



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 9 July 2018

Report of the Senate

Date: 20 June 2018

Chair: The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC). The P&VC left the meeting after giving his report and presentation and the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting from that point.

Secretary: Dr T Strike

For information

1. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

1.1 The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) presented the report, including:

- (a) Augur Review: The Augur Review of Higher Education was looking at the overarching funding context for higher education. It appeared that a reduction in the maximum tuition fee for home undergraduate students was likely to be one outcome of the review.
- (b) Select Committee Reports: The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee and the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee had both recently produced reports which were critical of the current approach to marketisation of the sector.
- (c) International student visas: The Home Office announced it had expanded the list of countries from which students would have a streamlined visa application process. The additional 11 countries, included China, but did not include India, which had caused significant concern in India and amongst staff.
- (d) Brexit: There remained questions regarding EU staff and EU funded projects post Brexit.
- (e) Reflections: The P&VC concluded his final report to Senate with personal reflections on changes in academic life and on his ten years at the University of Sheffield, including his own entry into Higher Education, what drew him to Sheffield, the highlights, and issues for the future.

1.2 The Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor (P&DVC) and Students' Union International officer gave a vote of thanks to the P&VC.

1.3 The P&DVC highlighted the following: Sir Keith had spoken positively about Sheffield as a civic university; students and staff valued Sir Keith speaking nationally on the public benefit of higher education; the thought leadership Sir Keith provided to the sector had been valued; the vision to recognise the potential of the AMRC and the opportunity degree apprenticeships could provide; Sir Keith's vision regarding China and the strengthened relationships that have been developed. The P&DVC concluded by thanking Sir Keith for his work and his vision of what a university can and should be, and gave Sir Keith her best wishes for the future.

The Students' Union International Officer highlighted Sir Keith's work around the world and in relation to the #WeAreInternational campaign then presented a #WeAreInternational video.

2. Senate Effectiveness Review

- 2.1 Senate received the Report and approved the 14 principles set out and endorsed the proposed immediate actions. Senate amended the proposed Terms of Reference for the Senate Academic Assurance Committee (SAAC) to provide greater clarity and amended the membership of the Committee. A consultation paper would be circulated to Senate, its Committees, and more widely within the University to gather views and gauge support for any emergent or proposed changes, with the results and any recommendations to be brought to October's Senate.

3. Council and Senate Task and Finish Group – Academic Standards and Quality

- 3.1 Senate received and noted the report, in particular the Council request regarding the content of an annual report from Senate to Council to enable Council to be assured that academic quality and standards and the student experience are being maintained and enhanced.

4. Industrial Strategy

- 4.1 Senate endorsed the approach to maximising opportunities from the Industrial Strategy. Attention was drawn to the need to respond to the changing funding landscape. It was anticipated that a significant number of Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund calls with short deadlines to respond would be announced imminently.

5 Update on President & Vice-Chancellor Appointment

- 5.1 Professor Mike Siva-Jothy provided a verbal report updating Senate on the joint Council and Senate appointment committee for the new P&VC, as one of the three Senate members on the Committee.

6 Report of the Council

- 6.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 16 April 2018.

7 Reports of committees

7.1 Committees of Senate

- 7.1.2 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Learning and Teaching Committee
(Meetings held on 28 March and 24 May 2018)
- (i) Academic Representation: Senate approved a revised structure of Academic Representation.
- (ii) General Regulations: Senate approved changes to the General Regulations regarding : regulations relating to the Library; Discipline Regulations and the accompanying Procedural Notes; degree calculation regulations for the School of Languages and Cultures; an update to the clause on Study for Other Degrees; Correction of an error in the clause of the General Regulations for Higher Degrees; two amendments to the Notes for Students on Tuition Fees; Inclusion of 4 new Integrated Studies programmes in the Regulations of the Degree of PhD with Integrated Studies.
- (iii) New and significantly amended, suspended & discontinued Programmes: Senate approved new, significantly amended, and discontinued programmes,

and title changes and new exit routes approved by Faculties between 31 January-09 May 2018.

- (iv) Taught collaborative arrangements: Senate approved a new collaboration between the International Faculty and the New Bulgarian University (NBU) in Sofia, Bulgaria, for the joint delivery of four Dual Degrees.

Discussion focused on Academic Representation implementation timescales.

- (b) Research and Innovation Committee
(Meeting held on 14 May 2018)

Senate received and approved the Report, including revised Terms of Reference of the Committee. Attention was drawn to the process of establishing University Research Institutes and this would be reported to Senate in the Autumn.

Discussion focused on the requirement, introduced by the Research Councils, for PGR students to submit during the funded period.

- (c) Research Ethics Committee
(Meeting held on 16 May 2018)

Senate approved new versions of eight sections of the Ethics Policy Governing Research Involving Human Participants, Personal Data and Human Tissue (Ethics Policy) in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Attention was drawn to actions in relation to GDPR; communications with students, evaluation of the impact of the revised Ethics Policy, feedback from ethics reviewer workshops, and a funding opportunity.

- (d) Senate Budget Committee
(Meeting held on 7 June 2018)

Senate received and approved the Report, including the Committee had received: an update on the Review of the University's Financial Model; an update on the Finance Review; the Quarterly Financial Results.

- (e) Senate Nominations Committee
(Meeting held on 1 June 2018)

Senate received and approved the report, including approval of the appointment and reappointment of Senate representatives on University committees.

7.2 Joint Committees of the Senate and Council

- 7.2.1 Senate received for information the report of the Honorary Degree Committee (meeting held on 8 March 2018).

7.3 Other committees

- 7.3.1 Senate received for information the reports of the Estates Committee (meeting held on 26 March 2018), Finance Committee (meetings held on 19 January, 19 February and 15 March 2018), Health and Safety Committee (meeting held on 13 February 2018), and the Human Resources Committee (meeting held on 21 March 2018).

8 Quarterly Financial Results

- 8.1 Senate received for information the Quarterly Financial Results for the three months ended 30 April 2018.