



## SENATE

**Approved Minutes:  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
2024**

- Present:** Principal  
Professor S MacGregor, Professor A Marshall, A Paddison, Professor A Maier, A Mendes, Professor A Gachagan, Dr A Toumpis, Dr A Ates, C Carroll, Dr C Gonzalez-Longo, C Whitley, C Robb, Professor B Wynne, Dr B McMillan, Dr A Huang, Dr A Tonner, Dr D Roxburgh, Professor D Brodie, Professor D Hillier, Professor D Graham, Dr E Henderson, Professor E Boulougouris, Professor E Oterkus, Dr I Moore, Professor I Rivers, J Carey, J McQuarrie, Professor J Race, Dr J Young, Professor J MacBryde, Professor K Boyle, Professor K Chen, Dr K Johnston, Dr K Pyper, Dr L Bonnar, Dr L Gibson, L Reaney, Dr L Williams, Dr M Cunningham, Professor M Revie, Professor N Quinn, Dr O Ganilova, R McHugh, Dr S Morrissey, Dr S Oterkus, Professor S Reid, Professor S McArthur, Professor T Tuttle, W Rennison, Dr Z Rattray.
- Attending:** Professor B Green, Professor C Mahn, S Currie, M Middlehurst, Professor M Grealy, B Lawton, C Milligan, G Watt, H Gould, L Noble, Professor P McKenna, Professor R Maguire, Dr S Fancey, G Docherty, Dr W Hasty,
- Apologies:** Professor A Wilson, Professor A Galloway, Professor B Wagner, Dr C Verdier, C Wilson, C Cannon, Dr C White, D Reat, Dr D Robertson, Professor D Willison, E Curran, E McKee, Dr F Scott, Professor I Cunningham, Professor J Sefcik, J Kardasz, Dr L Caspani, Professor M Halvey, Dr M Neal, Dr M Harker, M McHugh, Professor M Hannon, Professor P Connolly, R Okoh, S Day, Dr S Brough, Professor S Kuhr, Professor T Sharpe, Y Doong, Professor Y Perrie.

### OPEN BUSINESS

#### **12877. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed all members to the fourth meeting of Senate in AY 2023-24.

#### **12878. Minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (Paper S23-24-72)**

The minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

#### **12879. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **12880. Senate Business Committee Report (Paper S23-24-73)**

The Vice Principal invited Senate to note the report from Senate Business Committee which met on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Committee had scrutinised the following:

1. The note of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) Subgroup noting that since the last meeting of Senate on 7<sup>th</sup> February the CPA Subgroup had processed seven agreements - three renewals to existing Study Abroad partnerships, two renewals to existing articulation agreements, one new agreement and an addendum to an existing joint delivery agreement. The Committee noted the three University-wide Study Abroad agreements which are appended to this report, for which Senate approval is sought. Senate Business Committee members were also informed that the Policy and Code of Practice on Collaborative Education Provision is currently undergoing review and will be presented to Senate for approval in due course.

Senate APPROVED the three University-wide Study Abroad agreements with Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), University of Wisconsin-Stout and Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA).

2. The Committee agreed the business agenda for Senate's meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. It was noted that the Student Executive would not be in attendance at Senate due to attendance at the NUS Scotland conference on the same day. It was therefore agreed that the Student President would provide a written update that would be presented on her behalf. Senate would also receive a financial update from Wesley Rennison, Director of Strategic Planning and a financial update from Lucy Noble, Chief Financial Officer. It was noted that this meeting would also incorporate the Strategic Engagement session and Senate would receive presentations from the Executive Deans on Faculties' Strategic Vision for Transnational and Online Education, a Generative AI update and demonstration from Dr William Hasty, Education Enhancement and Dr Margaret Cunningham, Faculty of Science, and the PGR Student Experience, Doctoral School and Researcher Development from Professor Brian Green, Deputy Associate Principal Academic Quality and Student Experience and Professor Jill MacBryde, Associate Principal Entrepreneurship and Enterprise. Each session would be followed by a 10 minute Q&A session and Senators encouraged to engage in this.
3. All reports submitted for the Senate meeting had been reviewed and were recommended to Senate by Senate Business Committee.
4. Requests for Senate's attention and approval were highlighted; with a recommendation that Senate give its formal approval, where requested, to reports as noted below (Minute ref 12892-12895).
5. Senate homologated the following Convener's Actions approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate as outlined in Paper S23-24-74 since the last Senate meeting:
  - A Letter of Intent with SEleven, Bahrain (appended to the Principal's Report)
  - An addendum to an existing agreement between HaSS and Middle East University (Paper S23-24-84)

### **12881. Principal's Report**

The Principal provided a comprehensive report on news and items of interest since the last meeting, covering the following topics:

## **Key updates**

The Principal addressed the challenges currently facing the Higher Education sector and thanked the Executive Deans and Directors of Professional Services in their efforts to help mitigate the impacts of these challenges.

Senators were reminded that the closing date for nominations to fill Senate vacancies was 5<sup>th</sup> April. It was noted that the call for nominations is currently contained within Inside Strathclyde and the Principal requested that a further reminder be included within the Principal's Weekly Message.

The Principal informed Senate that students were participating in the [VIPer Pit](#), a one day event taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The VIPer Pit is an exciting opportunity that allows [VIP4SD](#) (Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development) students to pitch for research funding to industry experts and academics to fund their projects.

The Principal launched the National Physical Laboratory on 13th March 2024. The NPL is the first of three innovation nodes with a focus on the application of accurate and precise timing for new technologies and products for sectors including transport, telecommunications, fintech, and quantum. The Innovation Nodes are part of NPL's National Timing Centre programme, the UK's first nationally distributed time infrastructure.

## **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

Strathclyde's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary year continues, and the run of Celtic Connections events which were held in the Barony Hall over January and February have now ended.

## **Strathclyde Women's Week**

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, International Women's Day, the University welcomed astrophysicist Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell to the University to officially open the Wing named in her honour in the Learning and Teaching Building.

## **Principal's Engagement Sessions**

The Principal completed his Engagement Sessions in March, noting that more than 1,700 colleagues attended. The Principal updated colleagues on the new Strathclyde 2030 Strategy and the new People Strategy, which is in development.

## **Strathclyde Anti Racism Campaign**

The University has launched an anti-racism campaign to raise awareness of our zero tolerance approach to racism, racist language and racist behaviours. The campaign actions one of the key recommendations of the report of the Race Equality Working Group and reflects the University's endorsement of AdvanceHE's Declaration against racism.

## **Neurodiversity Celebration Week**

A Neurodiversity Working Group, chaired by Professor Douglas Brodie, has been established. This Group will help to ensure that the University has appropriate policies and procedures in place to address the needs of neurodiverse staff and students.

## **Flexible Working Policy**

The University's [Flexible Working Policy](#) has been updated to reflect recent legislative changes and incorporate feedback received through our People Policy Forum. In addition, there is a new [Career Break Policy](#) which provides more information on how to request a period of unpaid leave, normally up to a maximum period of 12 months.

## **Election of Convener of Court**

The University Secretary, Dr Stuart Fancey, took the opportunity to inform Senate that Dame Sue Bruce's term as the Convener of Court will come to an end in summer 2025. The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 sets out the terms for electing a new Convener. It was noted that this process takes time, and that the elections will commence in October 2024.

## **Research Awards**

Award made to Dr Katherine Dobson in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Project title: Imaging for Multi-scale Multi-modal and Multi-disciplinary Analysis for EnGineering and Environmental Sustainability (IM3AGES) (EPSRC Strategic Equipment)

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 14-Mar-2024

Award made to Dr Glenn Burley in Pure and Applied Chemistry

Project title: A Prosperity Partnership for the Design of Next-Generation Antibody Drug Bioconjugates (Next-Gen ADC)

BBSRC (Biotech & Biological Sciences Research Council), awarded on 18-Mar-2024

Award made to Dr Alastair Conway in Advanced Forming Research Centre

Project title: AFRC-CRAD-06107 Automated Forging Cell for Hammer Press Henry Royce Institute:

Application for Associate Status / Equipment – Linear

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 15-Feb-2024

Award made to Professor Massimiliano Vasile in Mechanical and

Aerospace Engineering

Project title: AI for Space Operations Safety and Sustainability (A14S3)

UK Space Agency, awarded on 07-Mar-2024

Award made to Joshua Barham in Pure and Applied Chemistry

Project title: Hybrid Electrochemically-paired Light Irradiated Organic Synthesis (ERC STG)

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 13-Mar-2024

Award made to Professor Gavin Halbert in Strathclyde Institute Of Pharmacy And Biomedical Sciences

Project title: Cancer Research UK Formulation Unit for the pharmaceutical and bio-pharmaceutical evaluation of new anti-cancer drugs C149/A28424

Cancer Research UK CRUK, awarded on 09-Feb-2024

Award made to Professor Karen Turner in Centre for Energy Policy

Project title: Energy Demand Research Centre

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 13-Feb-2024

Award made to Professor Rebecca Lunn in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Project title: Mechanochemical processing of silicate rocks for direct carbon capture (MACO2)

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 13-Feb-2024

Award made to Dr Robert Cameron in Physics

Project title: Chiral Molecules and their Interaction with Light

Royal Society, awarded on 21-Mar-2024

Award made to Dr Byongug Jeong in Naval Architecture Ocean and Marine Engineering

Project title: Safe and Efficient Use of Sustainable Fuels in Maritime Transport Applications (Safecraft)

Innovate UK, awarded on 20-Feb-2024

Award made to Dr Markus Gehrsitz in Economics

Project title: Give Them Time? – The Effects of Deferred School Start

### **12882. Student Voice**

Dr Stuart Fancey, University Secretary, provided the Student Voice update to Senate on behalf of Eva Curran, Student President in her absence. This update reflected on the recent student elections, noting that both the President and VP Education have been elected for a second term, the recent spring graduation ceremonies and International Woman's Day. The VP Welfare has worked with the University's Chief Financial Officer to pilot a Guarantor Scheme over the coming months. This initiative is part of the Strategic Framework Alliance and will be a huge help to students who are struggling with support and accommodation. Strath Union is currently gathering feedback from the student body on the impact of the recent rent increase (up 6%) for student accommodation in Strathclyde Halls of Residence. The Glasgow Taxi's Cup, Scotland's largest varsity competition with 17 sports and over 800 athletes competing, has been won by Strathclyde.

### **12883. Recruitment and Financial Update**

Wesley Rennison, Director of Strategic Planning, provided Senate with a recruitment update noting that overseas recruitment continues to be challenging mainly due to the changes imposed by UKVI and the CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies) deposit required from overseas students. The Chief Financial Officer, Lucy Noble presented Senate with an overview of the 2023/24 Q2 outlook, noting that ongoing cash management is critical going forward. Senate was informed that the budget for 2024/25 and the forecast for 2025/26 are already underway, noting that Court will approve the 2024/25 budget at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The recruitment and financial presentations to Senate are available [here](#).

### **Items for Information**

No items reported.

### **Items for Approval without Discussion**

No items reported.

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

#### **12884. Executive Team Report (Paper S23-24-75)**

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12885. Court Report (Paper S23-24-76)**

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12886. Education Strategy Committee Report (Paper S23-24-77)**

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12887. Quality Assurance Committee Report (Paper S23-24-78)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12888. Learning Enhancement Committee Report (Paper S23-24-79)**

Senate **noted** this report.

**12889. Strathclyde Online Learning Committee Report (Paper S23-24-80)**

Senate **noted** this report.

**12890. Student Experience Committee Report (Paper S23-24-81)**

Senate **noted** this report.

**12891. Research and Knowledge Exchange Report (Paper S23-24-82)**

Senate **noted** this report.

**12892. Strathclyde Business School Report (Paper S23-24-83)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the amendment to the following programme:
  - Master of Business Administration

**12893. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report (Paper S23-24-84)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the following collaborative agreement:
  - Articulation Agreement with University of Trento
- **noted** the following:
  - addendum to existing agreement with Middle East University
  - the appointment of three new Associate Deans.

**12894. Faculty of Engineering Report (Paper S23-24-85)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approve** the following programme:
  - MSc Sustainability Innovation Leadership
- **note** the following:
  - the appointment of two new Associate Deans

**12895. Faculty of Science Report (Paper S23-24-86)**

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approve** the following collaborative agreements:
  - International Medical University (IMU), Malaysia
  - King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMUTL), Thailand
- **approve** the following:
  - the waiver to UG General Academic Regulation 73 for the BSc in Biomedical Science due to an accreditation requirement

- **note** the following:
  - change of assessment submitted by the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences which was first approved at Senate in November 2023

#### **New of Revised Policy**

No items reported.

#### **Any other business: for information**

No items reported.

#### **Reserved business: for approval without discussion**

##### **12896. Student Business Report (Paper S23-24-87)**

Senate **approved** this report.

##### **12897. Student Discipline Report (Paper S23-24-88)**

Senate **approved** this report

## NOTE OF STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION, 27TH MARCH 2024

### Introduction

The Principal welcomed senators to the Strategic Engagement session which included a range of presentations on key areas in relation to learning and teaching. Each presentation would be followed by a short Q&A session and senators were encouraged to actively take part in this.

- i. **Faculties Strategic Vision for Transnational and Online Education.** Professor David Hillier, Executive Dean from the Business School, led a presentation on the University's activities in this area, highlighting existing activities and new opportunities, noting that these are fully aligned to the University's 2030 Strategy. Each Executive Dean provided Senators with an overview of the existing status of work in this area, and new opportunities currently being explored. A recurring theme throughout the presentation was the importance of the Faculties working together to build on the existing network of international partnerships and form new collaborations.
- ii. **Generative AI Update and Live Demonstration of Generative AI Tools.** Dr William Hasty, Learning Enhancement Advisor, Education Enhancement provided Senate with an update on recent Gen AI activity within the University, noting that over 200 students have attended the first online development sessions and that 13 student interns have been employed across all levels in each Faculty to assist with ongoing work in this area, with one student supporting activity in Education Enhancement. Dr Hasty also provided Senate with a demonstration of some Gen AI tools, namely MS Copilot, the Zoom AI Companion and the Adobe AI Assistant. Dr Margaret Cunningham, Associate Dean Learning Enhancement, Faculty of Science then provided a demonstration of TeacherMatic, a Jisc pilot the University is participating and which Dr Cunningham has adapted for a first year UG module. The Principal thanked Dr Hasty and Dr Cunningham for an inspirational presentation noting that it shows how the University can work with these tools to enhance the student experience.
- iii. **PGR Student Experience, Doctoral School and Researcher Development.** Professor Brian Green, Deputy Associate Principal Academic Quality and Student Experience, and Professor Jill McBryde, Associate Principal Entrepreneurship and Enterprise, provided Senate with an overview of the actions undertaken to date to enhance the PGR student experience and researcher development within the University, and the plans in place to continue to grow this important area of work and meet the KPI target of increasing our PGR FTE population. The presentation concluded with possible future actions and next steps.

All of the strategic engagement presentations can be found [here](#).