SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 22 January 2014

Present: Principal (in the Chair)
Dr G Akram, Dr M Alexander, Dr P Allan, Professor T Bedford, Dr E Bonnar, Professor S Carter, Dr C Cassidy, Professor D Christie, Professor B Clark, Professor C Cooper, Professor M Demirbag Dr D Dixon, Professor A Duffy, Dr M Ellis, Professor J Fraser, Dr M Grant, Dr D Greenhalgh, Dr D Harle, Dr M Higgins, Professor I Hunter, Mr S Jennings, Professor A Kendrick, Professor W Kerr, Dr J Liggat, Professor S MacGregor, Professor X Mao, Professor R Martin, Professor S McArthur, Professor A McGrew, Professor K Miller, Dr J Mowat, Professor D Nash, Dr V O’Halloran, Dr E O’Neil, Professor K Paudyal, Dr S Rasmussen, Professor I Ruthven, Professor C Schaschke, Professor E Shaw, Professor Z Shipton, Dr S Terzis, Dr K Thory, Dr D Willison, Professor A Wilson, Professor P Winn, Professor L Woolfson.

Attending: Mr K Adjei, Mr D Coyle, Dr M Ellis, Dr C Prior, Mrs H Gould, Professor V Belton, Mr H Hall, Professor D Littlejohn, Mrs J Meredith, Mr D Thompson.

Apologies: Mr B Dickson, Professor J Ferguson, Professor C Grant, Professor S Hart, Professor S Howick, Professor J Murphy, Professor N Nic Daeid, Dr K Savage, Professor R Stewart, Dr T Tanyimboh, Dr R Tate, Professor J Thomson, Dr J Wilson.

Formal Matters

11633. Welcome

11634. Minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2013
Members approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to a minor amendment requested by the Associate Deputy Principal, Education (text to follow).

N.B. The above mentioned amendment was received and made on 29 January 2014. The amendment in the third paragraph under minute 11618 was amended as follows (added text in bold):

It was suggested that a partnership approach with students should feature prominently within any revised procedure and that the revision of the policy was clear evidence of a continuation of this, with the Education Excellence-funded work undertaken by the student interns influencing the development of University policy.

11635. Matters Arising
With sadness, Senate noted the recent passing of two former University of Strathclyde Senators:

- Professor John P. Paul BSc PhD ARCST CEng FIMechE FBOA FISPO FRSA (26 June, 1927 – 13 November, 2013)
- Professor Peter L. Pauson BSc PhD FRSC (30 July, 1925 – 10 December, 2013)
Senate recognised the significant and distinctive contributions made by both Professor Paul and Professor Pauson to the University of Strathclyde over a period of many years. Senate stood for a moment of silence.

The Convener asked that letters be sent, on behalf of Senate, to the families of Professor Paul and Professor Pauson, expressing its sympathies. **ACTION: KM**

Presentations and Items for Discussion

11636. 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:

- In recognition of its strategic focus and ambition, the University had been named Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2014-15 at the Times Higher Education Awards ceremony in November 2013. Work was underway to develop new promotional materials and utilise this success to promote the University;
- The University was also highly commended in the Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology category for ‘Hemosep’, a pioneering blood salvage technology for use in life-saving operations;
- Professor Tim Bedford had received a prize at the Lloyd’s Science of Risk awards for research which was designed to help the insurance industry manage risks and reduce costs for customers;
- The University’s submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2015 had been completed ahead of time. It was noted that there had been an improvement in the preparation of the submission compared to the previous RAE in 2008. It was also significant that no appeals had been lodged by staff during the process and testament to the inclusive approach adopted. Senate noted its thanks to the REF team for its work in preparing the submission;
- The University’s Outcome Agreement 2014-15 was in final draft form and available for Senators to view via SharePoint. Senators were encouraged to read the document and ensure their familiarity with the key commitments. The Principal reflected on the proactive approach adopted by the University and the recent success in attracting additional Postgraduate Taught and widening access places;
- The Principal noted recent media interest in the University’s first MOOC offering in Forensic Science. Early indications showed that the course had over 26,000 participants signed-up from at least 64 countries and online discussion groups had generated over 40,000 user comments. Consideration would be given to how the University could generate best value from this high level of interest;
- Events to mark the University’s Golden Jubilee celebrations were underway, commencing with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the Ramshorn Theatre. The Vice-Principal would circulate information to Senate on the various activities planned for the University’s Jubilee year; **ACTION: KM**
- The University’s bid to be involved in the hosting of the National Physical Laboratory was still under consideration. The possibility of a collaborative bid was noted;
- Senate was informed of a number of recent successful grant applications;
- Senate noted that the New Year’s Honours list had recognised the contributions of a number of individuals with significant connections to Strathclyde;
  - Lord Smith of Kelvin, the University’s Chancellor, was awarded the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle;
  - Professor Seona Reid, a graduate and honorary graduate of the University, was awarded a DBE;
Dr Rose Mary Harley, alumna and member of the University’s Graduates Association, was awarded an OBE for services to International Aid and charity;

Dr Derek Feeley, Executive Vice President of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and an honorary graduate, was awarded the Companion of the Order of the Bath.

- A number of University-level engagements with the heads of key international partner institutions were planned for the coming year. The Principal was thankful for support from Senators with these visits.

11637. ELIR – Update
The Vice-Principal provided Senate with an update on the University’s ELIR preparations. The Reflective Analysis documentation had been submitted, on time, at the end of November 2013 and hard copies provided to members of the Leadership Group. Senate members were invited to contact staff in Education Enhancement if additional copies were required. The next stage of ELIR would include a visit from the ELIR Panel on 5 and 6 February for an assessment of the University’s quality and standards. A draft agenda for this visit had been developed and had been shared with members of the ELIR Working Group for comment and feedback.

The Vice-Principal explained that areas of focus for the visit would include demonstrating the link between the Education and other key Strategies, showcasing the distinctive features of the University, and reinforcing key messages during meetings with the Review Team. The ELIR Review Team would also meet with some key members of staff and with student representatives previously involved in review activity.

The Vice-Principal expressed his appreciation for the level of support received from colleagues so far and noted that the Working Group was operating effectively. It was also noted that key documentation had been reviewed by members of the University Court, including the Convener.

The USSA President also confirmed that student representatives were content with the process so far and the level of student engagement.

11638. University of Strathclyde Values
The Director of Human Resources provided a presentation on the recent development of a set of University values. Staff had been widely consulted during 2013 and the findings had been used to inform the development of the values. Follow-on discussions were taking place with a number of survey respondents and implementation plans were being developed by Faculties and Directorates. A Values Advisory Group had been established to consider how the values can be incorporated into recruitment processes and other HR-related policies. A more detailed version of the presentation slides would be made available to Senators on the SharePoint site.

ACTION: SH/DT

The Convener stressed that the development of a set of values was not just a project with a finite lifespan but that they were intrinsically linked to the development of the University and its staff. It was important to create an environment where all members of staff had the opportunity to thrive and contribute.

A people-focused approach was welcomed by Senators. The importance of considering the difference in responses from different levels of staff was noted. It was also expressed that aspirations of academic staff for career progression should be supported at all levels.

The Director of Human Resources noted the comments and stated that consideration would be given to how the values could best be reflected in re-grading and promotion policies, subject to the existing legislative requirements. In response to a comment from
the USSA President, she welcomed the possibility of including a student representative on the Advisory Group. She also invited Senators to provide any additional constructive comments directly to her. **ACTION: SH**

11639. Feedback and Assessment Policy

Senators were provided with a revised draft policy on Assessment and Feedback. This followed their previous endorsement of the Assessment and Feedback Principles at the Senate meeting on 6 November 2013. Dr Bonnar introduced the item and reminded Senate of the process being followed by the Working Group, which included representatives from all Faculties and from USSA. Wider student feedback had been sought and the draft had been circulated for discussion by relevant academic committees. 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.

Senate endorsed the draft Assessment and Feedback Policy, subject to a more detailed consideration of the Policy by the University’s Education Strategy Committee.

Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

11640. Executive Team

Senate noted the report from the Executive Team

11641. Court

Senate noted the report from Court

11642. Education Strategy Committee

Senate noted the report from the Education Strategy Committee

11643. Quality Assurance Committee

Senate noted the report from the Quality Assurance Committee

11644. Learning Enhancement Committee

Senate noted the report from the Learning Enhancement Committee

11645. Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee

Senate noted the report from the Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee

11646. Strathclyde Business School

Senate noted the report from the Business School and approved a change of Course Title for the Marketing programme MSC International Hospitality and Tourism Management to ‘MSC Tourism Marketing Management’ from 1 August 2014.

11647. Faculty of Engineering

Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Engineering and recommended to Court a change of name for the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering to the ‘Department of Naval Architecture, Ocean and Marine Engineering’ from 1 August 2014.

11648. Faculty of Science

Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Science and approved:

- Introduction of external PhD supervision agreements with King Saud and King Abdul Aziz Universities (approved, in principle)
- Introduction of MSc in Industrial Biotechnology from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Committee
- Introduction of MSc in Applied Physics from 1 August 2014, subject to scrutiny by the Ordinances and Regulations Committee

Senate also approved the following scholarships within the Faculty of Science:

- The Miller Scholarship
- The Chemistry International Alumni Ambassadors (CIAA) Scholarships

11649. Report from Senate Business Committee
Senate noted the report from the Senate Business Committee.

Reserved Business