

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2019

Present: Professor K Leydecker (Convener), Mrs D Dyker, Mrs D Connolly, Professor P McGeorge, Professor A Jenkinson, Professor E Pavlovskaja, Professor G Nixon, Professor D Lusseau, Dr H Martin, Mr S Styles, Mrs L Tibbetts, Professor N Vargesson, Dr D Maccallum, Professor J Schaper, Professor M Delibegovic, Dr R Shanks and Dr R Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs C Inglis, Mr L Ogubie, Professor K Shennan, Professor M Campbell, Dr D Watts

441. Minutes

441.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2019.

441.2 The Committee noted that at the meeting of Senate 20 February there had been a commitment given to circulate further information regarding the King's campus redevelopment plans. It was confirmed that details would be circulated to Senate following the meeting.

Action: Clerk

442. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 15 May 2019

442.1 The Committee agreed that the items for approval should be taken ahead of the discussion items in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to conclude the degree classification discussions.

Action: Clerk

442.1 It was agreed that the motions received should be considered under items for discussion and approval.

Action: Clerk

442.3 In discussing inclusion of the motion received regarding University estates on the Senate agenda, the Committee noted that the Senior Vice-Principal (SVP) was intending to establish a new committee framework to consider learning and teaching spaces. The new mechanism would report into the Capital Programme Management Committee (CPMC). The new structure would include representation for all schools. It was suggested that in view of this change, and the existing wider governance structures, it may not be appropriate for the motion in its original form to be debated at Senate.

442.4 Following discussion it was agreed that it would be useful to have a general discussion of the issues raised in the motion at Senate. It was therefore agreed that the original motion would be withdrawn and that a holding motion would be drafted by Mr Styles and the SVP to form the basis for discussions at Senate.

Action: SVP, SS

442.5 The Committee discussed the inclusion of the motion submitted regarding teaching committee composition. During discussions it was noted that:

- It was not clear from the motion what issue was being addressed

- Senate already confirms the composition of its subcommittees
- The teaching committees across the university already have a majority of academic members
- There is possibly a perception in some places that the time of teaching committees is being spent on matters other than the core concerns of learning and teaching

442.6 The Committee voted against (seven to four) inclusion of the motion on the Senate agenda.

442.7 In view of the discussions and vote, it was agreed that the motion should not be included in its current format. The proposer should be encouraged to meet with the SVP to discuss the issues which had motivated its submission, and be provided with feedback from the Committee.

Action SVP, Clerk

442.8 With regard to the motion regarding career development, there was considerable support for the sentiments expressed in the motion and it was noted that it may be helpful from an external perspective to have been seen to have had these discussions at Senate. It was, however, agreed that the issues raised in the motion should, at least in the first instance, be discussed by the Partnership and Negotiating Consultative Committee (PNCC). It was agreed that the motion should not be included on the agenda for Senate.

442.9 The Committee discussed the inclusion of the motion regarding the development of the Strategic Plan. It was noted that the Plan would go to Senate and the omission of Senate from the diagram on the website was an oversight which would be corrected. The Committee agreed that the motion should be included for consideration at Senate.

442.10 The Committee agreed that the paper regarding the Revised Dean Structure should be moved from the items for information to the items for routine approval.

Action: Clerk

443 Effectiveness Review Update

443.1 The Committee noted that an external facilitator was being identified to take forward the Effectiveness Review during the next academic year.

443.2 The Committee agreed that an election should be held to identify the elected members of Senate to be on the group. It was further agreed that this should take place following the current round of elections for Senate members for the new academic year.

Action: Clerk

444. John Reid Trust

444.1 The Committee approved that Professor Ed Welch and Dr Heather Morgan replace Professor John Morrison and Professor Grant Macaskill as trustees of the John Reid Trust Scheme. The Trust exists to assist distinguished Aberdeen University graduates, preferably with Honours, and preferably in Arts, continue their studies in Arts or in any other branches of higher learning at any institution outside Scotland.

445. Students' Progress Committee Convenor

445.1 On the recommendation of the Convenor of the Quality Assurance Committee, the Committee approved Dr Alexey Sevastyanov as Convenor for the Student Progress Committee for Arts & Social Sciences.

446. Dates of meetings in 2019/20

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

- Thursday 12 September 2019 at 10.00 a.m.
- 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.