

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 5 September 2018

Present: Professor P Hannaford (Convener), Mrs C Inglis, Mr L Ogubie, Mrs D Connolly, Professor P McGeorge, Professor M Campbell, Professor D Lusseau, Professor A Jenkinson, Professor C Kee, Professor J Schaper, Mr S Styles, Mrs L Tibbets, Professor N Vargesson, Dr D Watts and Dr R Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor K Shennan, Professor G Nixon, Dr D Maccallum, Dr H Martin

419. Minutes

419.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2018.

420. Remit and Membership

420.1 In noting the Committee's remit and composition for the forthcoming academic year, the Committee confirmed that they were content that Professor Delibegovic and Dr Shanks should attend meetings as the Senate Assessor attending Operating Board on a 'job-share' basis.

Action: Clerk

421. Composition of Senate 2018

421.1 The Committee discussed and noted the current membership of Senate. The Committee noted that, following the elections held in June, ten vacancies for elected members remained. It was, therefore, agreed that an additional election for Senate members should be held at the start of the year, with a view to these vacancies being filled for the forthcoming academic year.

421.2 It was agreed that for subsequent Senate elections, changes in the elections process should be made as follows:

The list of names on the voting papers should be randomised

Candidates should be asked to supply a short (100 word) biography to accompany the ballot papers.

That the election rules should be considered at a future meeting of the Committee with a view to making updates as appropriate.

Action: Clerk

421.3 The Committee noted that the recent changes to the structure of the Vice-Principal roles had changed the ratio of *ex-officio* to elected members of Senate slightly, but that this change had not resulted in the membership changing in such a way that there was an issue in terms of the requirements of the HE Governance (Scotland) Act. It was agreed that the paper on the Composition of Senate should be included for information at the full meeting of Senate.

Action: Clerk

421.4 The Committee further noted that, following a further call for volunteers from amongst the elected members to serve on the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC) which had resulted in several male volunteers no expressions of interest had been received from female elected

members. The Committee noted that, in order to maintain a gender balance among the 12 elected members the membership required four of the five current vacancies to be filled by women. It was therefore agreed that there should be a further call for volunteers, following which the Committee would decide the HDC membership.

Action: Clerk

422. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 10 October 2018

422.1 The Committee discussed the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Senate.

422.2 It was noted that the item on the REF update would need to be considered early in the meeting as Professor Campbell needed to leave the meeting in order to catch a flight to London. It was agreed that this item should be taken following the Principal's statement

423. Review of the Operation of Senate in 2017/18

423.1 It was noted that there had not been a strict enforcement of the Standing Orders during previous meetings. It was agreed that there was a fine balance between Standing Order enforcement and ensuring free flow of debate in the meeting. It was agreed that the principles of the Standing Orders should be emphasised as part of the induction for new members of Senate.

Action: SVP

423.2 The Committee commented that there was a lack of clarity on the membership of the various Senate Sub-Committee. It was agreed that it would be helpful if links to memberships could be included from the website.

Action: Clerk

423.3 It was noted that the timings of discussions at Senate remained a challenge. As part of discussion the Committee noted that part of the role of SBC is to determine the agenda for Senate and, as such, SBC should be taking the proposed length of the agenda into account. It was noted that this is something which would be discussed with the Principal in advance of him chairing his first meeting of Senate.

Action: SVP, Clerk

423. Major Topics for Discussion in 2018/19

423.1 it was noted that there had already been suggestion that a financial update and an item on the contest of the external environment should be included. Other suggestions also included:

Student Population update

The new Strategic Plan and subsequent planning for 2019/20

Discussion of any internal reorganisations required as a result of reshaping of schools

The changing research environment and the University needs to position itself and associated structures.

424. Dates of meetings in 2017/18

424.1 The Committee noted that the next meetings in 2018/19 had been scheduled as follows:

Wednesday 7 November 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in Committee Room 2

Wednesday 9 January 2019 at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 2

Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 2

Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in Committee Room 2