

## SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Senate Minute

Present: Principal

Dr M Alexander, Mr M Muftahu Alhassan, Dr C Booth, Professor D Brodie, Dr L Brown, Dr E Compton-Daw, Mrs A Corrigan, Dr Y Demirel, Professor M Greal, Mr B Green, Dr K Hamilton, Mr C Hepburn, Professor D Hillier, Professor A Incecik, Dr B Keating, Professor D Littlejohn, Professor S MacGregor, Dr K Mathieson, Dr W McGeown, Mr R McHugh, Dr A McLaren, Mr G McPheat, Professor N Mottram, Professor I Rivers, M R Smith.

Attending: Dr A Anderson, Ms G Pallis, Dr D Willison, Professor T Bedford, Professor S Carter, Mrs H Gould, Professor A Galloway, Mr D Coyle, Mr A Gillespie, Dr V O'Halloran, Ms C Milligan, Ms S Currie.

Apologies: Dr S Brough, Mrs L Brownlow, Professor P Cardwell, Dr C Cassidy, Professor A M Doherty, Dr M Findlay, Dr L Fleming, Professor D Graham, Professor A Hudson, Dr M Karampela, Dr N Kelly, Professor S Kuhr, Dr S McCool, Professor A Mulholland, Dr A Nordon, Dr K Savage, Dr J Smith, Ms G Watt

#### Formal Matters

##### **12117. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed Senators to the third meeting of Senate of the academic year 2017-18.

##### **12118. Minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (Paper A)**

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

##### **12119. Matters Arising**

There were none noted.

##### **12120. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper B)**

Senate **noted** the report from the Senate Business Committee which had met on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The Vice Principal informed Senate that the Senate Business Committee had reviewed two key areas:

1. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement subgroup (Appendix A of the report) covering the subgroup's meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December. Senate noted that at this meeting the Sub-Group approved one agreement for renewal in the Engineering Faculty and an annex to an existing agreement within the Science Faculty – these can

be found in the Faculty reports. No further collaborative agreements have been approved since the last meeting of Senate. In preparation for the GDPR the Sub-Group clarification was being sought around the implications on articulation agreements with partners outwith the EEA. This will be further considered at the next meeting of the Sub-Group in February.

2. The second area of the Committee's business was to agree the proposed business agenda of Senate and scrutinise the papers to Senate. In addition to the Principal's update, the Committee welcomed presentations to be given to Senate on:
  - Financial Update
  - An update on the Teaching and Learning Building Project
  - An update on NSS Planning 2018

The Committee welcomed the presentations to be given to Senate as part of the Strategic Update session, including presentations on the following: two of the Executive Team Projects; Strathclyde Online Learning the Student Partnership Agreement and Student Experience Committee; and, the Vision 2025 to be delivered by each of the Executive Deans and Professional Services.

The Principal drew attention to discussions at QAC regarding the re-convening of the Assessment and Feedback Working Group. As part of a wider review of Assessment and Feedback policy, it was agreed the Working Group will look at the issues across the Faculties with regards to late submission of coursework. The review of policy and practice on late submission of coursework has been initiated as agreed and following this, members of QAC have recommended that ESC seeks the endorsement of Senate for the introduction of a consistent, institution-wide policy on late submissions of student assessments and the related application of appropriate penalties. Members of Education Strategy Committee have endorsed this approach as has Senate Business Committee and now seek the endorsement of Senate of this recommendation. In support of this, approval of Senate is now sought:

- To enable the Assessment and Feedback Working Group to build on the consensus that exists across the Faculties, which will also introduce a move away from a "zero mark" policy, to agree the specific detail of a late submission policy.
- To implement interim steps for the current academic session with the approach being overseen by the Assessment and Feedback Working Group.

Senate was informed that a meeting of the Assessment and Feedback Working Group will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January where a consistent approach to late submission of coursework will be sought. These discussions will be further informed by practice across the sector. The Principal would like a University-wide policy to be developed timeously. Senators unanimously approved that there be a consistent approach to late submissions across the University and that this will see a move away from a 'zero marks' approach. Senate approved the recommendation that the Assessment and Feedback Working Group should progress this as quickly as possible to approve the policy during the current academic session.

## Presentations and Items for Discussion

### **12121. Principal's Report and Update**

The Principal provided Senate with an update on the following items:

- **Staff news:** The Principal congratulated Professor Sir John Curtice on receiving his knighthood for services to Social Sciences and Politics. The Principal also welcomed Adrian Gillespie to the University as the new Chief Commercial Officer.

Senate was informed that Professor Anja Lowit has recently been appointed a Deputy Associate Principal for Research.

- **Vision 2025:** The Principal noted that the Executive Deans and Professional Services had made significant progress in developing the University's vision for 2025 which will continue to distinguish the University within the sector. A process of engagement and consultation with colleagues across the institution will now commence.
- **External environment:** The Scottish Government recently published a new report titled 'Scotland's Place in Europe' which presents the Scottish Government's proposals for mitigating the impact on Scotland of the UK's exit from the EU. This report can be found here <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/12/9234>. The sector was represented within the report, including universities' contribution to the European Research Area, Horizon 2020, ERASMUS+ and Research and Development capability. Strategy and Policy Directorate has developed a useful summary.

Associate Principal Professor Sara Carter attended an Industrial Strategy Roundtable on Engineering attended by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark and chaired by Dame Ann Dowling. The meeting focused on how businesses can contribute to Britain's industrial strength. It should be noted that Strathclyde was the only HEI in attendance, all other attendees were from industry.

- **CESAER Meeting:** The Principal chaired the first meeting of CESAR, the network of leading European technological universities on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January. This provides a welcome opportunity to work with peer universities across Europe. There are currently 51 universities within the CESAER network with an ambition to increase this to 60 over the next few years. Consideration will be given to how the University makes the most of its membership of the network.
- **Teaching Excellence Framework:** Senate noted that the University did not take part in the Year 3 subject-level pilots. It was agreed that the University would continue to have oversight of TEF developments.
- **Industrial Action:** it is likely that industrial action will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February following a UCU strike ballot. The University aims to keep disruption to students at a minimum during this time. The University's Industrial Action Planning Group chaired by the Vice Principal will meet on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January and will manage any issues that are likely to impact on students.
- **Staff Committee:** the timetable for the spring round of the academic promotion process has recently been launched. This year, for the first time, there is an opportunity for senior teaching-focused staff to be considered for the newly established role of Professor of Learning and Teaching. The creation of this level of post is a new development for Strathclyde and ensures that teaching-focused staff have the same career opportunities as other academic professional staff.

- **Estates update:** The University's campus transformation is progressing well. There are currently four projects in development: 1. The Strathclyde Sports Centre which will open in August 2018; 2. The Combined Heat and Power District Energy Scheme is nearing completion; 3. Preparatory works are underway for the new Teaching and Learning Building; 4. Work will begin on the £15m Wolfson building transformation for Biomedical Engineering in April.
- **Grant activity:** The Principal updated Senate on research awards the University had received since the last Senate, which included awards of just over £1m to Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, with NAOME, Management Science, the School of Education, Civil and Environmental Engineering and SIPBS also winning awards.
- The Principal drew Senators' attention to a tabled paper listing nominations for Honorary Degrees to be conferred, noting that any comments should be submitted to the Senate Manager by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

#### **12120. Financial Update**

The Chief Financial Officer presented Senate with a financial update. The following summarised points of note are highlighted:

- The Q1 Forecast for 2017/18 indicated a small deficit in operating outturn.
- Key variances from the Q1 Forecast against the Budget for 2017/18 were outlined.
- Work is progressing on completing the Q2 Forecast and this should be finalised within the next few days.
- Information available to date indicates a slight decrease in tuition fee income between Q1 and Q2 Forecast.
- Looking forward, the draft Scottish Government Budget for the Higher Education sector indicates a slight increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- If the Scottish Funding Council allocation broadly follows the overall Scottish Government allocation, our 2018/19 resources will be in line with that assumed within the current Four Year Financial Forecast.
- An Outline Budget will be discussed at Executive team on 2 March.
- Contextual information detailing Strathclyde's financial position relative to benchmark institutions was also presented.

#### **12121. Teaching and Learning Building Update**

Associate Principal Professor Sara Carter updated Senate on the Learning and Teaching Building Project. The Stage 3 Design Consultation process is nearing finalisation. The designs will inform the tender documentation for the main construction phase of the project, which will commence in May 2018. Planning permission negotiations are being concluded for the Architecture Building. Once finalised, 'fly through' designs will be commissioned and available on the website to allow staff and students to see what the re-vamped building will look like. Discussions are ongoing around the incorporation of the students' debating chamber in the new building.

Senate was provided with a wide range of extracts of still images taken from the virtual reality walk through which the design contractor had provided to the project team.

USSA representatives were asked to comment on the plans for the incorporation of the Students' Union in the new building. The USSA President who now sits on the Executive Steering Committee for the project said that USSA was looking forward to the development of the new building.

The Principal thanked Associate Principal Professor Carter for her leadership on this project.

## **12122. Update on NSS Planning**

Deputy Associate Principal Brian Green presented an update on NSS Planning 2018 outlining key dates, NSS Framework Forums and partnership working with USSA. A key development has been the detailed review of all Improvement Plans by the Deputy Associate Principals and SEES staff. USSA has also produced their own NSS Improvement Plan this year which outlines closer links with the Deputy Associate Principals and SEEA colleagues; this has been a very helpful development. NSS 2018 sees a continued focus on the thematic areas of: Teaching on My Course; Assessment and Feedback; Academic Support; and, Organisation & Management. The two NSS Framework Forums that took place in December around Organisation and Management and the Student Voice and Planning for NSS 2018 were well attended. A further forum around reflections will take place when the NSS 2018 closes on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Governance and oversight will continue to be managed through the education committees and updates will be provided at these committee meetings in February and March.

The Deputy Associate Principal also outlined the close collaboration with USSA through for example: the development of the Student Partnership Agreement; the establishment of the Student Experience Committee; enhanced representative training (at all levels); involvement of the Deputy Associate Principals and SEES colleagues in the USSA induction; and, the NSS MyPlace pages which covers activities, advice and updates.

Concluding the presentation, the Deputy Associate Principal advised Senate on the various communication tools used to promote NSS activity and commended these to colleagues.

## Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

### **12123. Executive Team (Paper D)**

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

### **12124. Report from Court (Paper E)**

Further to minor amendments, Senate **noted** the report.

### **12125. Education Strategy Committee report (Paper F)**

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

### **12126. Quality Assurance Committee report (Paper G)**

Senate noted the report from Quality Assurance Committee. A moratorium on an extension to a thesis from Pure and Applied Chemistry to an initial two year moratorium on a PhD thesis titled 'Pharmacological characterisation of small molecule RGD-mimetics targeting  $\alpha\beta6$ -mediated activation of TGF $\beta$  in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis' authored by a student from GlaxoSmithKline for a further three years was approved by Convenor's action but was excluded from the report from QAC in error. Senate subsequently approved this extension to a moratorium.

### **12127. Learning Enhancement Committee report (Paper H)**

Senate noted the report from Learning Enhancement Committee.

### **12128. Strathclyde Business School report (Paper I)**

Senate **noted** the report from the Strathclyde Business School, and **approved**, subject to scrutiny by the Academic Regulations Review Group of regulations the following new courses:

- Masters of Science in Digital Marketing Management.
- Masters of Science in Financial Technology (FinTech) with Specialism in Computing.

**12129. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences report (Paper J)**

Senate **noted** the report from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and **approved**, subject to scrutiny by the Academic Regulations Review Group the withdrawal of the courses outlined in Paper J.

**12130. Faculty of Engineering report (Paper K)**

Senate **noted** the report from the Faculty of Engineering, and **approved**, subject to scrutiny of any regulations by the Academic Regulations Review Group, the following:

New courses

- MSc in Global Technology Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship
- MSc in Technology Ventures with Design Engineering
- MSc in Marine Technology
- MSc in Renewable Energies in the Marine Environment

Changes to regulations

- MSc in Wind Energy Systems
- MSc in Oil and Gas Innovation
- MSc in Global Innovation Management
- BSc in Environmental Health (Withdrawal)
- MSc in Power Plant Engineering (Withdrawal)
- MSc in Power Plant Technologies (Withdrawal)

Collaborative Agreements

- Articulation agreement with Manipal University (India)
- Memorandum of Understanding with Yangzhou University

**12131. Faculty of Science report (Paper L)**

Senate **noted** the report from the Faculty of Science, and **approved**, subject to scrutiny of the regulations by the Academic Regulations Review Group, the following:

- Withdrawal of MSc in Medicinal Chemistry.

**12132. Procedure and Guidelines: Higher Doctorates (Paper M)**

Senate **noted** the Procedure and Guidelines on Higher Doctorates, and **approved**, subject to scrutiny of any regulations by the Academic Regulations Review Group:

- The proposed amendments to the University's Course Regulations for Graduate and Postgraduate Awards and Degrees 2017-18
- The Procedure and Guidelines on Higher Doctorates

Senate endorsed for approval by Court the amendments to the University's Regulations.

**RESERVED BUSINESS**

**12133. Nominations for Honorary Degrees to be conferred (Tabled paper)**

Senate **noted** the nominations for the conferment of Honorary Degrees. Senators were advised to provide any feedback to the Senate Manager by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

**12134. Combined Student Business report (Paper N)**

Senate **approved** the report from Student Business.

**12135. Scholarships (Paper O)**

Senate **approved** the Scholarships as outlined in Paper O.