18/034 **Undergraduate Placements (SEN-18-028)**

Following a debate at the last meeting of Senate and further discussion by Faculty Academic Boards (FAB), Senators were asked to approve the curriculum design principle that 'all undergraduate students would normally undertake a placement experience' before policy amendments and approvals were taken forward by ASEC.

The Head of Academic Services explained that through all FAB discussions there had been broad support for a placement experience both short and long, with committees recognising the wide-ranging benefits to students. The proposed curriculum design principle was intended to strengthen existing policy, whilst providing additional flexibility whereby placement experiences might take a range of forms and durations.

In attempting to better understand the added value of a placement experience, the Executive

Dean (FST) reported that exam results had been analysed within the Faculty, in which it was found that attainment was better for students who undertook any form of placement activity.

The Executive Dean (FHSS) noted that the majority of students within FHSS were required to undertake some form of placement as a result of their programme being accredited by a professional body. It was noted that there was broad endorsement for a placement experience within FM.

In terms of the student experience, Dr McCarthy queried if there would be grounds for students to be exempt from the curriculum design principle. Whilst the default position would be for each undergraduate programme to have a placement experience embedded within the curriculum, the Head of Academic Services reported that there may be specific cases for exceptions, this detail would need to be worked through as part of the policy amendments being taken forward by ASEC.

Noting the findings from the analysis of the 2015/16 Destination of Leavers from HE Survey, Mr Rawstrone queried if there was a particular reason why BME students who undertook a short placement were less likely to be in employment or further study 6 months after completing their course than if they had not undertaken a placement. It was considered that there were a number of factors which could have influenced the result, such as sample size or course factors. The Head of Academic Services agreed to further investigate the data on this particular aspect to identify if there was any further insight available, particularly as the findings could help inform the support provided to different groups of students.

**Action: Head of Academic Services**

**Approved:** Senators approved the the curriculum design principle that 'all undergraduate students will normally undertake a placement experience'. In approving the principle, ASEC were given delegated authority for any related policy amendments and approvals. Consideration of any operational and resourcing implications would be progressed executively through the University Leadership Team (ULT) as appropriate.

#### 18/035 **REPORTING COMMITTEES**

##### 18/036 **Faculty Academic Board Minutes (SEN-18-029)**

**Noted:** The Committee noted the Faculty Academic Board minutes:

- FHSS FAB minutes of 12 February 2019 (unconfirmed)
- FM FAB minutes of 14 February 2019 (unconfirmed)
- FMC FAB minutes of 5 February 2019 (unconfirmed)
- FST FAB minutes of 31 January 2019 (unconfirmed)

#### 18/037 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### 18/038 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Electronic Senate – 9.00am on Wednesday 15th May 2019  
Senate Meeting – 2.15pm on Wednesday 12th June 2019