



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

University
Secretary's
Office.

The Council, 8 July 2019

Report of the Senate

Date: 19 June 2019
Chair: The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC)
Secretary: Dr T Strike

For decision

1. Recommendation to change the name of an academic department

- 1.1 Senate received and endorsed a proposal to change the name of the Department of Politics to the Department of Politics and International Relations. Attention was drawn to the rationale for the proposal, which included that Politics and International Relations have always been regarded as closely related but distinctive subject areas, and that the change of name would better reflect the department's staff profile. Following consultation, the department was confident that students would support the change.
- 1.2 Council are recommended to approve the proposal.

2. Recommendation to transfer School of East Asian Studies

- 2.1 Senate received and endorsed a proposal to move the School of East Asian Studies from the Faculty of Social Sciences to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
- 2.2 The School of East Asian Studies (SEAS) is currently based in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Several internal and external factors prompted reflection on where the Department should sit within the Faculty structures. First, the School has grown significantly since 2008 and it is now home to a larger and more diverse staff base that include a much larger community of humanities scholars. Second, the market for its degrees has altered and cultural studies is as central to the School's success as its more traditional social science foundations in East Asian governance and business. Third, the changes to the physical location of several Social Sciences departments might lead to a sense of being on the margins of the Faculty. A move would facilitate collaboration and the exchange of best practice among both language teaching staff and researchers in language-based Area Studies and facilitate a coherent languages offer to undergraduate applicants. Current and future collaborations between SEAS and other departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences would continue unaffected. Following consultation with staff and students the School has reached a general consensus that it would like to join the Faculty of Arts and Humanities with effect from 1 September 2019.
- 2.3 Council are recommended to approve the proposal.

3. Recommendation to transfer Modern Languages Teaching Centre

- 3.1 Senate received and endorsed a proposal to transfer the Modern Languages Teaching Centre (MLTC) from Academic Services to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

- 3.2 The proposal has the full support of the Faculty Vice President, Arts and Humanities (FVP A&H), Executive Director of Academic Services (EDAS). Staff in the MLTC have been consulted and two meetings have been held involving MLTC staff and the FVP (A&H) and EDAS, with MLTC staff having confirmed that they have no objections to this proposal. The transfer of the MLTC would support the delivery of a newly articulated vision by the Faculty for the support of languages. The shared view is that the delivery of this vision is best achieved by the co-location of the MLTC as a stand-alone centre, generating its own income and managing its own budget, with its Director being a full member of the Arts and Humanities Faculty Executive Board.
- 3.3 Council are recommended to approve the proposal.

For information

4. President & Vice-Chancellor's report

- 4.1 The President & Vice-Chancellor (P&VC) presented the report, including:
- (a) Augar Review: The independent panel, chaired by Dr Philip Augar, supporting the Government's Review of Post-18 Education and Funding has published its findings, however, there was no indication of how, or if, it will be used by government.
 - (b) International Education Strategy: The Strategy pledge to increase the number of international students coming to the UK to 600,000 has been broadly welcomed by the University. The University would work to ensure that the profile of the Strategy would not fade in a busy political environment.
 - (c) University Performance Metrics / Tables: The University of Sheffield has been ranked 78th in the world in the QS World University Rankings. The University was the first university in the UK for income and investment in engineering research, according to Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data.
 - (d) Pay negotiations: The final pay offer from employers was a 1.8% increase, with higher increases at lower points on the pay scale. The Trade Unions were consulting with their members.
 - (e) TEF: The University has retained its Silver TEF award.
 - (f) European Union: The P&VC had met with Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Exiting the European Union, to convey the University's concerns.

5. University Strategy 2020-2025

- 5.1 Senate received and noted a presentation on the development of the University Strategy 2020-2025. Discussion covered: the formal approval of the University's strategic plan was a decision for Council following consultation with the University, including Senate; that Senate would have the opportunity to contribute; the role of Faculties; and associated performance indicators with metrics would be agreed by Council and used in a careful and considered way.

6. Report of the Council

- 6.1 Senate received a report on the meetings of Council held on 25 February and 29 April 2019.

7. Reports of committees

7.1 Committees of Senate

- 7.1.1 Senate approved the reports of the following committees:

- (a) Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
(Meeting held on 23 May 2019)
- (i) Revisions to the General University Regulations, Regulation XIV, relating to admission and an amendment to the Notes for Students on Registration as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
 - (ii) Revisions to the Discipline Regulations, Regulation XXII, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
 - (iii) Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) integrated PhD/EngD programmes, incorporating a PGDip in Professional Skills (Advanced Metallics Systems and GREEN), with a duration of study of four and a half years, rather than the five years requested.
 - (iv) Amendments to confirmation review timings in the General Regulations for Higher Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates, Regulation XVI, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
 - (v) Amendments to Notes Relating to Undergraduate and Postgraduate Awards, as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.
 - (vi) Amendments to Regulations relating to the Library, Regulation XXV, to clarify the timescales for consideration of appeals against library penalties by non-students as set out in Appendix 5 of the report.
 - (vii) Minor amendments to regulations for appeals (Regulation XX), progress (Regulation XIX) and fitness (Regulation XXI), as set out in Appendix 6 of the report.
 - (viii) New, Significantly Amended, Discontinued and Suspended Programmes approved by Faculties as set out in Appendices 7 and 8.

Attention was drawn to the implementation of the revised academic representation system and that the University had retained its silver Teaching Excellence and Students Outcomes Framework (TEF) award. Discussion focused on the implementation of the revised academic representation system.

- (b) Research Ethics Committee
(Meeting held on 15 May 2019)

Senate received and approved the Report, including changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference and changes to the Ethics Policy.

- (c) Senate Research and Innovation Committee
(Meeting held on 15 May 2019)

Senate received and approved the Report, including endorsement of changes in principle regarding proposed new governance for PGR quality assurance. Senate approved the update of the Good Research and Innovation Practices (GRIP) Policy. Attention was drawn to preparatory work for the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

- (d) Senate Academic Assurance Committee
(Meeting held on 9 May 2019)

Senate received and approved the Report, including endorsing the draft report updating Council on the Committee's activity for 2018/19 (see Item 8 on the Council Agenda). The Committee would consider the suggestion that its potential theme to look at in 2019/20 of "plagiarism" be widened to consider collusion and digital ways of cheating.

(e) Senate Budget Committee

(Meetings held on 26 March, 27 April and 6 June 2019)

Senate received and approved the Report, including the Minutes of the Committee's discussion with the President & Vice-Chancellor. The Committee received a presentation which showed the institution's financial performance had improved slightly against a background of a slight worsening for the sector as a whole. In relation to the Quarterly Financial Results to 30 April 2019, significant underspends on budgets were not desirable and more accurate budgeting would be beneficial.

(f) Senate Nominations Committee

(Meeting held on 29 May 2019)

Senate received and approved the report, including approval of the appointment and reappointment of Senate representatives on University committees. Committee names were being changed to reflect that they were committees of Senate.

(g) Annual Report of the Military Education Committee

Senate received and noted the Annual Report.

7.2 Joint Committee of the Senate and Council

(a) Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee

(Meeting held on 14 March 2019)

Senate received and noted the Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee.

7.3 Other committees

7.3.1 Following the Senate Effectiveness Review, the following reports were circulated to members of Senate by email and not included on the Senate agenda: Finance Committee (meetings held on 25 January, 19 February and 14 March 2019); Health & Safety Committee (meeting held on February 2019); Human Resources Committee (meeting held on 20 March 2019).

8. Quarterly Financial Results

8.1 Senate received for information the Quarterly Financial Results for the quarter ending 30 April 2019.

9. University Semester Dates 2024-25 to 2027-28

9.1 Senate requested a consultation on semester dates and specifically on aligning the University's Easter vacation with the fixed Easter vacation used by Sheffield schools. Following consultation proposals should be brought back to the Senate.