

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 11 September 2019

Present: Karl Leydecker (Chair), Dariya Koleva, Kath Shennan, Marion Campbell, Alison Jenkinson, Ekaterina Pavlovskaja, Alfred Akisanya, Helen Martin, Iain McEwan, Neil Vargesson, Allan Sim, Michelle Pinard and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Caroline Inglis, Cecilia Wallback, Peter McGeorge, Graeme Nixon, Scott Styles, Amy Bryzgel and Mirela Delibegovic

447. Minutes

447.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2019.

447.2 The Committee noted that there will be an update on the revised structure of the Estates Committees (minute 442.3 refers). In addition, it was noted that it was planned to add Senate representation to the Capital Programme Management Committee (CPMC)

447.3 It was confirmed that all vacancies within schools would now be re-advertised on a three-yearly cycle (minute 442.8 refers). The SVP undertook to remind Heads of School of this.

Action: KL

448. Remit and Membership

448.1 In noting the Remit and Membership for 2019/20, the Committee also noted that Operating Board has been renamed to become the Policy and Resources Committee (PaRC)

449. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 9 October 2019

449.1 The Committee noted that there would be two additional items on the agenda: an Update on REF and an item on the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA).

449.2 The Committee approved the draft agenda with the addition of these two items.

450 Review of the Operation of the Senate in 2018/19

450.1 The Committee reflected on the operation of the Senate in 2018/19 and considered whether there may be any ways to further enhance the effectiveness of the Senate.

450.2 It was noted that there would be a review to determine the support for Senate being held at Foresterhill again

450.3 The Committee discussed the current practise of making amendments to papers from the floor of Senate. It was noted that this was causing issues as it was often difficult for Senate to reach a clear, orderly consensus and thus it was hard to know precisely that had been decided when policies come to be implemented.

450.4 In addition, the Committee observed that the fact that various sub-committees had already met and shaped the proposals being put forward to Senate was being overlooked. It was agreed that, in drafting papers for Senate, authors should be asked to include links to relevant committee minutes and/or make it clear where proposals had already been discussed.

450.5 It was agreed that the importance of Sub-Committee members being able to represent the views of their School should be re-iterated. It was agreed that, where they exist, the role descriptors for committee members should be recirculated.

Action: RB

451. Major Topics for Discussion in 2019/20

451.1 The Committee identified several possible topics for inclusion at Senate during the forthcoming session:

- A discussion of the online teaching and assessment options
- A discussion around how the University teaches and assesses to be led by the Vice-Principal (Education). This should inform the various Estates developments.
- Consideration of how to make the Strategy work, and what the various KPIs should be
- Interdisciplinarity

451.2 It was noted that regular updates on REF would be included on the agenda and that there would be discussions around the second phase of development on the Qatar campus.

451.3 The Committee agreed that this list should be included on the agenda for future meetings and added to as appropriate.

452. Honorary Degrees Committee Membership

452.1 Following the responses received to the communications regarding the Senate vacancy on the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC), the Committee approved that Kate Gillies (HSRU) was nominated to serve on the HDC for a period of four years.

453. Senate Minutes

453.1 The Committee discussed a possible change in practice regarding the format of Senate minutes. It was proposed that the lengthy written minute be replaced by a clear action log to be viewed alongside an indexed recording of the meeting; recordings would be maintained on the website indefinitely.

453.2 The Committee were broadly supportive of the proposal but agreed it should be a 'normal' minute rather than simply an action log. With that amendment it was agreed that the proposal should be taken to Senate for consideration.

454. Senate Elections

454.1 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 2019 to 30 September 2022 (except where indicated otherwise):

School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition

Kate Gillies

School of Psychology

Amelia Hunt
Constanze Hesse
Katharina Schnitzspahn (until 2020)

School of Social Science

Árnar Arnason (until 2020)
Johan Rasanayagam (until 2020)

455. Dates of meetings in 2019/20

455.1 The Committee noted that the next meetings in 2019/20 had been scheduled for:

- Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 10.00 a.m.
- Thursday 19 December 2019 at 10.00 a.m.
- Thursday 20 February 2020 at 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 14 April 2020 at 10.00 a.m.