

**SENATE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2022**

<b>Members:</b>	Professor Shirley Congdon (Chair)	Abdulraouf Abdussalam
	Inshaal Ahmad	Dr Keren Bielby-Clarke
	Professor Marina Bloj	Dr Peter Branney
	Dr Emma Brown	Professor Felician Campean
	Dr Karina Croucher	Professor Sherif El-Khamisy
	Professor Engobo Emeseh	Professor Chris Gaffney
	Sarah George	Professor Alastair Goldman
	Professor Maryann Hardy	Alison Hartley
	Marian Hilditch	Faiz Ilyas
	Professor Zahir Irani	Dr Rhys Kelly
	Dr Jing Li	Professor Iqbal Mutjaba
	Dr Dariya Mykhayliv	Professor Martin Priest
	Professor Rami Qahwaji	Dr Nejat Rahmanian
	Professor Amir Sharif	Prince O. Siaw Siaw
	Professor Karen Stansfield	Carol Vickers
	Paul Watson	Professor Vishanth Weerakkody
	<b>In attendance:</b>	Baroness Taylor
Ibrahim Mahmood		Member of Council
Sally Neocosmos		Member of Council
Riley Power		University Secretary
Joanne Marshall		Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development
Ailie Ferrari		Assoc Director - Advertising, Marketing & Student Insight (for the Brand Project Presentation)
Jane Peverley		Assoc Director of Public Relations and Communications (for the Brand Project Presentation)
Cathy Lambert		Director of Student Casework (from Agenda item SEN095/21-22)
Andrew Lang		Chief Finance Officer Designate (from 1 August 2022)
Matthew Stephenson		Assistant Head, Legal and Governance (Secretary)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Professor Udy Archibong	Zafar Iqbal
	Dr William Martin	Dr Clare Peyton
	Dr Clare Beckett-Wrighton	

87.21-22 **Welcome and Apologies (oral report)**

87.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies that had been received were noted.

87.2 The Chair noted that the meeting was being observed by the Chair and two members of Council who are invited to observe the meeting to gain additional insight into the University's academic governance and to provide them with assurance that Senate's business is in line with the University's strategies and delivery plans. The meeting was also being attended by Andrew Lang, the incoming Chief Finance Officer who would be starting at the University from 1 August 2022

87.3 The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for Prof Rami Qahwaji, Dr Nejat Rahmanian, Janice High, Dr Karina Croucher, Dr Peter Branney, Dr Dariya Mykhayliv, Sarah George, Dr Clare Beckett Wrighton, Dr Clare Peyton, Inshaal Ahmad, Abdullah Abdussalam, Faiz Ilyas, Prince Siaw, Tahira Mumtaz, Awaba Mussadiq and Katie Siobhan. Senate extended its thanks for their contributions to its work.

#### 88.21-22 **Chair's report (Document SEN082/21-22)**

88.1 The Chair provided an oral update to her report and highlighted that the work reported is in connection with the University's strategies, highlighting the following:

- Bradford being named as the City of Culture 2025 was amazing news and that feedback from the judges showed the bid was people-powered and would change the City's narrative for the future. The University would be playing a significant part in the City of Culture delivery not least academically and via volunteering;
- In September the University was to launch the Renduchintala Centre for Space AI with a MSc Satellite Systems Engineering programme: students would each be able to apply for a £10,000 scholarship;
- The Living Wage Foundation had accredited the University as a Living Wage employer;
- Four new appointments had been made to the Executive Board:
  - Andrew Lang, who was attending Senate as an observer, would be joining the University on 1 August as Chief Finance Officer;
  - Steve Gilley would be joining on 4 July as Director of Infrastructure;
  - Marian Hilditch had been promoted to the role of Academic Registrar and Director of Registry and Student Administration;
  - Professor Chris Gaffney had been appointed as Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation;
- Assembly had a new Chair in Professor PB Anand and new Deputy Chairs in Colin Pickles and Mohammed Shafiq;
- The Chair's two-year term as Chair of Yorkshire Universities was coming to an end and they would be taking on the role of Deputy Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Skills and Education Sub Committee;
- In common with the rest of the sector, and wider region the University was facing challenges filling vacancies, HR was promoting posts and highlighting the non-salary benefits of working at the University. This matter had been noted by the Finance and Audit Committees; and
- Members who worked with external partners were asked to signpost them to the University's Research Newsletter.

#### 89.21-22 **Faculty of Engineering and Informatics (Document SEN083a/21-22)**

89.1 The Dean presented an update on the Faculty's work:

- The LTSE Implementation Day for the Faculty was held with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Student Experience) and LTSE colleagues on 12 May 2022;
- In terms of Community and Industry Engagement Faculty's Industrial (i.e. External) Advisory Boards were becoming increasingly important;
- The Annual RGAP process was underway and this year would also act as a sense check of where the Faculty was headed in the context of the REF outcome;
- Engagement continued with the EDI agenda and the commitment to Athena Swan; and
- Increased engagement in Bradford Manufacturing Week and Bradford Tech Week which was particularly important as it was difficult to engage with numerous small and medium companies. These weeks and the University's membership of Bradford and Airedale Manufacturing Alliance helped to keep in touch with these organisations.

90.21-22 **Faculty of Health Studies (Document SEN083b/21-22)**

90.1 The Dean presented an update on the Faculty's work:

- Professor Deborah Roberts, Director of Simulation, was making strides to how simulation could be incorporated into more areas of the Faculty's work;
- Work was underway to continue to roll out the LTSE Strategy;
- The Faculty had established a successful pipeline via the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership for postgraduate fellowships;
- The Faculty were congratulating two staff who had been awarded NIHR fellows;
- New posts of Associate Deans for Business and Community Engagement and International would drive CPD
- The Associate Dean for EDI and EDI adviser were in post with further work in train;
- The appointment of the Dean as part of new integrated health system within which they would be acting as Bradford Royal Infirmary Senior Responsible Officer.

90.2 The Chair commented that the Bradford Health and Wellbeing Board was very keen to work with the University in Psychology to identify neurodivergent school children.

91.21-22 **Faculty of Life Sciences (Document SEN083c/21-22)**

91.1 The Dean presented an update on the Faculty's work:

- There was a focus on laboratory scientists; this is a key role in the NHS as they drive diagnostics for the NHS: the University's programme leads to an accredited biomedical scientist award. There was the potential for the University to be a major training hub in this area and the University was in early discussions with Airedale Hospital and Health Education England to develop an apprenticeship in this area;
- The Faculty had appointed Simon Tweddell to a Professorship focussing on Learning and Teaching which may be a first for the University
- The Faculty congratulated Dr Simon Fitch who had been awarded a prestigious UKRI Future Leader Fellowship and was considering future nominees;
- The STEM team were delivering a second round of Maths tutorials, with University students acting as tutors to Year 11 pupils.



[REDACTED]

*Note: the above minute has been redacted as it is considered to be exempt information as defined by section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which covers commercial interests.*

93.2 The Committee was advised that in terms of risks, China was a challenge: it was a market from which the University had never received high numbers of applications. Flexibility in relation to English Language testing had been brought back to accommodate the COVID-19 challenges in China.

93.3 It was noted that detailed discussions were ongoing with the Kuwaiti Cultural Attaché regarding UBIC and it was hoped that the University would return to the funding list. All students from Kuwait on UBIC programmes would be able to transfer to the University of Bradford list and would be permitted to progress.

93.4 The Chair commented that while the University welcomed the increase in overseas students, it also needed to work on prioritising the home market and grow UG home numbers.

94.21-22 **UBIC update (Document SEN085/21-22)**

94.1 Senate received and noted the report. It was also noted that the University had received a strategy document from Oxford International Education Group to improve the diversity of students.

94.2 There had been a small number of additions and removals to the UBIC Progression Route, the list of programmes being detailed in the paper.

94.3 Additional staff had been recruited to support growing student numbers and by September, the F floor in the Richmond Building would have been refurbished to address the increased demand for space.

95.21-22 **Academic Portfolio Development Lifecycle update: governance and business development (Document SEN086/21-22)**

95.1 The PVC LTSE advised that he had brought the proposal to Senate for approval in principle a year ago and since this time, work had been undertaken to bring the model to life. He suggested that there was little benefit in having a well-constructed strategy unless it could be implemented and this required academic governance to support effective decision making.

- 95.2 The Committee was advised that the report set out how each gateway would operate, the kind of evidence required to be considered to pass the gateway and the defined decision-making groups (some Faculty based, some centralised) to assess the health of the portfolio. The paper set out the structure that would “rewire” portfolio governance and management for years to come. Further work was anticipated: this would be iterative and some areas may need adjustment but the fundamentals were correct.
- 95.3 The PVC LTSE advised that there had been extensive consultation, this had included with Legal and Governance and Finance centrally and with Associate Deans for Learning and Teaching in each Faculty and well as those with current responsibilities for each gateway.
- 95.4 It was confirmed that Senate’s role for following this work up would be to retain oversight for Student Experience, Quality and Standards though the existing governance structures and once in steady state, the oversight focus would move to the Faculties.
- 95.5 Once the templates were in place, this should make things quicker as it would focus the right work with the right people at the right time, thereby adding value to the process. From a learning, teaching and student experience point of view, once established, the process would ask “what kind of educational experience does this provide”.
- 95.6 Senate **approved** the proposed approach and draft Terms of Reference for the proposed governing bodies of the Academic Portfolio Lifecycle.

96.21-22 **REF 2021 outcomes (Document SEN087/21-22)**

- 96.1 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) advised that he was happy with some of the elements of the recent REF results but that the University was now on a trajectory to produce better quality for the next REF.
- 96.2 In relation to specific elements of the University’s submission:
- The University had taken a very including approach, against the sector average: 230 academics had submitted work, 75% more than last time;
  - 73% of our research is rated as Internationally Excellent or World Leading;
  - Chemistry and Psychology submitted to a REF for the first time;
  - Computer Science returned to REF21 after a break in the last submission round;
  - The GPA was very similar to that from the last REF (from 2.95 to 2.85) but many other universities had moved up.
- 96.3 The PVC (Research and Innovation) advised that a paper went to R&I Committee. He noted that there was a balance to be achieved between quality and inclusivity and that a strategy was being put in place would help colleagues drive up quality and stop a yo-yoing up and down in the league tables in relation to research.
- 96.4 It was noted that the REF was retrospective and indicated what the University performance was between 2014-2021: since 2019 changes had been made to how the University

undertook research and this was now bearing fruit with better applications being made to research councils and an increase in research income.

96.5 The University was very clear about what it needed to do, that now moved do getting it done. It was already moving in a different direction but it needed to improve in accumulating evidence, documenting impact and understanding whether the research was 3\* or 4\* research.

96.6 There would be an external review of impacts, and the Executive Board had received an update on work being undertaken in Research and Innovation including training being provided by a world leading impact trainer.

96.7 Senate **endorsed** the report and **recommended it to Council for approval.**

97.21-22 **Ofsted Inspection of University of Bradford (Document SEN088/21-22)**

97.1 It was noted that the inspection had identified two areas of good practice and another that was bordering on outstanding. The inspection provided a baseline which would enable the University to use to focus in on work which needed improvement or a greater consistency in time for the follow-up meeting and next full assessment.

97.2 The report provided assurance that the University was working along the right lines and by the time OFSTED returns, the recent actions implemented by the University would be more established.

97.3 It was noted that apprenticeships must be employer led and the University needed the ability to deliver to different types of requirements. This could be done but to grow this would require proactive resources. It was agreed that the Vice-Chancellor and the PVC LTES would discuss this further.

98.21-22 **UUK and YU Responses to the Government Consultation on Higher Education Reforms and the Lifelong Loan Entitlement (Document SEN089/21-22)**

98.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Innovation and Quality presented the paper setting out the responses by Universities UK and Yorkshire Universities to two Department of Education consultations: Higher Education Reforms and Lifetime Loan Entitlement (LLE). He set out the main points of the responses:

- There was a broad consensus that the introduction of Student Number Controls and blocking access to funding unless students had GCSE grade 4 in English & Maths and two Es at A-Level both presented potential negative impacts on students, universities and society in general and that neither would not be compatible with social inclusion, social mobility, levelling up or raising aspirations.
- Aligning the charges for Foundation Years and Access to HE programmes failed to understand the fundamental differences and cost bases between the two;
- There was support for the National Scholarship Scheme to supporting students from backgrounds who may not expect to go to University but its impact may be marginal;

- The growth of Level 4 and 5 provision was seen as an enabler to meet the needs of a learners could support local and regional skill needs: partnerships were needed between HE and FE: in terms of price differentials, there are different cost bases but evidence suggested that some FE staff may need upskilling;
- The basis of the LLE and had the potential to provide upskilling and reskilling and developing talent and succession planning throughout the working life of those who do not attend University.
- The success of the LLE needed to be piloted regionally with the involvement of a partnerships of local stakeholders.

99.21-22 **KPI dashboard and delivery plans (Document SEN090/21-22)**

99.1 The University Secretary presented the paper and noted that recruitment of home UG for 2022/23 was below target. Members were encouraged to use the tools available as this would assist with providing challenge on the KPIs.

99.2 Senate noted the updates to the KPI dashboard and the updated Strategy delivery dashboard.

100.21-22 **Brand project update (Presentation)**

100.1 The Associate Directors for PR and Communication, and Outreach, Recruitment and Marketing gave a presentation on the Brand Project whose intention was essentially to sum up what was the University's essence and where it wanted to be.

100.2 This work linked to the University's values, vision, strategy and mission and would take it through the next period of its development to assist in creating a unique and authentic personality for the university. The work focussed on the University's values which were at the heart of what all at the University do and emphasised the University's pride of being diverse and inclusive, and of making a difference. Three elements that had come across very clearly were *Belonging, Making a Difference* and *Thriving*.

100.3 The University was using an agency from Bristol to develop this work and there would be consultation along the way.

101.21-22 **Safeguarding Policy and Procedure (Document SEN091/21-22)**

101.1 Senate noted the paper including the changes in references to personnel and incremental improvements.

101.2 It was confirmed that training should be mandatory for all staff in safeguarding related roles and those working with children and/or adults at risk.

101.3 Senate noted the contents of the report and approved the revisions to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.



**102.21-22 Academic Regulations 2022-23 and Plan for Academic Regulations 2023-24 (Document SEN092/21-22)**

102.1 It was noted that work to develop new assessment regulations for implementation in Academic year 2023/24 work had been underway for a significant period.

102.2 One of the key elements was the removal of the ability to repeat individual modules for those achieving 60 credits at below 40%.

102.3 Senate noted the contents of the paper and approved the proposed changes.

**103.21-22 PGR Regulations (Regulation 10) (Document SEN093/21-22)**

103.1 It was noted that the proposals consisted of three changes

- Following the practice adopted during the pandemic, submissions of theses would be electronic;
- Similarly, viva voce (oral) examinations for doctoral candidates would be online;
- Assessment outcomes had been clarified and reference to gender removed.

It was confirmed that paper copies of theses would be provided to External Examiners on request.

103.2 Senate approved the proposed changes to Regulation 10.

**104.21-22 Access and Participation Plan update (Document SEN094/2021-22)**

104.1 Senate noted the update and that OFS had changed its approach to Access and Participation Plans. Specifically:

- Access in its own right is no longer enough, reference to quality would now be included;
- Universities needed to engage with schools to help raise the pre-16 attainment of young people from underrepresented groups across England;
- Providers were invited to submit variations to their APPs by the end of July 2022 and that a new plan would be needed for September 2024.

**105.21-22 Academic Calendar 2023-24 (Document SEN095/21-22)**

105.1 Senate noted the proposed academic calendar for 2023/24, the key differences being:

- 13-week terms with 11 weeks of teaching and two weeks for timetabled examinations.
- The latest arrival date would be the third week subject to certain exceptions;
- The exam period would be brought forward a week by making it a two-week exam period rather than one-week one;
- There was a small change to the activities week;

105.2 It was noted the calendar was only for 2023/24: further work would take place between November 2022 and February 2023 to consider future years.

105.3 It was noted that programme admin teams were currently under intense pressure and that support from Senate members and others would be most welcome.

105.4 Senate noted the contents of the paper and **approved** the proposals contained therein.

105.5 The Chair thanked the outgoing interim Academic Registrar for her work for the University in this role.

106.21-22 **Student Contract (Document SEN096/21-22)**

106.1 Senate noted that the proposed 2023/24 Student contract mirrored the 2022/23 one subject to minor changes and correction of typographical errors, update of years and references to regulations and policies. Following Senate approval, numbering and links would be fully checked and updated and the Important Information will be restructured to represent a more logical flow.

106.2 Specific changes relating to EDI and student conduct would be submitted to the Chair of Senate for consideration under Chair's action.

106.3 The Chair asked for specific comments to be made directly to her or to the University Secretary.

106.4 It was noted that the University would be reviewing the UBIC Student Contract separately in line with the changes made to the main Student Contract and any further references to UBIC changes. This would be submitted to the Chair of Senate for consideration under Chair's action.

106.5 Consideration was given to whether there should be a summary of key aspects but it was confirmed that the contents were summarised elsewhere in several ways already.

106.6 The Student Contract 2023/24 was **approved in principle**. The final version would be submitted to the Chair of Senate for consideration under Chair's action.

106.7 **Action:** Final version of Student Contract 2023/24 to be submitted to Chair for Chairs action (University Secretary).

107.21-22 **International Student Barometer (Document SEN097/21-22)**

107.1 The DVC AIQ introduced the paper explaining that the International Student Barometer provides a useful benchmark to measure the international student experience.

107.2 Senate noted that the University ranked 2nd out of 94 institutions around the world for respondents who would actively encourage others to apply to the institution.

107.3 The University was also first out of the 94 for 'career and employability support services' and 'finance office', and second in 'enrolment/academic registration', 'online learning resources and library facilities' and 'visa advice'.

107.4 Senate noted that these results would be used for applicant conversion.

108.21-22 **Student Success Report 2021-22 (Document SEN098/21-22)**

108.1 The PVC LTSES introduced the paper, advising caution as the data shows how the University performs in comparison with comparator institutions but does not explain why. He also suggested the University may wish to consider which institutions it used to benchmark against.

108.2 He summarised some of the report's findings:

- The slow decline had levelled off with numbers showing an increase;
- Bradford is the smallest of the comparator institutions;
- Bradford performs better than algorithms suggest it should;
- The University's outcomes have increased significantly; but it was outside the sector average with a higher number of students with first-class degrees;
- Despite all efforts, BME students perform less well than white students;
- Disability students perform better than those who do not disclose a disability.

109.21-22 **Applications for Honorary, Visiting and Emeritus Professors: FOEI (Document SEN099/21-22)**

109.1 Senate **approved** the renewal of the title of Honorary Visiting Professor for Professor Dr Ing David Delaux from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2025.

109.2 Senate **approved** the conferment of the title of Honorary Visiting Professor for Dr Ing Marco Lisi from 1st May 2022 until 30th April 2025.

110.21-22 **Applications for Honorary, Visiting and Emeritus Professors: FOHS (Document SEN100/21-22)**

110.1 Senate **approved** the renewal of the title of Honorary Visiting Professor for Professor Myrra Vernooij-Dassen until 31 July 2024

110.2 Senate **approved** the renewal of the title of Honorary Visiting Professor Richard Fortinsky until 24 June 2025.

110.3 Senate **approved** the conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor for Professor Mohammed A Mohammed from 1 June 2022 until 31 May 2025.

110.4 Senate **approved** the conferment of the title of Honorary Visiting Professor for Dr Sara Humphrey from 6 April 2022 until 5 April 2025

110.5 Senate **approved** the conferment of the title of Honorary Professor Ms Karen Dawber from 1 June 2022 until 31 May 2025

111.21-22 **Applications for Honorary, Visiting and Emeritus Professor: FOLS (Document SEN101/21-22)**

111.1 Senate **approved** the conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor for Professor Marcus Rattray from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025.

112.21-22 **Learning and Teaching Committee (Document SEN102/21-22)**

112.1 Senate received and noted the report.

113.21-22 **Research and Innovation Committee (Document SEN103/21-22)**

113.1 Senate received and noted the report.

114.21-22 **Ethics Committee (Document SEN104/21-22)**

114.1 Senate received and noted the report.

115.21-22 **Faculty of Life Sciences (Document SEN105/21-22)**

115.1 Senate received and noted the report.

116.21-22 **Faculty of Health Studies (Document SEN106/21-22)**

116.1 Senate received and noted the report.

117.21-22 **Faculty of Engineering and Informatics (Document SEN107/21-22)**

117.1 Senate received and noted the report.

118.21-22 **Minutes of the meeting on 30 March 2022 (Document SEN080/21-22)**

118.1 Senate received and noted the minutes.

119.21-22 **Matters arising and action tracker (Document SEN081/21-22)**

119.1 Senate received and noted the report.

120.21-22 **Approval HVP FoLS (Document SEN080/21-22)**

120.1 Senate received and noted the report.

121.21-22 **Approval Ordinance and Regulation 2 (Document SEN110/21-22)**

121.1 Senate received and noted the report.

122.21-22 **Academic Promotion update (Document SEN111/21-22)**

122.1 Senate received and noted the report.

123.21-22 **Prevent update (Document SEN112/21-22)**

123.1 Senate received and noted the report.

124.21-22 **T-levels and BTEC update (Document SEN113/21-22)**

124.1 Senate received and noted the report.

125.21-22 **Student Pregnancy and Family Leave Policy (Document SEN080/21-22)**

125.1 Senate received and noted the report.

126.21-22 **OIA Annual Statement for 2021 (Document SEN115/21-22)**

126.1 Senate received and noted the report.

127.21-22 **Register of Interests (Document SEN116/21-22)**

127.1 Senate received and noted the report. No declarations of interest were received in relation to the business of the meeting.

128.21-22 **Draft agenda for Senate 1 (Document SEN117/21-22)**

128.1 Senate received and noted the report.

129.21-22 **Draft Schedule of Business 2022-23 (Document SEN118/21-22)**

129.1 Senate received and noted the report.

130.21-22 **Terms of reference and membership 2022-23 (Document SEN119/21-22)**

130.1 Senate received and noted the report.

Matt Stephenson, Assistant Head (Casework Risk and Information Governance), Legal and Governance Department (Secretary), 1 July 2022