

## SENATE

**Minutes: Wednesday 4 September 2019**

- Present:** Principal  
 Professor T Bedford, Professor K Blair, Dr C Booth, Professor D Brodie, L Brownlow, K M Burns, R Cairns, Professor S Carter, P Chambers, A Corrigan, M Crilly, Dr M Cunningham, Dr J Delafield-Butt, Dr Y K Demirel, Dr L Dennany, Dr G El Mountassir, Dr L Fleming, Professor D Graham, Dr C Gonzalez-Longo, Dr H Grierson, S Gwynne, Dr K Hamilton, C Hillan, Professor D Hillier, Dr B Keating, Dr C Lindsay, Professor S MacGregor, Professor R Maguire, Dr S McCool, A McFarlane, R McHugh, Professor P McKenna, Dr B McNeil, P Mulheran, Dr M Neal, Dr A Nordon, A Paddison, G Pallis, Dr O Romice, Dr D Rotondo, Dr D Robertson, Dr M Salamati, E Selasie Ahadzie, R Smith, Professor I Stewart, Dr S Strachan, Dr T Tezdogan, M Watson, Dr G West, Dr S Yang, Dr Y Zhang
- Attending:** Dr L Bonnar, Professor D Willison, H Gould, Professor W Kerr, S Wallace, A Gillespie, Dr V O'Halloran, C Carroll, C Milligan, G Watt, M Judge
- Apologies:** Dr S Brough, Professor P Cardwell, Dr A Dickson, Professor A M Doherty, Professor A Duffy, Dr A Fletcher, Dr L Gibson, Dr A Gok, Dr A Hewitt, Dr K Kavanagh, Professor N Lockett, Professor C McDiarmid, Dr A McLaren, Dr K Mitchell, Professor A Morton, Professor K Paudyal, Dr J Pestana, Professor J Sefcik, Professor A Salama, Professor T Scotto, Dr J A Smith, Professor Y Taylor, Dr B Wagner, Dr C White, C Whitley, B Green, Professor A Galloway

### Formal Matters

#### **12310. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed Senators to Senate's first meeting of the academic year 2019-20, in particular welcoming new Senate members, and highlighting that 10% of Senate's membership is now formed of representatives from the student body. Stressing the importance of Senate in the University's governance structures, the Principal welcomed Senators' commitment and contribution to Senate. Senate welcomed the recent appointment of Directors to the two new Directorates: Cathy Milligan has been appointed as Director of Education Enhancement; Gill Watt has been appointed as Director of Student Experience. The Principal also warmly welcomed to Senate the new Chief Finance Officer Steven Wallace, and also warmly welcomed the new student members, who would be introduced to Senate later in the meeting by the StrathUnion Vice President.

#### **Independent Inquiry**

The Principal updated Senate on an independent inquiry involving a former member of academic staff. The seriousness of the case and its impact on those affected was stressed. Since the case had come to light, it was emphasized that there have been considerable and significant improvements and developments in the University's support systems for students

and staff, with enhanced support mechanisms now embedded across the University. It was highlighted that counselling was available for anyone affected by the case, should they wish it. The University Secretary and Compliance Officer, highlighting the range of improved support services available in the University, noted that "Report and Support", the University's online reporting mechanism, would also go live that week.

**12311. Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Paper A)**

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

**12312. Matters Arising**

There were none noted.

**12313. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper B)**

The Vice Principal invited Senate to **note** the report of the Senate Business Committee which met on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. The Committee had reviewed the following:

1. The Senate Annual Report, appended to the Senate Business Committee Report (Paper B), which provides a useful summary of all Senate activity throughout the academic year.
2. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) subgroup, Appendix A of the report, noting that the CPA subgroup had approved 8 collaborative agreements, which were detailed in the Faculty reports to Senate. Three Study Abroad Agreements, which were annexed in the report, had also been reviewed and were approved by Senate.
3. Convener's Actions, approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate since the last Senate meeting (5<sup>th</sup> June 2019), and as outlined in Paper C, had been considered by Senate Business Committee.
4. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019. In addition to the Principal's update on University news and matters impacting the sector, the Committee welcomed the following items: an update on REF 2021; Student Voice Update; NSS Results; Financial Update; Learning and Teaching Building Project Update.

Presentations and Items for Discussion

**12314. Principal's Report and Update**

The Principal updated Senate on a range of items including the following:

**Strategic Plan to 2025**

Senate was updated on developments around planning for the new Strategic Plan to 2025, noting that the plan would be launched in January 2020, with a further update on the Strategic Plan to come to Senate.

**Brexit**

The Principal highlighted that the University had strong governance mechanisms and communications plans in place in the event of potential issues around Brexit.

**Major Projects**

Over the summer the University's major projects had been developing apace, in particular the Learning and Teaching Building Project, which Senate would be updated on later in the meeting. Senate was updated on developments in other key projects, for example: the Lightweight Manufacturing Centre, and the Quantum Innovation Hub.

**Visit to CHP Energy Centre**

Senators were advised, further to the Principal's previous invitation, that tours had been arranged of the CHP Energy Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Senators would be sent details. [ACTION: Senate Manager]

### **External Engagement**

The First Minister had recently visited the Power Networks Demonstration Centre, recognising the PNDC's standing as a leading enabler in smart technologies development.

The University's strong position of influence through representation on key external bodies was reinforced through the Principal's key positions, including:

- Presidency of CESAER where he would be chairing his final General Assembly as President in Paris in October.
- The Principal had been invited to become the next, and first Scottish, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

### **UCU Ballot**

Notification had been received from UCU and Unison of Industrial Action ballots to be held between 9 September and 30 October. The University would work to minimise any potential disruption to students.

### **National Student Survey**

It was encouraging to note that the University's results had improved, its position moving into the top quartile for Overall Satisfaction for UK HEIs. Further detail on NSS would be provided to Senate within the meeting.

### **Grant Activity/Funding**

The Principal updated Senate on research awards the University had received since the last Senate, highlighting in particular four significant Quantum Technologies Hubs awards totalling in themselves approximately £6M, and congratulating all staff who had worked hard to gain research awards.

## **12315. REF 2021: 2019 Audit outcomes and Final Year Activities**

Research Policy Manager Research & Knowledge Exchange Services Claire Carroll provided Senate with a presentation updating Senate on preparations for REF 2021. Senate noted that Professor Stephen McArthur, Deputy Associate Principal Research and Knowledge Exchange was unable to attend to deliver the joint presentation.

An outline was given of the background, funding context and expectations of REF 2021, highlighting the expected output, impact and environment. The 2019 Research Audit was explained: this exercise served as a mock REF exercise to: peer review and grade outputs by internal and external reviewers; review impact case study drafts; and, create first environment narrative iteration.

A breakdown of 2019 Research Audit outcomes was given, including a summary of more detailed information provided on Units of Assessment. Actions stemming from 2019 Research Audit completion were outlined, which included monthly interventions focussing on: completion of a Monitoring table for all elements; meetings between REF team and each Faculty Executive Dean; meetings between the REF team and the Principal; updates to Executive Team. Key messages would be reinforced at Leadership Group, and regular updates on REF would be provided to Court and Senate meetings. A detailed timeline was provided indicating monthly REF activity through to Spring 2020. Details were provided on "Last Mile" activities focussing on output, impact and environment, with information given on key leads for each area. Key areas of activity for the final four months to submission were outlined, noting the increased levels of resources allocated to REF activities. Senate welcomed the update, and acknowledged the effective work that had been done to progress preparations for REF 2021.

## **12316. Student Voice Update**

StrathUnion President Matt Crilly introduced to Senate the new student representatives who were now members of Senate. Senate membership now included, in addition to the

StrathUnion President and Vice President Education, 6 members of the StrathUnion Executive: Vice Presidents Community, Inclusion, Sport, Welfare, and Faculty representatives from the four Faculties. It was noted that an election would be scheduled shortly to replace two representatives, one from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and one from Strathclyde Business School who had withdrawn. Updating Senate on Student Voice activity, the following was noted:

- The Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) had now been adopted. The StrathUnion President gave particular thanks to Professor Sara Carter for her partnership work on the development and implementation of the SPA.
- Referring to the independent inquiry, previously highlighted by the Principal, the StrathUnion President stressed the range of initiatives the University had put in place since this case, in particular highlighting the University's commitment to Equally Safe, and welcoming the development of Report and Support.
- A committee had been established focussing on issues relating to Postgraduate tutoring, in particular looking at remuneration.
- Key challenges and issues facing students were highlighted, and included: Brexit issues, and the climate change emergency.
- Freshers' Week activities were outlined, noting that particular work had been done on welcoming Postgraduate students.
- Finally, it was noted that this academic year marked the last year for students in the StrathUnion building in John Street, with the move to the new Learning and Teaching Building scheduled for September 2020.

Commenting on the update, the Principal thanked the StrathUnion President for the presentation, noting the value placed on the partnership, collaboration and constructive exchanges with the student body and now the additional new student representatives on Senate.

### **12317 NSS 2018-19 Results**

Director of Education Enhancement Cathy Milligan and Deputy Associate Principal Learning and Teaching Helyn Gould updated Senate on the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) 2019.

An initial overview was provided at institutional level, which indicated that the overall response rate was higher than in 2018. Survey results indicted a stable sector performance from 2018 to 2019. Institutional results indicated that scores had increased across all sections of the survey, with the University's ranking improving from 9th to joint 6<sup>th</sup> in the Scottish sector. Overall institutional satisfaction had increased to 86.15% and was in UK top quartile for the first time, which was encouraging.

Institutional results in the context of the three-year period from 2017 to 2019 were considered, firstly in terms of comparison of results over the range of questions during the three-year period, and then in terms of three-year quartile shift at institutional level and at Faculty level. It was noted that 2019 had seen an improvement across all questions. The institutional focus for 2019-20 was outlined, noting the key areas of focus for improvement within the student learning experience.

Next steps were outlined, which included: continued reflection, action and monitoring within faculties on subject level student experience; Executive Dean leadership and accountability; Learning and Teaching Improvement Planning by departments and schools, subject to review and approval by faculties and Executive Deans; reporting of progress to Education Committees throughout the year; Institutional webinar and support workshops, and NSS 2020 preparation; continued progress updates on NSS at Senate.

Senate members welcomed the positive results from this year's NSS survey, and offered feedback on a range of areas where further consideration could be given towards maintaining and enhancing the positive results achieved in NSS 2019.

### **12318 Financial Update**

The Chief Finance Officer Steven Wallace provided Senate with a financial update. The following summarised points of note are highlighted:

- A summary was given outlining income and expenditure, highlighting trends over a three-year period from 2017/18 to 2019/20.
- Considering income trends, it was noted that trends indicated steady growth year on year, with tuition fee income to 2019/20 indicating significant growth, however the SFC grant income was expected to continue to be constrained.
- Commenting on expenditure trends, the effect of external cost pressures, such as the potential effects of ongoing pensions discussions, was noted in relation to increasing staff costs.
- The 2018/19-year end process was outlined, highlighting key dates in the process which would culminate in submission of the annual reporting statement to Court at the end of November.

Senate welcomed the presentation, acknowledging that the summary update confirmed that plans were on target and in line with continued robust financial management.

### **12319 Learning and Teaching Building Update**

Associate Principal Professor Sara Carter updated Senate on the latest developments in the Learning and Teaching Building Project. A summary was given of build progress, noting the significant work that had taken place towards steady state operations. With new students arriving on campus, the importance of ensuring robust safety measures were in place and maintained was stressed. Attention was drawn to "Report and Support" which was available should it be required for reporting any safety or behavioural incidents.

A range of visuals were provided, indicating the progress of the build, including the work being done on the old architecture building, and the significant developments on the Richmond Street aspect. An update on the building's main features was provided for the benefit of new Senate members.

The work being undertaken by the Learning and Teaching Building Workstreams was highlighted, noting key outputs which included: agreeing the confirmed AV Infrastructure, design and fit out for key spaces in the building, ie Lecture Theatres, smaller fixed size teaching rooms, small Group Study Areas, Social Learning Spaces. It was stressed to Senate that there was student input across all areas of student activities. Following an outline of the design principles of the key teaching areas and study spaces, a range of visuals of catering outlets was shown.

Commenting on the excellent developments, Professor Carter noted that the building, in meeting a wide range of students' needs, was designed to create a community for students. Senate members welcomed the developments.

The Principal extended warm thanks to Professor Carter for her tremendous input, leadership and work on the project, noting that she was soon to leave the University to take up a new post as Vice Principal and Head of Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow.

### **Any Other Business**

Highlighting students' concerns around the global climate crisis, and with reference to the University's role in responding to the crisis, a student representative Senate member formally invited Senators to an event taking place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to bring this issue to attention. Senate endorsed the invitation, with Senators being encouraged to consider taking part in the event, and noting that a communication from the Principal relating to this area of concern was about to be issued.

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

#### **12320. Senate Appointments and Membership of Senate committees (Paper D)**

Senate **noted** the report.

**12321. Executive Team Report to Senate (Paper E)**

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

**12322. Court Report to Senate (Paper F)**

Senate **noted** the report from Court.

**12323. Education Strategy Committee Report (Paper G)**

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

**12324. Annual Statement to SFC on Institutional Quality (Paper H)**

Senate **approved** the Annual Statement to SFC on Institutional Quality. Senate **recommended** to Court that the report be endorsed prior to submission to SFC by 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**12325. Institutional Policy Statement on Responsible Research Metrics (Paper I)**

Senate **approved** the Institutional Policy Statement on Responsible Research Metrics.

**12326. Strathclyde Business School Report to Senate (Paper J)**

Senate noted the report from Strathclyde Business School and **approved**:

- The withdrawal of the Italian subject from the Masters in International Business with a Modern Language
- The procedural change in the award nominations procedure for Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM)

Senate **Noted**:

- The renaming of the Centre for Corporate Connections to Strathclyde Executive Education and Development' (SEED)

**12327. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report to Senate (Paper K)**

Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Humanities of Social Sciences, and **approved**

The Withdrawal of Existing Courses:

- Graduate Diploma in English Studies
- PG Cert Counselling Skills
- LLM in English Law
- PG Diploma in English Law
- MSc in Social Services (previously Work) Management
- MSc International Regional and Urban Development Policy

Senate **Noted**:

Senior Appointment of Vice Dean (Academic): Dr Lizann Bonnar wef 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

Collaborative Agreements

- Glasgow Caledonian University [Appendix 1]
- Fudan University [Appendix 2]
- Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences [Appendix 3]
- Shanghai University, College of Liberal Arts [Appendix 4]
- National Changhua University of Education [Appendix 5]

Items approved by Convener's Action July 2019

- Three new Open Studies Certificate pathways in English Literature, Social Policy and Politics and International Relations
- Doctorate of Education (EdD) specialism in Philosophy and Culture
- Withdrawal of Med/PGDip/PGCert in Management and Leadership in Education

**12328. Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate (Paper L)**

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

New Courses

- EngD in Renewable Energy Marine Structures
- EngD in Applied Photonics

Senate **Noted:**

Items approved by Convener's Action August 2019

New Course

- BEng Hons Civil Engineering (Graduate Apprenticeship)

Memorandum of Understanding

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India [Appendix 1]

**12329. Faculty of Science Report to Senate** (Paper M)

Senate noted the report from the Faculty of Science, and **approved:**

New Award Title:

- PhD Pharmaceutical Technology

Collaborative Agreement

- International Medical University, Malaysia - Articulation agreement (Appendix 1)

Senate **noted:**

New Course

- MSc Cyber Security - approved on behalf of Senate through Convenor's Action

Regulation Waivers

- 12424.UG.9
- 00001.UG.1.45

**12330. Revised Policy and Procedure on Programme and Module Approval** (Paper N)

Senate **approved** key amendments to the Procedure and Guidelines on Programme and Module Approval, which has been re-named Policy and Procedure on Programme and Module Approval, as outlined in the paper.

RESERVED BUSINESS

**12331. Combined Student Business Report** (Paper O)

Senate **approved** Paper O.

**12332. Scholarships and Prize** (Paper P)

Senate **approved** Paper P.

MJ

18/09/2019