Formal Matters

11655. Obituary: Senate noted, with sadness, the recent passing of former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, from 1980 to 1991, Professor Sir Graham Hills BSc PhD FRSE (9 April, 1926 - 9 February, 2014)

Senate stood for a moment of silence in recognition of the significant and distinctive contribution made by Professor Sir Graham Hills.

A memorial service to celebrate his life and contribution to the University would be held on Friday 25 April, 3.30pm, in the Barony Hall. All staff were welcome to attend.

11656. Minutes of the meeting of 22 January 2014

Members approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to a minor amendment requested by the Associate Deputy Principal, Education.

The amendment in the first paragraph under minute 11639 was amended as follows (added text in bold):

Dr Bonnar invited Senate to provide comment on the draft and noted that an accompanying review of procedures would be presented to Senate at its next meeting in March. It was noted that this would include a reference to dealing with assessment and feedback in large classes.

11657. Matters Arising

There were none.
Presentations and Items for Discussion

11658. Principal’s Report
In addition to noting the Convener’s Actions undertaken by the Principal since the last meeting and listed in Paper B, Senate was provided with an update on the following items:

- National Physical Laboratory (NPL) – The University had been short-listed as one of four lead “bid partners” and was developing a bid in partnership with Surrey, another bid partner. The bid was due to be submitted on 22nd April and Court approval would be sought before submission.
- The Principal had recently visited the Far East, building on relationships in China, Hong Kong and Singapore including:
  - Meeting with the CEO of Hanban to approve expansion of the Confucius Institute
  - Meeting with the Chinese University of Political Science & Law to discuss joint degree programmes
  - Successful alumni events in Beijing, Hong Kong and Singapore
- The Principal would visit Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University in the following week
- Later in the month the Principal would travel to Brazil to discuss Strathclyde’s continuing participation in the Science Without Borders Initiative
- University of Strathclyde Students’ Association had recently won two awards:
  - University Students’ Association of the Year award from NUS Scotland
  - Best Bar None award in the best public health initiative category
- The Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC) for which Strathclyde acted as “hub” had been launched.
- The University would launch its new Oil & Gas Institute in June 2014.

Student Information Management System (SIMS)
The Chief Operating Officer updated Senate on the approval by Court of £14M for the SIMS project. The specification of the long awaited replacement for the student information system had been developed with input from a range of staff across Professional Services and the faculties. Continued staff engagement would be crucial during the next stages of the project.

The proposed solution was an off the shelf package with bespoke adaptations and the majority of the approved costs would be internal backfill costs. The preferred supplier was currently installing the new Finance system. Full implementation was due by session 2017-18 and the Principal requested that Senate be updated, annually, on progress.

National Student Survey (NSS)
The Director of SEES updated Senate on the activities underway to encourage students to take part in the NSS before it closed at the end of April. The University was aiming for a 70% return rate (67% was achieved in 2012-13) and USSA was also working to publicise the survey during the final month. The outcomes would be known in August.

Glasgow Children’s University
The University would host the first graduation ceremony for the Glasgow Children’s University in the Barony on Thursday 24 April. The Principal, as Chancellor of Glasgow Children’s University, would preside and Mike Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning would give the keynote address. Between fifty and seventy Secondary 1 and 2 pupils would receive, mainly bronze, awards. Invitations would shortly be sent to all members of Senate.
Estates Development Fund (EDF) 3
The Principal reminded members of the £300M the University had invested in its estate over the last 4 to 5 years. The next phase would focus on learning and teaching and the student experience. The President of USSA welcomed this positive news.

11659. ELIR – Update
The Vice-Principal informed Senate that the University had achieved a judgement of "Effective" in the recent ELIR which was the highest rating available. The outcome letter stated:

The University of Strathclyde has effective arrangements for managing academic standards and the student learning experience. These arrangements are likely to continue to be effective in the future.

This is a positive judgement, which means the University has robust arrangements for securing academic standards and for enhancing the quality of the student experience.

The ELIR visits had gone very well and the Vice Principal expressed his thanks to all those involved. The draft Outcome and Technical Reports were expected by 16 May 2014 and the University would have the opportunity to comment on matters of factual accuracy by 4 July 2014 after which the reports would be published on the QAA website.

A significant number of areas of positive practice had been identified:

- Development and communication of a clear strategy and vision
- Staff engagement in institutional strategy demonstrated by the Accountability Development Review (ADR) process
- Streamlining the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
- Approach to widening participation
- Support for innovation in learning and teaching
- Researcher Development Programme
- Support for student mobility
- Data analysis and reporting of information from external examiners and student surveys
- Peer review in annual quality reporting

Areas for development had also been identified

- Institution-led quality review
- Assessment and feedback
- Curriculum flexibility - increased flexibility to enable more students to engage in innovative and active experiential learning
- Embedding graduate attributes in curriculum design
- Staff-student contact - Promote the equivalence of the student experience through staff workload planning

The University had already been aware of most of these issues and had flagged them to the ELIR team. It had already begun to address many of them.

11660. Feedback and Assessment Policy and Procedures
The Vice Dean (Academic), HaSS reminded Members that the Policy had previously been considered and endorsed by Senate and had also been considered by Quality Assurance Committee and Education Strategy Committee. The new policy would apply from 2014/15.
The main revisions to the Policy had been made to bring it in line with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education and included provision of continuous feedback to students, timeliness and clarity of feedback and the responsibilities for implementation.

The main revisions to the Procedures included:
- Clarifying statements on disabled students’ needs and special circumstances for examinations;
- Clarifying the duties of staff such as exam co-ordinators;
- Exam Boards to treat “A” (Absent) as a mark of 0 in calculating average mark for the Compensation Scheme;
- Additional text relating to Integrated Masters had been added to the Policy on Honours Classification and Other Award Rankings.

Further Work was still required on:
- Resources supporting feedback to large classes;
- Procedures on Invigilation;
- Policies on Electronic Submission and the use of Computers in Examinations.

In the discussion which followed, members noted the problems with the timing of the semester 1 examination diet and the absence of Board of Examiners’ meetings following this diet along with the pressures on space and invigilation arrangements of accommodating students with additional needs. The Director of SEES confirmed that these issues would be considered by Education Strategy Committee along with a range of related issues including exam bunching and assessment load. Any proposals would be brought to a future Senate.

The need to ensure anonymous marking of online submissions and issues with the use of tablets in examinations were raised and it was confirmed that these requirements would be reviewed in the context of the revised Assessment and Feedback Procedures and the new proposed policy for online assignment submission. In the interim the Education Enhancement team could provide support.

Senate endorsed the Assessment and Feedback Policy and the reviewed procedures noting that there were still some fundamental and operational issues to be tackled and the Working Group would continue to review the provision of related policies supporting Assessment and Feedback.

11661. Dual degrees proposal
The Vice Principal highlighted to Senate the proposal from the Business School, made to Education Strategy Committee (ESC), to introduce dual degrees from 2015-2016. He noted that the University had the authority, under its revised Charter, to offer dual/double degrees but had not used this authority to date. This issue was becoming increasingly important in the internationalisation agenda and had been raised during the recent strategic Senate.

ESC supported dual degrees in principle but noted the need for equivalent quality assurance measures; evidence of clear additionality and an approach to ensuring careful consideration of partners.

A Dual Degrees Working Group had been formed to develop a policy framework. Its proposals would be presented for endorsement by the Education Strategy Committee to the June meeting of Senate.

Senate also supported this development in principle but would discuss the matter more fully at its June meeting when further detail would be available. It was noted that the
Business School had ongoing discussions with major international partners and would welcome an early resolution.

Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

11662. Executive Team
Senate noted the report from the Executive Team

11663. Court
Senate noted the report from Court

11664. Education Strategy Committee
Senate noted the report from the Education Strategy Committee

11665. Quality Assurance Committee
Senate noted the report from the Quality Assurance Committee and approved:
- The University’s Procedure and Guidelines for External Examiners of Taught Courses
- The Voluntary Suspension Guidelines

11666. Learning Enhancement Committee
Senate noted the report from the Learning Enhancement Committee

11667. Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee
Senate noted the report from the Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee

11668. Strathclyde Business School
Senate noted the report from the Business School and approved:
- Amendments to the BA Business, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group
- Amendments to the BBA Business, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group

11669. Faculty of Engineering
Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Engineering and approved:
- The post of Vice Dean (International Development and Recruitment)
- New Template for Articulation Agreements
- Articulation Agreement: Wuhan University
- Short Term Duration Agreement: Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi’an, China
- Collaborative Agreement: Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport (UT-HCMC), China
- Collaborative Agreement: Hohai University (HHU), China
- Provision of MSc Training for Engineers with the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), Thailand

Senate also approved the introduction of the following prizes within the Faculty of Engineering from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group:
- The ‘BAM’ Award for Best Student on the MSc in Civil Engineering
- The ‘Scottish Water’ Award for Best Student on the MSc in Environmental Engineering
- The ‘Closed Loop Environmental Solutions’ Award for Best Student on the MSc in Environmental Entrepreneurship
- The ‘Mott MacDonald’ Award for Best Student on the MSc in Sustainability & Environmental Studies

11670. Faculty of Science
Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Science.

11671. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and approved:
- Articulation Agreement with Shanghai Finance University (SFU), China
- Articulation Agreement with Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee College, China
- Articulation Agreement with Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, China
- Articulation Agreement with Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, China
- Validation Request - Dochas Education Trust, Malawi
- Change of Title: MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert in Social Work Management to MSc/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Social Services Management from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group

- New Courses
  - Introduction of Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Lifelong Learning in the Digital Age from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group
  - Introduction of MSc in Applied Clinical Health Psychology from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group
  - Introduction of LLM/PG Dip in English Law; LLB (Graduate Entry) Scots and English Law; LLB (Hons) Scots and English Law from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group
  - Introduction of MSc in International Politics and Organisations from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group
  - Introduction of Honours Year for BA in Education and Social Services (ESS) from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group
  - Introduction of Gaelic Immersion Course for Teachers from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group

Senate also approved the introduction of the following prizes within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Working Group:
- John Fitzsimons Memorial Fund prize – School of Law

11672. Senate Discipline Committee
Senate noted the report from the Senate Discipline Committee

11673. Report from Senate Business Committee
Senate noted the report from the Senate Business Committee.

Reserved Business

JM 03/04/14