



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 24 April 2017

Report of the Senate

Date: 16 March 2017
Chair: The Vice-Chancellor
Secretary: Dr A West

1. Presentations on the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre

- 1.1 Senate received presentations covering an introduction to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), AMRC Growth, the Nuclear AMRC, and the AMRC Training Centre.

2. Vice-Chancellor's report

- 2.1 The Vice-Chancellor presented his report, including:
- 2.2 Higher Education and Research Bill: The Bill has been through Report Stage in the House of Lords and the next stage was Third Reading in the House of Lords before the Bill returned to the House of Commons. The Bill had significant implications for the sector, including the abolition of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and its replacement with a new regulatory body, the Office for Students. The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) had been discussed in the Lords with peers taking a cross-party approach to argue for a more considered approach and the removal of the proposed link between TEF and institutions ability to increase fees. It was not known whether MPs would retain in the Bill those amendments made by opposition and cross-bench peers. The SU President drew attention to the planned ability for universities to increase home/EU undergraduate tuition fees and that information on the University website needed to be clear and accurately reflect the current legal position.
- 2.3 International Matters: There was ongoing uncertainty concerning the status of other EU nationals post-Brexit and universities were continuing to lobby on this issue. A House of Lords amendment to the Higher Education and Research Bill would remove international students from the UK's migration figures. There was growing support for the #WeAreInternational campaign and links had been made with the #YouAreWelcomeHere campaign in the US.
- 2.4 Partnerships: The President & Vice-Chancellor highlighted the crucial role of high-quality partnerships beyond government both in the UK and overseas, drawing attention to recent announcements from Boeing and McLaren, which open up further opportunities. The University was seeking a more holistic approach to developing partnerships; work with alumni and efforts to strengthen the involvement of senior leadership in key relationships were highlighted.

3. Report of the Council

3.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 6 February 2016.

4. Reports of committees

4.1 Committees of Senate

Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

(a) Learning and Teaching Committee

(Meeting held 15 February 2017)

- (i) Lecture Capture: Senate noted the positive progress in this area, in particular with respect to infrastructure, support and guidance.
- (ii) Programme Level View: Senate noted progress on developments in this area and that it was intended to enhance student learning and support staff in working more effectively and efficiently.
- (iii) 'Inclusive Teaching and Learning in HE as a Route to Excellence': Senate noted the new national guidance published by DfE and subsequent actions.
- (iv) Programmes of study: Senate approved the new, significantly amended, suspended and discontinued programmes approved by Faculties since 15 November 2016.
- (v) Amendments to the General Regulations: Senate approved the proposed changes to the General Regulations in relation to fees and student discipline subject to further consideration of the particular impact on postgraduate students that a student would be liable in the case of a sponsor's failure to pay a student's tuition fee.
- (vi) Sheffield Graduate Attributes: Senate endorsed the Committee's approval of the revised Sheffield Graduate Attributes.

(b) Research and Innovation Committee

(Meeting held on 08 February 2017)

Senate noted an expansion to the Committee's membership. Attention was drawn to preparations for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021. The issue of research integrity was receiving greater attention within Government. HEFCE approval of the University's Knowledge Exchange strategy meant that the University qualified for future Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF).

(c) Research Ethics Committee

(Meeting held on 01 February 2017)

Senate noted the Committee was looking to provide greater clarity in the Ethics Policy Governing Research Involving Human Participants, Personal Data and Human Tissue regarding when ethics approval is required. Attention was drawn to a report on ethics breaches during the period September 2015-January 2017, with the majority of cases the result of students and/or new staff not being fully aware of the requirements of the Ethics Policy. A planned workshop and changes to the Committee's membership were also noted.

(d) Senate Budget Committee

(Meeting held on 22 February 2017)

Senate noted a summary of the Committee's meeting with Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the further meeting scheduled for 29 March. The Committee had discussed the financial forecasts 2016/17-2020/21 process and assumptions, the January 2017 revision of the indicative resource allocations for 2017-18, and

upcoming meetings with each Vice President and Head of Faculty.

During discussion the President and Vice-Chancellor clarified that there was not currently a desire for the institution to take on more borrowing, and updated Senate on the Faculty Reflection. The current arrangement of faculties was introduced in 2007 and as part of its introduction a commitment was given to reflect on its effectiveness. The purpose of the Faculty Reflection was to explore both the ways in which faculties have contributed to the success of the University and the extent to which enhancements could be made to ensure success in research, teaching and learning. The Reflection would be undertaken in a careful and measured manner, and it would provide an opportunity for discussion, including through focus groups and larger open town hall-type events. Discussion concerning future structures would, if needed, take place as a later phase and could involve a Senate sub-group. The outcomes of the Reflection would be synthesised and discussed by Senate and Council in due course. The Faculty Reflection will be considered at the June Council away day. Further information would be provided in an email to be sent to all staff on 17 March.

The President of the SU reported that the SU broadly welcomed changes to the senior executive and organisational structure outlined in January 2017 but stressed the importance of maintaining the quality of student facing services.

4.2 Other committees

Senate received for information the reports of the Estates Committee (meeting held on 13 January 2017), Finance Committee (meeting held on 23 November 2016), which were approved by Council at its meeting on 6 February 2017.

5. Quarterly Financial Results

Senate received for information the Quarterly Financial Results the three months ended 31 January 2017.