

SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 29 January 2020

Present: Principal

Professor T Bedford, Professor S McArthur, Professor A Lowit, H Gould, B Green, Dr A Galloway, Professor D Brodie, Professor D Hillier, Professor A Incecik, Professor I Stewart, Dr C Booth, Professor A Galloway, Dr C White, Dr A McLaren, Dr B Keating, Dr A Fletcher, Dr C Gonzalez-Longo, Dr H Grierson, Dr Y Zhang, Dr D Harle, Dr G West, Dr T Tezdogan, Dr Y Kemal Demirel, Professor P McKenna, Dr A Nordon, Professor R Maguire, Dr J Pestana, Dr K Kavanagh, Professor A Doherty, Dr A Dickson, Dr K Hamilton, A Paddison, Dr C Lindsay, Dr A Hewitt, Professor C McDiarmid, Professor T Scotto, A Corrigan, J Delafield-Butt, P Chambers, Dr S McCool, Dr N McGarvey, Dr D Robertson, A McFarlane, R McHugh, R Smith, M Crilly, E Selasie Ahadzie, K Burns, R Cairns, M Watson, S Gwynne, B Rapson

Attending: Dr V O'Halloran, Professor D Willison, Professor S Howick, S Wallace, A Gillespie, C Milligan, M Judge, Professor E Shaw

Apologies: Professor S MacGregor, Dr L Bonnar, Professor B Kerr, Professor A Duffy, Professor J Sefcik, Dr P Mulheran, Dr S Strachan, M Reza Salamati, Professor D Graham, Dr L Dennany, Dr M Cunningham, Dr D Rotondo, Dr L Gibson, Dr K Mitchell, Professor P Cardwell, Dr E Compton-Daw, Professor A Morton, Professor K Blair, L. Brownlow, J Agbonrofo, G Watt

Formal Matters

12359. Welcome

The Principal welcomed Senators to Senate's first meeting of 2020.

12360. Minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2019 (Paper 19-20 01)

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

12361. Matters Arising

There were none noted.

12362. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper 19-20 02)

Deputy Associate Principal Brian Green, standing in for the Vice Principal, invited Senate to **note** the report of the Senate Business Committee which met on 17th January 2020.

The Committee had reviewed the following:

1. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) subgroup (Appendix A of the report). It was noted that the CPA subgroup had considered two collaborative agreements, which were detailed in the Faculty reports to Senate.
2. Convener's Actions approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate since the last Senate meeting, outlined in Paper 19-20 03, had been considered by Senate Business Committee: a request from the Faculty of Science for a waiver of regulation 19.13.94 for

- a student. 2. a request from the Faculty of Engineering to approve a new Programme: MSc Offshore Wind Energy 3. Collaborative Agreements: Riga Technical University, Latvia and Fuzhou University
3. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 29th January 2020. In addition to the Principal's update on University news and matters impacting the sector, the Committee welcomed the following items: ELIR Update; Learning and Teaching Building Project Update; SIMS 2 Implementation Update; Financial Update; Student Voice Update; NSS Results Update.
4. The Committee had reviewed the reports submitted for the Senate meeting, which subject to minor modifications were approved by the Committee.
5. The Committee had discussed the formal requirement for the Review of Senate Effectiveness and had agreed that this should take place later in the academic year, and that this review would be followed by a Review of Senate Governance.
6. With reference to Paper 19-20 06 "Education Strategy Committee report", Senate's attention was drawn to the request for Senate approval of the "Institution-led Review: Thematic Review of Student-facing Professional Services Policy & Procedure", following endorsement by QAC and ESC. Senate approval was also sought for revisions to the Postgraduate Research (PGR) Degree Regulations which had been endorsed by QAC and ESC.
7. Paper 19-20 10 Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC) report to Senate was highlighted to Senate, which requested approval for the Annual Research Integrity Statement following endorsement by RKEC on 3 September 2019 and Court approval.
8. The tabled paper indicating Honorary nominations was highlighted for Senate's attention.

Presentations and Items for Discussion

12363. Principal's Report and Update

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

University Awards

The University of Strathclyde has been awarded two highly prestigious awards: The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education, the highest national honour awarded to the sector, in recognition of the University's excellence in energy innovation; and the Times Higher Education (THE) UK University of the Year, winning this award for the second time – the first university to achieve this double accolade. The Principal commented that the awards were well deserved, highlighting that in recognition of these awards staff had been given additional holidays over the Christmas closure period, and that staff would receive an additional two days at the Easter break.

External policy context

In the context of the recent UK general election, the forthcoming UK Budget and Scottish budget, the University continued to monitor policy announcements linked to Brexit in terms of any shift in position around access to Horizon Europe, EU student funding, post-study work visas and UK R&D funding.

Strategic Plan 2025

The University's new Strategic Plan Vision 2025 would be launched at a staff event on 3rd February. The event would also provide an opportunity for the Principal to thank colleagues and celebrate the University's success and external recognition.

Visit to China

The Principal had visited China where he was privileged to participate in the foreign experts' session hosted by Premier Li Keqiang. The Principal had also been invited to deliver a speech in the Great Hall, off Tiananmen Square. The session attracted significant interest and provided an opportunity to further increase Strathclyde's profile in the region.

Coronavirus

The University Secretary and Compliance Officer (USCO) provided Senate with an update on the processes and communications that were in place in the University to provide students and staff with advice, guidance and information on measures being taken in relation to the coronavirus. Up-to-date information would continue to be communicated to staff and students. Senate noted its thanks to the USCO for the actions being taken.

NSS

Senators were reminded that the National Student Survey (NSS), open to our final year undergraduates, had been launched on Monday 13th January, and is open until 30 April. Senators were requested to encourage students to participate.

Industrial Action

Senate was updated on national discussions in relation to the University and College Union (UCU) dispute.

COP26

With momentum building in relation to government planning for the COP26 climate change conference, scheduled to take place in Glasgow later in the year, the University's potential involvement in hosting sites for the event was noted.

Honorary Nominations

The Principal drew Senate's attention to the tabled paper indicating Honorary nominations, requesting Senators to send any comments they may have on the nominations to the Senate manager by 11th February.

Grant Activity/Funding

The Principal updated Senate on research awards the University had received since the last Senate.

12364. ELIR Update

The Director of Education Enhancement Cathy Milligan and Professor of Learning and Teaching Debbie Willison provided Senate with a progress update following the outcome of ELIR 2019.

Senate was reminded of the formal outcome of ELIR, published in July 2019, which indicated that the University had received the top category of the three potential outcome categories, denoting formal recognition that the University is effective in its approach and execution of its Enhancement and Quality Assurance and Learning and Teaching provision. The University's collective contributions to the enhancement of learning, teaching and the student experience had received strong external recognition from the panel, reinforcing the University's strengths in these areas. It was noted that this approach had been further endorsed through the recent external awards the University had received. The actions on the formal outcome are reported through Senate, with the implementation plan delegated to Education Strategy Committee. An overview and progress update were given of the formal recommendations which included:

- Student engagement with external examiners.
- Institutional oversight of collaborative provision.
- Training for postgraduate research students who teach.
- Review of professional services.

Senate noted that significant progress in addressing the recommendations had already taken place. A summary of next steps was provided:

- The ELIR action plan would be overseen by and implemented through Education Strategy Committee (ESC);

- Areas where commendations had been received would continue to be developed and embedded through the existing systematic and collaborative approach to the enhancement of education;
- A formal follow-up report would be issued one year after publication of outcome (July 2020) to the QAA, this report forms part of the ongoing annual QAA Scotland discussion in the autumn of each year, and will be reported to Senate.

Thanks were expressed to all staff and students who had contributed towards the ELIR process in the last few months. Senate would receive a further update at a future meeting.

12365. Learning and Teaching Building Project Update

Deputy Associate Principal Learning and Teaching Brian Green updated Senate on developments in the Learning and Teaching Building Project since the last Senate meeting. The following was noted:

Final designs had been agreed by the Executive Steering Board in relation to: the Democratic Zone; StrathUnion fit-out; integrated catering, and the Plaza area. Work was progressing well on internal fit-outs of the Architecture building and Colville Tower. It was stressed that there was continued focus on campus safety and noise mitigation, with a reminder to Senate of the procedure for reporting any safety incidents. Street closures and traffic control had been implemented around the building.

Senate was updated on the development of plans relating to the functional aspects of the building, including: Estates "Business as Usual" team's development of an operating model for servicing, maintaining and managing the building; opening hours of the building. It was noted that the Learning & Teaching Workstream and AV Services had established a teaching technology demo space in GH713, with Faculties, Working Groups & ISC encouraged to engage with the space and provide feedback. Student Experience teams had toured their areas in the refurbished Colville Building, which impacted positively in forward planning.

Next steps and priorities were outlined. Senate members were invited to provide any feedback on the project via the Senate Manager. It was noted that the feedback from the previous Senate meeting had proved useful. Closing the presentation, a video was shown providing a detailed fly-through of the building. Discussing the presentation and the video, Senate was enthusiastic about the developments, the StrathUnion President in particular welcoming the facilities which students would enjoy. Senators offered a range of comments, including a suggestion of finding ways of featuring the University's distinctive character and history in the building. It was suggested that a future meeting of Senate could focus on campus mobility and the emerging concepts for the Heart of the Campus project. ACTION: Senate Manager

12366. SIMS Implementation Update

Deputy Associate Principal Learning and Teaching Helyn Gould updated Senate on Student Information Management System (SIMS) Implementation.

A progress update was given on four key workstreams: 1. Admissions Management System which had completed in January 2019; 2. HESA Data Futures, which had seen reduced activity due to postponement of HESA changes; 3. Graduation Ceremony Management, which had completed in February 2019, and 4. Core Student Records, noting that the system had been successfully implemented Nov 2019. The Core Student Records system, which had been smoothly implemented, had brought significant changes creating a unified single consolidated student record system with Exam Board functionality.

Of key importance in the implementation of the SIMS system was the reduction of institutional risk, the previous (VAX) system having been replaced. Next stages of SIMS2 activity, and key dates, were outlined: Direct Undergraduate Admissions System; Historical Archive Upgrade; Oracle Upgrade. Implementation of SIMS Phase 3 was planned from August 2020 onwards. Commenting on the implementation of the project, Director of Continuous Improvement John Hogg and Dr Stuart Brough Director of Information Services highlighted the importance of effective collaborative working which had helped ensure the success of the system's implementation. Senate expressed thanks to all those who had contributed to the successful implementation of the system.

12367. Financial Update

The Chief Finance Officer Steven Wallace provided Senate with an overview of the current financial position, which included: a reminder of the position at Q1; details of progress towards tuition fee income target for 19/20; an outline of the process for preparing the University's budget for the 2020/21 financial year.

The following summarised points of note from the presentation are highlighted:

- The Income Statement noted an operating surplus before one-off items which was above the budget target.
- Expenditure was increasing in line with activity, with continued investment in staffing to support increasing Research and KE activities, and in strategic appointments.
- Continued external pressures on costs were noted, notably through increases in pensions costs.
- The need for sufficient income growth in areas that generate a positive financial contribution, principally in international and postgraduate taught student recruitment.

The key points of focus for the 2020-21 budget process were noted. In line with the University's Strategic Plan Vision 2025, significant ongoing investment was planned in existing staff, recruitment, in the University's Estate, and in wider facilities and technology with a focus on the student experience. The University would continue to seek to generate income growth to support investment. An outline was given of key timings in the 2020-21 budget which was in line with the process followed the previous year.

Commenting on the update, the StrathUnion President raised the general issue of student funding and of rising costs faced by students, highlighting the issue of underfunding currently in the sector.

12368. Student Voice Update

StrathUnion President Matt Crilly updated Senate on matters including:

- Erasmus Student Exchange Programme: In the light of the UK government's rejection of the proposal to keep the UK in the Erasmus+ scheme, students across the UK had signed petitions to retain the Erasmus+ scheme. The StrathUnion President requested Senate to encourage students to contact the StrathUnion President to lobby to keep the scheme.
- December exam diet: Referring to the December exam diet, the StrathUnion President commented that students found the period around the December exams intense, acknowledging however that solutions were being considered to help to alleviate the pressures felt by students during this period. Commenting on this, the Director of Education Enhancement noted that this issue was under review by Education Strategy Committee, through two routes: the Strategic Timetabling Group will review the feedback in the context of its oversight of the teaching calendar and the Assessment and Feedback Working Group was looking at the use of the formal assessment period, in the context of the renewed Assessment and Feedback Policy and the focus on effective assessment practice. Education Strategy Committee in partnership with StrathUnion, will continue to monitor this matter and consider proposed enhancements in due course. The StrathUnion President's concerns were noted. Senate noted that the issue would continue to be monitored.

12369. NSS Update

Faculty Executive Deans provided verbal updates to Senate on their National Student Survey (NSS) development activities, highlighting a range of activities and initiatives including: enhanced Student Voice activities across all Faculties; allocating protected space to students to complete NSS surveys; a range of NSS- related active engagement by staff such as VDA videos ("Talking Heads"). Senate welcomed Faculties' updates, and would receive further updates.

Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

12370. Executive Team Report to Senate (Paper 19-20 04)

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

12371. Court Report to Senate (Paper 19-20 05)

Senate **noted** the report from Court.

12372. Education Strategy Committee Report (Paper 19-20 06)

Senate **noted** the report from Education Strategy Committee, and **approved**: the introduction of Institution-led Review: Thematic Review of Student-facing Professional Services Policy & Procedure and revisions to the Postgraduate Research (PGR) Degree Regulations.

12373. Quality Assurance Committee Report (Paper 19-20 07)

Senate noted the report from the Quality Assurance Committee.

12374. Learning Enhancement Committee Report (Paper 19-20 08)

Senate **noted** the report from the Learning Enhancement Committee

12375. Student Experience Committee Report to Senate (Paper 19-20 09)

Senate noted the report from the Student Experience Committee

12376. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee Report to Senate (Paper 19-20 10)

Senate **noted** the report of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and **approved** the Annual Statement on Research Integrity; and the addition of two ex officio members to the Committee.

12377. Strathclyde Business School Report (Paper 19-20 11)

Senate noted the report and **approved**:

New programme:

MSc Health Analysis, Policy & Management

Senate noted:

Agency Agreement Renewal with International Management Studies

Memorandum of Understanding with Università Del Piemonte Orientale

12378. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Paper 19-20 12)

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

- LLM/PGDip/PGCert in International Commercial Law with a specialisation in Financial Regulation – existing course with new pathway leading to award
- MLitt/PGDip/PGCert Media & Communication with specialisations in Health Communication, Political Communication and Journalism, Ethics and Trauma – existing course with new pathways leading to awards
- MLitt/PGDip/PGCert Digital Journalism with specialisations in Health Communication, Political Communication and Journalism, Ethics and Trauma – existing course with new pathways leading to awards
- LLM Construction Law (flexible) – variant of existing course
- MSc/PGDip/PGCert in Politics with specialisations in European Politics or Comparative Politics – existing course with new pathways leading to awards
- Amendments to programme:
- MRes in Modern Languages
- MSc/PGDip/PGCert Urban Policy and Analysis with specialisations in Sustainability or Infrastructure

Withdrawals of programmes

- MSc Chartered Teacher Studies, Education
- MSc European Politics, GPP
- MLitt Literature, Culture and Place, Humanities

- LLM Climate and Energy Law, Law

Senate **noted**:

For Information:

course reviews -

- MSc Clinical Health Psychology
- MSc Health History
- MSc International Relations
- Reinstatement of award pathway
- PGCert Health, Wellbeing and Sustainability

Reserved Business

- PGR Registration Review Committee for EdD student

12379. Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate (Paper 19-20 13)

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

New Programmes:

- MSc, PGDip, PGCert in Industrial Engineering and Management
- MSc Advanced Chemical Engineering
- Graduate Diploma Awards

Withdrawal of a Programme or Pathway:

- MSc Manufacturing Engineering
- MEng Mechanical Engineering with Aeronautics
- MEng Mechanical Engineering with Financial Engineering
- MEng Mechanical Engineering with Materials Engineering

For Information:

New Programmes:

- MSc, PGDip and PGCert in Offshore Wind Energy

Collaborative Agreements:

- Riga Technical University, Latvia
- Fuzhou University, China

12380. Faculty of Science Report to Senate (Paper 19-20 14)

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

New Programmes/New Streams to Existing Programmes

- MSc Neuroscience and Mental Health
- PhD plus PG Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

Withdrawal of Programmes

- MSc Enterprise Information Systems
- MSc Information Management with Placement

For Information:

Collaborative Agreements

- NHS Lothian
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) – Addendum to Articulation Agreement

RESERVED BUSINESS

12381. Combined Student Business Report (Paper 19-20 15)

Senate **approved** the report.

12382. Scholarships (Paper 19-20 16)

Senate **approved** the report.

MJ

13/02/2020

