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Minutes

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| **Meeting title:** | Senate | | |
| **Date:** | Friday 13th May 2022 | **Time:** | 3.00pm |
| **Location:** | Via Microsoft Teams | | |
| **Present:** | President & Vice-Chancellor  Senior Vice-President (Academic)  Vice-President (Education and Student Experience)  Vice-President (Research & Enterprise)  Vice-President (International)  Vice-President (Operations)  Dean of the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences (Interim)  Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences  Dean of Engineering and Physical Sciences  Executive Director of Student Experience & Campus Life  Academic Registrar  Director of the Doctoral College  Dr N Alwan, Ms E Atayee-Bennett, Professor Y Baruch, Professor J Brodzki, Dr V Cardo, Mr R Cartwright, Ms N Clarkson, Dr A G Dunn, Dr S Fielding, Dr S Ganapathy, Dr J Gates, Dr P Greulich, Professor G Griffiths, Dr I Haigh, Professor J Holloway, Dr C Jackson, Professor A Kanaras, Dr E Kitson-Reynolds, Professor J Langley, Mr D Lurcock, Professor B Lwaleed, Mr B Malas, Mr Pascal Matthias, Dr S Morton, Professor Niranjan, Professor V O’Connor, Mr L Pearman, Dr S Roth, Dr J Shepherd, Mr R-N Varodaria, Dr K Vithana, Dr E Wilkinson, Dr S Wilks | | |
| **In attendance** | Mr L Abraham - Clerk to the University Council and Senate, University Secretary and General Council, Executive Director of Engagement and Advancement, Ms G Miller. | | |

**36 Welcome**

Professor Deborah Gill and Dr Jon Shepherd were welcomed to their first Senate meeting.

**37 Modernising the Governance – Update and Consultation Report**

Senate considered a report by the Vice-President (Operations) which presented an update on the progress of the Modernising the Governance project following the update delivered on 12 February 2022 and to present proposals for consultation.

The Vice-President presented an amended University Charter which attempted to future-proof the University by moving aspects which were likely to be changed as the University operated and evolved into Ordinance, thus removing the requirement to seek approval from Privy Council. Keeping the content of the Charter at a high level would mean that changes to it would seldom be required.

In addition, the report proposed that the University Statutes would be deleted altogether. It was noted that a previous review had removed a large amount of the content and the Statutes that remained were largely “sign-posting” the reader to other documents, such as the Ordinances. Senate was reminded that changes to the Statutes also required approval from the Privy Council while changes to the Ordinances were approved by the University Council only. Together, these changes would, in effect, remove the need to obtain Privy Council approval and thus offer the University a great deal of agility within its constitutional documents. While future changes to the University Ordinances were expected to occur from time to time and approved by the University Council, changes to the Charter would be exceptional.

It was stated that these changes aimed to cut bureaucracy and provide opportunity for the University to streamline its procedures, including staffing matters. Consultation on the proposals was being carried out with trade unions.

The procedure for approving the new revised Charter and deletion of the Statutes, involving the University Council and Privy Council, was then clarified.

Senate then raised the following points:

* The use of the term “academic matters” was used to describe such times as when Senate would be consulted on future changes to both the Charter and the Ordinances. The definition of “academic matters” was sought together with clarification on the person or body that would regulate and amend the content of “academic matters”.
* Would the term cover enterprise?
* The use of the term could be perceived as pushing the academic activity of the University to the periphery.

It was clear that clear and agreed definition and use of the term “academic matters” was required in order for Senate to clearly understand when its views would be sought. A working group was proposed to examine the definition and to provide examples of such matters to use as a precedent in any future discussions. With that undertaking having been proposed and accepted by Senate, no further queries or questions were raised on the new revised Charter. **ACTION: Vice President (Operations)/Clerk**

**RESOLVED** that the issues raised by Senate (namely the definition of the term “academic matters”) be communicated to the University Council when it considers the approval of the new revised Charter.

**The meeting concluded at 3.56pm**