

CONFIRMED

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 16 April 2025

Present: Pete Edwards (Chair), David Anderson, Nick Forsyth, Jo-Anne Murray, Miles Rothoerl, Patience Schell, Diane Skatun, Scott Styles, Steve Tucker, with Rachael Bernard (Clerk) in attendance

Apologies: Scott Allan, Richard Hepworth-Young, Samantha Waters

625 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting noting that he was deputising for Karl who was currently off sick.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2025

626.1 The Committee approved the minutes subject to an amendment to 622.4 to ensure it was clear that the important issue was that minutes and papers were made available, as well as being searchable. **Action Clerk**

Senate Action Log

627.1 The Committee commented that following the March meeting of Senate it had been expected that the remit and composition of the working group to look at the relationship between PMC/QAC would be circulated very soon after the Senate meeting (Action 9). It was queried why this had not yet occurred.

627.2 It was noted that the update on the action, in the version of the Action Log included for the meeting, had been provided by the Secretary, who had sent apologies for the current meeting as she was unwell. In her absence, nothing further was known about reasons for the delay.

627.3 For Action 4, members highlighted that there had been an expectation that the response from MLTI to the Gordon Report would have been included on the agenda for Senate in May and also queried why action 5 was marked as complete when the programmes were still paused.

627.4 In terms of the MLTI response it was noted that this was still subject to discussions but that preparations for circulation were underway. It was clarified that action 5 was complete, as the action had only related to providing information to an individual and that had been completed.

627.5 In terms of Action 11, the fact that the composition of the Panel for recruitment of the new Principal had not be publicised and the reasons behind this was challenged. It was confirmed that there had been delays completing the process to confirm the membership and that these had been reported to SMT. This was confirmed by a member of the Committee who, as a Senate Assessor, was also a member of the recruitment Panel.

Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate of 7 May 2025

- 628.1 The Committee discussed the circulated draft agenda for Senate in May, noting that two motions had been received for the meeting. It was agreed that these should be included early on the agenda to ensure that discussion was as productive as possible.
- 628.2 In discussing the ordering of agenda items, it was agreed that draft timings should in the future again be included on the draft agenda to aid discussions. In addition to noting the anticipated timings of items on the circulated draft, the Committee noted that there would also be two items from QAC. There would be a further draft Resolution for degree regulations which would include regulations required for the beginning of the new academic year. In addition, the Dean for Quality Assurance & Enhancement would update Senate on the forthcoming quality review processes which the University would be required to undertake in session 2025/26.
- 628.3 The Committee stressed the need to ensure that the degree regulations were positioned early enough on the agenda to ensure that they were covered in a timely way.
- 628.4 With regard to the Motion received on Ethical Procurement, it was agreed that it would be useful for the papers to include a context paper from Procurement to clarify the position and legal constraints around the current policies and compliance requirements. It was noted that even if Procurement processes were not strictly part of the remit of Senate, it would still be legitimate for Senate to express a view. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the Motion to Procurement/Finance for a response, and a position regarding the current policy.
- 628.5 As noted earlier in the meeting, the Committee concluded that the motions should be considered early on the agenda. Normal practise would be for the motions to be taken immediately after the Principal's update. Once it had been possible for further consultation with the Secretary, Finance and others involved in ongoing matters, it was agreed that an updated Agenda would be circulated to the Committee before papers were circulated to all members of Senate on 23 April. In addition, if there were further updates to the Action Log before it was issued to Senate these would also be drawn to the Committee's attention.

Action Clerk

Senate Election Outcomes March 2025

- 629.1 The Committee noted the outcomes from the recent by-elections held to fill ongoing vacancies on Senate.

Dates of meetings in 2025/26

- 630.1 The Committee noted the dates of the meetings scheduled for 2025/26.