

Summary Report of Senate 2: 27 January 2021

The University Senate held a meeting via Microsoft Teams on 27 January 2021. New and existing members were welcomed to the Senate. The Chair also welcomed the Chair of Council and one lay governor who had been invited to observe the meeting to support Council's role in ensuring the effective operation of academic governance and in their understanding of the work of the Senate.

This paper although not a formal record of the meeting, provides a high-level summary of the business considered by the Senate, which will be published on the University website.

Professor Shirley Congdon
Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Senate

1 Report from the Chair

The Chair thanked Professor Anne Graham for her vast contributions to Senate, whom was stepping down from her role as Associate Dean (Research and Knowledge Transfer) in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

The Chair also welcomed the new members Professor Engobo Emeseh as the Professor from the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences, and Professor MaryAnn Hardy as the Professor from the Faculty of Health Studies. The Chair advised that there had been five nominations for the Academic member vacancy from the Faculty of Life Sciences and noted an election would be held.

The Chair provided a summary on the announcements made around the higher education policy relating to: the UK Government White Paper on 'Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth'; the report from the Independent Review of TEF and the Government and OfS response to this; the Governments Interim Response on Post-18 Education and Funding 'Augar Review'; and the commencement of consultation on Post-Qualifications Admission Reform.

Senate **approved** the following and agreed to draw these items to the attention of Council:

2 Student Mental Health Strategy

Senate approved the strategy subject to the agreed amendments. The Strategy set out the University's approach to student mental health, with the focus on promoting positive mental health across the student body. It had been aligned with the Access and Participation Plan, the University Strategy and its supporting strategies and consultation had been undertaken with students, staff, and sector forums.

The revised Equality Impact Assessment set out the consideration of mental health as distinct from disability in acknowledgement that everyone has mental health. An EDI forum with Staff Network Chairs would be convened to discuss the strategy, further work was to be undertaken on the KPIs, and the implementation of the Strategy would be overseen by LTC.



3 Student Pregnancy and Family Leave Policy and Procedures

Senate approved the policy and procedures which had been updated to ensure full inclusivity for all students to have access to the same support and flexibility when affected by the birth of a child, introduction to the family of a child or loss of a child whilst studying at the University.

Senate also **approved** the following:

4 Publications and Open Access Policy

Senate approved the Policy which had been reformatted and reviewed with minimal changes. Noting an amendment to section 5.3 for the addition of the following sentence “Other affiliations (e.g. Digital Health Enterprise Zone, Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research) may be used, but a separate University of Bradford affiliation must always be used”.

5 Outcome of the Higher Doctorate Examination

Senate approved the recommendations of the Assessment Panel for the Award of Higher Doctorate – Technology.

6 Application(s) and Extension(s) for Honorary, Visiting, Emeritus and Professors

Senate approved the following:

- Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Health Studies – Professor Murna Downs, and
- Emeritus Professor (renewal of appointment), Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences – Professor Friedel Weinert.

Senate **received and discussed** the following reports:

7 Annual Monitoring Report 2018-19

A summary of the approach to the 2018-19 annual monitoring cycle was presented to Senate, noting this had been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19. Work was being undertaken to align the University’s approach to the institutional strategy and sub-strategies, designing the quality monitoring enhancement framework and the development of a degree outcomes statement.

Senate approved the report and endorsed the key priorities and actions to mitigate risks to standards and enhance the quality of the provision.

8 Student Recruitment report

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Innovation and Quality) presented a comprehensive overview of the student recruitment activity for the 2020-21 intake and an update on applications for 2021-22 entry.

For the 2020-21 recruitment cycle, undergraduate home recruitment had been strong and was ahead of target, and postgraduate home and international numbers had significantly improved. The January 2021 enrolments were underway, and it was expected enrolments would continue to rise with international enrolments being taken until 1 March 2021.

Senate also noted a number of initiatives that were being undertaken including the UG anytime open days and the first UG Open day live broadcast was scheduled for 6 February 2021.

9 International Foundation Project update

The Chief Finance Officer provided an update on the development of the International Foundation Programme with the Oxford International Education Group. Senate noted the plan to offer three pathways: stand-alone international foundation year, an international year 1 and an international pre-masters. A number of workstreams were being undertaken and the current focus was on the curriculum development, marketing and communications with students, and the contract arrangements were currently being negotiated.

10 Senate Effectiveness Review update

The University Secretary provided an update on progress made on the recommendations of the Senate Effectiveness Review. It was noted that a review of the terms of reference of Senate and its committees would be undertaken and considered by Senate.

11 Academic Governance – Internal Audit update

The internal auditors had undertaken a review of the controls that support the University's compliance processes relating to the ongoing requirements of the OfS B conditions for registration, as well as the wider academic governance framework. Two low priority management actions had been identified to enhance existing practices which were being taken forward.

12 Interactive strategy in digital health for Bradford District and Craven presentation

The Change Project Manager provided a presentation on the Bradford District and Craven Interactive Strategy in Digital Health. Noting the importance of bringing together the research in terms of digital technology, working with the local authority and partners to act as one to address inequalities and development of initiatives to support the district.

13 REF update

An update was presented on the preparations for the REF submission for the deadline of 31 March 2021, noting the progress made. Each Unit of Assessment had identified a sufficient number of impact case studies, and outputs had been internally graded, specifically noting the improvement in the quality of the submissions in comparison to the previous submission.

Senate approved the recommendation that the final REF submission be approved by Senate Chair's Action, on the recommendation of the REF Steering Group, and would then be formally reported to Senate 3 for information. The institutional narrative and environmental statements would be made available to Senate in advance of 31 March 2021 deadline, for information.

14 NSS update

The paper set out the arrangements for the National Student Survey, noting specifically the changes for 2021. The University intended to delay the start of the survey until 1 February 2021 to allow



completion of Semester 1 examinations and some feedback to be received on students progress. A review of the NSS for 2022 was being undertaken by the OfS.

15 Annual report on Student Casework 2019-20

An overview of the cases received for student complaints, academic appeals, academic misconduct, fitness to practise and disciplinary procedures was presented to Senate. There had been a significant drop in the number of appeals in comparison to previously, following the measures put in place to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of cases were one indication that the University had been successful in its approach to supporting students during this time. Senate approved the recommendations made in the paper to enhance aspects of the casework as set out in the paper.

16 Access and Participation Plan update

Senate received an update on the work that had been undertaken to deliver the University's Access and Participation Plan and noted the commencement of work on the monitoring of the impact of the 2019-20 APP. An update on the 13 workstreams was provided and work undertaken particularly in relation to outreach during COVID-19.

17 Senate also noted the work being undertaken in the following areas:

- Prevent duty update;
- Exceptions to Suspension of Face-to-Face Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

18 Report on Chair's Actions

Chair's actions that had been taken on behalf of Senate to approve the renewal of Professor Chris Twelves as an Honorary Visiting Professor for a period of three years.

19 Senate received the following reports, for information:

- Learning and Teaching Committee;
- Ethics Committee;
- Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy Committee;
- Awards Sub-Committee;
- Faculty Board summaries;
- Minutes from the Senate meeting held on 21 October 2020;
- Draft Senate 3 agenda – 21 April 2021;
- Senate terms of reference and membership 2020/21;
- Senate schedule of business for 2020/21.

20 Date of next Senate meeting:

Wednesday 21 April 2021

Rachel Trawally, Governance and Projects Officer
15 February 2021