

CONFIRMED

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 23 September 2025

Present: Nick Forsyth (Chair), Scott Allan, David Anderson, Richard Hepworth-Young, Jo-Anne Murray, Patience Schell, Samuel Seymour, Diane Skatun, Scott Styles, Hulda Sveinsdottir, Steve Tucker with Rachael Bernard (Clerk) in attendance

Apologies: Pete Edwards

633 The Chair welcomed members, noting that he was standing in for Pete who was currently on annual leave.

Approval of the minutes of the meetings held on 16 April and 9 June 2025

634.1 The Committee approved the minutes from 16 April and 9 June.

Remit and Composition

635.1 Noting the ongoing problems of ensuring diversity in the membership, the Committee approved the remit and composition. Members were encouraged to give thought to actions that might be taken to improve diversity amongst members.

Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 15 October 2025

636.1 Ahead of discussion of the Agenda for the October meeting of Senate, the Committee sought clarification of the reasons for the additional meeting of Senate, scheduled for 29 September, having been removed from the diary.

636.2 It was confirmed that the timeline for the partnership in Greece, which had been the topic for the at the additional meeting, had relaxed slightly leading to the additional meeting no longer being required. It was felt that including discussions of the partnership might be undertaken more efficiently at the October meeting.

636.3 It was confirmed that the agenda item for the arrangements in Greece would be further subdivided subitems before papers were released for the meeting, with more detail being provided. **Action: Clerk**

636.4 It was agreed that the time available for this item should be extended. It was noted that it would include a short presentation from the Vice-Principal (Global Engagement). **Action: Clerk**

636.5 It was highlighted a Q&A document would be included in the papers for Senate to help ensure the meeting did not have to include discussion of items discussed already at the informal meeting held earlier in September. **Action: Sec**

- 636.6 It was noted that inclusion of the Q&A document might permit Senate's approval for the arrangements to be given in October, noting, however, if an additional meeting was required this would be arranged before papers were needed for Court in December.
- 637.7 The Committee noted that the items for research would include the Code of Practice and that this would be included for the second time at the December meeting. It was highlighted that although recent pause in the REF cycle has been announced the requirement of have the Code of Practice approved for submission in February had not altered.
- 638.8 It was noted that the SUMS Report was an external consultancy's report on their review of governance efficiency within the University. This item was noted to include a presentation from the Consultants and that it was anticipated that this report would form the backbone for the Leadership & Governance strand of the forthcoming Adapting for Continuing Success (ACS) programme. More background to the item would be provided when papers were circulated for the meeting. *Action: Sec/Clerk*
- 639.9 It was agreed that the results from the Senate Survey should be considered by Senate alongside the SUMS Report as there was the potential for overlap within the two. It was agreed that the possibility of sharing a redacted form of the comments from the Survey with SUMS should be explored. *Action: Sec/Clerk*

Item for possible inclusion at Senate meeting in October

- 640.1 The Committee agreed that the motion submitted in connection with the search for a new Principal should be included on the agenda for Senate.
- 640.2 It was further agreed that the motion should be returned to the originators with the request that the dates in the motion should be clarified to make it clear which recruitment round was being referred to. In this context the Committee noted that by the time Senate met in October it was anticipated that the interviews for the fixed-term internal appointment would have occurred.
- 640.3 The Committee agreed that the Motion should be included on the agenda either after the Principal's update or at the beginning of the second part of the meeting. *Action: Clerk*

Senate Survey Outcomes 2025

- 641.4 See 639.9 above.

Schedule of Business for Senate 2025/26

- 642.1 It was noted that the Schedule did not yet include any Education items. The Committee agreed that these should be added and the Schedule recirculated for final approval once these were added. *Action: VPED/Clerk*

- 642.2 It was agreed that a further update on the Adapting for Continued Success Project (ACS) should be added to the December meeting due to the scale and required pace of the project. *Action: SVP/Clerk*

Senate Elections

- 643.1 The Committee approved the dates for the Senate byelections to fill outstanding vacancies

Postgraduate Research Officers

- 644.1 On the recommendation of the Postgraduate Research School the Committee approved the appointment of Postgraduate Research Officers, as below:
Dr Laurent Trembleau, School of Natural and Computing Sciences
Professor Jie Wu, Business School

Dates of meetings in 2025/26

- 645.1 The Committee noted the dates of meetings to be held in 2024/25:
Clerk's note: these were subsequently amended as indicated below:

Committee dates for 2025/26 are as follows:

- ~~19 November 2025~~ 25 November 2025
- 14 January 2026
- 26 February 2026
- 22 April 2026

Dates for Senate 2024/25:

- 15 October 2025
- ~~10 December 2025~~ 16 December 2025
- 14 February 2026
- 18 March 2026
- 13 May 2025