

Summary Report of Senate 3: 29 April 2020

The Senate met on 29 April 2020. This paper provides a high-level summary of the business considered by Senate, which will be published on the University website. This is not a formal record of the Senate meeting but presents an update on matters discussed by the University's academic body.

Professor Shirley Congdon, Vice Chancellor
Chair of Senate

1 Update on COVID-19

Members of Staff were thanked for their commitment and dedication to supporting students, remote working and teaching during the current COVID-19 crisis. Work was underway to develop a 'return to campus plan' to support the return to campus once the restrictions have been lifted, and involved Directors, Deans and Associate Deans in the first instance.

2 Update on Business Continuity

Senate considered a report which provided a brief overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the University's academic activities. Highlighting the impact on academic activities and the activity being undertaken to mitigate this including remote delivery, assessment arrangements, student support including academic, pastoral and mental health, and student hardship support; and the wider work being undertaken to support students, staff and the local community.

3 Update on Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Sub-Strategy

Senate was provided with an oral update on the progress of the development of the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Sub-Strategy. The Sub-Strategy had been presented to Executive Board and Learning and Teaching Committee and amendments were currently being made based on suggestions. Further consultation was being undertaken with faculties and the Sub-Strategy would be presented at the next Senate meeting.

4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2020-25

Senate considered and **recommended to Council for approval** the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, a sub-strategy of the new overarching University Strategy. The paper describes the vision and guiding principles of the EDI Strategy and provides details of structures of ownership, leadership and governance of the EDI work. An annual action plan will be developed and annual EDI reports will be produced to summarise progress against our equality objectives.

5 Research and Innovation Strategy

Senate considered and **recommended to Council for approval** the Research and Innovation Strategy, a sub-strategy of the University Strategy. The new strategy will form part of a framework for continuous improvement in the quality and quantity of the research and innovation activities of the University; and establishes a set of key performance indicators that will be used to assess progress.

6 Force Majeure Events: Amendment to Standard Assessment

Senate considered and **approved** an addendum relating to 'Force Majeure Events' to the University's Academic Regulations (Regulation 2, Regulation 7 and Regulation 9) for immediate implementation, to enable the University to approve changes to the Regulations and or Terms of Reference governing the operation of University Assessment Committees and Boards of Examiners in response to circumstances not within its reasonable control but which may affect its ability to perform its obligations.

7 Student Recruitment

Senate considered a report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Innovation and Quality which provided an assessment of current progress and anticipated performance in undergraduate and postgraduate home and undergraduate and postgraduate international markets for 2020/21 entry. Business contingencies were being implemented to minimise the business risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic, and specific marketing activities being undertaken to enhance student numbers for 2020/21 entry. There were numerous uncertainties at this stage, including the new approach to calculating A-Level and GCSE qualifications, potential travel or visa restrictions, English language testing and the potential impact on Clearing.

8 International Foundation Project

Senate considered a report on the International Foundation Project. An overview of the purpose of this project was presented by the Chief Finance Officer, including a timeframe for future decisions and the progress made to date towards developing a business case for consideration of the four options available. The project team will continue to explore the options available, and recommendations will be made to the Senate, Finance Committee and Executive Board in June 2020.

9 Bradford Academic: Career Journey

Bradford Academic sets out the three stages of an Academic's Career Journey at the University of Bradford and the expectations and commitment from the University to ensure a clear and

transparent career pathway for all Academics. Senate discussed and agreed the proposed Bradford Academic initiative, **subject to approval by Chairs action** of the discussed amendments. The EIA also required further development in conjunction with the EDI team, and any changes that may be required as a result of the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) being completed would also be considered and **approved by Chairs action**. An update would be provided at the next Senate confirming the changes made, and a full review of Bradford Academic would be carried out 12 months after implementation.

10 REF update

Senate was presented with an update of progress made by the University in its preparations for the forthcoming submission to the next Research Excellence Framework exercise. No definitive date had been published for submission of the final document but it was expected to be after January 2021.

11 UBU update

Senate noted an update from the University of Bradford Union of Students on recent activities in semester two of the 2019-2020 academic year, particularly focusing on working closely with the University and students providing support during COVID-19.

12 Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Senate considered and approved the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, they have been updated in line with best practice, and national and regional legislation and guidance. Executive Board has agreed that the remit of the University's Prevent Steering Group will be broadened to cover all aspects of Safeguarding, and those areas within the University requiring specific safeguarding measures including the Nursery, Eye Clinic and Physiotherapy Clinic.

13 Student Contract and Admissions Policy

At its meeting in January 2020, Senate approved a revised Applicant and Student Criminal Convictions Disclosure Policy which removed the need for offer holders on non-designated programmes to disclose criminal convictions to the University. Senate **approved** the updates to the Student Contract and Admissions Policy to reflect this change in practice.

Standing Items

14 Appointment of Two Honorary Visiting Professors and Extension of Honorary Visiting Professor titles

Senate **approved** two applications for Honorary Visiting Professor from the Faculty of Life Sciences and one extension of Honorary Visiting Professor from the Faculty of Engineering and Informatics.

15 Business from Committees of Senate

Senate noted summary reports from Learning and Teaching Committee, and Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy Committee and Faculty of Health Studies and Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences Faculty Board on issues discussed since the last meeting of the Senate.

16 Senate received the following reports, for information:

- Access and Participation Plan update;
- Student success annual report;
- International Student Barometer;
- Prevent Duty update;
- Draft Senate 4 agenda;
- Senate terms of reference and membership 2019/20;
- Senate schedule of business for 2019/20.

17 Date of next Senate meeting:

Wednesday 24 June 2020

Legal and Governance Team
11 May 2020