

THE SENATE



Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (Professor D.J. Richardson) (in the Chair), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor N. Ward, the Executive Deans of Faculty (Professor J. Collier, Professor P. Gilmartin, Professor I. Harvey, and Professor Y. Tasker), Heads of Schools (Professor R. Jowett (Acting Head of School), Professor G. Schofield), Academic Representatives (Dr H. Adcock, Dr L. Biggart, Professor S. Church, Dr R. Denison, Professor M. Frenneaux, Dr M. O'Connell, Professor F. Lettice, Dr T. Smith, Professor N. Spalding, Dr J. Turner, and Dr M. Williams), Acting Dean of Students (Ms J. Amos), Ms C. Peasgood (CCN Representative) and the Student Representatives except for business marked ** (Mr L. McCafferty).

With: The Registrar and Secretary (Mr B. J. Summers), the Academic Director of Taught Programmes (Dr A. Longcroft), Academic Director of Pg Research Degree Programmes (Dr N. Watmough), Academic Director of Partnerships (Professor I. Dewing), Professor D Edwards, Director of Learning and Teaching Services (Dr A Blanchflower), Assistant Registrar (Mrs L. Williams) and Senior Administrative Assistant (Mrs R. Phillips), Director of Admissions, Recruitment and Marketing (Mrs A. Bingley) for item 21 and Head of Learning and Teaching Services (Dr J Sharp) for items 21 and 22.

Apologies: Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Petley), Academic Representatives (Dr S.D. Laycock, Dr J Drugan), Heads of School (Professor V. Moulton, Professor P Womack), Director of Information Services (Mr J. Colam-French) and student representative Mr C Rand).

18. MINUTES

Confirmed
the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2015.

19. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice Chancellor

- 1) noted that this would be the final Senate meeting for Professor Ian Harvey prior to his retirement and thanked him for his contribution to Senate and the University. Professor Dylan Edwards who would be succeeding Professor Harvey as Dean FMH with effect from 1 February was welcomed as were Jane Amos, and Professor Rosalynd Jowatt who were attending their first meeting of Senate as new members.
- 2) reported on recent visits to other Universities: Exeter, Sussex, Essex, Loughborough, Kent and Leicester, and conversations with fellow Vice Chancellors and hearing how they are investing in their futures.
- 3) reported that the University's research reputation was continuing to lag behind actual research performance and that this would be something that Senate would need to consider at future meetings given the importance placed on research reputation in the World Rankings league table. The University was to be featured in two forthcoming THES articles in relation to research performance, research reputation and world ranking.

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- 4) reported on an event to celebrate the recent success of two members of staff: Dr Mark Thompson (HIS) won the Jan Michalski Prize for Literature, and Prof Changjiang Dong (MED), a Times Higher Education (THE) Award in the category 'Research Project of the Year'. Senate members were encouraged to alert the Vice Chancellor's Office to awards and prizes received in their Schools, faculties and Divisions in order that success can be celebrated.
- 5) reported on a public exhibition in December, during which Norwich Rugby Union Football Club and UEA detailed plans for the relocation of Norwich RUFC to the UEA sports pitches at Colney Lane, Norwich. The proposals include new sports pitches, a new clubhouse incorporating café, changing rooms, club room, bar and members lounge, associated new car/coach parking areas and new freestanding grounds/sports equipment storage facility. The facilities provided have been designed to enhance the sports offer available to students.
- 6) announced that this was the last meeting where paper copies of agenda papers would be circulated. The agenda and accompanying papers will be circulated to Senate members using the dedicated Blackboard site for all future meetings.

*21. UEA VISION AND UEA PLAN 2016-2020

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*22. GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER - FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL: TEACHING EXCELLENCE, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND STUDENT CHOICE

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

23. COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW

Considered

an oral report from the Vice Chancellor on the impact the November 2015 comprehensive spending review may have on the University.

(Senate noted that the UEA Plan 2016-2020 had been written with the outcome of the comprehensive spending review and Green Paper in mind. The key outcomes of the spending review were as follows:

- that the teaching grant was to be reduced by £120 million and that this would be introduced in phases and therefore the University's reduction was anticipated to be approximately £1 million.
- that the commitment to protect high cost subjects was to remain
- that Universities were to be asked to take more responsibility for widening participation
- a loan scheme for PGT students was to be introduced
- to express a strong commitment to HE recruitment outside the EU
- movement of the support of students on professional health courses from bursaries to the student loans from 2017/18.

Senate also noted the Government's intention to implement the recommendations of the Nurse Review, and to ring fence the "science" budget though it was unsure what this would encompass. On a positive note, the Vice Chancellor informed Senate that the BBSRC was investing £50 million in the new Centre for Food and Health).

24 UNIVERSITY ENRICHMENT AND STUDY PLUS WEEKS

Considered

the following recommendations from the Learning and Teaching Committee (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. SEN15D020):

- 1) that within the 14 week Spring semester there should be:
 - a) a mid-semester Enrichment Week
 - b) an end of semester (Week 14) Study-Plus Week

with each week having a range of relevant and appropriate activities informed by the suggestions contained in the accompanying paper;
- 2) that whilst it might be necessary for some teaching to take place during their Enrichment Week Schools should seek to keep this to a minimum;
- 3) an Enrichment/Study Plus Coordination group should be established with representatives from academic staff, professional services staff, students and staff from UUEAS and with an interface with the Academic Student Induction and Transitions group;
- 4) that there should be a detailed evaluation of the how these weeks are used which goes beyond the percentage of students participating in enrichment activities.

(Senate noted the origins of the proposal which date back to discussions in 2009/10 and the creation of the New Academic Model, and the more recent discussions at LTC. The proposal was to maximise the benefit of the two weeks freed up from the assessment period by having a Study Plus week at the end of the semester and a mid semester enrichment week. An indicative list of activities that might take place in the weeks was presented. Whilst Senate recognised the aims of the two weeks there were a number of concerns discussed as follows which particularly focussed on the mid-semester enrichment week:

- a) A risk of poor student engagement. Senate noted that attendance at enrichment week event would not be compulsory and were concerned about how to get students engaged. It was proposed that the weeks were designed in partnership with students and that students were involved as co-deliverers of some activities. This involvement combined with an objective of having creative and dynamic programmes was considered sufficient to mitigate the risk and for there to be a reasonably high level of confidence in students attending and participating in activities.
- b) Resource concerns. The ability to satisfactorily resource the enrichment week both financially and in terms of staff time was of significant concern to Senate. There was unanimity that delivery would be complex and there was a significant coordination job to be undertaken to create an offering in each School. The efficiency savings generated from improving the efficiency and effectiveness of course delivery were not thought to be sufficiently large to adequately resource these weeks. Senate acknowledged that if approved the resources would need to be found and decisions at Faculty and School level would need to be made to manage this. The impact on resources would need to form part of the evaluation exercise.

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- c) School concerns. The views from Teaching Directors had been mixed with some wanting flexibility on timing which had led to the recommendation that the decision on when to hold enrichment weeks was taken at Faculty level. The resource implications were also of concern to the Teaching Directors but Senate noted that the proposal for an enrichment week had been received more positively than extending the teaching period on modules.
- d) Timing. Senate considered that care would need to be taken with the timing and if at all possible to time the enrichment week such that it did not coincide with school half-term week so as not to disadvantage students with caring responsibilities. Senate noted that each Faculty would determine the timing of their enrichment week.
- e) Risk to employability initiatives. Senate noted that whilst the list of suggested activities was pleasing, care would have to be taken to ensure that employability activities which had been embedded in the curriculum remained embedded. The enrichment week should not be portrayed as, or become, an "Employability" week.
- f) Leadership, co-ordination and management. Senate questioned how the weeks would be managed and who had the decision making authority when activities maybe happening at a University and/or Faculty and /or School level. Reassurance was given that the University has experience of organising activities on this scale such as the Open Days and the combined arrivals and registration and induction events. A project manager was considered necessary to co-ordinate the first year with the assistance of the planned Enrichment/Study Plus Co-ordination Group. It was envisaged that in addition, there would need to be working groups established both at the level of the Faculty and the School. Senate noted the plans for a Project Board and the determination of a process by which the weeks could be evaluated.
- g) Faculty differences. Senate noted that some FMH courses had a different academic year and a full curriculum which did not permit the introduction of either a Study Plus or enrichment week. However, it was also noted that many of the suggested activities were already embedded in the curriculum on those courses.

Noting that the resource concerns could not be answered as the weeks had yet to be designed, and that a decision was required as planning activities for 2016/17 have already commenced, Senate agreed that the proposals had sufficient flexibility for Schools and Faculties to manage their resources and with the above reservations and suggestions agreed with the proposals).

RESOLVED

- 1) to approve recommendations 1, 2 and 3
- 2) that recommendation 4 be approved with an additional requirement that the resource impact of the Study Plus and Enrichment weeks forms part of the evaluation.
- 3) that students be engaged as partners in the design of the weeks and as co-deliverers of some content
- 4) that where possible the enrichment week should be timed such that it does not take place at the same time as school half term breaks.

*25 UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE: ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

26. PROPOSED NEW INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP – BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE

Considered

the recommendation contained within the report. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. SEN15D022).

RESOLVED

27. COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY ACT 2015

Received

the report received by Council on the actions being undertaken to comply with the statutory duty (Prevent) placed upon the University by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. SEN15D023).

28. LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE

Received

a round up report from the Learning and Teaching Committee from it's meeting on 21 October 2015. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. SEN15D024).

29. DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2015-2016

Reported

that the remaining dates for meetings in 2015-2016 were:

Wednesday 17 February 2016
Wednesday 8 June 2016

30. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

that the next meeting of the Senate was scheduled for Wednesday 17 February 2016.