

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL SENATE

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2024 / 2PM / BRETT BUILDING

Present:	<p>Professor T Jones (Vice-Chancellor, Chair), Professor L Anderson, Professor K Atkinson, Professor J Balogun, Professor M Baylis, Professor K Bennett, Dr M Berenbrink, Professor N Berry, Professor R Black, Professor J Bridgeman, Professor G Brown, Mr P Brown, Professor P Buse, Dr V Chauvet, Professor R Chiverrell, Professor K Coleman, Dr S Cornell, Dr L Corner, Dr C Costello, Professor L Crolley, Professor J Curran, Professor M D'Onofrio, Professor G Endfield, Professor C Eyers, Professor A Fell, Dr K Furman, Professor B Gibson, Professor L Harkness-Brennan, Dr N Helassa, Professor A Hollander, Professor L Kenny, Professor B Konev, Dr H Little, Professor G Lynall, Professor D Mair, Professor V Mitsilegas, Professor M O'Flaherty, Professor K O'Halloran, Dr S Parameswaran, Professor S Rocha, Professor S Sheard, Professor R Smith, Professor J Surroca, Professor T Teubner, Professor M Towsey, Dr V Vass, Professor S Voelkel, Professor F Watkins, Professor R Williams, Dr B Wilm, and Dr J Woolf.</p> <p>Student Representatives: J Barber, R Bradbury, E Campbell, L Dubbins, K Manley, S Mitra, and V Samuels.</p>
Apologies:	<p>Professor T Ali, Dr A Alsalloum, Dr H Arnold, Dr C Belfrage, Professor F Beveridge, Professor I Buchan, Dr L Gahman, Professor M Garcia Finana, Professor D Jeater, Professor P Lunn, Professor A Lyons, Professor P Murray, Professor E Patterson, Professor D Prescott, Dr M Rose, Professor H Scott, Professor J Sweeney, Professor W van der Hoek, and Professor F Vis.</p>
In Attendance:	<p>M Edge (Governance, Compliance and Regulatory Manager), L King (Secretary and Governance Officer), E Leonard (Head of Governance and Deputy Secretary), and K Ryan (University Secretary and General Counsel).</p>

COMMITTEE AND MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

1. Governance Matters

1.1 Disclosures of Interest

Members were asked to disclose any interest that could give rise to conflict in relation to any item on the agenda. No such interests were disclosed.

1.2 Roles and Responsibilities: Diversity and Equality

RECEIVED and NOTED:

Guidance on Diversity and Equality requirements for Committee members.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 15 November 2023

NOTED:

- i. The following amendments to the minutes were suggested:
 - Item 4.1.iv – during the discussion on the evaluation of Research Outputs, it was confirmed these evaluations would be used for REF, promotions and Confirmation in Appointment. In response to an enquiry about cases of early career colleagues not being confirmed in post because of not having sufficient papers at 3*/4* (and the risks arising from such criteria not being mentioned in job advertisements), members of Senate were reassured that early career academics are always evaluated in the round and that a failure to confirm in appointment would never be solely on the basis of REF output evaluation scores.
 - Item 6: Education Committee – that elected Senate member representation on the Education Committee would be considered as part of the Senate Review.

AGREED:

- ii. The minutes should be approved as an accurate record subject to the above changes.

3. Vice-Chancellor's Report

RECEIVED:

- i. A report from the Vice-Chancellor on University, sector wide and political news, covering:

University Updates

- Appointment of Chief Operating Officer
- Queen's Anniversary Prize
- New Year Honours
- QS Sustainability Rankings
- New Contributions Framework for Academic Colleagues
- Changes to Contribution Points on Grades 1, 2 and 3
- Equality Objectives Action Plan

Higher Education Sector and Political Updates

- USS Pension Contribution Rates
- Visit from Universities Minister Robert Halfon MP
- Further Political Engagement
- VC Conference – How do we create a more successful Liverpool?
- UK Association with Horizon Europe
- Changes to REF Assessment Timetable.

REPORTED:

- ii. The University's Professional Services were to be brought under the leadership of a Chief Operating Officer (COO), with the role expected to be filled in summer 2024. The new role, reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor as part of the Senior Leadership Team, was intended to enhance coordination across professional services in support of the University's strategic framework, Liverpool 2031. Further information regarding the process and panel was not finalised as the post was yet to be advertised.
- iii. The Equality Objectives Action Plan for the next five years had been shared with staff with aims to make significant and sustained progress in four specific EDI related areas, including reducing the awarding gap with a particular focus on Black student outcomes. In response to a query regarding whether qualitative research was taking place amongst students as part of this work, it was confirmed that focus groups would be running later in the year.

STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Annual Diversity and Equality Report 2022/23

RECEIVED:

- i. The Annual Diversity and Equality Report for 2022/23.

REPORTED:

- ii. The Annual Diversity and Equality Report for 2022/23 aimed to fulfil the statutory requirement under the Public Sector Equality Duty. The report provided a comprehensive overview of diversity and equality activities and data.
- iii. The report featured a fresh approach by integrating the narrative and an infographic summarising both colleague and student population data for the academic year 2022/23. Furthermore, additional documents were provided, containing relevant information and insights on specific protected characteristics by workforce and student population data comparisons between 2020-2023 and 2022-2023.

NOTED:

- iv. The introduction of 'Report and Support' had resulted in an increase in reported incidences of harassment and bullying. Colleagues were working to understand the causes behind the increase, and whether it was simply due to improved reporting mechanisms and greater awareness, or whether there were any other factors to be considered.
- v. Disaggregated data would be useful for future reports, but this needed to be managed in line with confidentiality.
- vi. Many staff may not be aware that reasonable adjustments do not transfer to new line managers if a person moves internally, and this should be flagged to ensure people do not miss out on the support they need.

5. Degree Outcomes Statement

[The Director of Academic Quality and Standards, Trish Barker, attended for this item.]

RECEIVED:

- i. A copy of the Degree Outcomes Statement

REPORTED:

- ii. Over the past five years, 84% of students at the University had achieved good honours awards (Class I and II:1). The overall position and the distribution across classes remained largely stable until 2020/21 when there had been a rise in the number of students awarded Class I and the proportion of good honours awards had risen to 88% due to safety net provisions and changes to assessment instituted by the University in the Major Disruption Policy. This proportion of good honours dropped in 2022/23 to 82%, remaining slightly above the pre-pandemic levels of 2018/19 (79%).

NOTED:

- iii. The Degree Outcomes Statement was no longer a statutory requirement, and so would not be received in the same format at future Senate meetings.
- iv. The data included in the report was important, and it was reassuring for students to see that degrees were protected.

AGREED:

- v. The data should be made available to staff and students in the future, noting that it would be in a different format.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:

- vi. The Degree Outcomes Statement should be approved.

BUSINESS FROM FACULTIES

No business received from the Faculties.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

6. Education Committee

The January 2024 Education Committee meeting was postponed and therefore no report was received by Senate.

7. PGR Committee

RECEIVED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the PGR Committee held on 10 January 2024, covering:
 - Amendments to Ordinance 59: Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology
 - PGR Initiatives – Updates
 - Research Collaboration Advice Team
 - Intake Data
 - UK Research and Innovation Updates
 - Marketing Campaign Roll Out
 - XJTLU Strategy Update
 - Faculty Update Reports
 - Report on PGR development initiatives from The Academy.

AGREED:

- ii. The proposed amendments to Ordinance 59: Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology, to increase the maximum period for which a student may be registered from five years to six years, should be approved. The reasons for the increase included:
 - To bring the Ordinance in to line with other Programme Ordinances
 - The demographic of the student group in relation to age and family commitments
 - To ensure that practices/competencies were up to date and in keeping with current practice and policy within the NHS and the Health and Care Professions Council.

8. Research and Impact Committee (RIC)

RECEIVED and NOTED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Research and Impact Committee held on 9 January 2024, covering:
 - Research Income
 - HR Excellence in Research Award 12-Year Renewal Documents
 - OA Monographs Policy.
- ii. A request was made to consider whether the Research and Impact Strategic Committee (RISC), as the Committee which currently reports on REF preparations on a regular basis to Senior Leadership Team and seeks endorsement on key issues from RIC, might also report to Senate. This request was made in light of there being no mention of recent developments for the next REF in the January Research and Impact Committee report to Senate. It was explained that there had been no substantive University updates on REF to report at the January meeting of RIC, but Senate would be kept informed of all

key developments through RIC, in line with agreed reporting structures, as and when there were matters to report.

9. Collaborative Provision Committee

RECEIVED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Collaborative Provision Committee held on 14 December 2023.

NOTED:

- ii. In response to a query regarding staffing implications relating to the proposed development of a Maths MSc with XJTLU programme, it was confirmed that this proposal was in the very early stages – if it did gain traction a full viability assessment would be undertaken which would look at staffing implications in detail.

OTHER ITEMS

10. Accounts of the University for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

RECEIVED and NOTED:

- i. Via an online link, the accounts of the University for the year ending 31 July 2023.

11. Policy Updates

11.1 Assessment Appeals Procedure for Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes

[The Head of Student Conduct, Complaints and Compliance, Nicola Casson, attended for this item.]

RECEIVED:

- i. A report outlining the reasons why the review was necessary and a summary of the amendments made, together with a copy of the updated Procedure.

REPORTED:

- ii. The review had been undertaken with the aim of simplifying the appeals process for staff and students, and to make it more accessible, transparent and timely. The review included consultation with Boards of Examiners (chairs and secretaries), Student Experience Teams, Faculty Heads of Education and Student Experience, online partners, the Liverpool Guild of Students, the Education Process Improvement Project, and the Assessment and Feedback Working Group. The revised document had been recommended for approval by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:

- iii. The updated Assessment Appeals Procedure for Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes should be approved.

12. Date of Next Meeting

NOTED:

- i. The next meeting would be held at 2pm on Wednesday 20 March 2024.