

## SENATE

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SENATE held on  
10 MARCH 2010**

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

**1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2009**

The Minutes were recommended as an accurate record.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Minutes were recommended as an accurate record, subject to the addition of text to reflect a point made by Mr James concerning the need to ensure current students' requirements were considered during the change process.

**1.1 Matters Arising (Meeting held on 16 October 2009)**

- 1.1.1 Minute 1.3 Assessment Feedback Project Group: The final report of the Project Group had been disseminated to Schools.
- 1.1.2 Minute 3.2: Senate Standing Orders: Recommended changes to the Senate Standing Orders had been actioned (see also Item 4, below).
- 1.1.3 Minute 9.1: Third Term: The Academic Standards Committee (ASC) had established a sub-group, led by Dr Tom Watson, to consider the academic schedule. The findings would be reported to Senate through the ASC.
- 1.1.4 Minute 9.8: Progression from Level C to Level I: The ASC had discussed this issue and revised academic procedures would be published shortly to provide clarification.

**2 POST-NEWTON REPORT WORKING GROUPS: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Chair confirmed that, having reflected on the Working Groups' proposals and subsequent comments received, he accepted the recommendations in their

entirety. Schools would implement the recommendations, reporting to the SMT. Vacancies for Deans would be advertised internally shortly, with a view to making appointments in April 2010.

- 2.2 The PVC(E&PP) informed Senate that a review of Law provision at BU would be undertaken in 2 phases to assess current strengths and strategic options. The new Head of Law (when appointed) and staff would be involved in this process.

### **3. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **3.1 Strategic Reviews, including presentation on the IT and Estates Strategies**

- 3.1.1 The DVC introduced this Item and explained that the Revised Strategic Plan 2009/10 – 2013/14 had been approved by the Board in December 2009 and was available, with related information, through a dedicated web 'microsite'. The Revised Strategy identified 10 areas where further strategic reviews would be undertaken in 2010. These reviews were now underway and the DVC invited those members of the Executive leading on each review to provide an update on progress.
- 3.1.2 The PVC(R&E) was leading on the Group considering Trans-national education which will look at alternative ways of delivering education internationally. The Group had met once to scope-out its main areas of focus and would be meeting again shortly to begin discussions in earnest, with a view to reporting its findings at the end of July 2010.
- 3.1.3 The PVC(R&E) was also leading on the Group considering BU's regional role and profile. This Group will consider the extent of BU's role, for example through the Multi-Area Agreement, and the degree of engagement with the local community. This Group would report its findings by the end of March 2010.
- 3.1.4 The VC was leading the work to consider the academic footprint of the University and how this might be expanded. A possible starting point for this work was provided by the McManus review (although this had taken place some years ago (pre-1992)), which had suggested a number of possible niche subjects which the University might provide. Any expansion of the academic footprint would have to take market demand into account and external consultants will be recruited to help take this forward.
- 3.1.5 The PVC(E&PP) led on the Group considering the balance of PG and UG students and possible areas of growth and how marketing efforts should be targeted. The Group was currently fact-finding and would report by the end of April 2010.
- 3.1.6 PVC(E&PP) was also leading on work to consider non-traditional modes of educational delivery, such as two-year UG degrees, part-time degrees, delivery to mature students and working with the private sector. The group was currently gathering data with a view to considering how new markets might be opened up through these other forms of delivery, to report by July 2010.
- 3.1.7 The PVC(E&PP) was also leading on work to consider strengthening BU's off-campus provision of HE delivered through Partner Institutions. The review would focus on ensuring these students receive a comparable experience to those studying on campus, and the provision of high quality programmes geared to the professions. The findings to be reported by July 2010.
- 3.1.8 The DoHR was leading the review looking at managing employment costs. This would consider the affordability of future cost of living increases and pay

progressions (which, together, typically increased the pay costs by 5% each year). This would be reviewed in the light of pressures facing public sector funding and any proposed changes would be subject to consultation with the recognised unions, management and staff. The group will also consider the affordability of pension arrangements in light of possible future changes to the retirement age and any possible cap being placed on employers contributions. It was possible that there would be a need to reduce the headcount of Professional and Support staff over the coming years. Findings would be reported by July 2010.

- 3.1.9 The DVC was leading on work to review environmental and corporate social responsibility. This review would be finalised shortly and aimed to consolidate the work on these issues currently being considered by a variety of groups across the University.
- 3.1.10 The DVC reported on the IT Strategy 2010-2015 which had been approved by the Board in January 2010. This updated the previous IT Strategy (which had been published in 2007) and had been produced in consultation with PA consulting who provided independent assurance and advice. There had also been wide-ranging consultation with users. The IT Strategy took into account the four main areas identified in the University's KPIs: student & staff experience, academic profile, research & enterprise and institutional sustainability. A gap analysis had been undertaken and helped to identify the main priorities. This had identified 3 programmes of activity. The third of these was not currently achievable within the funding available, but Programmes 1 and 2 could be achieved at a cost of approximately £22.7 million over 5 years and the Board had approved this financial 'envelope' to implement the Strategy. The Director of Estates and IT, Dr Humphreys, was currently undertaking 'roadshows' to help communicate the Strategy and could provide presentations to Schools (for example to School Academic Boards) if required.
- 3.1.11 Senators stressed the need to ensure that there was sufficient student involvement in all stages of the implementation of the IT Strategy.
- 3.1.12 The DVC presented the initial findings of work to review the Estates Strategy for 2010-2019. An Estates Strategy, based on this work, was due to be presented to the Board for consideration in April 2010. The Strategy was designed to address the need for more space and flexibility, to improve the quality of the estate and meet the requirements of the Carbon Management Plan... [*Commercial-in-confidence*]... The Strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the SMT before going to the Strategy & Resources Committee and finally the Board for approval.
- 3.1.13 [*Commercial-in-confidence*]

## **3.2 Update on new lecture theatre**

- 3.2.1 The PVC(E&PP) confirmed that work on the development of Kimmeridge House to provide additional lecture theatres and flexible seminar spaces was progressing and on target for delivery in January 2011.

## **4. REVIEW OF SENATE STANDING ORDERS – INTERIM REPORT**

- 4.1. Senate noted this paper which reported on the interim findings of the review of the Senate Standing Orders being undertaken by the Constitution & Procedures Committee. Work on the quantitative aspects of the review had been largely finalised with further work to consider qualitative aspects being undertaken in phase 2. The final report would be presented to Senate at its next meeting in

**5. ACADEMIC STAFF PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SCHEME**

- 5.1 Senate noted this paper which provided information on the new appraisal scheme for Academic Staff which had been approved by the SMT in January 2010. The Scheme was broadly similar to those introduced for senior management and professional & support staff in accordance with the goal set out in the Strategic Plan. The paper reported on the pilot of the new scheme (including the outcomes from consultation with the Unions) and highlighted the significant changes from the previous scheme.

**6. DORSET HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

- 6.1 Dr Thomas reported on the Institutional Approval Visit to consider the proposal to delegate the Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (DHFT) a 'University Trust'. Findings showed that there was clear evidence of the potential for a strong working relationship between DHFT and HSC and it was recommended that the University support the proposal. Two conditions were applied in connection with formalising the governance arrangements and agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties. Progress was being made in addressing these points and it was hoped that these would be finalised before the next meeting of Senate.

**7. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REVIEW**

- 7.1 The PVC(E&PP) reported that phase 2 of the PSR was progressing, with new Directors taking forward changes within their own services, reporting to the relevant UEG members. A revised structure for Estates and IT had been published and was being implemented. Appointments to management posts within SAS were being made. Work was also progressing on the cross-cutting areas of the PSR, such as that looking at Management Information.

**8. REVISIONS TO STANDARD ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS**

- 8.1 Mrs Taylor presented two proposed changes to the Standard Assessment Regulations. These changes were recommended by the ASC and were presented to the Senate for approval. The first clarified the implementation of the regulations on compensation and the second was a minor change to the section on the submission of coursework. Senate approved the amendments.

**9. MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

The paper set out several issues raised by elected representatives, and these were discussed in turn as follows:

- 9.1 *Discussions with the AUCB*

**Response:**

The Chair explained that there were regular discussions between the University and the AUCB on a variety of strategic and tactical matters. For example, the two institutions were collaborating on the 'Streets of Bournemouth' BU led project and recently the Heads of both institutions had given reciprocal presentations to each others Boards on the work on their institutions. The merger of BU and the AUCB

was not on the immediate agenda, although it was possible that closer working between the two would be a subject for further consideration in the long term.

9.2. *myBU and Units spanning more than one academic year.*

**Response:**

The PVC(E&PP) confirmed that work was being undertaken to find a solution to this problem.

9.3. *Professional Practice*

**Response:**

The PVC(E&PP) noted these concerns but confirmed that there was no intention to move away from the emphasis on professional practice, although there was also a need for an emphasis on research. Senate discussed concerns that the focus on research might impact upon the quality of the teaching skills of academic staff. It was felt that it was important that the recruitment process be designed to also test communication and teaching skills. The SUBU representative noted that there was a fear amongst some students that the quality of teaching would be affected by staff changes and that bringing in research active academics who may not be the best teachers was a risky strategy. The Chair invited the SU representatives to consider presenting any evidence on these concerns and also student perceptions on these concerns to Senate, via discussion at the Student Experience Committee.

**SUBU**

9.4. *AACSB*

**Response:**

The PVC(E&PP) explained that the University was committed to achieving accreditation through AACSB, although it was recognised that this will take several years. This was only one of a number of accreditations that the Business School was striving towards.

9.5. *Balance between research, education, enterprise and professional practice*

**Response:**

Details of the relative roles played by each of the four pillars are contained in the staff handbook and were a theme of the staff induction process. Staff were directed to refer to the handbook.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**10. RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

25 November 2009

- 10.1 The minutes were noted. It was also noted that Dr Robert Chapman had been appointed as new, independent, Chair of this Committee.

**11. RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE**

26 February 2010

- 11.1 The minutes were noted.

**12. STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

25 November 2009

24 February 2010

12.1 The minutes was noted.

**13. CONSTITUTION & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**  
23 February 2010

13.1 The minutes were noted.

**14. EXTRACT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
21 October 2009  
9 December 2009  
24 February 2010

14.1 The minutes were noted.

**15. INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY GROUP**  
29 September 2009

15.1 The minutes were noted.

**16. EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE**  
10 February 2010

16.1 The minutes were noted.

**17. MINUTES – SCHOOL ACADEMIC BOARDS**

The minutes of the following meetings were noted:

17.1 **Business School**  
28 October 2009

17.2 **Conservation Sciences**  
20 October 2009  
17 November 2009  
15 December 2009  
19 January 2010

17.3 **Design, Engineering & Computing**  
14 October 2009  
17 February 2010

17.4 **Media School**  
28 October 2009  
27 January 2010

17.5 **Services Management**  
3 February 2010

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**16.1 Thanks**

The Chair thanked Mr Riordan, shortly due to retire as Director of Human Resources, for his work on the Senate.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday, 9 June 2010.

Committee Clerk  
March 2010

SenateMinutes\_100310\_Confirmed

Approved as a true and accurate record:

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Prof P Curran (Chair)

Date:.....