

## SENATE

**Approved Minutes: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

Present: Principal

Professor S MacGregor, Dr A Colson, Dr A Huang, A Cooper, A Paddison, Professor A Maier, A Mendes, Dr A Ivaturi, Dr A Toumpis, Professor B Wagner, Professor B Wynne, C Robb, C Cannon, Dr C White, C Carroll, Dr C Gonzalez-Longo, Dr D Robertson, D Finn, Professor D Brodie, Professor D Graham, Professor E Shaw, E McKee, Dr E Henderson, Professor F Brennan, Professor G Acheson, H Gould, Dr I Moore, Professor I Rivers, L Brownlow, Professor J Sefcik, J Carey, Professor J MacBryde, Dr K Johnston, Dr K Savage, Dr K Pyper, Dr L Gibson, Dr L Caspani, Dr L Williams, Dr M Cunningham, Dr M Neal, M Gorrie, Professor M Revie, Dr M Harker, Dr M Salamati, M Gusbi, R McHugh, Professor R Maguire, S Day, Dr S Walker, Dr S Oterkus, Professor S Kuhr, Professor Stephen McArthur, Professor S Reid, Professor T Bedford, Professor T Sharpe, Professor T Hafford-Letchfield, Professor V Phoenix, Professor Y Perrie, Dr Z Rattray.

Attending: S Wallace, S Currie, B Green, Dr S Fancey, Professor A Galloway, B Lawton, C Milligan, Dr C Mahn, Professor D Willison, G Watt, G Docherty, Dr J Race, Dr L Bonnar, L McKean, Professor M Grealy, Professor P McKenna, Professor S Howick.

Apologies: Professor A Gachagan, A Lamont, Dr A Ates, Dr C Verdier, Professor D Hillier, D Roxburgh, Dr F Scott, Professor G McConnell, J McQuarrie, Professor J MacKenzie, Dr L Pritchard, L McDermott, Dr N Rattray, Professor P Connolly, Dr S Brough, Professor T Tuttle, W Rennison.

### OPEN BUSINESS

#### **12717. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed all members to the third meeting of Senate of the academic year. This meeting was conducted fully online via Zoom due to a range of industrial action taking place across the country on this date.

#### **12718. Minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (Paper S22-23-40)**

The minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

### **12719. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **12720. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper S22-23-41)**

The Vice Principal invited Senate to note the report of the Senate Business Committee which had met on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The Committee had scrutinised the following:

1. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) Subgroup, noting that since the last meeting of Senate on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the CPA Subgroup had processed four agreements, one of which was an amendment to an existing agreement and the other three agreements were new.
2. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and welcomed a verbal update from the University Secretary on progress with the Strategic Plan 2030 since the last meeting of Senate on 16<sup>th</sup> November. The Student President was asked to provide a verbal update to Senate on recent Strath Union business. It was noted too that Senate would receive presentations from Professor Debbie Willison on preparations for NSS 2023 and the key changes to the survey this year, Brian Green would provide an overview of the Quality Enhancement and Standards Review and its comparison with the previous Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR), and Helyn Gould would present on Apprenticeship Degrees and their impacts and opportunities. Senate would also receive a financial update from the Chief Financial Officer as well as a recruitment update from the Director of Strategy and Planning.
3. It was noted that Senate Business Committee recommended the establishment of the Campus Services Directorate to Senate. Campus Services was moved from Estates to the Chief Commercial Officer area in 2021 with a view to increasing commercial awareness and focus of these areas. The Executive Team has reviewed progress and wish to build on this by formally establishing Campus Services as a Directorate, continuing to report to the Chief Commercial Officer. The Principal requested that Senate receive an update within the next academic year on how this is progressing.

Senators confirmed they were happy to RECOMMEND the establishment of the new directorate to Court for approval.

4. All reports submitted for the Senate meeting had been reviewed and, subject to minor refinements, approved by the Senate Business Committee.
5. Requests for Senate's attention and approval were highlighted; with a recommendation that Senate give its formal approval to reports as noted below (Minute ref 12728-12743).

### **12721. Principal's Update**

#### **Welcome**

The Principal welcomed the four new recently elected Faculty representatives to Senate, and Professor Paul McKenna, recently appointed as Deputy Associate Principal for Research and Knowledge Exchange replacing Professor Billy Kerr who has stepped down from the role. It was also noted that Steven Wallace, the University's Chief Financial Officer would be leaving the University after four years. The Principal extended his thanks to Mr Wallace on behalf of Senate, for his invaluable contribution to the University and wished him well for the future.

The Principal updated Senate on a recent meeting with the President of Graz University of Technology, Austria. The Principal highlighted the importance of maintaining these strong partnerships across Europe and the opportunities brought about by Horizon Europe funding. The University's distinctiveness in research and knowledge exchange will be advantageous in bidding for the funding opportunities available.

### **Safe 360**

The University has been developing the Safe 360° Framework for four years now and has made significant progress. As part of the pledge in the University's People Strategy – to ensure a safe and secure environment – the University Community Commitment was developed. This defines how as Strathclyders the University community should interact and respect each other and underpins the principles of Safe 360°. It also ensures that everyone understands that any form of discrimination, harassment, victimisation or bullying will not be tolerated and that a culture is encouraged where people are empowered and supported to raise concerns. An awareness campaign across all communication channels including the website, Inside Strathclyde, social media, the app and campus screens has been launched and further work will be undertaken with colleagues in Strath Union to further spread the message among the student community. Senators were encouraged to look at the [Safe 360 webpages](#) and were advised that training is currently taking place for the Dignity and Respect Advisor Network and for First Responders.

### **Focus on Wellbeing**

A ['Wellbeing Matters' Hub](#) has been launched on the University's website. This brings together resources and support available to colleagues in one place. The Hub will feature four main areas, namely: emotional and mental wellbeing; physical wellbeing; financial wellbeing; and, agile working support.

### **Industrial Action**

Senators were informed that the Industrial Action Planning Group, chaired by the Vice Principal, has been meeting regularly to ensure that the impact from industrial action on students' learning experience is minimised. Appropriate contingency plans are in place and further communications will be cascaded to students, providing the necessary assurance that industrial action will not be detrimental.

### **Chief People Officer**

In 2019 Senate supported a change by Court to the Ordinances of the University to create the position of Chief People Officer (CPO) as a Senior Officer of the University. On the retirement of the University's first CPO the decision was taken to remove the CPO post from the list of Senior Officers in the Ordinances pending a decision to appoint a Chief People Officer in the future. A new Chief People Officer (Gordon Scott) has now been appointed and the intention is to ask Court to complete the process by re-inserting the post of Chief People Officer in the list of Senior Officers in the Ordinances of the University.

Senators RECOMMENDED the re-insertion of the post of Chief People Officer to the Ordinances of the University to Court for approval.

### **Executive Team Strategy Session**

The Executive Team held a strategy session day that focused on the development of the University's 2030 strategy. Key areas covered included: the continued support and development of people; the shape of the University's digital future; maximising investment opportunities; and, the distinctive positioning of Strathclyde within the national and international higher education landscape. The Team also reflected on how Strathclyde conducts its business.

### **Innovation Challenge – Fifth Grand Challenge**

In 2020, the University launched the Strathclyde Innovation Forum, which aims to encourage all University colleagues to share their innovative ideas to help drive the success of the University. The Forum provides support for colleagues to innovate within their teams as well as periodically calling for ideas on Grand Challenges; addressing issues facing the University which staff innovation can help to solve. So far the Forum has supported four challenges and there is now a call for ideas in relation to a fifth grand challenge.

### **Accommodation Update**

The University Secretary updated Senate on the status of student accommodation and informed Senators that capacity has increased on and off campus. In particular there has been significant investment in Thomas Campbell Court by the University. Work is ongoing with other higher education providers in Glasgow to provide a coordinated approach to this ongoing issue, noting that rising rental costs remain a challenge. The Principal and the University Secretary thanked Stella Matko, Estates Services Director, Shona Millar, Campus Services, Lucy Skinner, Accommodation Services and their teams as well as colleagues within the Faculties for their diligence in this area and ensuring our students remain supported throughout these very challenging circumstances.

### **Examination of the University and Links to Slavery**

The University has committed to thoroughly examining its historic links to the Transatlantic slave trade by initiating a research and review project which will be undertaken through this winter and spring. The University Secretary will lead this project together with Professor Ian Rivers, Dr Churnjeet Mahn, Professor Richard Finlay and the Vice President Inclusion (Strath Union), Kathy Doong. While the outcomes of that fact-finding research are still to be determined, the University is committed to examining and acknowledging any links that may exist and use them to inform the future. This project will engage the University community – students, staff and stakeholders – and take any lessons the past offers to inform the future. Dr Mahn informed Senate that the VP Inclusion relayed a very positive message from the student body in relation to this project.

### **First Minister Visit to Power Networks Demonstration Centre (PNDC)**

The University welcomed the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon to the Power Networks Demonstration Centre (PNDC) in Cumbernauld where she announced a new draft energy strategy for Scotland. The visit allowed the First Minister the opportunity to learn more about the PNDC and how it is supporting net zero innovation across the supply chain, creating economic and job growth, and helping Scotland to deliver on its net-zero targets.

### **Research Wins**

Award made to Professor Robert Stewart in Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Project title: The Scotland 5G Centre.

Scottish Government, awarded on 11-Jan-23

Award made to Charles Norman MacLeod in Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Project title: Landing Gear Industrial Breakthroughs (I-Break).

Innovate UK, awarded on 14-Dec-22

Award made to Mairi Spowage in Economics.

Project title: Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy.

ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), awarded on 16-Nov-22

Award made to Dr Stewart Johnstone in Work Employment and Organisation.

Project title: Amplifying Employee Voice and Hearing the Unheard: A Multidisciplinary Study of Contemporary Working Lives in Deindustrialised Communities.

ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), awarded on 12-Dec-22

Award made to Dr Agusti Egea Alvarez in Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Project title: HVDC-based grid architectures for reliable and resilient WIdesPrEad hybrid AC/DC transmission systems.

Innovate UK, awarded on 10-Jan-23

Award made to Professor Gwyn Gould in Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences.

Project title: How does EFR3 control insulin-stimulated plasma membrane dispersal of GLUT4?

BBSRC (Biotech & Biological Sciences Research Council), awarded on 20-Dec-22

Award made to Professor Robert Stewart in Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Project title: Fibre in Water for 5G Private Mobile and Wireless Connectivity (TAWCO Telecoms and Water Combined Operations)

Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport, awarded on 25-Nov-22

Award made to Dr Christopher White in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Project title: Multi-hazard and risk-informed system for enhanced local and regional disaster risk management (MEDiate Horizon Europe CL3-2021-DRS-01).

Innovate UK, awarded on 01-Dec-22

Award made to Professor Alastair Florence in Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences.

Project title: Future Continuous Manufacturing and Advanced Crystallisation Research Hub (CMAC Hub).

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 11-Nov-22

Award made to Dr Colin Whyte in Physics.

Project title: The Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications.

STFC Science and Technology Facilities Council, awarded on 25-Nov-22

Award made to Dr Laura Kelly in History.

Project title: Anti-abortion activism in the Republic of Ireland c.1972-1992 (RSE Personal Research Fellowship)

Royal Society of Edinburgh, awarded on 24-Jan-23

### **12722. Update on progress with the Strategic Plan 2030**

Following the Senate meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November where the University Secretary led an interactive session on the development of the Strategic Plan 2030, a meeting was held to discuss the Plan with Strath Union. The University Secretary informed Senators that the outputs from both of these meetings were used to inform the Court strategy session in December, which was then followed by an Executive Team meeting in early January. A draft Plan is now being developed with the expectation that the

Vision will be developed by October 2023 and be presented at the November meeting of Senate.

### **12723. Student Voice**

The Strath Union President was not in attendance.

### **12724. NSS 2023**

Professor Debbie Willison, Deputy Associate Principal Online Learning and Teaching, presented to Senate on preparations for the NSS 2023 and outlined some of the key changes to the survey for this year and the implications of these. Changes to the survey questions this year include a move to direct questions and a 4-point response scale (no mid-point/neutral option). There is also an additional question this year around mental health and wellbeing. In terms of preparations, the NSS launched on 11<sup>th</sup> January (Strathclyde start date was 16<sup>th</sup> January), and closes on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. NSS information has been sent to all Dept/School contacts, and Heads of Department/ School. NSS was also a topic covered at the Learning and Teaching Improvement Forum in December 2022 and featured in Inside Strathclyde. A further update will be provided at the next forum in March 2023.

### **12725. The Quality Enhancement and Standards Review (QESR)**

Brian Green, Deputy Associate Principal Academic Quality and Student Experience, presented to Senate on the QESR, which is the successor to the Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Scotland. It was noted that the University's last ELIR took place in AY 2018/19 and Senators were reminded that the University received a number of commendations and several recommendations from the 2019 ELIR. All recommendations have been actioned and updates have been received positively by the QAA Scotland, via annual Institutional Liaison Meetings. QESR is part of the interim quality review arrangements for AYs 2022/23 and 2023/24 which are in place while the Scottish Funding Council develops the new tertiary framework, in consultation with further and higher education institutions. The QESR is focused on quality standards, including how institutions enhance the processes that underpin quality activities. This constitutes Phase 1 of QAA Scotland's new interim external institutional review method.

The QAA Scotland has provided a list of documentation for the University to submit ahead of the Review, by 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022, with the QESR review event taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Court will have the opportunity to engage in the review process.

### **12726. Apprenticeship Degrees and their impact**

Helyn Gould, Deputy Associate Principal, Learning and Teaching, presented to Senate on Graduate and Degree Apprenticeships and their impact on students and the University. Senators were given an overview of the University's portfolio of apprenticeship degrees noting the different funding arrangements for Graduate Apprenticeships in Scotland and Degree Apprenticeships in England. Strathclyde is currently the only Scottish university provider of Degree Apprenticeships. The University was recently commended by education regulator Ofsted for its high-quality delivery of Degree Apprenticeships, delivering our programmes through virtual learning platforms and making an impact in the English market by offering a high-quality learning experience for both apprentices and their employers. A recent EQUIS accreditation visit to the Business School also branded the BA (Hons) Business Management Graduate Apprenticeship the best they had seen for societal impact. The portfolio of apprenticeships is expanding and this area is a huge opportunity for the University. Senators are very much encouraged to think about how their departments/ schools can become involved. It was agreed that the Senate Manager would circulate a list of Faculty Online Learning leads and support available from the GADA Team (situated within the Education Enhancement Directorate), to help with any enquiries – [gada-enquiries@strath.ac.uk](mailto:gada-enquiries@strath.ac.uk).

**ACTION:** Senate Manager to circulate list of Faculty Online Learning leads and support material from the GADA team.

#### **12727. Recruitment and Financial Update**

The University's Chief Financial Officer presented an overview of the Quarter 1 forecast for 2022/23, noting that overseas tuition fees are better than Budget, driven in part by increased January PGT intakes. Operating costs reflect the University's absorption of a number of unbudgeted costs in the current academic year, such as accommodation support costs in response to the accommodation crisis. Focus continues to be on navigating the volatile external environment, while achieving our strategic vision.

The Chief Financial Officer also presented a recruitment update in the absence of the Director of Strategy and Planning. The key message from this was the significant increase in the number of overseas PGT applications. There has been a strong performance in relation to recruitment for PGT January starts, numbers will be confirmed at the March meeting of Senate. This growth is the result of a huge amount of work from colleagues across the institution. Professional Services and Faculties will come together to focus on lessons learned and ensure the infrastructure, policies and procedures are in place to support this growth.

All presentations made at Senate are available [here](#).

#### **Items for Information**

##### **12728. Quality Enhancement & Standards Review (QESR) Conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Scotland – briefing document (Paper S22-23-42)**

Senate **noted** this briefing and in particular the date of the QESR panel visit which is 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This briefing supported the presentation made by Brian Green earlier in the agenda.

##### **12729. Twelve-month update on Thematic Review: Student-facing Professional Services: Student Mental Health (Paper S22-23-43)**

In 2021 the University undertook the inaugural Thematic Review of Student-facing professional services. The theme for this review was Student Mental Health Provision. As part of the review, a panel of staff, students and externals reviewed evidence relating to the theme and met with staff and students to get context regarding student mental health provision at Strathclyde. The full report is available [here](#). As a result of the review, a number of commendations and recommendations were made. This paper provides an update on the response to recommendations one year after the initial response was provided. Senate **noted** the response to each recommendation.

##### **12730. Timetable for Senate Elections (Paper S22-23-44)**

Senate **noted** the timetable for Senate Elections.

#### **Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate**

##### **12731. Executive Team Report (Paper S22-23-45)**

Senate **noted** the report.

##### **12732. Court Report (Paper S22-23-46)**

Senate **noted** the report.

##### **12733. Education Strategy Committee Report (Paper S22-23-47)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12734. Quality Assurance Committee Report (Paper S22-23-48)**

Senate **noted** the report

**12735. Learning Enhancement Committee Report (Paper S22-23-49)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12736. Student Experience Committee Report (Paper S22-23-50)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12737. Strathclyde Online Learning Report (Paper S22-23-51)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12738. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee Report (Paper S22-23-52)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12739. Strathclyde Business School Report (Paper S22-23-53)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the following collaborative agreement:
  - Harbin Engineering University Articulation Agreement

**12740. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report (Paper S22-23-54)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the introduction of the following programmes:
  - MSc Sport Data Analytics
  - MSc Political Economy
  - MSc Health and Social Policy
- **approved** an amendment to the following programmes:
  - LLM Competition Law
  - MSc Business Translation and Interpreting
- **approved** the withdrawal of the following programmes:
  - BA Hons Education and Sport
  - BA Hons Psychology and/or with Sport
  - BA Hons Behavioural Aspects of Commerce
- **approved** the following collaborative agreement:
  - Addendum to Wellcome Trust Agreements with Fudan University
  - Validation and Articulation Agreement with City of Glasgow College – DipHE Education and Social Services and BA Hons Education and Social Services
  - Validation and Articulation Agreement with South Lanarkshire College – DipHE Education and Social Services and BA Hons Education and Social Services

**12741. Faculty of Engineering Report (Paper S22-23-55)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;



- **noted** the Memorandum of Understandings with the following institutions:
  - Indian Institute of Technology
  - New Cairo Technological University

#### **12742. Faculty of Science Report (Paper S22-23-56)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the introduction of the following programme:
  - MSc Digital Health Systems
- **approved** an amendment to the following programmes:
  - MSc in Photonics
  - MSc in Quantum Technologies
  - MSc Advanced Clinical Pharmacy Practice
- **approved** the withdrawal of the following programme:
  - Pharmacy Practice – Clinical

#### **Policies (new and revised)**

No items were listed under this heading

#### **Any Other Business: for information**

No items were listed under this heading

#### **RESERVED BUSINESS**

#### **12743. Student Business Report (Paper S22-23-57)**

Senate **noted** this report.