

SENATE

Confirmed Minutes of Meeting held on 8 February 2017

Present: The Provost, Professor James Stirling (Chair); Professors Buenfeld, Buitendijk, Distaso, Fox, Gibson, Gooderham, Magee (J), McClure, Nash, Welton, Wright; Drs Archer, Costa-Pereira, Craig, Field, Gounaris, Kingsbury, Malhotra, Meyer, Perkmann, Trotta; Mr Andriopoulos; Mr Ashton; Mr McCrone; Mr Shamsó; Mr Tebbutt with Professor Lloyd representing Professor Screatón, Mr Neilson (College Secretary and Registrar), Ms Webster (Head of Academic Services), Ms Ros Whiteley.

Apologies: Professors Buluwela, Magee (T), Phillips, Screatón, Spivey; Dr Fobelets; Ms Makuch

2132 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 16 December 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

2133 Chair's Action

There were no items of Chair's Action to report.

2134 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising to report.

2135 Provost's Business

Received: A Report from the Provost (**Paper Senate/2016/25**).

(1) Awards and Honours

Reported: That Professor Guang-Zhong Yang had been awarded a CBE and Professor Mandy Fisher had been made a Dame in the New Year's Honours List. Professor Michele Dougherty had been awarded the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) Gold Medal, Dr Jonathan Pritchard and Dr Christopher Chen had won Fowler awards from the RAS. Congratulations were expressed to all on behalf of Senate.

(2) Notable Grant Awards

Reported: That the College had had a number of notable grant application successes over the previous few weeks.

(3) Central Library Refurbishment

Reported: That enabling work had begun in the Central Library on the initial phase of work on a major refurbishment to improve temperature controls on the top floors and thereby resolve a problem that has been a long standing priority for students.

(4) Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Year Two Provider Submission

Reported: That the College had submitted to HEFCE its final Year Two Provider submission on 26 January 2017. Thanks were expressed to all those colleagues, in particular Malcolm Edwards and the Strategic Planning Division, who had contributed to the submission. The final submission was attached to the Senate papers (Paper Senate/2016/31) for information, and members were reminded that the submission is confidential to College.

2136 Innovating Learning and Teaching at Imperial

Received: A presentation from the Vice-Provost (Education) and **Paper Senate/2016/26**

- (1) The Vice-Provost (Education) presented the vision for the development of a Learning and Teaching Strategy for the College that would respond to feedback from students on their educational experience at the College and would position the College as a leader of change with evidence-based approaches to teaching. The presentation outlined the consultation that had taken place with staff and students and which had drawn out the key elements to be incorporated into their education that would be important for their professional lives post-graduation. There was a view that the current curriculum was too dense and needed to be thinned and that the amount of assessment should be reduced. The vision for the future saw students as partners in curriculum development and increasing use of technology enhanced learning. The Vice-Provost (Education) told Senate members how much good practice was already in existence at the College and that it was hoped that this could be shared more widely across the College thereby creating a stronger academic community and better engagement with students.
- (2) Each academic Department would be required to undertake curriculum redesign on all their undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes and there will be a longer term programme of transformation in pedagogy which will be rolled out across Departments, with a competitive scheme to start with whereby Departments would bid for funding to support transformation projects. Heads of Department have been identified as being the change leaders for these activities and would need to be supported in delivering this vision.
- (3) Responding to questions and comments from Senate members, the Vice-Provost (Education) acknowledged that some of the existing teaching spaces did not lend themselves to more interactive methods of teaching but she noted that even traditional teaching spaces such as lecture theatres could be used and that the development of more technology enhanced learning would also support more interactive teaching.
- (4) Students had responded positively throughout the consultation process but felt there would need to be clear communication about the changes that were being made and the benefits it would bring to their experience at the College.
- (5) The Vice-Provost (Education) described her visit, with Professor Alan Spivey, to the University of British Columbia as part of the development work around the emerging strategy. They had reflected that, in implementing similar changes at UBC, they could have done more around change management, in particular engaging their Department Heads and on the need to support new teaching staff and provide support to existing teaching staff who were unused to that style of teaching. The need for continued investment and development as well as time for staff to meet and reflect on the changes had also been highlighted by UBC. It was acknowledged that this would be a challenging strategy to deliver and that it should therefore not be rushed.
- (6) The need to teach and assess transferable skills and develop graduate attributes in the curriculum was discussed. The Vice-Provost considered that this approach could

be delivered across all areas of the College and that these innovations in teaching and learning could be applied across subject discipline areas.

- (7) The Chair thanked the Vice-Provost (Education) for her work and all she had achieved so far.

2137 **Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC)**

Considered: A Report by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (**Paper Senate/2016/27**).

Senate approved:

- (1) changes to the General and Examination Regulations in relation to Issuing Provisional Marks to Taught Undergraduate and Postgraduate (Masters) Level Students with effect from 1 April 2017;

In discussion, some members raised concerns about managing student expectations if there was a negative change between the provisional and the actual mark but it was felt that the Policy clearly stated a requirement for provisional marks to be released with a caveat that they were only provisional until confirmed by the Examination Board;

- (2) changes to the General and Examinations Regulations in relation to the Penalties for the Late Submission of Assessed Coursework on Undergraduate and Postgraduate (Masters) Level Programmes with effect from October 2017;

Senate was advised that this had been a matter of great importance to students and the Imperial College Union Representatives confirmed their support for the regulations which would implement a graduated penalty;

- (3) minor changes to the regulations governing the EngD in Quantitative Non-Destructive Evaluation to take effect from October 2017. It was noted that students currently enrolled would see out their programme on the existing regulations.

Noted: that QAEC had:

- (4) considered and approved an Academic Feedback Policy which introduced a good practice guideline of 10 working days for students to be provided with feedback on assessment. All feedback mechanisms and timescales needed to be communicated to students. It was noted that this policy was an issue of real importance for students and so QAEC had recommended that it be implemented with immediate effect;
- (5) considered a report from the Programmes Committee meeting held on 13th December 2016 which had approved recommendations contained in the report relating to new programmes, withdrawn programmes and modifications as set out in section 7 of the report;
- (6) considered reports from the Faculty Education Committees;
- (7) considered proposals to establish a new learning and teaching group to support the implementation of the new Learning and Teaching Strategy;
- (8) considered the External Examiners Summary report of Undergraduate Programmes 2015-16 and recommended that a College level response to external examiners be developed to address College level issues and themes raised by the external examiners;

- (9) considered proposed changes to the roles and responsibilities for the Personal Tutor and Senior Tutor roles (Undergraduate and Postgraduate);

It was agreed to seek confirmation on whether the personal tutor roles were required for postgraduate students on MRes courses.

- (10) approved a request from the Business School to withdraw their (currently suspended) pre-sessional English courses;
- (11) reaffirmed the Our Principles Student Charter;
- (12) considered information about dates, participation rates and the platforms for student surveys;
- (13) considered the annual report on Active Exchange Links 2016-17.

2138 Dates of Terms

Received: A note from the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2016/28**)

Noted: A request to check the proposed term dates against Jewish New Year dates.

2139 Staff Matters

Received: A Note by the Provost (**Paper Senate/2016/29**).

Noted: The names of those appointed to senior academic positions since the last Senate meeting.

2140 Appointment of External Examiners 2016-17

Received: A note by the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2016/30**)

Noted: The names, affiliations and periods of tenure of External Examiners for undergraduate degrees and Masters degrees appointed since the last meeting of Senate.

2141 Date of Next Meeting

Reported: The next meeting of the Senate would take place on Wednesday 17 May 2017, in Room G01, Royal School of Mines, starting at 3.00pm.