

SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 30 March 2016

Present: Principal

Dr M Alexander, Dr T Anderson, Dr L Brown, Dr A Coddington, Professor C Cooper, Mrs A Corrigan, Dr J Delafield-Butt, Mrs E Figgins, Mr B Green, Professor B Harris, Professor D Hillier, Dr B Keating, Professor D Kirk, Professor S Kuhr, Dr J Liggat, Professor D Littlejohn, Professor S MacGregor, Ms C Mcalister, Dr S McCool, Dr P McColgan, Dr A McLaren, Professor J Murphy, Mr M O'Donnell, Dr V O'Halloran, Mr G Paterson, Professor K Paudyal, Dr M Piani, Professor R Plevin, Dr S Rasmussen, Professor E Riis, Dr D Rotondo, Professor S Roy, Professor I Ruthven, Dr K Savage, Professor I Stewart, Professor R Stewart, Dr J Wilson.

Attending: Professor S Carter, Mr D Coyle, Dr M Ellis, Mr H Hall, Mrs M Judge, Mrs J Kyle, Mrs J Meredith, Mrs C Milligan, Dr D Willison

Apologies: Dr G Akram, Dr D Andriosopoulos, Professor T Baum, Professor D Brodie, Dr S Brough, Mrs L Brownlow, Professor D Drikakis, Professor R Finlay, Dr P Flett, Mrs H Gould, Professor S Gounaris, Professor M Grealy, Professor A Heyes, Professor B Hidding, Mr S Jennings, Professor W Kerr, Professor S Marshall, Mr G McPheat, Dr P Mulheran, Dr J Smith, Dr T Tanyimboh, Professor R Thomson.

Formal Matters

11905. Welcome

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

11906. Minutes of the meeting of 27 January 2016

Members **approved** the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting. Members noted the report of the Senate Strategic Update Session. Actions relating to the key strategic areas on which updates had been given at the session were in hand. Feedback on actions would be given to SBC by the end of the session or start of next session.

11907. Matters Arising

There were none.

11908. 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 18 March 2016 to review the proposed agenda and discuss the business coming forward to Senate. The Committee had considered the report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) Subgroup, noting that the subgroup was functioning effectively. The Committee noted the agreements the Subgroup had reviewed since Senate's previous meeting in January 2016. Senate Business Committee welcomed the presentations to Senate on: SFC and Funding Update, The Apprenticeship Levy, an update on TESTA and NSS and a presentation on

Learning and Teaching Day and STEP. The Committee highlighted the timetable for Senate elections for Senate's attention, and was content with Committee and Faculty reports submitted to Senate. The Committee noted the substantial review that had been undertaken on the Policy and Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Programmes which was presented to Senate for approval.

Presentations and Items for Discussion

11909. Principal's Report

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

Court's meeting in February had been very positive, with useful updates on key areas such as the SFC funding position and the USSA organisational review. It was noted that the issue of gender balance would be addressed by Court as a strategic priority.

The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill has been passed at Holyrood. The University had engaged effectively in the progress of the Bill, lobbying constructively and professionally as appropriate. A key aspect of the Bill was the election of Chairs to University governing bodies. Models for the elected Chair had not yet been clarified.

The SFC had published its indicative letter of grant for academic year 2016-17 with funding allocations to be confirmed in April. The announcement of a sector reduction of 3.1% in cash terms presented a challenging financial settlement. The University's allocation reflected its REF performance and previous success in securing funding for strategic initiatives and re-emphasised the importance of increasing non-government income streams still further.

Following student elections to USSA, Senate noted the new key office bearers whose appointments had recently been announced, and formally noted Senate's thanks to the outgoing office bearers sitting on Senate. Senate invited the new USSA office bearers to present their strategy to Senate at a meeting of Senate in the next academic session.

The Principal updated Senate on his attendance at the recent Student Congress which had been a successful session.

Senate was updated on the Principal's international visits to Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden and New York University, noting the benefits to all four Faculties of the strategic agreement with the latter.

Referring to the Global Talent Attraction Platform, launched last summer, Senate was advised of a significant number of new appointments that had been made across the University, with the calibre of the appointments being outstanding.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh had announced the election of three new Strathclyde Fellows, with Fellowships awarded to Professor Zoe Shipton, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, and to Dr Graeme Malcolm, Visiting Professor at the Institute of Photonics. Dr Nasar Meer in HaSS and Dr Mal Macdonald in Engineering had both been recognised for their research by the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The University had launched its latest MOOC on: 'Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree' which had proved to be the most popular of its MOOC provision with 22,000 people signed up to undertake it.

The Principal drew attention to a questionnaire which would be circulated to Senators requesting their feedback on enhancing the function and effectiveness of Senate and its

business. Senators would be encouraged to respond, as their responses would inform the direction of Senate in the next session.

11910. SFC and Funding Update

The Chief Financial Officer updated Senate on SFC and Funding. An outline of the major factors that would impact the University's budget was given. Trend information on SFC grant income showed that there had been a significant drop in SFC recurrent grant in 2012 with a subsequent recovery, in cash terms, from 2012 to 2015-16. In common with other universities, Strathclyde faced a number of additional, externally imposed, costs in 2016/17. Other key factors affecting the 2016/17 Budget and Four Year Forecast were outlined and it was concluded that, as public finances would continue to be constrained, future growth would need to come from non-government sources particularly overseas students, with increasing income and surpluses key factors in ensuring financial sustainability. A robust strategy for delivery, building on existing momentum that had been achieved over the last few years, would be essential. Discussing the presentation, Senators considered the impact of the budget reductions to the sector, noting that the University had faced budget constraints in the past (with a drop in SFC income from 2009 - 2012) but had recovered well. The importance of maximising the University's capacity to reinvest for the future was stressed and of continuing with the University's successful strategic approach.

11911. The Apprenticeship Levy: Opportunities for Graduate Level Apprenticeships and Work-based Learning

The Deputy Director (Education Enhancement) Student Experience and Enhancement Services Directorate delivered a presentation on potential opportunities for the University in the area of work-based learning and the development of new pathways to higher education through the development of graduate level apprenticeships. Following the UK government's introduction of a new apprenticeship levy, to be introduced in April 2017 and designed to engage large employers in raising the higher skills levels among the UK workforce, the University had responded to this potential opportunity by implementing a strategic project to develop graduate level apprenticeship programmes across all four Faculties to develop skills based learning to degree level. Further details about the project were given, and next steps in the development of the project were outlined. The Vice Deans Academic and Associate Deputy Principals had engaged with the SEES Deputy Director (Education Enhancement) and the Vice Principal to agree an institutional approach, through Education Strategy Committee. Senate welcomed the initiatives, noting they were in line with the University's strategic aims relating to diversification and developing the University's digital capability, the development of the digital learning portfolio being noted as a strategic priority. Senators considered the benefits the project would also bring to the University's campus-based students and staff, as well as to external collaborative partners, noting the need to ensure compliance with accreditation. The range of good quality digital learning currently offered by the University was noted, along with the potential for developing programmes at both non-graduate and post-graduate level.

11912. Update on NSS and TESTA

The Associate Deputy Principal Education Professor Sara Carter provided an update on NSS progress, noting that the response rate was increasing and had improved on that of the same point last year. Senators were urged to keep in mind NSS-related guidelines as outlined on the NSS web site. Introducing the presentation on TESTA (Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment) Professor Carter remarked that other institutions, notably the University of Dundee, had found the tool very effective as a means of improving assessment and feedback. Further information on the background and methodology behind TESTA was presented by Dr Debra Willison and Dr Alex Buckley, who informed Senate that TESTA was widely used in the sector, and had been successful.

Education Enhancement and OSDU staff had been trained in the methodology of TESTA and two pilots were underway in the Law School and SIPBS. The exercise involved an audit of assessment practices with staff and a focus group with students. Initial work had been positively received.

Discussing the presentation, and potential roll out to the wider University, it was proposed that roll out to no more than five programmes per year would be appropriate. Senators from USSA acknowledged that TESTA was a good development, and would encourage students to participate in focus groups. It was suggested that students' views in this area could be included in the USSA office bearers' report to Senate.

11913. Learning and Teaching Day and STEP

The Associate Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching introduced Dr Katy Savage (Academic Development Lead – Learning and Teaching) who would update Senate on the development of Strathclyde's Teaching Excellence Programme (STEP). As background, it was noted that ELIR 2014 had identified need for learning and teaching development programme. An event focussing on learning analytics had been held in June 2015, at which the development of STEP had been announced. Faculties had been feeding in to the strategy. Dr Savage provided further detail on developments that had shaped the STEP programme which included: a focus on NSS, assessment and feedback; technology-enhanced learning; focus on internationalisation and staff consultation. A series of successful workshops had taken place, which included short practical sessions. The programme was in its first year, and an end of year evaluation would be conducted which would feed back into the following year's programme. The programme was seen to benefit Faculties and Departments in a number of ways, including providing staff development for all to categories of staff including a new development for technical staff involved in teaching.

Senators were reminded that Learning and Teaching Day 2016 would be held on 17th June 2016.

Items for Information

11914. Timetable for Senate Elections

Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

11915. Executive Team (Paper E)

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

11916. Court (Paper F)

Senate **noted** the report from Court.

11917. Education Strategy Committee (Paper G)

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

11918. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (Paper H)

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

11919. Strathclyde Business School (Paper I)

Senate **approved:**

.1 Waiver of Regulations

Senate **noted:**

.2 Centre for Financial Regulation and Innovation

.3 Small Business Charter Gold Award

11920. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Paper J)

Senate approved:

1.New Prizes:

- .1 Donald Christie Prize (School of Education)
- .2 KPMG Prize (School of Psychological Sciences and Health)

2.BA (Hons) in Education & Social Services (BAESS) – Validation and Articulation Agreements

Senate noted:

3.Taiwan Student Exchange Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding

4.Student Exchange Agreement with Willamette University, Oregon

5.Quinquennial Reviews:

- .1 UG LLB Law courses - LLB (Hons) Law (FT, PT and GE); LLB (Hons) Law Clinical (FT & GE); LLB (Hons) Law with a Modern Language)
- .2 MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies;
- .3 MSc in Mediation and Conflict Resolution;
- .4 EdD – Doctor in Education, School of Education
- .5 MSc in Applied Educational Social Research;
- .6 PGDip in Professional Legal Practice

11921. Faculty of Engineering (Paper K)

Senate approved:

Significant Amendments to Regulations

- .1 MSc Biomedical Engineering – new course streams
 - .2 MRes Biomedical Engineering – new course streams
 - .3 PGT Programmes in Civil & Environmental Engineering – Flexible Learning mode
- #### Prizes
- .4 Chemical and Process Engineering Prizes – New, Amended and Withdrawn

Senate noted:

Collaborative Agreements

- .5 Collaborative Agreement: Northeast Dianli University, China
- .6 Addendum to Existing Agreement: North China Electric Power University, China
- .7 Engineering Academy Partnership Agreement with Colleges MoUs
- .8 Madras Medical College, India
- .9 North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, China
- .10 Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Malaysia

11922. Faculty of Science (Paper L)

Senate approved:

- .1 Introduction of MSc Pharmacy Practice
- .2 Introduction of BSc (Hons) Forensic Chemistry
- .3 MSc Medicinal Chemistry with Conversion Course
- .4 MSc Industrial Photonics

11923. Revised Policy and Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Programmes (paper M)

Senate **approved** the paper.

11924. Credit-Rating of Accelerate Widening Access Programme (Paper N)

Senate **approved** the paper.

Reserved Business

11925. Student Business – Strathclyde Business School

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

11926. Student Business - Faculty of Engineering

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

11927. Student Business - Faculty of Science

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

11928. Student Business – Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

11929. Scholarships

Senate **approved** the Scholarships detailed in Paper S:

- The Alistair Wright Scholarship
The Beit Strathclyde Scholarships

MJ 31/03/2016