

# Minutes

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**Meeting title:** Senate

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**Date:** Wednesday 24 October 2018

**Time:** 2.15pm

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**Location:** The Senate Room, George Thomas Building, Highfield Campus

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**Present:** President and Vice Chancellor – Professor Sir Christopher Snowden  
Vice President (Education) – Professor A Neill  
Vice President (Research and Enterprise) - Professor M Spearing  
Vice President (International) – Professor W Eley

Dr A Aggarwal, Dr Diego Altamirano, Professor Jim Anderson, Ms Claire Atkins, professor George Attard, Dr R Baird, Dr J Batchelor, Professor Sally Brailsford, Dr G Brambilla, Dr L Brown, Mr Richard Cartwright, Dr D Carugo, Dr Jordan Cheer, Dr T Choudhry, Dr A D'amato, Ms E Dawes, Mr Ian Dunn, Dr K Donnelly, Dr J Downes, Dr S Ennis, Professor Carol Evans, Dr S Faulds, Dr K Fisher, Dr J Flynn, Professor Dame W Hall, Dr D Hendry, Dr Anna Hickman, Dr C Holmes, Dr S Hoenig, Dr V Hollis, Professor John Holloway, Dr Y Howard, Professor Christopher Howls, Dr J Kelly, Dr K Kendall, Dr E Kitson-Reynolds, Dr A Krishnan, Dr Antonio Martinez, Ms Kerry Matthews, Dr M Mavrogordato, Professor Rachel Mills, Dr K Morrison, Dr Mary Morrison, Professor M Niranjana, Dr Soon Xin (Michael) Ng, Dr B Oliver, Mr Spiros Papadas, Dr Oz Parchment, Dr Helen Paul, Dr Vesna Perisic, Professor F Pierron, Dr Alison Porter, Dr Jonathan Price, Dr Regina Rauxloh, Professor P Reed, Professor G Reid, Dr Silke Roth, Dr Ruben Sanchez-Garcia, Dr Bram Sengers, Dr NH Stear, Dr S Stevenage, Dr Emily Swindle, Dr Lena Wahlgren-Smith, Professor D Wheatley, Dr D Whiting and Dr D Wilson.

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**In attendance** Mr L Abraham - Clerk to the University Council and Senate, Mr P Greenish – Chair of Council.

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The President and Vice-Chancellor welcomed members to the first Senate Meeting of the Academic Year. He also introduced Philip Greenish, the new Chair of Council. New members were encouraged to contact the Clerk to Council Senate if they require clarification on any matters relating to Senate.

## 1 Minutes

A member of Senate stated that with regard to **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 20 June 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

## 2 Actions and Matters Arising

None.

## 3 Senate Annual Review of Primary Responsibilities, Standing Orders and Membership

Senate considered a report which set out its Primary Responsibilities, Standing Orders and membership for the coming academic year. Minor text changes to titles were noted together with more substantial changes to the scheme of delegation. It was further noted that as the new Education Committee would be rolled out, further changes to the scheme of delegation would be necessary and would be presented to Senate for approval at the appropriate time.

In response to a query raised regarding the future membership composition, Senate noted that the previous work to reform Senate terms of reference and membership would need to address the issue of

membership following the faculty restructure. It was noted that a working group would be established to make recommendations to Senate in February 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### 4 **President & Vice-Chancellor's Report**

Senate received the report from the President & Vice Chancellor which was presented by the President and Vice-Chancellor and highlighted the following:

- Student fees
- Brexit and HE
- NSS
- UCAS Data
- Student Minds
- Research Integrity
- The recent successful registration with OfS
- Undergraduate admissions and clearing
- Recent league table success.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### 5 **President of the Students' Union's report**

Senate received an update report from the Students' Union which provided an update on SUSU activity and set out an update from both the President and each of the Sabbatical Officers. The report also contained an update on SUSU's vision, events for Freshers' week and details of a new "Relationship Agreement" with the University.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### 6 **Senate Question Time**

The Senate Chair received the following question from Professor Nirranjan:

*a) Could Senate please be reassured that it is not a forum that simply "rubber-stamps" decisions already made?*

*b) Could Senate please be made aware if we are teaching any module using video links to overflow rooms because we cannot accommodate the whole class in one lecture theatre?*

Answers were given as follows:

*a) Senate's primary responsibilities have just been considered and noted earlier in the meeting. There are items of business that are delegated to Senate's committees and these are laid out in the documents. The Primary Responsibilities also set out items that cannot be delegated.*

*The Chair of Senate only takes Chair's Action on matters that are either urgent or minor. If a decision is requested under Chair's Action and the Chair feels that it is better to be debated and decided by Senate as a whole, that item will be refused and placed on the next Senate agenda.*

*b) Overflow rooms were used in the first week of the academic year for two computer sciences lectures, two engineering lectures and one physics lecture. Now that student numbers have settled, there are no overflow rooms currently being used. The computer science lectures that still have large student numbers are now being double taught. There are no plans for using overflow rooms in the second semester.*

#### 7 **Annual Quality Assurance Statement**

Senate considered a report by the Academic Registrar presents the Annual Quality Assurance Statement for Senate to endorse prior to submission to the University Council for approval.

**RESOLVED** That the Annual Quality Assurance Statement be endorsed and submitted to Council for approval.

Sir Christopher then handed the chairing of the meeting to Professor Alex Neill for items relating to the Appointment of the next President and Vice-Chancellor.

## 8 Appointments to the VC Recruitment Joint Selection Committee

Senate received a verbal presentation from Professor David Wheatley on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee. Senate noted that the Nominating Committee had received 14 expressions of interest from individuals wishing to join the Joint Committee. The parameters within which the Nominating Committee made their selection were then outlined, these parameters included:

- Gender
- STEM and Non-STEM
- Appointed and Non-Appointed
- Research and Teaching
- Senior and Junior academic

The Nominating Committee was of the mind that not all of the parameters could be met in appointing just three candidates, but would aim to satisfy as many as possible. During their deliberations the Nominating Committee members stated their top four candidates. This produced one clear candidate. In further analysis of the top four candidates, a second candidate clearly had multiple votes and was therefore selected. The third and final candidate was selected by a simple majority vote.

The three candidates proposed to Senate were:

Professor Rachel Mills  
Professor Fraser Sturt  
Professor Fabrice Pierron

Professor Neill then asked Senate if there were any comments or question directly associated with the Nominating Committee's process or the three candidates. There were none.

The three candidates were then put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the following candidates be appointed to the Joint Selection Committee convened for recommending a candidate to be the next Vice Chancellor:

Professor Rachel Mills  
Professor Fraser Sturt  
Professor Fabrice Pierron

Professor Neill then opened the discussion more widely and asked Professor Mandy Fader, academic lead for the VC Recruitment project, and Mr Philip Greenish, Chair of Council, to make opening remarks.

Senate noted that there were three main priorities for Council:

- Following the right process
- Appointing the right candidate
- Appointing in a timely manner

It was noted that Odgers Berndtson (OB) were the executive search firm selected to help the university in finding its next Vice-Chancellor, and the lead partner leading the search had worked successfully with the university in the past.

The need for an interim Vice-Chancellor was raised and it was stated that the university would operate in accordance with its Ordinances, that stated that one of the Vice-Presidents shall act for the Vice-Chancellor during his or her absence or during a vacancy in that office.

Senate then noted the consultation process that would be used. OB would be visiting the University over multiple days and holding meetings with key stakeholders and drop-in sessions for staff and students in order to gain an understanding of the type of person the University wanted. The feedback from those meetings and sessions would then be distilled into a report for the Joint Committee to consider in conjunction with candidates sourced by OB.

Discussion then focussed upon the type of background the next Vice-Chancellor may come from. A private sector CEO, a leading academic and international candidates were all mentioned as potential candidates. One Senate member suggested that the current Vice-Presidents make their views known to the wider University about the attributes and skills they would see as important.

Senate made the suggestion that when the documentation for the role was produced, that it should be gender non-specific as far as possible, but where a pronoun was to be used, that it be ordered "She/he".

Sir Christopher then retook the chair.

One Senate member suggested that this process had been rushed and it had felt similar to other processes that had been rushed in the recent past such as the faculty restructure. The Vice-Chancellor replied that the faculty restructure took over 9 months to implement from its announcement and Senate had been fully involved at every stage, and throughout the consultation, especially in the 5 months between the proposal and the final approval by Senate and Council. It was reiterated that at every Senate meeting members were encouraged to ask questions and debate matters.

Several members of Senate raised the issue of seeking consent via email. Many suggested that accepting silence as consent was not appropriate and could be argued that Senate members were not fully engaging with their responsibility. It was further suggested that silence could mean that Senate members had not seen the email and therefore had not known about the decision at all. The Vice-Chancellor sought to reassure Senate, that although the only recent use of email had been in relation to the Joint Committee, that all future major decisions would not be done in this way again and Extraordinary Senate meetings would be used to consider urgent and major matters.

## 9 **Doctoral College Board**

Senate considered a report by the Director of the Doctoral College, which provided an update on the work of the Doctoral College.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 10 **Chair's Actions**

Senate noted the Chair's Actions that had been taken regarding the following matters:

- (i) On 25 September, the Chair took action to approve the final PhD award on behalf of Chichester University.
- (ii) On 21 August, the Chair took action to approve the appointment of Professor Philippa Reed to the University Nominations Committee.
- (iii) On 23 July, the Chair took action to approve amendments to the Admissions Regulations and Complaints procedure.
- (iv) On 19 July, the Chair took action to approve the penultimate PhD award on behalf of Chichester University.
- (v) On 2 July, the Chair took action to approve changes to the Student Discipline Regulations. The proposed changes consisted of:
  - 1. minor alterations to reflect the change in relevant job titles e.g. Vice Chancellor is changed to President and Vice Chancellor;
  - 2. rationalisation of the appeals policy in Section A;
  - 3. an addition of an appeals process to Section B.

## 11 **Ethics Policy on Cultural Heritage**

Senate received a report from Research Integrity which set out the new ethic policy on Cultural Heritage.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 12 **University Ordinances – Minor Amendments**

Senate received a report by the Clerk to the University Council and Senate which set out minor amendments to the ordinances for endorsement prior to approval by Council.

Some further minor errors were noted.

**RESOLVED** that the report be endorsed for submission to Council.

13 **Date of the next Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the dates of future Senate meetings be noted:

13 February 2019

19 June 2019

**RESTRICTED ITEMS**

Senate then moved to the restricted items on the agenda and the Student representatives left the meeting.

14 **Recommendations for the Conferment of the Title of Emeritus Professor**

**RESOLVED** that the report be approved.

15 **Honorary Degree Recommendations**

**RESOLVED** that the report be approved.

**The meeting concluded at 4.17pm**