

## SENATE

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SENATE held on  
22 FEBRUARY 2010**

- Present: Prof P Curran (Chair)  
Mr C Allen; Ms A Allerston; Mrs M Barron; Mr S Bellamy; Prof M Bennett; Dr C Bond; Dr S Eccles; Mrs K Everett; Mr A James; Ms S Jeary; Dr P Johnstone; Mr S Jukes; Mr P Kneller; Mr D Newell; Prof N Petford; Mr M Riordan; Prof J Roach; Mrs J Taylor; Prof J Vinney; Dr K Wilkes; Mr D Willey; Ms J Woodcock
- Observers: Prof D Buhalis; Prof P Cominos; Prof S Ersser; Prof B Gabrys; Prof B Richards; Prof T Sheppard; Prof R Vaughan;
- In attendance: Mr G Rayment (Committee Clerk); Dr G Daborn; Prof A Newton.
- Apologies: Prof T Darvill; Prof S Deutsch; Prof T Lange; Prof P Lewis; Prof D Osselton; Mr J Ricci; Mr J Tarrant; Dr G Thomas;

**1. FINAL REPORT FROM THE 'POST-NEWTON REPORT' WORKING GROUPS**

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting by emphasising the importance of the recommendations contained in the *Summary Report of 'Post Newton Report' Review Groups*, 22 January 2010 which had been circulated. He welcomed views from all present on the proposals. He invited the Chairs of the three Working Groups to briefly summarise their key findings.
- 1.2 Mr Riordan had chaired the Working Group which considered School Leadership and Management arrangements. The recommendations from this group had been widely circulated and further clarified as a result of the comments received. It was recognised that the proposed changes would take time to implement and it was recommended that they be phased-in over a period of three years (by July 2013). Amongst the key findings were the recommendations that Academic Groups should be led by Professors appointed on the basis of their academic standing (including in professional practice). In the short/medium term these positions might be filled by suitable Associate Professor (or Associate Deans) if the School did not have the necessary number of suitable Professors. It was anticipated that the move to leadership at professorial level would reduce the need for separate research centres (although transitional arrangements might be required). It was also proposed that Schools be free to determine how many Deputy Deans they had, and what their role might be. The continuing need for cross-University, inter-disciplinary groups was recognised and suggestions for how these might be arranged and governed were put forward for further consideration.
- 1.3 SUBU/AJ commented that in their experience there were some difficulties for current students when staffing changes were initiated in schools. This had been a specific agenda item at the January Student General Meeting. SUBU/He encouraged schools to consider the implications for current students very seriously and thus smooth the transition to change better. MB stated that he had always communicated and involved students in the changes in CS.
- 1.4 Prof Vinney chaired the Group looking at Business and Management Strategy and

this concluded that the Business School, Services Management and Media School would remain as separate Schools until at least July 2015. The Business School should continue to work toward international recognition and accreditation whilst creating a distinct presence through an improved website and printed materials. The School of Services Management would be re-named the School of Tourism to reflect a refocused approach on all aspects of the contemporary tourism sector. It was recommended that the Marketing programme in the Media School be redesigned and renamed to separate it from the traditional 'business' area of Marketing. Consideration should be given to what aspects of marketing might transfer to the Business School.

- 1.5 Prof Petford chaired the Applied Science Strategy Group which had focused on the STEM agenda. The significance of STEM subjects was emphasised, including future funding and student numbers. The Group recommended that the School of Conservation Sciences be renamed the School of Applied Science and continue its current restructuring process. DEC would remain an independent School until at least July 2013, at which time its academic structure and content would be reviewed with a view to creating an all encompassing 'Faculty' of Science & Technology. The BSc (Hons) Applied Biology would transfer into AS from HSC by September 2010. It was proposed that a core Science Curriculum would be created to underpin existing specialist science subjects, such as nutrition.
- 1.6 The Chair invited Prof Newton to comment on the Working Groups' findings and he confirmed that he was content that the issues raised in his original report had been addressed.

## **2 FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS ON THE REPORT**

The Senate noted the extracts of minutes from the School Academic Boards and the Chair invited Deans, or other School representatives, to summarise the responses and give feedback.

- 2.1 **School of conservation Sciences (SAB minutes (extract), 20 Jan 2010)**  
Prof Bennett explained that the recommendations had received wide support from staff in the School of Conservation Sciences and the SAB had endorsed the basic principles which had been approved by a unanimous vote at the meeting. The minutes showed that there had been some concern about the loss of the word 'conservation' from the School's title, but that this might be retained in the name of one of the School's academic groups.
- 2.2 **School of Design, Engineering and Computing (SAB minutes (extract), 17 Feb 2010)**  
Prof Roach reported that it was felt that the current management arrangements in the School were working well and a working group would be established comprised of various staff from across the School to review and develop the recommendations regarding the leadership and management structure. The proposal to allow DEC to maintain its independence until 2013 was widely supported. The SAB recommended a change to the wording in the report (Page 2, No. 8, replace 'expectation' with 'consideration' of a single entity...')
- 2.3 **Business School (Unconfirmed SAB minutes (extract), 3 Feb 2010)**  
The extract from the minutes were noted. The proposals had been broadly welcomed in theory, but it was recognised that the practical details of implementation would require further consideration. The minutes showed that the SAB had discussed in detail the need to build a 'presence' for the Business School and how this might be achieved through changes to the website.
- 2.4 **School of Services Management (Unconfirmed SAB minutes (extract) 2 Feb**

**2010)**

Dr Wilkes reported that the refocusing and renaming to the School of Tourism was widely accepted. Staff had queried the timing of the change and Prof Vinney explained that, subject to final approval, it was hoped that this would happen as soon as possible (within the next few months).

**2.5 Media School (SAB minutes (extract) 27 Jan 2010)**

Mr Jukes explained that some concerns had been raised at the SAB and two resolutions had been referred to the Senate. They felt that the existing academic leadership and management in the School was strong and effective and wished to look at the development of a collaborative model drawing on the strengths of both systems. They also expressed serious concerns regarding that the proposals would lead to the closure of the Marketing degree and, given its success, this was felt to be a high risk for the University.

**2.6 School of Health & Social Care (SAB minutes (extract), 11 Feb 2010)**

The HSC SAB had no major issues with the recommendations but sought clarification of the future place of nutrition and the provision of laboratory facilities. It was also noted that the needs of students currently on the Applied Biology (Health) course would need to be taken into account with the transfer of this course to Applied Sciences. Sessions were being set-up within HSC to allow academic staff to discuss the future HSC leadership and management structure.

**2.7** The Chair opened the floor for discussion and invited comments on any aspects of the proposals. There was a discussion of proposals regarding leadership and management changes and it was requested that, with any interim Associate Professor or Deputy Dean appointments, it was made clear to all what their responsibilities would be. It was also noted that, whilst understanding the shift towards leadership at Professorial level, it was important that such leaders still possessed a reasonable level of management skills in addition to their academic ones. It was broadly agreed that further discussions would be needed between the Media School and the Business School on the way in which Marketing would be split.

**3. NEXT STEPS**

**3.1** The Chair would reflect further on the proposals in light of the Senate's discussion and feedback from the Schools. He would report back to Senate at its next meeting on 10 March 2010.

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**4.1.** The Secretary informed the Senate that papers for the next meeting would be distributed electronically. Feedback would be requested at the next meeting and if such a distribution method was found to be acceptable all future meeting papers would be distributed this way.

**4.2** Senators joined the Chair in congratulating Prof Petford on his appointment as VC of University of Northampton.

**5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**5.1** 2.15pm on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010, in the Boardroom.

Committee Clerk  
February 2010

Senate special 22\_2\_2010 confirmed

Approved as a true and accurate record:

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Prof P Curran (Chair)

Date:.....