

# SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Senate Business Committee will be held at **10.05 a.m. on Thursday 18 February 2021** via Teams.

Rachael Bernard  
Academic Registrar  
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## AGENDA

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021** **SBC20-21:10**
2. **Draft Agenda for the additional meeting of the Senate on 3 March 2021** **SBC20-21:11**
3. **Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 18 March 2021** **SBC20-21:12**
4. **Dates of meetings in 2020/21**

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

- Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 10.05 a.m.

**SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE****Minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2021**

*Present:* Karl Leydecker (Chair), Tracey Slaven, Javier González Cuervos, Ondrej Kucerak, Ruth Taylor, Kath Shennan, Marion Campbell, Abbe Brown, Kirsty Kiezebrink, Graeme Nixon, Cheryl Dowie, Georgios Leontidis, Scott Styles, Iain McEwan, Amy Bryzgel and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

*Apologies for absence were received from:* Allan Sim

**489. Minutes**

489.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2020.'

**490. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 3 February 2021**

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

- The presentation on Race Equality would be given by Ruth Taylor and Siladitya Bhattacharya. The presentation would provide an overview of work undertaken to date and would highlight the creation of a group to oversee work on decolonising the curriculum. The Committee agreed that it was important that Senate had clear sight of this work.
- It was also noted that the anticipated item on appeals and complaints, included on the draft agenda, would not be taken forward at this time. It was agreed that space should be left on the agenda for educational issues which would inevitably arise from discussions at UCTL. At the time of the meeting it was not clear what these would be; the educational context was fluid and responses to the new period of lockdown were still being formulated. The Committee agreed that the agenda should be adjusted to take account of educational issues as necessary.

**491. Effectiveness Review Update**

491.1 The Committee noted that Advance HE had been appointed as the replacement external facilitators for the Review.

491.2 It was agreed that Senate should be updated on the resumption of the Senate Effectiveness Review and how the key themes would articulate with the ongoing review of Governance more generally being undertaken on behalf of Court.

491.3 In the context of the Governance Review, it was noted that, following the Report on the first phase of the Review, the second phase would commence. This would involve an external facilitator.

**492. Rectorial Election**

492.1 The Committee approved that Ruth Taylor, Vice-Principal (Education) should be appointed as Returning Officer for the election.

492.2 The Committee agreed the process for determining Senate memberships of the Election Committee. Volunteer members for the Election Committee should be sought from amongst the elected members of Senate and, if necessary, an election would be held.

492.3 The Committee stressed the need to ensure appropriate diversity the membership of the Elections Committee.

**493. Nomination of Postgraduate Research Officer**

493.1 The Committee approved a change to the nominated PGR School Officer for Divinity, History and Philosophy:

Jackson Armstrong will be replaced by Paul Nimmo. Paul is currently on research leave so the role will be undertaken by Brian Brock until Paul's return.

**494. Dates of meetings in 2020/21**

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

- Thursday 18 February 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

**SENATUS ACADEMICUS**  
**Wednesday 3 March 2021**

The next meeting of the Senate will be held on **Wednesday 3 March 2021** at **2.00 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](mailto:academicservices@abdn.ac.uk) by 11am Wednesday 3 March.

**Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda

**Item for Discussion to Provide an Academic View**

2. Protection from Disadvantage: Comprehensive Measures for Fair and Consistent Assessment in the Context of Covid-19

## UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

**SENATUS ACADEMICUS**  
**Wednesday 17 March 2021**

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**Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of 3 February 2021
3. Update from Principal
4. Report from Court
5. Report on Final REF Submission

**Item for Discussion and Approval**

6. Protection from Disadvantage: Comprehensive Measures for Fair and Consistent Assessment in the Context of Covid-19

**Item for Discussion to Provide an Academic View**

7. Research Culture – Presentation by Gary MacFarlane, Dean of Research

**Any Other Items for Discussion**

8. Opportunity for Senate members to raise questions for the Principal any other items of academic interest for discussion (*see notes below*).

**Items for Routine Approval**

9. **Items for Routine Approval**
  - 9.1

## Items for Information

### 10. Items for Information

#### 10.1

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 15 March 2021, indicating the reasons for their request.*