



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

University  
Secretary's  
Office.

## The Council, 27 November 2017

### Report of the Senate

**Date:** 11 October 2017  
**Chair:** The President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Secretary:** Dr T Strike

#### For Approval

##### 1. Proposed Change to University Regulations

- 1.1 Senate received and endorsed a proposal from the Learning and Teaching Committee to the General Regulations of the Council and updates to University regulations to replace the "Board of Extra Faculty Provision" with the "Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee". See appendix 1.
- 1.2 The changes are proposed to reflect the changes in learning and teaching governance structures approved in June 2016. It is also proposed that any further references to the Board of Extra-Faculty Provision that appear at any other point in the University's regulations, are amended to refer instead to the Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee.
- 1.3 Council are recommended to approve the proposal.

#### For information

##### 2. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

- 2.1 The President & Vice-Chancellor presented his report, including:
  - (a) Achievements: A Nobel Prize has been awarded to the team of scientists, which included Professor Ed Daw of the University of Sheffield, behind the discovery of gravitational waves. Sheffield had risen 4 places in the *Times Higher Education* Global Rankings, with Social Sciences ranked 63rd globally and Arts & Humanities ranked 67th globally and members of Senate were thanked for their contributions towards these achievements. The University of Sheffield was the top university in the north of England for producing employable graduates, according to The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide for 2018. This was testament to the work of the Careers Service and their staff were thanked for their work.
  - (b) Partnerships: The MindSphere lounge partnership with Siemens had launched at the Diamond. The AMRC had announced Boeing Sheffield and was looking to expand international partnerships in Korea and Malaysia. The Chinese ambassador to the UK had visited Sheffield for the first time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Sheffield Confucius Institute and to discuss new partnerships with top Chinese universities in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai.

- (c) Funding and finances: The Prime Minister had announced maximum tuition fee for home students would be fixed at £9,250 and the repayment threshold for students increased to £25k. There was uncertainty regarding the impact of changes to fees on future university funding. There was ongoing uncertainty concerning the impact of Brexit on both staff and students. The University would continue with efforts to develop new opportunities and to diversify its income streams. A review of the institution's financial model would be led by Professor David Oglethorpe, Dean of the Management School and include the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, the Director of Finance, and the Students' Union.
- (d) Review of university funding and tuition fees: The Prime Minister had announced a 'major review of tuition fees' in a bid to reduce student debt whilst the Labour party have confirmed their commitment to abolish tuition fees.
- (e) The Sheffield HE Commission: The University's response has been to set up a Sheffield-led Independent Commission which would involve students, academics, graduates, industry, and policy makers in a wide discussion. The Commission's approach would be open, long-term and focused on educational purpose to inform government and the public while reflecting the University's founding principles and long-term aims. The institution was fortunate in possessing the capability to run a commission. The P&VC was of the view that there was an appetite in the country for an open-ended academic discussion of this type and was grateful for the support of the Students' Union President in establishing the Commission.
- (f) Policy (national): A consultation on the new regulatory framework for higher education was anticipated to be published shortly and the University would look carefully at the consultation documents. The name of the 'Teaching Excellence Framework' would be changing to the 'Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework' to reflect a 'strong focus on student outcomes' and 'value for money' with the framework including new metrics on graduate earnings. Regarding the Industrial Strategy, universities and CATAPLULT centres, such as the AMRC, were seen as crucial for the Industrial Strategy, but further detail was awaited from government. The P&VC noted that Sheffield was 'well placed' on this issue.
- (g) Policy (international): In a recent speech the Prime Minister had said 'you are welcome here' to non-UK EU citizens, however their status was still to be resolved as part of Brexit negotiations. Regarding international students the University would be submitting evidence of the benefits of international students to the Home Office review and the University continues to lead the #WeAreInternational campaign.

## **2. Senate Effectiveness Review: Academic Standards and Quality**

- 2.1 Senate agreed a proposal to nominate members to join a Senate working group to consult on and propose to the President and Vice-Chancellor and to Senate the scope, terms of reference and membership of a Senate effectiveness review, to be considered by the Senate in December 2017.
- 2.2 Senate noted the proposed terms of reference, membership and timing for the proposed joint Council and Senate task and finish group on Academic Standards and Quality.

## **3. Report of the Council**

- 3.1 Senate received a report on the meeting of Council held on 3 July 2017.

## **4. Reports of committees**

### **4.1 Committees of Senate**

Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Learning and Teaching Committee  
(Meetings held on 19 May 2017 and 5 July 2017)
  - (i) Taught Collaborative Arrangements: Senate approved the partnerships and model of collaboration as set out in the report.
  - (ii) New, significantly amended and discontinued programmes: Senate approved new, significantly amended, suspended and discontinued programmes approved by Faculties since 11 May 2017.
  - (iii) Chair's Approval: Senate noted that Chair's approval on behalf of Senate was granted under delegated powers so that the changes set out in the report could be put into place for the start of the 2017-18 session.
  - (iv) Attention was drawn to: next year's 3 learning and teaching priorities; subject-level TEF pilots; and the impact of a student boycott at the University of the National Student Survey.

Senate discussed Learning Analytics (data about the progress of learners and the contexts in which learning takes place); learning and teaching support plans; and that the principles of Achieve More would continue as part of the learning experience although the brand would no longer be used.

- (b) Research Ethics Committee  
(Meeting held on 13 September 2017)

Senate approved a new Policy Note concerning ethics approval when undertaking activities related to demonstrating the impact of research. Attention was drawn to data protection requirements and the implications of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which comes into effect on 25 May 2018.

- (c) Senate Budget Committee  
(Meetings held on 13 July 2017 and 26 September 2017)

Senate noted summaries of: SBC's meeting with the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor in March; of the meetings with individual Vice-Presidents and Heads of Faculty; and of the Chair's meeting with UEB in June to present SBC's views. The Committee had discussed student recruitment.

### **4.2 Other committees**

Senate received for information the reports of the Finance Committee (Meetings held on 8 May 2017 and 19 June 2017), Health and Safety Committee (Meeting held on 17 May 2017), and the Human Resources Committee (Meeting held on 14 June 2017), which were approved by Council at its meeting on 3 July 2017.

## **5. Draft Financial Results for 2016/17**

Senate received for information the Draft Financial Results for 2016/17.

**REGULATION XI:****The Board of Extra-Faculty ProvisionExtra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee**

1. There shall be ~~a Board of Extra-Faculty Provision~~ an Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee, which shall for the purposes of Regulation X: 2 be deemed to be a Faculty.
2. The ~~Board of Extra-Faculty Provision~~ Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee shall, subject to review by the Senate and to the Statutes and Regulations of the University, exercise, in relation to Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and Prizes falling within its province and to students pursuing programmes of study or research leading to the award of such Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, such powers as may be conferred by Regulation.
3. Such matters as shall be committed to the ~~Board of Extra-Faculty Provision~~ Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee by the Senate shall be transacted by that ~~Board~~ Committee.
4. Subject to Regulation II: (12), powers of the ~~Board of Extra-Faculty Provision~~ Extra Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee shall be delegated as follows:

	<i>Power delegated</i>	<i>Officer to whom the power shall be delegated</i>
4.1	The power to recommend to the Senate upon the award of first Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, undergraduate Prizes and other distinctions and examination results within the province of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> , without the need to report on action taken or seek the confirmation of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> .	The Chair <del>man</del> of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> or designate authorised by the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u>
4.2	The power to recommend to the Senate upon the award of higher Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and Prizes within the province of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> , without the need to report on action taken or seek the confirmation of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> .	The Chair <del>man</del> -of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> or designate authorised by the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u>
4.3	The power to recommend to the Senate upon Regulations relating to programmes of study or research, examinations or other requirements for Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other distinctions and upon Regulations relating to Fellowships, Scholarships and Prizes within the province of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> , without the need to report on action taken or seek the confirmation of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> .	The Chair <del>man</del> of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> or designate authorised by the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u>
4.4	The power, in accordance with Regulations made by the Senate, to review the progress of students registered for programmes within the remit of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> and to suspend or exclude any such student from further attendance at lectures, classes and examinations within the province of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> or to take such other action as may be prescribed by those Regulations, without the need to report on action taken or seek the confirmation of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> .	The Chair <del>man</del> -of the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u> or designate authorised by the <del>Board</del> <u>Committee</u>