

SENATE

CONFIRMED Minutes of Meeting held on 7 February 2018

Present: The Provost, Professor James Stirling (Chair); Professors Buenfeld, Buitendijk, Distaso, Dougherty, Gooderham, Lindstedt, McCoy, Veloso; Drs Costa-Pereira, Craig, Field, Fobelets, Gounaris, Malhotra, Trotta; Ms Bannister; Mr Burstow; Mr McCrone; Mr Tebbutt with Professor Lloyd representing Professor Weber, Mr Ashton (Secretary); Ms Webster (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: Professors Brandon, Buluwela, Gibson, Johnston, Kingsbury, Magee, Perkmann, Weber, Welton; Dr Meyer, Ms Compton, Ms Makuch.

2235 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 6 December 2017 were confirmed as an accurate record subject to an amendment to Minute 22.30 to note that the number of students not taking the assessment in a Horizons module would be addressed through Curriculum Review.

2236 Chair's Action

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

2237 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising to report.

2238 Provost's Business

Received: A Report from the Provost (**Paper Senate/2017/27**).

(1) Faculty of Medicine Leadership

Reported (1): That Professor Deborah Ashby, Chair in Medical Statistics and Clinical Trials, has accepted appointment as Interim Head of the School of Public Health from 1 January 2018, until a permanent successor to Professor Elio Riboli has taken up appointment.

(2) That Professor Sian Harding, Professor of Cardiac Pharmacology, has accepted appointment as Interim Head of the National Heart and Lung Institute with effect from 15 January 2018, until a permanent successor to Professor Kim Fox has taken up appointment.

(2) Office for Students consultation

Reported: That the College submitted its response to the government's consultation into the Office for Students (OFS) just before Christmas. The response was put together by Malcolm Edwards, Director of Strategic Planning, with input from a number of colleagues. In its response, the College emphasised the importance of a diverse HE sector in the UK, in particular to ensure that the importance of research-led teaching is acknowledged and encouraged by the activities of the new regulator. When the topic was discussed at the

November meeting of Provost's Board, it was acknowledged that the new regulator will pose new challenges for Imperial, particularly in relation to the increased focus on data gathering, CMA compliance and student protection plans.

(3) Associate Dean of Programmes Business School

Reported: That Ms Leila Guerra has accepted appointment as Associate Dean of Programmes at the Business School from 15 March 2018.

(4) Blavatnik Awards

Reported: That Dr Claudia de Rahm, Department of Physics, has been awarded a Finalist title in the Physical Sciences and Engineering category in the inaugural Blavatnik Awards, which honour and support exceptional early-career scientists.

2239 **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Received: A presentation from the Vice-Provost (Education).

Reported: (1) The presentation provided an overview of the work in progress being undertaken in this area by the College with leadership from the Assistant Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). It was noted that the College needed to do more to attract students from a wider range of backgrounds and that recent UCAS data had shown that the College had the fewest students of any UK university from the lowest socio-economic background. Four key measures had been identified to support this vital area of work for the College. The first was visible leadership from the top of the College. Second was the development of a new strategy to support this area with a clear budget to support the implementation of the new strategy. Third was the use of data and its analysis to support and develop the strategic goals and, fourth, a comprehensive approach to this across College which identifies, shares and builds on areas of good practice. The draft EDI Strategy would be presented to a future meeting of the Senate.

(2) Equality, diversity and inclusion was also a pillar of the Learning and Teaching Strategy and work was underway to consider research in this area and how to embed EDI into the curriculum.

Noted: (1) That the College had a five year strategy (2015-2020) which was at a half-way point and this provided a good opportunity to identify how EDI would be addressed and taken forward in the next College strategy.

(2) That there were various factors in recruitment of WP students to the College, including a London factor where there were fewer Q1 wards, emerging anecdotal evidence that some students were put off institutions with TEF Gold, and the need to do more to promote the College in London and beyond as a welcoming institution for WP students both before and after they got a place at the College. The need to extend the outreach effort beyond London and to engage with teachers as well as with potential applicants to ensure that any misconceptions they may have about the College were addressed was also noted.

(3) That the application rates and the performance of WP students at the College had been reviewed by the Access Working Group. The need to ensure communications around the new Learning and Teaching strategy and the move towards more interactive pedagogy would benefit all students, including WP students.

2240 **Changes to the Regulatory Framework**

Received: An update from the Director of Strategic Planning.

Reported: (1) That the future regulatory framework under the Office for Students (OfS) would provide a radically different operating environment for the College which was data driven and would provide less opportunity for contextualisation of the data. The new environment was very much focussed on outcomes rather than process and would operate a risk-based approach to assessing institutions.

(2) That the changes to the College's current HESA submissions, known as Data Futures, would be challenging. Currently an annual return was made but the OfS would require 3 returns per annum at the programme and the module level which would include information to be submitted in December each year on which modules students were registered on, at Easter to provide provisional marks for assessed work and a final return to provide final examination marks in the Summer. Failure to provide these data in a timely fashion could result in the College being deemed as High Risk. The SIMP Programme was crucial in delivering the College-wide system that would support this additional reporting with all data being in Banner.

(3) That students were at the centre of the OfS concerns with requirements for Universities to support all students and to demonstrate progress in supporting widening participation in higher education. Students' rights as consumers were also a key focus for the OfS and the College would need to ensure that all its information about student life at Imperial was coherent and transparent.

(5) That there was likely to be a consultation on student fees and funding which could see changes to student fees and loan arrangements as early as 2019-20.

(6) That the College would continue to work with its students as partners, but that there was work to be done to ensure that the measures which might reflect poorly on the College are considered and acted upon.

2241 Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC)

Received: A Report by the Learning and Teaching Committee (**Paper Senate/2017/29**).

Noted: That the Learning and Teaching Committee had:

- (1) considered the Imperial College Union National Student Survey 2017 recommendations and noted progress against the actions.
- (2) received an update on proposals for the Curriculum Review process.
- (3) received an update on the Excellence Fund for Learning and Teaching Innovation
- (4) received an update on the implementation of the Learning and Teaching Strategy and pedagogy transformation.
- (5) received an update on consideration of proposals around the reward, retention and recognition frameworks for teaching staff.

2242 Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC)

Received: A Report by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (**Paper Senate/2017/30**).

Considered in discussion: That the cross-College themes highlighted in the annual monitoring report were being considered by the appropriate College groups.

Noted that QAEC had:

- (1) considered the report from Undergraduate Annual Monitoring for 2016-17;
- (2) considered draft procedures for Student Complaints, Academic Appeals, Mitigating Circumstances and Academic Misconduct;
- (3) considered and approved the proposal for the extension of the suspension of Periodic Review for 2018-19;
- (4) considered reports from the Programmes Committee meetings held in December 2017 and had approved recommendations for programme withdrawals, programme suspensions and modifications including in-session and major modifications;
- (5) considered reports from the Faculty Education Committees.

2243 Dates of Terms

Received: A note by the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2017/31**).

Noted: That the Jewish New Year would fall within the term dates for the start of the 2019-20 academic year. It was suggested that the Director of Student Services be asked to consider issues relating to religious observances in general, and bring a paper back to a future meeting of Senate for consideration.

2244 Appointment of External Examiners 2017-18

Received: A note by the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2017/32**).

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

2245 Award of a DSc

Received: A note from the DSc Committee (**Paper Senate/2017/33**).

Noted: The award of a DSc.

2246 Staff Matters

Received: A Note by the Provost (**Paper Senate/2017/34**).

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

2247 Date of Next Meeting

Reported: The next meeting of the Senate would take place on Wednesday 9 May 2018, in the Council Room, 170 Queen's Gate, starting at 3.00pm.