SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 12 June 2013

Present:
Principal (in the chair)
Dr M Alexander, Dr E Bonnar, Professor D Christie, Dr A Coddington, Dr C Coles,
T Collins, Dr D Dixon, Professor A Duffy, Dr J Ferguson, Professor J Fraser,
Dr D Goldie, Dr D Greenhalgh, Dr D Harle, Professor D Hillier, Professor I Hunter,
Mr S Jennings, Professor W Kerr, Professor D Littlejohn, Professor P McGregor,
Professor A McGrew, Professor X Mao, Professor K Miller, Dr J Mowat, Dr Veena
O'Halloran, Dr I Oswald, Dr R Tate, Dr S Terzis, Dr A Urquhart, Dr D Willison

Attending:
Mr H Hall, Mr B Green, Dr C Prior, Professor C Grant, Mr D Thompson, Mr M Moir,
Ms R Maxwell-Stuart, Mr K Adjei, Mr J Ferns

Apologies:
Dr S Brough, Dr P Davies, Dr M Grant, Professor S Hart, Professor S McArthur,
Professor N NicDaeid, Professor I Ruthven, Professor L Woolfson,
Professor D Nash, Professor K Ibeh

Acknowledgements:

11572. Senate noted the pending changes in leadership of the University of Strathclyde Students
Association (USSA), with new sabbatical officers due to assume their duties in 2013/14. The
Principal thanked the outgoing Student President and Vice President (Education) for
their contributions and welcomed the President-elect and Vice-President-elect.

11573. Obituary: Senate noted with sadness the passing, on 10 April 2013, of Dr Gordon
Jackson, formerly of the Department of Economic History and former member of Senate.

11574. Obituary: Senate noted with sadness the passing, on 15 May 2013, of Lady Mary Jane
Hills, wife of Professor Sir Graham Hills, former Principal of the University.

11575. Senate noted that Mrs Jane Meredith, Academic Policy Officer, had given birth to a
healthy baby boy on 27 May 2013. The Principal asked that the good wishes of Senate
be communicated to Mrs Meredith.

[ACTION]

11576. Minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2013
Senate approved the Minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2013.

11577. Matters arising from the Minutes (and not otherwise on the agenda)
The Associate Deputy Principal (Education) provided a brief update on the on-going work
with Study Group to establish the new International Study Centre. Senate noted that the
project was on track and that the first tranche of students would commence study in
September 2013. It was noted that the new students would not be formally registered
with the University in the first year of study but that they would be present on campus.

The Student Vice-President (Education) suggested that, in liaison with USSA, the
University might consider sending Freshers or welcome packs to these students.

[ACTION]
The Principal reminded Senate of the strategic focus on increasing the number of non-EU students for the benefit of the University as a whole. He reinforced the need for all relevant staff to engage fully with Study Group as a key strategic partner.

11578. 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:

- The University’s Outcome Agreement for 2013/14 had now been published by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). New targets had been agreed in relation to increasing the number of entrants from under-represented backgrounds. The USSA President congratulated the University on the management of the process for developing the 2013/14 agreements, noting that the University was at the forefront of commitments on widening access.
- The Power Networks Demonstration Centre had been officially opened on 15 May by Scotland’s First Minister.
- In the wake of the opening of the Fraunhofer Institute in April, the University’s work and impact had been attracting wide attention, particularly from UK Ministers. More work was planned to highlight the University’s strengths in pharmaceuticals.
- A launch event for the University’s Institute for Future Cities had been held on 11 June and attended by the Deputy First Minister. This launch followed on from the UK Technology Strategy Board’s recent £24m investment in Glasgow as a Future City Demonstrator.
- Prof Peter McGregor had been officially appointed as Head of the Strathclyde International Public Policy Institute (SIPPI).
- The University was in the process of finalising an agreement with the International Prevention Research Institute (IPRI) that would have an impact on the development of health technologies.
- The Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation, a collaborative project led by the University, had secured £34m in funding.
- The Scottish Government had formalised the establishment at the University of the Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre, as part of the School of Social Sciences. The Centre had previously been based at the University of Edinburgh.
- The University had recently held Research Week and Research Day and both had been a success, attracting large numbers of external participants and engaging a number of local primary and secondary schools. The Principal thanked the staff involved from Research and Knowledge Exchange Services for their help and support.
- The Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill was still subject to Parliamentary scrutiny as part of the legislative process. Several important amendments proposed by Universities Scotland on behalf of the sector had been accepted. Universities Scotland was also developing a compelling case for the sector ahead of the coming Spending Review.
- The University was leading on five Doctoral Training Centre bids and participating in five others which were all going forward to a final consideration stage. The bids covered a wide range of different subject areas.
- The University’s Campus Update publication would be made available to all Senators at the end of the meeting to provide the latest information on current and planned estates activity.
The Principal’s programme of Departmental Engagement meetings was now nearing its conclusion and feedback from these would be collated and presented back to Senate in the next academic term.

The Leadership Group had agreed the importance of developing the University as a values-led organisation. Following further development, the intention was to implement the concept across the full range of University activities.

The Principal would be engaging with the University’s partners in delivering the Technology Innovation Centre (TIC) building to ensure that the project was on-track. Move-in arrangements would be dealt with following these discussions.

11579. Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR)
The Vice-Principal reminded Senate that the ELIR was to be a standing item at Senate meetings until completion of the exercise in March 2014. Members were asked to consider the paper presented, which included a framework for the reflective analysis document, and to provide appropriate feedback direct to the Head of Learning Technology Enhancement. Particular feedback was sought in regard to whether relevant evidence required was held at Faculty or Department/School level.

Senate were advised of the timeline for the ELIR and that information would continue to be provided to Senate as this changed. Next steps would include a fuller first draft of the reflective analysis which would be brought to Senate in due course. Members were also advised that a SharePoint site was under development and that focus groups were being held with students.

The Principal noted the importance of student involvement in the process and the USSA Vice-President (Education) confirmed an upcoming student focus group meeting and that the opportunity to engage was being well publicised amongst the student body.

Senate was informed that the University’s on-going engagement with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) was based on a partnership approach and focused on enhancement. Case studies were being developed to demonstrate excellence and enhancement. It was noted that Court members, including the Convener, were involved in the process, demonstrating a high-level engagement.

11580. Research Excellence Framework (REF)
The Associate Deputy Principal (Research) and the Research Policy Manager provided an update on the University’s state of readiness for the REF. Senate was informed of the University’s activity to date in relation to the three key elements contributing to the University’s complete submission. These were narrative, impact, and environment. Significant efforts were being focused on ensuring that the quality of the supporting narrative was high and in reducing the number of staff where a decision on inclusion was still pending.

Senate was provided with a timeline for the continued development of the REF submission, prior to the deadline of 29 November 2014.

The Principal expressed Senate’s thanks for this timely update and for the extensive preparatory work undertaken to date.

Senate members asked for guidance on what steps could be taken by Faculties and individuals to enhance the evidence of the impact of their work. They heard that information already in the public domain was key and that the use of internet search engines was often a simple way of gauging the level of impact. Influence or impact upon the development of public policies would also be considered a useful measure.

11581. Streamlining the University’s Regulatory Framework
The Vice-Principal introduced this item and the associated papers, highlighting the items for which Senate approval was sought now or where Senate was being asked to make a recommendation to Court.

Senate queried the ability of a student, under the revised procedures relating to the eligibility of personal circumstances in academic appeals, to identify, in retrospect, a circumstance that may have affected their performance in an examination or assessment. The Vice-Principal explained that the revised procedure maintained the necessary flexibility and discretion to deal with those cases where a student, for a good and evidenced reason, had failed to notify the University of specific personal circumstances prior to the required date.

Senate welcomed and approved the revised versions of the Student Discipline Procedure and the Personal Circumstances and Academic Appeals Procedure, subject to a final check and possible minor amendments in relation to gender-specific language in the documents. Senate also noted the subsequent changes required to University Regulations and the draft revisions offered in the papers for which Court approval would be sought on 25 June, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Committee.

Senate noted the required changes to University Ordinances as a result of recently revised staff policies and the draft revised text offered in the papers. Senate noted that Court’s approval for these specific changes to University Ordinances would be sought on 25 June.

Senate heard that implementation of a new Complaints Handling Procedure (CHP) based on an SPSO-approved model was a statutory duty to which all Universities in Scotland were subject. Senate noted the University’s compliant draft CHP supplied in the papers. Senate noted that formal approval for the new CHP would be sought from Court on 25 June and that implementation was required before 30 August. Senate noted the subsequent changes required to University Regulations and the draft revisions offered in the papers for which formal approval would be sought from Court on 25 June.

Senate noted the recent wider work undertaken to streamline the University’s Ordinances and Regulations. The final results of this work would come back to Senate on 11 September and then to Court for final approval on 26 September. Members of the Ordinances and Regulations Committee had provided initial observations and further scrutiny would take place over the summer. Senators were encouraged to offer feedback and any proposals for further streamlining to relevant staff in Strategy and Policy.

Senators welcomed the approach of bringing the different revised documents to a single meeting of Senate and the opportunity this provided to scrutinise the revised procedures in aggregate.

The USSA President welcomed the way in which student representatives had been included and consulted by the University during the policy development process.

11582. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

The Associate Deputy Principal (Education) provided an update to Senate on the University’s development of pilot MOOCs in the subject areas of forensic sciences and business. A good level of interest had been demonstrated by staff during a recent internal workshop and the Associate Deputy Principal had attended the first meeting of a UK-wide Advisory Group on MOOCs. Senate heard that it would be important for the University to distinguish itself from other market offerings by ensuring high quality provision and timely delivery. It was also clear that other institutions were committing significant resources in this area.
Senate heard that further work was underway within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to develop a third MOOC in the journalism subject area during 2014.

11583. Recommendations for Approval *nem con*

.1 **Dissolution of the Joint Sub-Board for Information Engineering**
   Senate approved this item, B4.1 BP07

.2 **Amendment to Motivational Merit and Distinction Policy**
   Senate approved this item, subject to agreement from Faculties on the final wording, B3 BP04

.3 **Vice-Dean’s Report, HaSS**
   Senate approved the recommendation that any student required to repeat first year of the BA (Hons) in Arts and Social Sciences will undertake the new BA (Hons) in Humanities and Social Sciences in session 2013/2014, B1 BP07

.4 **Collaborative Arrangements**
   .1 **MSc/PgD/PgC in Health History**
      Senate approved this item, B4.1 BP07
   
   .2 **Delivery of Parliamentary Studies Module**
      Senate approved this item, B4.2 BP07

.3 **Draft Articulation Agreement with Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics**
   Senate approved this item, B4.3 BP07

.4 **Draft Articulation Agreement with Nanjing University of Finance and Economics**
   Senate approved this item, B4.4 BP07

.5 **Introduction of Courses and Classes**
   .1 **MSc/PgD in Physical Activity for Health**
      Senate approved this item, subject to approval of the Regulations by Ordinance and Regulations Committee. B3.1 BP07

   .2 **Postgraduate Certificate in Researcher Professional Development**
      Senate approved this item, subject to approval of the Regulations by Ordinance and Regulations Committee. Paper L

.6 **Amendment to Courses and Classes**
   .1 **Review of First Year BA Classes**
      Senate approved this item, subject to approval of the Regulations by Ordinances and Regulations Committee. B2.1 BP07

   .2 **BA (Hons) in Humanities and Social Sciences Regulations**
      Senate approved this item, subject to approval of the Regulations by Ordinance and Regulations Committee. B2.2 BP07

   .3 **BA (Hons) in Primary Education and BA (Joint Hons) in Education**
      Senate approved this item, subject to approval of the Regulations by Ordinance and Regulations Committee, B2.3 BP07
.4 Review of Postgraduate Certificate in Securing Children’s Futures (BAAF)
Senate approved this item, B2.4 BP07

.7 Withdrawal of Courses

.1 MSc in Analysis of Medicines
Senate approved this item, B1.1 BP04

.8 New Amended Prizes & Scholarships

.1 Brian Cooksey Postgraduate Scholarship in Analytical Chemistry
Senate approved this item, subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee, B2.1 BP04

.2 Madeleine White Memorial Scholarship
Senate approved this item, subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee, B2.2 BP04

.3 Glasgow Architectural Heritage Conservation & Regeneration Prize
Senate approved this item, subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee, B1.1 BP05

.4 The Joseph Levy Final Year Project Award
Senate approved this item, subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee, B1.2 BP05

11584. Items for Information

Senate noted the following items of information:

.1 Changes to Ordinance 4: The Staff of the University, Paper I
.2 Business Committee Report, Paper J
.3 Senate Elections, Paper K
.4 Joint Strathclyde China Institute, A1 BP06; B4.3 BP07
.5 Report from the Executive Team, BP02
.6 Report from Court, BP03
.7 Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics Articulation Agreement, C1.1 BP04
.8 Introduction of MSc in Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation (by Convener’s Action), C1.2 BP04
.9 Role and appointment of Associate Dean (Distance and Flexible Learning), Engineering (by Convener’s Action), A2 BP05
.10 Additional Appendix to the Previously signed Collaborative Agreement with UniKL, A3.1 BP05
.11 Engineering Excellence Scholarships, A3.2 BP05
.12 MSc in Wind Energy Systems, Final Regulations (by Convener’s Action), A4.1 BP05
.13 Strathclyde Business School: Proposal to Change Departmental Title (Recommendation to Court by Convener’s Action), A2 BP06
.14 Minutes of the Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee meeting of 7th May 2013, BP09
.15 Minutes of the Ordinances and Regulations meeting of 13th March 2013, BP10
.16 Joint Minutes of the Quality Assurance Committee/Learning Enhancement Committee meeting of 19th March 2013, BP16

11585. Reserved Business