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Minutes

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| **Meeting title:** | Senate | | |
| **Date:** | Wednesday 20 November 2019 | **Time:** | 2.15pm |
| **Location:** | The Senate Room, George Thomas Building, Highfield Campus | | |
| **Present:** | President & Vice-Chancellor – Professor M. E. Smith  Vice-President (Education) – Professor A Neill  Vice-President (Research & Enterprise) – Professor M Spearing  Mr M Allerton, Dr D Altamirano, Professor J Anderson, Ms C Atkins, Professor A Barney, Dr M Beigi, Professor G Brambrilla, Dr L Brown, Dr J Cheer, Ms N Clarkson, Professor K Donnelly, Dr J Downes, Mr I Dunn, Professor S Ennis, Professor J Falkingham, Dr S Fielding, Mr C Hanley, Dr S Hoenig, Dr C Holmes, Professor C Howls, Ms J Kelly, Professor A Kemp, Dr K Kendall, Dr E Kitson-Reynolds, Ms A Krishnan, Dr D Lambrick, Professor G J Langley, Professor P Lewin, Ms J Lisney, Dr C Mafra, Ms K Matthews, Dr M Mavrogordato, Professor R Mills, Dr M Morrison, Dr M Ng, Professor Niranjan, Dr B Oliver, Ms A O’Neil, Professor F Pierron, Dr E Plum, Dr J Price, Dr Silke Roth, Dr Radan Slavik, Professor Fraser Sturt, Dr R Wagland, Dr D M Walker, Professor D Wheatley. | | |
| **In attendance** | Mr L Abraham - Clerk to the University Council and Senate | | |

1 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed.

**2 Actions and Matters Arising**

The President & Vice-Chancellor reminded Senate that following a request from the last meeting, the University strategic risk register had been circulated confidentially for information.

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

Senate received a report which set out the primary responsibilities, standing orders and membership for Senate for 2019/20. Some minor amendments to membership were noted.

Senate also noted that the President & Vice-Chancellor would be instigating an effectiveness review of Senate over the coming months. This review would join the existing work already undertaken on terms or reference and membership. **ACTION: Effectiveness Review Group**

4 **President and Vice Chancellor’s Report**

Senate received a verbal update from the President & Vice-Chancellor.

The President & Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following:

* Current situation in Hong Kong and Southampton’s work to repatriate all staff and students from the region;
* The forthcoming General Election and steps taken by the University and SUSU to ensure students were registered to vote;
* Human Rights/Harassment – a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee was to be formed;
* Forthcoming industrial action
* Opening of the Centenary Building
* VC Awards Ceremony
* Preparations for the REF
* Recently published league table results – it was noted that non-continuation rates at Southampton had increased slightly and required improvement.

As no written report was presented, Senate was asked to feedback to the President & Vice-Chancellor offline any feedback on the new style of verbal reporting.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

5 **Students’ Union Report**

Senate considered the latest report from the President of the Students’ Union.

In the absence of the President, the report was presented by the SUSU Vice-President (Education and Democracy).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

6 **Senate Question Time**

One Senate member asked for an update on a previous question asked regarding the potential installation of a PA system and electronic voting system in the Senate Room.

The Vice-President (Education) replied that various options were available and these would be analysed as part of the forthcoming Senate Effectiveness Review. **ACTION: Effectiveness Review Group**

7 **Amendment to the Charter and Ordinances**

Senate considered a report by the Clerk to the University Council & Senate, which presented for endorsement some minor changes to the University Charter and Ordinances which would then be presented to Council for final approval.

Senate noted the need for additional Pro Chancellors and the SUSU Vice-President asked how the student voice was incorporated into finding Pro Chancellor candidates. The Vice-Chancellor replied that the Nominations Committee held the responsibility for sourcing and recommending candidates and that student input was vital. The Vice-Chancellor undertook to raise this at the next meeting of the Nominations Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed amendments to the Charter and Ordinances be endorsed.

8 **Annual Academic Assurance**

Senate considered a report by the Academic Registrar, which presented 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.

9 **Policy for Involving Animals in Research and Education**

Senate considered a report from the Research Integrity Officer which set out for information the new ‘Policy for Involving Animals in Research and Education’.

**RESOLVED** that the policy be noted and Senate members disseminate the policy as appropriate.

10 **Research Metrics Policy**

Senate considered a report which set out the new Research Metrics Policy. Senate members noted that it was vital that academic colleagues adopted the policy and that guidance was issued for avoiding unconscious bias with regard to employment and promotion purposes. Numerical data was helpful but it was recognised that this was not the only measure of staff performance. League tables were favoured but it was further noted that the nature and quality of the institution was also important.

**RESOLVED** that

(i) the University of Southampton becomes a signatory of DORA; and

(ii) the Responsible Research Metrics Policy be approved.

11 **Review of Education Governance**

Senate considered a report by the Vice President (Education) which provided an update on the continuing Education Governance Review.

Senate previously agreed that a review of the new education governance structure, its implementation and its alignment with the overall University governance structure should be undertaken during the academic year, with recommendations submitted to Senate for implementation in AY19/20.

The interim report provided updates to the terms of reference and membership for the education governance committees and subcommittees for AY19/20, updates to the Delegated Powers of Senate, and details of education governance matters which would be further reviewed with a final report submitted to AQSC and Senate by June 2020.

It was agreed that the review should contain an update on the validations process. **ACTION: VP (Education)/Academic Registrar**

**RESOLVED** that

(i) the report be noted; and

(ii) the interim revised education governance committees and subcommittees terms of reference and membership for AY19/20 be approved.

12 **OfS Conditions of Ongoing Registration**

Senate considered a report by the Vice-President (Education) which outlined the University’s compliance with the Office for Students (OfS) ongoing conditions of registration, for which Council were responsible. It provided details of the actions taken by the University to satisfy the ongoing conditions for academic year 2018/19 (transition year), as well as the actions taken in preparation for and those to be taken during AY19/20.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

13 **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.

14 **Chair’s Actions**

The following chair’s actions were noted:

(i) 30th Sept 2019 - Posthumous award of Postgraduate Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Anxiety & Depression (IAPT) to Natalie Welfare (24311618)

(ii) 5th September 2019 - In year change to the University Calendar - Regulations for the Organisation and Conduct of Examination

(iii) 12th August 2019 - That the title and status of Professor of Magnetic Resonance, University of Southampton be conferred upon Professor Mark E. Smith from 1st October 2019.

(iv) 26th July 2019 – Minor amendments to Pre-Sessional Regulations.

(v) 25th July 2019 – Minor amendment to University Regulations: Student Discipline.

(vi) 24th July 2019 – Endorsement of Head of School appointment for Salim Khakoo, Faculty of Medicine.

(vii) 5th July 2019 - Regulations for Research Degrees/Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature & Supervision: further revision for 2019/20 – Chair’s Action approved by Professor Mark Spearing as Professor Neill had approved as Chair of AQSC.

15 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 12th February 2020.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

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

16 **Equality and Diversity in ERE Promotion Round**

Senate considered a report by the Chair of the Academic Promotions Advisory Group which provided a summary of application rates, success rates and interview training uptake by gender and ethnicity in the 2018/19 ERE promotion round.

Senate asked that all protected characteristics be included in such future reports. It was noted that encouraging women to apply for promotion required removal of subtle barriers, cultural changes and better training for current line managers.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

17 **ERE Applications to Move Career Pathway**

**RESOLVED** that the applications be approved.

18 **Recommendations for the Conferment of the Title of Emeritus Professor and Fellows**

**RESOLVED** that the report be endorsed for Council approval.

19 **Honorary Degree Recommendations**

Senate considered a report from the Honorary Degrees Advisory Group which presented the proposed recipients of honorary degrees for 2020. For one candidate there was significant discussion with a range of views for and against. It was agreed to hold a vote to agree the inclusion of that candidate which resulted in:

9 in favour

11 against

23 abstentions

That candidate was therefore not taken forward.

**RESOLVED** that the amended list be endorsed for Council approval.

**The meeting concluded at 4.10pm**