

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023

- Present:** Professor Steve Decent (Chair), Dr Bipasha Ahmed, Prof. Babakali Alkali, Prof. Tuleen Boutaleb, Fiona Campbell, Prof. Iain Camberon, Dr Diane Dickson, Professor Mohamed Farrag, Dr Karen Fryer, Dr Lyle Gray, David Grimm (SA), Claire Hulsen, Dr Sharon Jackson, Naveed Kayani, Dr Rob Kivitits, Professor John Lennon, Samantha MacLean, Tom McAlear, Prof. Simon McKerrell, Dr Kerri McPherson, Professor Ehsan Mesbahi, Professor Andrea Nelson, Dr Val Ness, Chidozie Nwaigwe (SA), Professor Angela O'Hagan, Dr James Paterson, Dr Adrian Pierotti, Dr Shirley Rate, Professor Alastair Robertson, Professor Carl Schaschke, Dr Emmanuel Silva, Professor Anita Simmers, Brian Smith, Professor Bonnie Steves, Dr Karen Thomson and Dr Omair Uthmani.
- Apologies:** Sofia Congradyova, Dr Diane Dickson, Ms J Hulme, Jackie Main, John Mavileth, Mrs Susan Mitchell, Professor Ole Pahl, Louisa Richardson and Robert Ruthven.
- In Attendance:** Stephen Lopez, Academic Registrar
Professor John Connolly, Chair, Senate Disciplinary Committee

Louise Clark, Department of Governance and Legal Services
- Observers:** Jennifer Abali (SA and Student Nominated Governor, Court), Paul Brown (Governance and Legal Services), Julie Burns (Executive Support), Alen MacKinlay (Quality Assurance and Enhancement), Lesley McGinley (Governance and Legal Services), Lizzie Reather (People Services), Gary Steele (Library) and Dr Fatima Ajia (SCEBE).

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Senate in academic session 2023/24 and in particular to the new members and existing members attending in their new roles.

The Chair advised Senators that this an additional meeting was to consider the SFC Annual Report on Institutional-led Review of Quality for Academic Year 22/23 prior to its submission to Court for approval on 21st September, and subsequent sign off by the Chair of Court. In line with Senate Standing Orders, the updated Senate Composition and Membership for Session 2023/24 is also included at this first meeting of the new academic session for approval.

1. SFC Annual Report on Institutional-led Review of Quality for Academic Year 2023

- 1.1 Senate considered the Annual Report on Institution-led Review (ILR) of Quality as part of the University's reporting arrangements to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in addition to the Outcome Agreement and statutory financial and data returns.

- 1.2 Professor Robertson introduced the report and thanked colleagues in Quality Assurance and Enhancement and across the academic schools for their work.
- 1.3 A Senator raised concern regarding the wording of Section 6.2, specifically '*focuses less on an individualised tailored approach*' in relation to Disability support. It was felt that the wording suggested a one size fits all approach. Ms Campbell clarified that this was not the intention and the wording in relation to the streamlining of some disability interventions would be reviewed prior to submission to Court.
- 1.4 A student Senator noted the importance of student feedback in relation to Section 4.2.5 and requested this be reflected in University Policy. Professor Robertson acknowledged the importance of closing the feedback loop and committed to taking this forward.
- 1.5 Senate **endorsed** the report for submission to University Court subject to the above feedback being taken on board.

2. Senate Composition and Membership for Session 2023/24

- 2.1 Senate **approved** the updated Composition and Membership and the appointment of Professor Mesbahi as Vice-Chair of Senate for Session 2023/24.

3. Date of the Next meeting

- 3.1 Senate noted that the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 18th October 2023.

4. AOCB

- 4.1 Following a request from a Senator, it was agreed to include an update at the next meeting of Senate on the implementation of the Fit to Sit process.

Secretary's Note:

Following the meeting it was agreed that a verbal update on Fit to Sit will be given at the October Senate meeting with an evaluation report being submitted for consideration at the December meeting.

- 4.2 A Senator requested an item be included for the next meeting of Senate in relation to sanctions for plagiarism and cheating. Professor Robertson noted the ongoing review of the Code of Student Conduct and that agenda items on this would be considered at future meetings of University Senate.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked Senators for attending and congratulated colleagues on the recently published league table results.