University of Strathclyde

SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 25 April 2012

Present: Principal (in the chair)
Professor F Ackermann, Professor V Belton, Dr S Brough, Dr A Coddington,
Dr C Coles, Mr T Collins, Professor J Corney, Dr P Davies, Dr D Dixon, Mrs E
Figgins, Dr M Grant, Professor S Hart, Professor K Ibeh, Professor A Incecik,
Professor A Kendrick, Professor W Kerr, Professor S McArthur, Professor S
MacGregor, Professor P McGregor, Professor A McGrew, Dr A McLaren,
Professor X Mao, Professor K Miller, Dr V O’Halloran, Professor M Poustie,
Dr C Prior, Dr S Rasmussen, Dr P Riches, Professor P Skabara, Dr S Tagg,
Dr A Urquhart, Dr D Willison, Professor P Winn, Professor L Woolfson,

Attending: Mr H Hall, Professor C Grant, Mr B Green, Professor P Sayer, Ms R Maxwell
Stuart, Mrs J Meredith

Apologies: Professor B Conway, Dr J Ferguson, Professor J Fraser, Professor D
Littlejohn, Dr D McBeth, Professor S Marshall, Professor R Martin, Professor
D Nickson, Dr C Schaschke, Dr R Tate, Dr S Terzis, Mr C Singh, Dr J
Edwards

11514 Minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2012

Senate approved the Minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2012.

11515 Principal’s Report

The Principal updated Senate on the following:

• The University had received its funding letter for 2012/13 which restored the
University to the financial position it had been at two years previously. The ongoing
need to decrease dependence on SFC funding by maximising other funding
streams was noted. Some progress had been made in this area but further improvement
would be required.

• It was noted that, while legislation flowing from the Review of Higher Education
Governance was not imminent, the University must ensure it continued to adhere to
the principles of good governance. The Scottish Committee of University Chairs was
about to commence a review intended to produce a Code of Practice for Universities
in this area.

• Universities would be required to sign an Outcome Agreement with the Funding
Council from 2012/13. This would be a condition of grant and would cover areas
such as retention, articulation, accelerated degrees, widening access, international
recruitment, patterns of provision, collaboration with industry and employability of
graduates. The University was well placed and keen to deliver, particularly in
widening access, collaboration with industry and employability. Executive Team
would consider the University’s position more fully and report to the next meeting of
Senate. [Action]

• Restructuring of the College sector was underway and 13 regional groupings would
be formed from the current 41 colleges. The University hoped to establish a single
point of contact with each grouping and to further develop partnership working. A
plan for strategic engagement with colleges would be brought to Senate in the near future.

- The Funding Council expected Scottish Universities to publish Key Information Set (KIS) on the Unistats website by 22nd August 2012. The Team that was working on this had collected the centrally held data but would need help from departments to validate this data and collect the remaining data which was required by course. This would be an important part of business, particularly through May and June, and would need Academic Departments and Professional Services to work closely together in order to meet the deadline.

- Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences had won £4M through the CMAC initiative for a Doctoral Training Centre, bringing the total at the University to eleven with the possibility of two more. The University was also considering creating its own, self-funded, Doctoral Training Centres.

- An extensive list of grant awards had been achieved across the University. Although the list of awards was encouraging it was noted that improvement in this area needed to continue.

- The Complete University Guide league tables had been published and Strathclyde had improved by 3 places to 37th in the UK and was 4th in Scotland after St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The University was recorded as having a 435 point entry tariff, ahead of a number of Russell Group institutions and was ranked first in Scotland in 5 subject areas.

11516 REF Update – Research Audit

The Research Policy Manager gave a brief presentation on the Research Audit that had been undertaken in preparation for REF.

The audit had taken place between September and March and had covered all schools/departments. There were 718 eligible members of staff with 2358 research outputs and approximately 600 doctoral awards. Over £100 Million in research spend had been identified. Process improvements had been put in place including lessons learnt from the previous audit, new REF guidance and development of the PURE REF Module. There was a high level of confidence in the data collection, storage and reporting.

It was concluded that research spend and doctoral awards per FTE were on a slightly upwards trajectory but concerns remained that levels were lower compared to other research intensive institutions. One hundred and sixty one staff had not met the required outputs but the individual circumstances that could affect this had yet to be collected. In the time remaining the University would need to concentrate on increasing research spend where possible and maximising the number of doctoral awards by ensuring that all those due to complete by 31 July 2013 did so. Incremental changes such as an increase from 2 to 3 stars for an output or the addition of one more output could still increase the quality profile. The narrative in the Environment Template would be critical.

The next steps included selection of Units of Assessment (UoA) (18 were under discussion), approval of a Code of Practice for selection, continual UoA management, appointment of UoA Leaders, formal constitution of UoA Planning Groups and development of Impact Case Studies and of Environment and Impact Templates. A process paper would be brought to the next meeting of Senate.

[Action]
The Principal noted the outstanding job done by the REF Team. He also noted that the following 18 months would be a period of intense activity. The Executive Team would take a proactive role in maximising the submission of the University. Strathclyde had been underperforming in REF for a number of cycles and although performance was improving there was no room for complacency. Senate would be asked at its June meeting to delegate authority to the Vice Principal to process Doctoral awards in order to facilitate this process between meetings of Senate. 

**11517 Single Campus Project**

The Executive Dean of HASS reported that the Single Campus Project was now moving rapidly. The co-location of circa 2500 staff and students from Jordanhill Campus onto John Anderson Campus would begin shortly and would have significant consequences for everyone in relation to services and projects such as timetabling. The first occupations of the Lord Hope Building were scheduled for early July and the focus would be on the operational aspects of delivery from then until early autumn.

Some revisions had been made to the plan to de-risk it although some risks remained for which there were contingency plans. The phasing of the co-locations had been adjusted and the series of projects that made up the implementation phase were all currently on schedule. The removal contract had been agreed and planning was underway. Sites on SharePoint and My Place had been created and students from Jordanhill campus were being offered tours of the John Anderson Campus.

The Executive Dean of Engineering, who had responsibility for Estates issues, noted that the construction work on the Lord Hope and Curran buildings was on target. High quality, temporary accommodation was being considered to reduce the impact of the fire in the James Weir.

Associate Deputy Principal Grant reported that the new timetabling policy was being disseminated and a report would be forwarded to Executive Team. The significant number of students on courses that commenced before the start of Semester 1 was recognised and had been factored into the timescales.

It was also noted that a new phase of roll out of wireless capability was beginning with plans to triple the number of access points around the campus, including the halls of residence. Much of this work would take place over the summer.

The Principal expressed Senate’s appreciation to the Project Team and the Single Campus Planning Team for the huge amount of work already achieved.

**11518 Recommendations for Approval nem con**

.1 **Collaborative Arrangements**

.1 **Joint Agreement for the EngD in Offshore Renewable Energy**

Senate approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Universities of Edinburgh, Strathclyde and Exeter for the Joint EngD in Offshore Renewable Energy for five years from 1 January 2012, subject to scrutiny of the course regulations by the Ordinances and Regulations Committee, Appendix 1, BP05

.2 **MOU: China Jiliang University**

Senate noted that a MOU had recently been signed by the Principal during a visit of the President of China Jiliang University to the Department of
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. This would allow the parties to explore the potential for collaboration through articulation and staff exchanges. A2, BP05

.3 Memorandum of Agreement – Glasgow Caledonian University – Doctorate in Counselling Psychology

Senate approved the extension to the Memorandum of Agreement with Glasgow Caledonian University to Jointly deliver the Doctorate in Counselling Psychology until 31 August 2012. B6, BP07

.2 Introduction of Courses and Classes

.1 Introduction of new option classes for the University Language Programme
Senate approved the introduction of new option classes for the University Language Programme for introduction from July 2012, subject to approval of the regulations by Ordinances and Regulations Committee. B2, BP07

.2 Introduction of new classes to the Open Studies Programme
Senate approved the introduction of new classes to the Open Studies Programme for introduction from session 2012/13, subject to approval of the regulations by Ordinances and Regulations Committee. B3, BP07

.3 Amendment to Courses and Classes

.1 MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling
Senate approved the amendments to the MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling from academic year 2012/2013, subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee. B1a, BP07

.2 Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling Skills
Senate approved the amendments to the Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling Skills from academic year 2012/2013, subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee. B1b, BP07

.3 Change of Course Title - MSc in Social History to MSc in Social and Cultural History
Senate approved the change of course title from MSc in Social History to MSc in Social and Cultural History for current and future students, subject to approval by Ordinances and Regulations Committee. B5, BP07

.4 Withdrawal of Courses

.1 PGCert/PGDip/MRes Automated Planning for Autonomous Systems
Senate approved the withdrawal of the PGCert/PGDip/MRes Automated Planning for Autonomous Systems from the Calendar. There were currently no students registered on the Course. 4376.2, BP10

.5 New/Amended Prizes

.1 ITREZ Scottish Enterprise Prize
Subject to scrutiny by Ordinances and Regulations Committee, Senate approved the ITREZ Scottish Enterprise Prize for inclusion in the University Calendar, listed under the Faculty of Engineering, from 2012/13. B, BP05

.6 Case for Specific APL linked to SQH for award of MSc in School Leadership and Management B4, BP07

Senate approved the Accreditation of Prior Learning for students who have accumulated 60 credits (or more) from a Postgraduate Certificate course within the Western Consortium Universities and then complete the SQH, thus having 180 credits in total, to be eligible for the award of MSc in School Leadership and Management.

11519 Items for Information

Senate noted the following items of information:

.1 Business Committee Report, Paper 6.1
.2 Dignity and Respect Policy, Paper 6.2
.3 Senate Elections, Paper 6.3
.4 QMC- Annual reports on quality enhancement and assurance, Paper 6.4
.5 Single Campus Planning Group [ET 484] 1, BP02
.6 Integrated Approach to Staff/Researcher Development Programmes [ET 479] 2, BP02
.7 Scottish Universities Insight Institute [ET 475] 3, BP02
.8 Education Strategy [ET 480] 4, BP02
.9 Scottish Funding Council: Funding Allocations 2012/13 [ET 488]5, BP02
.10 Minutes of the joint meeting of the Quality Monitoring and Education Strategy Committees held on 12 March 2012, BP08
.11 Minutes of the meeting of Ordinances and Regulations Committee held on 20 March 2012, BP10
.12 Minutes of the meeting of the Senate Discipline Committee on Thursday 29 March 2012, BP14

11520 RESERVED BUSINESS