

## UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

## MEETING OF SENATE

Minutes of a meeting held on  
Wednesday 14 November 2012

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Professor Abbott	Professor Lansdale
Professor Ainley	Dr Lewis
Dr Barber	Professor Lilley
Professor Barstow	Professor Lovell
Professor Bell	Professor Murphy
Dr Brace ( <i>vice</i> Professor Garner)	Dr O'Connor
Professor Challiss ( <i>vice</i> Dr Grubb)	Professor Page
Dr Clark ( <i>vice</i> Professor Levesley)	Dr Rawlinson
Professor Coleman ( <i>vice</i> Professor Halliwell)	Professor Schürer
Ms Dunne	Professor Schwabe
Professor Ekserdjian	Professor Scott
Professor Erlebach	Dr Spunta
Professor Fraser ( <i>vice</i> Professor Lester)	Professor Thomas
Professor Fry	Professor Thompson
Dr Georgoulis	Professor Wallace
Dr Gibson	Professor Wilson
Professor Hainsworth	Professor Wynford-Thomas
Professor Hall	Dr Young ( <i>vice</i> Professor Foxhall)
Mr Hansen ( <i>vice</i> Professor Lunt)	Ms Davies
Professor Hutchby	Mr Flatt
Ms Jones	

**In attendance:** the Director of Corporate Affairs and Planning, the Director of Finance, the Registrar and Secretary, the Academic Registrar (Secretary) and Mr A Petersen (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Athwal, Professor Atkinson, Professor Foxhall, Professor Garner, Dr Grubb, Professor Halliwell, Professor Lester, Professor Levesley, Professor Lunt, Professor Samani and Professor Tallack

## UNRESERVED BUSINESS

## 12/M27 CONSTITUTION AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Senate received its constitution, as recorded in Ordinance 10, and its membership for 2012/13. The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all new members to their first meeting.

## 12/M28 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Senate considered the minutes of a meeting held on 6 July 2012.

Senate **approved** the minutes as a correct record.

12/M29 **MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising were identified

12/M30 **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS**

(a) Staff distinctions

The Vice-Chancellor drew attention to the following distinctions:

**Staff Awards**

**Professor Sue Ablett (Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group)** won an award in the Self-Care category at the recent BMA Patient Information Awards for her booklet 'Sport and Exercise for Young Children with Cancer: A Parent's Guide'.

**Ms Marie Adams (Research Support Office)** has been elected to the UK Research Office (UKRO) Board and Management Group for a three-year term.

**Emeritus Professor Dick Aldridge (Geology)** was awarded the Brady Medal, the highest award of the Micropalaeontological Society.

**Professor Ellen Allandale (Sociology)** has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by a University in Sweden.

**Professor Heiko Balzter (Geography)** has won a Royal Society Industry Fellowship.

**Professor Mike Bradshaw (Geography)** has become an Academician of the Academy of Social Science.

**Dr Mike Branney (Geology)** is to be awarded the 2013 Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group Award.

**Professor Grainne Conole (Beyond Distance Research Alliance)** and **Professor Jon Scott (School of Biological Sciences)** have been awarded National Teaching Fellowships by the Higher Education Academy.

**Professor David Ekserdjian (History of Art and Film)** has co-curated a Royal Academy Exhibition dedicated to 5000 years of bronze sculpture.

**Dr Blair Grubb (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology)** has been invited by the Physiological Society to be a member of the Society's Council, a member of the Physiological Society Executive Committee and in turn to Chair the Education and Outreach Committee for a period of four years.

**Professor Martin Halliwell (School of English)** has been elected to Chair the Higher Education Committee of the English Association for a three-year term.

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**Dr Karl Herbert (Cardiovascular Sciences)** has been elected to the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine and is the first member to be elected from outside the Americas.

**Dr Gawen Jenkin (Geology)** has been invited to join the Mineralogical Society Awards Committee.

**Emeritus Professor Aftab Khan (Geology)** has been made a Life Vice-President of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society and a permanent member of the Council, and has been awarded a sterling silver medal from the National Institute of Higher Education Research Science and Technology in Trinidad and Tobago for accomplishments in the field of science and technology.

**Dr Alexander Korb (School of Historical Studies)** has been awarded the Herbert Steiner Prize by the International Conference of Labour and Social History in co-operation with the documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance.

**Dr Peter Kraftl (Geography)** has become Chair of the Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Research Group of the Royal Geography Society, and also Co-Editor of the journal 'Children's Geographies'.

**Professor Melanie Leng (Geology)** has been re-appointed to the Advisory Board of the international multidisciplinary research and review journal Quaternary Science Reviews and has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program.

**Professor Mike Lovell (Geology)** has been invited to join the Editorial Board of the Royal Society Philosophical Transactions for the period January 2013 – December 2015, and has been appointed Vice President of the Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts Foundation for 2012-2013.

**Dr Clare Madge (Geography)** has been awarded a studentship by the Higher Education Academy entitled 'Internationalisation of British Higher Education and Social Media: Academic Identities, Transnational Socialisation and Engaged Pedagogic Practice'.

**Dr Max Moorkamp (Geology)** has been invited to serve as an Associate Editor of JGR-Solid Earth Journal and has been nominated as outstanding reviewer of the year 2012 by the Editorial Board of Geophysical Journal International.

**Dr Martin Phillips (Geography)** has been awarded an AHRC teaching fellowship on 'The gentrification of rural communities across the 20<sup>th</sup> century'.

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**Professor Douglas Tallack (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Law)** was invited as one of two UK participants to give a presentation at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, on the work of George Bellows at an exhibition in October 2012. He has also been invited to engage in research in this area and to deliver a paper at a symposium in Columbus, Ohio in November 2013.

**Mr Richard Taylor (Director of Corporate Affairs and Planning)** won a Crystal Apple Award from CASE for being a consistently 'stellar' speaker at their conferences.

**Professor Janet Ulph (School of Law)** has been appointed as an Academic Member of the ESRC Peer Review College as well as being an Academic Member of the AHRC equivalent body.

**Dr Bo Wang (Mathematics)** had his paper *A Gaussian process regression approach to a single-index model* selected as the joint winning paper for the Journal of Nonparametric Statistics 2011 Best Paper Award.

**Dr Mark Williams (Geology)** has been invited to join the NERC peer review college.

**Professor David Wynford-Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology)** has been elected to Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

#### University Awards

**The Development Team (Estates and Facilities Management Division)** has won awards for the Gilbert Murray Centre and the Library Podium and Cycle store for quality and craftsmanship.

#### Student Awards

**Ms Danielle Brown (former LL.B. student, graduated 2010)** won a gold medal in Archery at the Paralympics Games. She had also accepted an offer from the University to re-name the Sports Centre on the main campus the Danielle Brown Sports Centre.

**Mr Phelan Hill (former LL.B. student, graduated 2001)** won a bronze medal in the Men's Eights at the Olympic Games.

**Mr Adam Tozer (Ph.D. Cell Physiology and Pharmacology student)** was one of six recipients of a Pfizer Prize for his presentation, awarded at the Annual Physiological Society meeting in July.

12/M31 **STRATEGY AND POLICY**

## (a) Research Strategy 2013

Senate received the University Research Strategy for 2013. Senate noted that the Strategy had been developed by the Research Policy Committee through an extensive process of consultation with the academic community. The Strategy laid out the strategic objectives guiding the development, support and reward for research excellence throughout the institution. This would be achieved by investing in a world class and financially sustainable research environment and expanding the volume and quality of research produced, while at the same time contributing to debates shaping the national and international research agenda and seeking to clearly establish Leicester's distinctive research profile.

Senate **welcomed** the development of the strategy and noted that the Research Policy Committee was working with colleges and departments regarding its implementation.

## (b) University Risk Register

Senate considered amendments to the University Corporate Strategic Risk Register for the Autumn term. The Vice-Chancellor drew Senate's attention to specific elements of the report.

Senate **approved** the Risk Register for onward submission to Council.

## (c) Admissions target setting for 2013/14

Senate was pleased to note that the University had recruited well in 2012 despite the additional pressures created by recent changes in national policy. Senate wished to record its thanks to Admissions Tutors and staff in the Admissions Office whose hard work had contributed to strong recruitment in an extremely challenging admissions round.

Senate considered provisional targets for student recruitment for the 2013/14 academic year. Senate noted that discussions were still continuing at national level with regard to the setting of the Student Number Control for students achieving BBB or lower. Consultation was also ongoing with colleges and academic departments within the institution to agree targets which took account of the changing recruitment profile in 2012, but also maintained a high quality student population.

Senate noted that the targets would be finalised over the coming months once further information on the Student Number Control became available and final figures would be presented to Senate at its meeting in March 2013.

## (b) League Tables

Senate noted the University's position in the following league tables:

The Sunday Times	25 <sup>th</sup>
QS World University Ranking	185 <sup>th</sup>
THE World University Ranking	196 <sup>th</sup>

Senate was pleased to note that the University had improved its position in all of the League Tables listed above, and that in the QS World Research Citation measurement the University ranked 98<sup>th</sup> overall, and 8<sup>th</sup> within the UK. Senate congratulated departments for the excellent performance in the citation index, and encouraged staff to ensure that they correctly referenced the University in all publications in order to further enhance the institution's position.

Senate noted that although significant advances had been made, departmental rankings still varied significantly. Furthermore, an analysis of league table performance indicated that although the University had improved on several indicators, stronger performance in key indicators drawn from the NSS would have a significant effect on the University's overall position.

12/M32 **LEARNING AND TEACHING**

## (a) National Student Survey

Senate noted that in the 2012 National Student Survey the University was placed fourth among mainstream Universities in the UK. Senate was pleased to note an overall increase in satisfaction over the course of the seven years up to 2011/12, with particular improvements in the areas of student support and learning resources.

Senate considered preparations for the 2013 National Student Survey, and noted that the survey would open for final year students on 4 February 2013. Senate considered an analysis of the University's recent performance in the survey, with a view to identifying the key drivers that defined overall success in the NSS. The analysis had identified those individual questions or combination of questions within the NSS which correlated most strongly with overall satisfaction and Senate noted that questions 1-4 about 'The teaching on my course' were particularly important. Senate **agreed** that these were the critical areas in which efforts should be focussed in order to further improve the University's standing in the NSS.

Senate noted that the NSS results were being considered at departmental and college level with a view to identifying specific areas in which further advances could be made.

## (b) Academic Policy Committee

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students) presented reports of the meetings of the Academic Policy Committee held on 19 September and 19 October 2012.

Senate considered proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 7 governing the assessment of taught programmes, in light of feedback from Senate at its meeting in July 2012. Senate noted that the revised regulations provided further detail regarding the composition of Boards of Examiners and the process for applying penalties for the late submission of assessed work, and that these policies ensured the consistent treatment of students across the institution. The Committee had also considered and confirmed the existing criteria for the consideration of borderline students at undergraduate level in Senate Regulation 5. Senate **approved** the amendments to regulations.

Senate considered proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes. In light of feedback from Senate the Committee had reconsidered the classification of interim awards and proposed a revision to the regulations which would incorporate criteria for the award of postgraduate diplomas or certificates with merit or distinction. Senate **approved** the amendment to regulations and noted that communication of the revisions would be co-ordinated by the University's Quality Office, alongside the ongoing support being provided for the implementation of the new regulations throughout the institution.

Senate noted the Committee's consideration and endorsement of the development of an Erasmus Mundas international collaborative programme in Infection and Immunity. Senate also noted that a working group had been established to consider the standardisation of module evaluation forms throughout the institution.

Senate **approved** the reports.

## (c) Careers Advisory Committee

The Vice-Chancellor presented a report of the meeting of the Careers Advisory Committee held on 5 November 2012.

Senate considered and **approved** a proposal to rename the Careers Service the Career Development Service. Senate also considered and **approved** an associated proposal to rename the Careers Advisory Committee to the Career Development Advisory Board.

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Senate noted the Committee's ongoing work to implement the University's Employability Vision and Strategy. Senate noted with pleasure the success of the recent Festival of Careers, and the organisation of future events such as a further Employability Summit to engage students, staff and employers. Senate further noted the development of a more robust and consistent institutional approach to the development of employability skills through the establishment of Employability Partnership Agreements with academic departments

Senate **approved** the report.

(d) Postgraduate Research Policy Committee

The Graduate Dean presented a report of the meeting of the Postgraduate Research Policy Committee held on 9 October 2012.

Senate noted that the Committee was undertaking a full review of the current University regulations governing research degree programmes, in consultation with colleges and academic departments. The review was informed by chapter B11 (Research Degrees) of the QAA Quality Code which had been released for consultation and would provide the reference point for the revised regulations.

Senate **approved** the report.

(e) Honorary Degrees Board

The Vice-Chancellor presented a report of the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Board held on 5 November 2012.

Senate considered the nominations for the conferment of honorary degrees and distinguished honorary fellowships at the January and July 2013 ceremonies, and at subsequent ceremonies as applicable. Senate also noted that Chair's action had been taken to award an honorary degree to Sr Bernadette Mary Porter at Newman University College in 2012.

Senate **approved** the report and **resolved to recommend** to Council that these nominations be approved.

(f) Programmes of Study

Senate received a list of programmes of study recently approved or withdrawn.

## 12/M33 RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

## (a) Enterprise Policy Committee

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) presented reports of meetings of the Enterprise Policy Committee held on 24 September and 29 October 2012.

Senate noted that the Committee had approved proposals for the reorganisation of enterprise funding. A new Proof of Concept Fund would support technical innovations, whilst a new Prospects Fund would stimulate knowledge exchange within the institution. Senate also noted the Committee's ongoing work to analyse enterprise metrics regarding the University's current performance and provide internal training to academic staff and research students to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Senate **approved** the reports.

## (b) Research Policy Committee

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) presented a report of the meeting of the Research Policy Committee held on 30 October 2012.

Senate considered and **approved** a minor change to the membership of the Committee. Senate also considered a proposal to establish a research centre in New Writing, based within the School of English. Senate **approved** the proposal.

Senate **approved** the report.

## (c) REF 2012

Senate considered a provisional timetable for internal preparations for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2012 exercise. Senate noted that work was ongoing between the Research Support Office and academic departments with particular emphasis upon the conduct of case studies into the core output, impact and environment measures within the REF framework.

12/M34 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

## (a) Staffing Policy Committee

The Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Resources) presented a report of the meeting of the Staffing Policy Committee held on 25 October 2012.

In terms of promoting the institutional equal opportunities agenda, Senate noted the Committee's proposal that training in equal opportunities policies should be provided to Heads of Department, and also noted that the Athena Swan initiative would be a termly item on the agenda of the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee.

Senate **approved** the report.

## (b) Information and Communications Strategy Committee

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering presented a report of the meeting of the Information and Communication Strategy Committee held on 2 November 2012.

Senate noted the growing emphasis upon mobile computing for staff and students of the University. Senate agreed that it was vital that the University respond to changing IT use, particularly with reference to its applications for learning and teaching, and recommended that a working group be established with representation from each stakeholder group to consider the issue.

Senate also noted that the Committee was developing proposals for more effective cyber security within the University, and that it was also reviewing options for the upgrading of the staff email service.

Senate **approved** the report.

12/M35 **DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS IN 2012/13**

Senate noted the dates and times of its meetings in 2012/13 as follows:

Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 2.00 pm

Thursday 4 July 2013 at 2.00 pm

12/M36 **THANKS**

Senate noted that Louise Jones, Director of Library Services, was leaving the University to take up the post of University Librarian at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and wished to express its thanks for her hard work and support for staff and students of the University through the provision of excellent Library services. Senate wished her every success in her new post.