SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 9 January 2019

Present: Professor P Hannaford (Convener), Mrs C Inglis, Mr L Ogubie, Mrs D Connolly, Professor P McGeorge, Professor K Shennan, Professor M Campbell, Professor M Delibegovic, Professor A Jenkinson, Professor E Pavlovskaja, Professor D Lusseau, Professor N Vargesson, Dr H Martin, Dr D Maccallum, Mrs L Tibbets, Mr S Styles, Dr D Watts and Dr R Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs C Inglis, Professor G Nixon, Professor J Schaper

430. Minutes

430.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018.

431. Senate Effectiveness Review

431.1 The Committee noted that a revised version of the original paper had been circulated by Dr Martin. It was agreed that this version would form the basis for discussion.

431.2 The Committee noted the update on actions arising from the last Senate Effectiveness Review and discussed plans for the next review.

431.3 The Committee noted the importance of ensuring consistency of membership of the review group in terms of the student membership and therefore agreed that the review should commence at the start of the new academic year i.e. October 2019. With this timeline in mind, it was agreed that an interim report should be produced early in 2020 with the final report receiving consideration at Senate in spring 2020.

431.4 In considering the membership of the review group it was agreed that:

- The working group should include representation from the Senate sub-committees – one convener and one member from a subcommittee
- The ratio of elected to ex-officio members should be preserved
- There should be a representative from professional services staff included in the membership

431.4 Subject to these amendments, it was agreed that the paper should go forward to Senate for discussion and approval.

432. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 30 January 2019

432.1 The Committee agreed that the Learner Analytics paper should be amended to remove annex a.

432.2 The Committee were informed that the items on Settlement Agreements and the updated process for Head of School Recruitment were not now being taken to Senate at the next meeting. Professor Hannaford updated the Committee on the current stage
of discussions regarding Heads of School recruitment. Professor Campbell informed the Committee that the use of Settlement Agreements would be considered by the Partnership and Negotiating Consultative Committee (PNCC). It was agreed that the academic view should be brought out in discussions at PNCC and Professor Campbell agreed that consideration would be given to ensuring the voice of Senate was taken into account by PNCC.

432.3 In approving the agenda for Senate, the Committee agreed that the draft Code of Practise for REF preparations should be the first item for discussion.

433. Behaviour at Senate

433.1 Professor Vargesson raised the issue of aggressive and confrontational behaviour becoming more frequent at meetings of Senate.

433.2 Several Committee members reported instances where members of Senate had reported feeling intimidated during Senate discussions.

433.3 The Committee agreed that behaviour should be considered as part of the forthcoming review and that professional behaviour should be stressed as part of future inductions.

433.4 The Committee agreed that consideration should be given to reminding members of the requirements of the Standing Orders ahead of the next meeting.

[Clerks note: following the meeting, the Principal decided that rather than issuing a reminder to members, which might appear to be an attempt to stifle debate, he would deal robustly with any instances of such behaviour if they arose during the meeting.]

434. Dates of meetings in 2017/18

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

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