SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting of 17 May 2017

Present: Professor J Kilburn (Convener), Professor N Hutchison, Mr L Fuller Professor K Friedrich, C Kee, K Shennan, Dr D Maccallum, Dr J Lamb, Dr D Lusseau, Dr M Mills, Dr M Da Silva Baptista, Professor M Kashtalyan, Professor H Hutchison, and Dr R Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C Inglis, Mr C Anucha, Professors S Heys, P McGeorge, B MacGregor, J Masthoff, Drs J Lamb, D Maccallum, N Oren

377. Minutes

377.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2017.

375. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 7 June 2017

375.1 The Committee considered and approved the draft Senate Agenda for the meeting on 7 June 2017. In reviewing the draft agenda, the following main points of discussion were noted:

- The Committee noted that, in addition to the agenda as included in the papers, two questions for the Principal had been received. These related to the booking of teaching rooms for research purposes and a request to publish the Senate Business Committee (SBC) minutes. A response regarding the room booking question had been supplied and it had been agreed that the SBC minutes would in future be published on the website. These responses were sufficient that both questions had been withdrawn.

- In considering the motion proposed regarding the establishment of overseas campuses, the Committee noted that the current process had only recently been approved by Senate (January 2017) and that to establish a working group would be outside the procedure which had created the process. It was further noted that the removal of Colleges from the University structure would result in the role of Schools being more central to any future discussions. The Committee were of the view that it should be acknowledged that issues exist with the process and that further discussion was needed, but that the suggestion to Dr Rist should be that the appropriate route for discussions would be to remit the issues to the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) in the first instance. The Committee agreed this suggestion should be put to Dr Rist.  

  Action: Clerk

- The Committee discussed the motion proposed by Mr Styles and noted that the proposed wording regarding ensuring a gender balance may not be entirely appropriate. The Committee agreed that the view of the Athena Swan Group should be sought.

  Action: Clerk

- The Committee further noted that Mr Styles had submitted an additional motion seeking to ensure that Senate meetings were always scheduled for Wednesday afternoons. The reasoning behind the need for the meeting in April
to once again be scheduled on a Monday (the timing of paper circulation, University vacation dates, and the dates of prior and subsequent Senate meetings) had been supplied to Mr Styles and he had subsequently withdrawn the motion.

- The Committee noted that the paper on offer making to rUK students had been discussed widely within the Institution. It was agreed that ‘rUK’ should be added to the paper’s title to ensure clarity regarding the target cohort.

376. Senate Working Group on Policies and Procedures following removal of Colleges from the management structure

376.1 Following discussions at Senate in April, Senate members had volunteered to participate in a working group to review policies and procedures impacted by the removal of Colleges from the University’s management structure. Nine Senators volunteered: Professors R Wells, E Pavloskia, H Hutchison, A Jenkinson, C Kee, D Jovcic, M Brown, D Anderson and Ms A-M Slater. The Group will be Convened by the University secretary and will also include Professors P McGeorge and M Ross with Ms D Dyker and Dr R Bernard.

377. Dates of meetings in 2016/17

377.1 The Committee noted the next date of the meetings to be held in 2017/18.

- Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 2.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 2.00 p.m.
- Thursday 1 February 2018 at 2.00 p.m.
- Thursday 29 March 2018 at 2.00 p.m.
- Thursday 26 April 2018 at 2.00 p.m.