

## SENATE

### Minutes: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Present: Principal,

Professor Scott MacGregor, Dr G Akram, Dr M Alexander, Dr P Allan, Dr D Andriosopoulos, Mrs L Brownlow, Dr A Coddington, Mrs F Conway, Professor C Cooper, Mrs A Corrigan, Dr J Delafield-Butt, Professor M Demirbag, Professor D Drikakis, Professor A Duffy, Mrs E Figgins, Professor N Ghani, Professor M Grealy, Mr B Green, Professor B Harris, Professor A Heyes, Professor B Hidding, Dr B Keating, Professor D Kirk, Professor S Kuhr, Professor J Liggat, Professor D Littlejohn, Ms C Mcalister, Dr S McCool, Dr P McColgan, Mr R McHugh, Dr A McLaren, Mr G McPheat, Dr P Mulheran, Mr M O'Donnell, Dr V O'Halloran, Mr G Paterson, Professor K Paudyal, Mr R Perman, Professor R Plevin, Dr S Rasmussen, Professor E Riis, Dr O Romice, Professor A Salama, Dr K Savage, Dr J Smith, Professor R Stewart, Dr T Tanyimboh

Attending: Professor S Carter, Mr D Coyle, Dr M Ellis, Mrs H Gould, Professor A Incecik, Mr S Jennings, Mrs M Judge, Mrs C Milligan, Dr Debbie Willison

Apologies: Professor T Bedford, Dr L Brown, Dr S Brough, Dr C Cassidy, Professor R Finlay, Dr P Flett, Professor S Gounaris, Professor T Gourlay, Professor W Kerr, Professor S Marshall, Dr D Rotondo, Professor S Roy, Professor E Shaw, Dr S Terzis, Professor R Thomson, Dr B Wagner, Dr J Wilson

#### Formal Matters

**11856.** Welcome

The Principal welcomed members to Senate's second meeting of the 2015-16 session.

**11857.** Minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2015

Members **approved** the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

**11858. Matters Arising**

There were none.

**11859. Report from the Senate Business Committee**

Senate **noted** the report from the Senate Business Committee.

The Vice Principal reported that Senate Business Committee had met on 23 October 2015 to review the proposed agenda and to discuss the business coming forward to Senate. The meeting had:

- Noted the Memoranda of Understanding and Agreement signed by the Principal.
- Welcomed the items for discussion at this meeting of Senate and to be presented by the Executive Dean of Science, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Associate Deputy Principal Learning, noting the intention that the Executive Dean of the

Strathclyde Business School would give a presentation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan at the January 2016 meeting of Senate.

- Requested that the Senate meeting agenda had been extended to include the additional item on the start and reshaping of the academic year 2016/17.
- Reviewed papers on the Revised Contextualised Admissions Policy; examined the revised Policy and Code of Practice on Collaborative Education Provision, welcoming the substantial revisions and related work undertaken; noted the importance of the update paper on Business Process Timetabling. Subject to minor amendment the Committee had been content with the Faculty reports presented to Senate.
- Unanimously welcomed the nomination of a proposed honorary graduand for presentation to Senate for approval.

### Presentations and Items for Discussion

#### **11860. Principal's Report**

In addition to **noting** the Convener's Actions undertaken by the Principal since the last meeting and listed in Paper C, Senate was provided with an update on the following items:

- The University continues to engage proactively and to play an effective and constructive part in discussions with the Scottish Government in relation to the development of the Higher Education (Scotland) Governance Bill. With the new legislation imminent, the University continues in its commitment to ensuring that there is transparent and inclusive participation in its dialogue on University Governance, expressing as appropriate any concerns over potential issues in the legislation.
- The Principal had undertaken a number of successful international visits including visits to high profile partners in: New York, where he had received the Entrepreneurial Leadership Award in Science and Technology; Canada where connections had been forged with Waterloo University, one of Canada's outstanding Research Universities; China where he was appointed as Senior Consultant to Hanban, and Hong Kong.
- Principal congratulated the Director of Student Experience and Enhancement Services Dr Veena O'Halloran on her appointment to the Board of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and Professor Robin Plevin on his role as the new Director of the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences.
- Reflecting its continuing commitment to being a socially progressive University, the University had been recently announced as an accredited Living Wage employer.
- The University is now a member of CESAER, the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research.
- Several high value research bids had been successful across the University including one of over half a million pounds in Civil and Environmental Engineering and two awards of almost half a million pounds each in Pure and Applied Chemistry. Research wins since June this year had totalled over £21 million. The Principal stressed the University's continuing success in its research profile.

### **11861. Update from Chief Financial Officer**

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided Senate with an overview of the University's financial position in 2015. The CFO noted the following:

- Given constraints in public finances, growth in operating surpluses was key to sustain ongoing investment in staff, infrastructure and opportunities.
- In line with faculty plans and the opportunity to generate surpluses, future growth is concentrated in tuition fee income, with continued growth in research and CPD income.
- The University does not anticipate growth in its SFC grant income, and this will place more emphasis on developing additional income streams for investment.
- The University is deriving benefit from the investments it has made, particularly in estates investments, for example through the success of the Technology and Innovation Centre, PNDC and AFRC.

The following points were discussed:

- Regarding operating costs and expenditure, it was noted that it was important to maximise use of the University's own internal resources.
- The University's combined heat and power initiative which would significantly reduce annual energy costs is a good example of this.
- The importance of maintaining growth through academic excellence within the context of a highly efficient business performance.
- The University had seen substantial growth in overseas activity in recent years and a key focus would be sustaining this growth in coming years.

### **11862. Strategic Plan 2015-20: Response from Faculty of Science**

The Dean of the Faculty of Science was invited to present the Faculty's response to the Strategic Plan 2015-20. The Faculty's key areas of focus were outlined: the provision of an outstanding student experience, focussing on enhancing technology-led learning and improvements in the area of feedback and assessment; internationally-leading research focussing on targeted articulation, niche area courses, increased PGT activity, improvement in quality of grant submissions, continuing to promote appropriate publication strategies and ADR objectives; internationally-leading research; focus on innovation and impact through, for example, international development of Knowledge Exchange. Comments on the presentation noted that it was important to ensure broad based growth through engaging and empowering staff, exploring commonalities with and learning from other areas of the University.

### **11863. Update: NSS Improvement Framework**

Following Senate's review of the NSS results at its September 2015 meeting, the Associate Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching gave an overview of developments in the NSS improvement framework which had been disseminated across the University. The framework, complementing the wider reflections and actions proposed following NSS 2015, presented cross-institutional activities supporting the institutional improvement plan, and outlined strands of activity to take place across the institution throughout the academic cycle.

Senate was requested to **note**: immediate actions planned/taken to date; responsibilities at institutional level and for Departments/Schools; medium term actions to enhance

practice and strengthen cross institution engagement; preparations for NSS 2016; milestones for reporting and monitoring. The Associate Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching noted that there had been active and positive engagement with the framework across the University, for example through: a series of successful NSS forums; enhancement activities across the University; key messages from NSS improvement plans feeding into staff development programmes; useful ideas emanating from meetings of Quality Assurance Committee and Learning Enhancement Committee, with working groups planned. USSA was actively engaging in enhancement processes and was contributing effectively in the development of framework. USSA's effective and helpful contribution was acknowledged and appreciated, as was the continued partnership approach.

#### **11864. Academic Year**

The Vice Dean (Academic) Engineering gave a presentation on behalf of the AY working group on a revised model for the reshaping of the academic year. The model put forward a number of opportunities and benefits including:

- The opportunity to deliver exams before Christmas;
- Consistency and alignment with other higher education institutions;
- Facilitation of more flexible travel arrangements (international/EU/home);
- Facilitation of enhanced student experience for single semester exchanges;
- Opportunities for flexibility in delivery of extra-curricular student engagement and development activities.

A wide range of consultations on the revised model had taken place across the student, academic and professional services staff communities and had helped to inform the development of the model which was presented to Senate. The views and opinions expressed would assist in the development of the future operational planning required to implement the proposed changes. It was noted that the vast majority of those consulted had given the proposal their support, with USSA strongly supportive of the proposals. Senate discussed specific points for consideration in the light of the proposed changes, including the implications of a start date earlier than proposed. It was acknowledged that any transition would bring change in some areas and that the development of the new model, which also included a flexible week 0 at the start of each semester, could accommodate any issues that had been raised, drawing on the experience of other Scottish universities operating to this model.

Senate **approved**:

- i) The start date for the academic year 2016/17 (19<sup>th</sup> September 2016); and
- ii) Approved in principle the re-shaping of the academic year, with the details of the proposal being further developed towards implementation.

Senate acknowledged the extensive work that had been undertaken by SEES's Education Enhancement in partnership with the Vice Deans Academic of all 4 Faculties in bringing forward the proposed model.

#### Items for Approval without Discussion

**11865. Revised Contextualised Admissions Policy (Paper E)**  
Senate **approved** this item.

**11866. Business Process Timetabling Update (Paper F)**  
Senate **noted** the paper.

**11867. Policy and Code of Practice on Collaborative Education Provision (Paper G)**

Senate **approved** the revisions to the policy and code of practice.

#### Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

**11868. Executive Team (Paper H)**

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

**11869. Court (Paper I)**

Senate **noted** the report from Court.

**11870. Learning Enhancement Committee (Paper J)**

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

**11871. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (Paper K)**

Senate **noted** the report from Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.

**11872. Senate Discipline Committee (Paper L)**

Senate **noted** the report from Senate Discipline Committee

**11873. Education Strategy Committee (Paper M)**

Senate **noted** the report from Education Strategy Committee

**11874. Faculty of Science (Paper N)**

Senate **approved**:

- Introduction of MSc Applied Statistics in Health Sciences
- Introduction of MSc Complex Network Analysis
- Changes to BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences
- Removal of MSc Photonics and Device Microfabrication
- Change of degree title: BSc(Hons) Mathematics, Statistics and Management Science

Senate **noted**:

The HKUST exchange agreement

**11875. Strathclyde Business School (Paper O)**

Senate **approved**:

- Articulation Agreement with Nanjing University of Science and Technology
- Articulation Agreement with Huazhong University of Science and Technology

**11876. Faculty of Engineering (Paper P)**

Senate **approved**:

Amendment to Ordinances

- Amendment to Ordinance 3.2 to permit the award of Doctor of Engineering Honoris Causa

Collaborative Agreements

- Collaborative Agreement: Harbin Institute of Technology in Weihai, China
- Collaborative Agreement: Pusan National University, South Korea

New Prize

The Scottish and Southern Energy Major Projects Division Award

**11877. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (paper Q)**

Senate **approved** the report of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

#### Reserved Business

**11878. Student Business – Faculty of Science**

Senate **approved** the student business as detailed in Paper R

**11879. Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

Senate **approved** the student business as detailed in Paper S.

**11880. Honorary Degree Nomination**

Senate **noted** the nomination for the conferment of Honorary Degree. Senators were advised to provide any feedback to the Convener of Senate by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015

MJ 16/11/15