

SENATE

**CONFIRMED Minutes of Meeting held on 06 February 2019**

**Present:** Professor Ian Walmsley (Chair); Professors Buluwela, Distaso, Dougherty, Gibson, Gooderham, Johnston, Kingsbury, Lindstedt, McCoy, Spivey, Welton; Drs Costa-Pereira, Craig, Field, Gounaris, Trotta; Mr Tebbutt; Mr Tomkies, Mr Ashton (Secretary); Ms Webster (Minute Secretary).

**Apologies:** Professors Brandon, Buenfeld, Buitendijk, Chilvers, Perkmann, Weber; Drs Fobelets, Meyer, Mr Lupton, Mr Luy, Ms Bannister, Ms Makuch, Ms Thiermann.

**2329 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 12 December 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

**2330 Chair's Action**

There was no Chair's Action to report.

**2331 Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising not otherwise covered by the agenda.

**2332 Provost's Business**

Received: A Report from the Provost (**Paper Senate/2018/20**).

Reported: That a new Departmental structure was to be introduced in the Faculty of Medicine with effect from the 2019-20 academic year. Four new academic departments would be introduced and the Faculty would operate with eight academic departments from 1 August 2019.

**2333 Degree Classification Consultation**

Received: A draft response to the consultation from the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (**Paper Senate/2018/21**).

Reported: (1) That the consultation document followed on from the Universities UK report Understanding Degree Algorithms which had been published in October 2017

(2) That there was concern that the consultation failed to take account of a variety of issues such as improvements in learning and teaching, the differences in qualifications that students enter HE with across the sector and the different subject mixes across different institutions. There was concern that some of the proposals, such as cohort ranking, could add extra pressure on students at a time when there was increasing concern about mental health in students. Members did not consider that the evidence provided in the consultation provided enough justification for the proposals made.

(3) That members were content with the proposed response subject to minor revisions. Senate was happy for the Chair to take Chair's action to approve the final response for submission.

#### **2334 National Student Survey Action Plan**

Received: A Verbal Update on behalf of the NSS Working Group

Reported: That a working group had been established to identify improvements which could be made to the student experience in parallel with the work that was being done under the Curriculum Review process. The Group was focussing on the recommendations made by the Imperial College Union and included work on the culture of the institution, organisation and management and space disparity between departments.

Considered in discussion: The need to balance between building a departmental community through the provision of social space for students against allowing teaching space to be shared at College level and ensuring an acceptable learning environment for all students.

#### **2335 Brexit Contingency Planning**

Received: A Paper from the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2018/22**)

Reported: That the College was planning for all scenarios related to Brexit. The paper presented particular issues related to students, including applicants and continuing students, teaching and research and outlined proposed mitigation in the event for any impact from the UK's exit from the European Union.

#### **2336 Learning and Teaching Committee**

Received: A report from meetings of the Committee (**Paper Senate/2018/23**).

Reported: (1) That the Committee had noted the conduct of a consultation on the subject level TEF pilots and had discussed the need to engage with the TEF data which would be received by the College in early 2019 even though the College was not involved with the second stage of subject level pilots.

(2) That there was a deadline of February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 for StudentShapers projects, the College's student partnership programme which offers students the opportunity to undertake projects in partnership with staff to improve curricula, develop innovative teaching practices and make positive changes to the student experience.

(3) That the Curriculum Review process was progressing and thanks were expressed to all who had been involved. The majority of the undergraduate provision would be considered by the Programmes Committee in February and March 2019. The majority of the taught postgraduate provision would be considered in 2020-21.

(4) That the Learning and Teaching Committee had also considered the following items of business:

- Learning and Teaching Risk Management
- Business continuity planning for the impact of Brexit on learning and teaching
- Data Dashboard
- HESA Data Futures
- Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) results

**2337 Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee**

Received: A report from the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (**Paper Senate/2018/24**).

Reported: (1) That the Committee had considered the following items of business:

- Regulations and Policy Review Group update
- Revisions to the UK Quality Code
- External Examiner overview report (2017/18 Undergraduate Provision)
- Student Exchanges
- Collaborative Provision
- Masters Experience Working Party preliminary report
- Programmes Committee

**2338 Dates of Terms**

Received: A note from the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2018/25**)

Approved: The proposed dates for session 2021-2022

**2339 Staff Matters**

Received: A note by the Provost (**Paper Senate/2018/26**)

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

**2340 Date of Next Meeting**

Reported: The next meeting of the Senate would take place on Wednesday 1 May 2019 at 3.00 pm