

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Senate Business Committee will be held at **11.05 a.m. on Wednesday 11 November 2020** via Teams.

Rachael Bernard
Academic Registrar
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AGENDA

FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020** **SBC20-21:05**
2. **Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 2 December 2020** **SBC20-21:06**
3. **Effectiveness Review Update** **Oral item**
Work to Date

The review commenced in October 2019 with the Group meeting on four occasions prior to work being paused in March 2020.

Initial Group discussions centred on the outcomes of the effectiveness review undertaken in 2015 and the results of subsequent annual surveys of Senate members.

Ultimately, the Group had formulated a questionnaire which had been intended to be circulated to all staff, but this was paused with the move off campus.

Groupings for a series of focus groups had also been identified, and volunteer staff to join the various cohorts had been sought.

4. **Gifford Lecture Committee Chair**

Provision exists for a series of lectures to be held at each of the four ancient universities of Scotland (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews) on the topic of Natural Theology. Since their inception, the Gifford Lectures have become the foremost intellectual event in the matter of religion. The Lectures are overseen, on behalf of the University, by the Gifford Lecture Committee. Following the decision of Phil Ziegler to step down as chair and a member of the Gifford Lecture Committee, the Committee are invited to discuss a possible replacement. The current membership is:

- Phil Ziegler (Chair)
- Robert Segal
- Paul Nimmo
- Anne Ludbrook (now emeritus but happy to continue)
- Grant Macaskill
- George Coghill (may be retiring in January 2021)
- Alison Avenell
- Beth Lord
- Heather Wallace
- Kevin Edwards
- Duncan Heddle

5. Nomination of Postgraduate Research Officer

PGR School Officers have authority delegated via Senate to approve PGR requests for official amendments to degree programmes. This includes request such as: off-campus study; change to full-time or part-time study transfer of degree; extension of the write up period; suspension of supervised study.

The Committee are invited to approve a change to the nominated PGR School Officer for Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture:

Suk Jun Kim to replace Andrew Gordon

6. Dates of meetings in 2020/21

The Committee is invited to note the dates of the meetings to be held in 2020/21:

- Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 2 p.m.
- Thursday 18 February 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**Minutes of the meeting of 23 September 2020**

Present: Karl Leydecker (Chair), Ondrej Kucerak, Ruth Taylor, Kirsty Kiezebrink, Alfred Akisanya, Helen Martin, Scott Styles, Iain McEwan, Neil Vargesson and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Steve Cannon, Kath Shennan, Abbe Brown, Graeme Nixon, Amy Bryzgel, Allan Sim and Michelle Pinard

476. Minutes

476.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2020. It was noted that, going forward, all references to 'non- ex officio' elections would be replaced with 'elected members'

477. Remit and Membership

477.1 It was noted that there had been changes in organisation within AUSA and that the Student President's involvement with the Committee was being taken over by the Vice-President Education.

Action: Clerk

477.2 The issue of Committee members being absent for significant periods time was raised. Following discussion, it was agreed that these cases should continue to be considered on a case by case basis.

478. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 21 October 2020

478.1 In approving the draft agenda for Senate, the Committee noted that:

- The Governance review would be recommending the re-commencement of the Senate Effectiveness Review, as there is significant interaction between the two processes;
- The paper on International Partnerships would include updates on both phase one of the Qatar project and progress with phase two;
- The Committee agreed that plans for the delivery of blended teaching in the second half-session, to be submitted by UCTL, should be included on the agenda for discussion, with further updates from the Committee remaining for information. The Committee noted that the report for information from UCTL, could be brought up for discussion also if requested.

479. Review of the Operation of the Senate in 2019/20 & Re-commencing Effectiveness Review

479.1 As noted above (478.1) the Committee discussed recommencing the paused Effectiveness Review and agreed that, with Senate's approval, this should be taken forward.

479.2 In reflecting on the operation of Senate during 2019/20, the Committee discussed the merits of continuing with an online meeting format even when a return to campus does

become possible. The importance of being able to include participation from Qatar had already been recognised by the Principal. It was noted that the ability to participate in this way was leading to more people attending, and the 'chat' facility was creating opportunities for enhanced engagement. In this regard, the Committee were reminded that the chat did not form part of the formal minute but noted that it was generally positive to see that members were often answering each other's queries within the chat. It was agreed that the Principal should be briefed to remind members that, and include opportunities for, questions to be asked verbally to ensure inclusion in the minute. It was noted that the item for 'questions to the Principal' had been omitted from the draft agenda and that this should be included in the final version.

Action: Clerk

480. Senate Election Autumn 2020

480.1 The Committee noted that a significant number of Senate members' terms of office conclude on 30 September 2020. Although the election conducted during the summer (see 481 below) had filled the majority of vacancies, some were still outstanding. In order to ensure full representation at Senate, it was agreed to recommend to Senate that a further election be held to fill these vacancies.

481. Senate Elections

481.1 The Committee noted the outcome of the Senate elections conducted at the end of last academic year as detailed below:

The following have been elected to serve on the Senatus Academicus from 01 October 2020 until 30 September 2024 (except where indicated otherwise)

Business School

Cheryl Dowie
Thereza Raquel Sales de Aguiar

School of Divinity, History Philosophy

Joachim Schaper

School of Education

Mary Stephen
Yvonne Bain

School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture

Amy Bryzgel
Tom Rist

School of Law

Zeray Yihdego

School of Social Science

Andrew McKinnon

School of Biological Sciences

Isla Graham

School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition

Wenlong Huang (until 2022)

Samantha Miller

Chantal den Daas

Diane Dixon

Alasdair MacKenzie

Pietro Marini

Kathryn Martin

Aravinda Meera Gunupalli

Mintu Nath

Neil Vargesson

Shantini Paranjothy

Bettina Platt

Valerie Speirs

Gareth Jones

Dawn Thompson

Delma Childers

School of Engineering

Dragan Jovicic

Ekaterina Pavolvskaia

Russell McKenna

School of Geosciences

Alex Brasier

Rebecca Crozier

School of Natural & Computing Sciences

Matthew Collinson

Georgios Leontidis

482. Concluding memberships

482.1 The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for Alfred, Helen and Michelle as members of the Committee. The Committee recorded their thanks for the valuable contributions made by these members through out their time as Committee members.

483. Dates of meetings in 2020/21

483.1 The Committee noted the dates of the meetings to be held in 2020/21:

- Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 3.00 p.m.
- Monday 14 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m.
- Thursday 18 February 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

**SENATUS ACADEMICUS
Wednesday 2 December 2020**

The next meeting of the Senate will be held on **Wednesday 2 December 2020** at **1.00 p.m.** via **Microsoft Teams**.

Staff and student members of the University are welcome to attend meetings of the Senate as observers. Those wishing to do so are asked to respect the formal nature of the proceedings and the understanding that no intervention or lobbying will be permitted from non-members who may be invited to leave when items of confidential business are to be considered. Non-members wishing to attend are asked to notify academicservices@abdn.ac.uk by 11am Wednesday 2 December.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
- 2a. Approval of Minutes of 21 October 2020
- 2b. Approval of Minutes of Additional Senate Meetings:
25 August 2020
14 September 2020
9 October 2020
3. Update from Principal
4. Report from the University Court

Items for Discussion to Provide an Academic View

5. UUK foreign risks consultation
6. League Table Overview

Items for Discussion and Approval

7. Education Committee Structure
8. Penalties for the Late Submission of Work

Any Other Items for Discussion

9. Opportunity for Senate members to raise any other items of academic interest for discussion.

Items for Routine Approval or Information**10. Items for Routine Approval**

- 10.1 Report from the University Committee on Teaching & Learning

11. Items for Information

- 11.1 Report from the University Committee on Teaching & Learning
- 11.2 REF Update
- 11.3 Senate Election Outcome

Notes

Formal Business and Questions for the Principal

Any member of Senate wishing an item for routine approval or for information to be brought forward for discussion or to propose an amendment to the Minutes of the last meeting or to put a question to the Principal on general matters is asked to email the Academic Registrar no later than by 5.00 p.m. on Monday 30 November 2020, indicating the reasons for their request.