BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY   **CONFIRMED**

SENATE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SENATE HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2014

Present:	Prof J Vinney (**Chair**) Ms M Barron; Dr C Bond; Mr P Briant (SUBU); Prof J Fletcher; Ms J Forster; Dr R Gunstone; Mr A James; Mr S Jukes; Ms J Mack; Prof S McDougall; Prof T McIntyre-Bhatty; Prof I MacRury; Dr S Minocha; Prof S Page; Ms J Quest; Ms C Schendel-Wilson (SUBU); Ms A Stevens; Prof G Thomas; Prof K Wilkes
In attendance:	Dr D Birch (Item 5.2); Prof D Buhalis; Ms M Frampton (Policy & Committees Officer); Prof B Gabrys; Prof S Heppell (Item 5.2); Mr T Lee (Observer); Dr M Hutchings (Item 5.2); Prof K Phalp (deputising for Prof Roach); Mr G Rayment (Corporate Governance & Committee Manager); Dr G Roushan (Item 5.2)
Apologies received:	Mr C Allen; Mr J Andrews; Mr G Beards; Dr C Chapleo; Ms E Mayo-Ward (SUBU); Prof A Mullineux; Prof J Roach; Prof E Rosser; Dr H Thiel; Prof T Zhang

1.   WELCOMES, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The Chair also welcomed Mr Tim Lee, Deputy Chair of the University Board, as an observer.

2.   MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE HELD ON 4 JUNE 2014

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

It was noted that the updated Proposed Assessment Policy Changes stated in section 6.1.6 of the previous minutes would firstly be presented to the Academic Standards Committee for approval and then presented to Senate.

2.1   Matters Arising

2.1.1   Item 4.1.12 – BU2018 Update

Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) was on the agenda (Item 5.2) as a debate topic for discussion.

2.1.2   **Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust (DHUFT) – Designation of the Trust**

Prof Vinney, Mr Andrews and Prof Thomas had recently attended a meeting with key people from DHUFT. The DHUFT representatives had confirmed that they would embed the partnership with BU throughout their new strategy, which would be finalised in early 2015. A refreshed Memorandum of Understanding would be presented to the International & UK Partnerships Committee for approval.

Ms Barron confirmed that BU had recently signed a contract with DHUFT for the provision of a Student Emotional Wellbeing Service. This would provide a more collaborative approach to student support, building on the existing student counselling provision.

3. **REPORT OF ELECTRONIC SENATE MEETING OF 22 SEPTEMBER TO 26 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The report of the Electronic Senate meeting of 22 to 26 September 2014 was noted.

4. **VICE CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

4.1   BU 2018 and HE Sector Update

BU 2018 Update

4.1.1   The BU 2018 strategic plan had been set in 2011/12, and BU was now a third of the way through the six year plan. The Chair provided some highlights of the last twelve months and expected developments over the coming year.

4.1.2   BU had received its highest number of applications to undergraduate programmes which was very positive. The student intake for 2014/15 had been very strong with high quality applications and high levels of demand from ABB+ applicants.

4.1.3   BU had submitted a high quality Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission and the results would be announced on 18 December 2014. The work involved in the REF submission had been immense and it was hoped that the results would be a testament to that hard work.

4.1.4   Over the last twelve months, a lot of excellent work had been carried out regionally and within the local economy, and thanks were given to SUBU for their work in supporting community engagement.

4.1.5   BU was in a very sound financial position and the programme to recruit additional academic staff was continuing.

4.1.6   The challenges that BU would face over the next twelve months would include postgraduate student recruitment and international student recruitment. Dr Minocha was leading the development of the Global Engagement Plan and she confirmed the international recruitment challenges faced by BU were sectoral challenges which were encountered by many HEIs. Dr Minocha stated that she will lead the development of key strategic partnerships, promote Fusion globally and develop BU's understanding of the needs of each country. Over the coming months, there would be a number of Global Engagement workshops taking place for staff in order to drive engagement in this important work.

HE Sector Update

4.1.7   Following the recent political party conferences and statements regarding immigration there was some concern that the messages communicated globally were not welcoming for overseas students, although it had been noted that there could be a possibility of excluding students from net migration statistics and this could be helpful to international recruitment.

4.1.8   Another potential risk to HEIs was changes to future funding models and the possibility of the Conservative Party introducing increased tuition fees of up to £16,000. The Labour Party was not expected to publish any information regarding fees before the next General Election in May 2015.

4.1.9   The Conservative Party had already stated its plans to remove student number controls from 2015/16. This proposal was still expected to go ahead. If the Labour Party was successful at the General Election they may lower student numbers in favour of additional measures to widen participation and increase PG support, in addition to lowering the cap on student fees to £6,000 which would give the sector some uncertainty moving forward.

4.1.10　A Higher Education Bill was expected to be published in 2017 and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) had recently put UK Quality Assurance out to tender. Further information would be made available to staff when the Bill was published.

4.1.11　It was expected that the Autumn Statement given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 3 December 2014 would put a lot of pressure on the Business, Innovation and Skills Department budget. There had also been some speculation in the HE sector around changes to REF funding.

4.1.12　Dr Bond raised specific issues regarding the use of Audio Visual equipment in lecture theatres, in particular the need for good, reliable connectivity and flexible systems which worked appropriately with students' own devices.　The Chair explained that the need to upgrade AV equipment had been recognised and that a c£3 million project to improve the systems was being implemented across the University. The Chair agreed to ask the IT Directorate to investigate Dr Bond's specific points and report back to a future meeting.

ACTION:	To respond to Dr Bond's points regarding the AV upgrade.
ACTION BY:	Professor John Vinney

4.1.13　The Chair invited members to comment on the on-going Faculty consultation.　Members had no questions and were content with the consultation process to date.　Prof McIntyre-Bhatty confirmed he would scrutinise all consultation responses and feedback, before making his recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor.

5.　DEBATES

5.1　National Student Survey 2014 (NSS)

5.1.1　All staff were now familiar with the NSS results and the data had been discussed at a recent ESEC meeting.　UET members had spoken to Programme Leaders in order to better understand programme issues and plans and how they could be supported further.

5.1.2　The DVC explained that there had been a general shift in NSS results away from the 'dissatisfied' responses and towards the 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' middle-ground. Following on from the work carried out on the lowest performing areas, further analysis of the results would be undertaken and detailed discussions would take place with Schools/Faculty to improve upon the results.

5.1.3　Following discussion at a ULT Away Day and with Head of Departments earlier this year, a number of good ideas and responses were received, however there was one consistent theme which was to enhance relationships with students, to give students more contact time and to have Academic Advisor roles available.　It was important for all staff to now focus on the tutor/student relationship this year and Senators were requested to work with colleagues in Schools/Faculty to develop these suggestions further.

5.1.4　Prof Phalp advised that Schools/Faculty should be working on the areas where they perform poorly. It was noted that there were courses which were doing very well, and it was important to share and learn from these courses.　Susanne Clarke, Head of Service Excellence, was working with academics to help share best-practice across the University.

5.1.5　Dr Gunstone suggested that work should be carried out to investigate the differences between staff and student perspectives of the survey as the results could be of consequence to BU.

5.1.6　Prof McIntyre-Bhatty advised that some benchmarking had been carried out and it had been identified that high performing universities had a very strong drive for cohort identity, resilience in their staff teams and a strong team based approach and sense of programme 'ownership'.　This could already be seen in some programmes within BU. The need for

consistent feedback loops was also highlighted and the newly implemented mid-cycle feedback system would help to shed further light on any areas of good practice and those where further enhancements need to be secured, whilst also providing an early warning system to inform swift corrective action within individual units.

5.1.7   Prof Thomas suggested the issue could be around the language used and the possibility of students not understanding the term 'personal development'. Moving forward, it may be best for all staff to use language more effectively within units in order to clearly signal formative assessment. Dr Roushan informed Senators that within the Business School, there was a campaign to use the term 'feedback' more explicitly, and that for example, 'surgery times' had been renamed 'feedback times'.

5.1.8   Ms Schendel-Wilson suggested that students need academic staff to be mentors and to provide a challenge in order for students to excel and to have an excellent student experience, and to be able to improve their work. It was also suggested that BU should highlight the fact that students were able to raise concerns about minor issues in order to assist with improving BU.

5.1.9   Prof MacRury suggested that possibly a discussion should take place to explore the different meaning of satisfaction within relationships and dissatisfaction. Prof MacRury had recently worked with Dr Fiona Cownie to discuss the areas which had not scored well, and there appeared to be a correlation with those areas and higher proportions of Widening Participation students. Further work could be carried out to help students understand what will happen when they leave BU, to discuss how they feel about their own future and to reassure students they are prepared for a career after leaving BU.

5.1.10   Prof Thomas advised that the Centre for Excellence in Learning (CEL) had been developing a learning strategy and setting out how BU could assist students on their own individual journeys through university.

5.1.11   In summary, Prof McIntyre-Bhatty reminded Senators of the importance of disseminating the discussion which had taken place with colleagues in order to improve student experience.

5.2   Technology Enhanced Learning and its role in facilitating innovation in learning

5.2.1   Prof Thomas introduced the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) discussion and was joined by Dr Roushan, Dr Birch, Dr Hutchings and Prof Heppell. Dr Roushan provided information regarding the forthcoming TEL Review and explained how BU uses TEL and offered some ideas on areas for further development or new approaches.

5.2.2   There had been a number of specific themes around TEL over the last 18 months, and work was now underway to get an understanding of current practice, as there were some misconceptions around TEL. An area which was investigated last year was Technology Enhanced Assessment and a number of very important issues resulted from the investigation. Consequently, there were a number of areas of good practice and colleagues were working on transforming assessment and feedback with various technologies.

5.2.3   Work was now being carried out to look at the value of the VLE and its capabilities, and also looking at its current adoption at BU and how it was being used.

5.2.4   Dr Birch gave an overview of student engagement with TEL and how TEL could facilitate innovative learning and support students with an enriched and engaging learning experience through inspiring software. TEL facilitates both cognitive and social learning outcomes and could also be used to encourage students to become more independent, self-directed and resourceful learners, and allow for the convenient delivery for both on-campus and distance learners. When designing an e-learning programme, BU should use those technologies which replicate the on-campus learning experience and keep students involved and also provide interactive learning.

5.2.5　Dr Hutchings introduced Technology Enhanced Assessment for promoting student learning with large groups of students and explained the context and technologies adopted. With Computer Assisted Assessment (CAA), students would receive immediate scoring and feedback and this reduced the marking workload for academics. Audience Response Systems (ARS) engaged students in more active learning in large groups and offered the facility to provide multiple choice questions to a whole class. Group Blogs utilised myBU and encouraged group engagement. An overview of the weekly student experience was provided. This would typically include lectures, ARS and group work. Students would then build their knowledge with further reading, videos and podcasts.

5.2.6　Prof Heppell provided an overview of the Education Technology Action Group and the areas the group would be working on e.g. new and emerging teaching and learning, such as personal or wearable technology. It was anticipated that in the future, technology could be introduced to BU which provided data such as which students were on campus and how long they stayed on campus. There was a definite need to develop models in order for BU to use this data.

5.2.8　Mr Briant suggested that much of the technology under discussion was already commonplace, and the University needed to look further ahead. Prof Heppell suggested that further cultural change was required and that an entitlement to on-line learning was not yet universally recognised.

5.2.9　Prof Thomas stated that students have a lot of information and are data rich. The role of education was helping students to use the information learned in a professional context and to also understand how BU uses technology. The quality of the interaction through technology was important to students, and technology was now helping to process information in order for students to take their knowledge forward for their life after university.

5.2.10　Prof McDougall commented that the vital thing which would underpin how effective this model was and the extent to which students were motivated. Quality interactivity and motivation was important for encouraging students to work effectively through their programmes. When considering distance learning it was important to not overlook the fact that students value personal contact with academic staff.

5.2.11　Members debated the use of social networks by students to discuss their programmes. Some members were concerned that academics could be excluded from these discussions, whereas others felt that academics should participate in their on-line conversations as this was be valued by students.

5.2.12　Dr Roushan advised that a cultural shift was taking place in how students expect academic staff to share knowledge with them. Interaction should not stop when staff and students leave the classroom as students continue to learn between lectures.

5.2.13　Prof Thomas thanked Senators for the engaging discussion and advised that the TEL Review would allow everyone to think about what BU could change for the better for the future.

6.　OTHER REPORTS

There were no other reports.

7.　ROUTINE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Terms of Reference

7.1　Academic Standards Committee Terms of Reference

7.1.1　The Terms of Reference were **approved.**

7.2   Education and Student Experience Committee Terms of Reference

7.2.1   The Terms of Reference were **approved.**

7.3   University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee Terms of Reference

7.3.1   The Terms of Reference were **approved.**

Minutes of Standing Committees

7.4   Education and Student Experience Committee (unconfirmed), 23 September 2014

7.4.1   The minutes were **noted.**

7.5   University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (unconfirmed), 24 September 2014

7.5.1   The minutes were **noted.**

7.5.2   A discussion took place regarding Section 8.1 of the minutes titled Academic Publication Policy Review and the possible change of processes for academic staff using BRIAN and BURO. Prof Fletcher confirmed that a Communication Plan had been published and a number of opportunities would be provided during 2014 to advise staff of the changes in practice and the enhancements.

School Academic Boards

7.6   School of Health and Social Care (unconfirmed), 9 October 2014

7.6.1   The minutes were **approved.**

8.   ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1   There was no other business.

9.   DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Electronic Senate – 9.00am, Wednesday 4 February 2015
Live meeting – 2.15pm, Wednesday 25 February 2015