

SENATE

CONFIRMED Minutes of Meeting held on 01 May 2019

Present: Professor Ian Walmsley (Chair); Professors Buenfeld, Buitendijk, Buluwela, Chilvers, Distaso, Dougherty, Gibson, Gooderham, Kingsbury, Lindstedt, McCoy; Drs Costa-Pereira, Fobelets, Meyer, Trotta; Ms Bannister, Ms Makuch; Mr Lupton; Mr Tebbutt; Mr Ashton (Secretary); Ms Webster (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: Professors Brandon, Magee, Perkmann, Veloso, Weber; Welton Drs Craig, Field, Gounaris, Malhotra; Mr Luy, Mr Tomkies, Ms Thiermann.

2341 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 6 February 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2342 Chair's Action

There was no Chair's Action to report.

2343 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising not otherwise covered by the agenda.

2344 Provost's Business

Received: An Oral Report from the Provost

Reported: (1) That a new Academic Strategy for the College was under development. This would complement the College's current strategy and would help to support the identification of internal priorities and raise the external profile of the College. The new academic strategy had been developed out of the Faculty strategies and aimed to demonstrate the commonality of work being undertaken across the College.

(2) Four high level overarching themes and two capabilities have been identified as the focus for the strategy. These do not cover all the areas of work for the College, there are many areas of teaching and research would continue in parallel. The titles of the themes were a work in progress and feedback was welcomed to ensure that they were provocative but clearly relatable to Imperial. The capabilities identified, entrepreneurial and quantitative were intentionally transdisciplinary. Each faculty had been asked to flesh out the themes, which each have an education and research component and identify opportunities related to the theme and actions planned in the faculty which would help to drive the strategy forward.

(3) That the strategy would be launched in mid-May with a series of consultation meetings and opportunities for all staff to provide feedback before the strategy being considered by the Provost's Board in July and would then be presented to Council in September 2019.

Considered in Discussion: That the timeframe for the strategy would be staged with some short, medium and long term ambitions. Some would relate to plans for new taught programmes while others, such as a discussion on a multi-disciplinary teaching hub would be longer term. There would be a necessary balance between blue sky thinking and applied research but it would be useful for all to consider how their work relates and it was acknowledged that investments would be needed in the longer term in terms of human and physical resources, including space.

Vice Provost (Education) Business

Received: An Oral Report from the Vice Provost (Education)

Reported: (1) That following the Curriculum Review process, the Programmes Committee had met in February and March and had considered all the Undergraduate provision across the college and also some postgraduate provision. All provision had been approved, some with conditions to be met. Thanks were extended to all members of the Curriculum Review Panels and the Programmes Committee as well as to all the staff who had contributed to the review of the curricula in Departments for all their hard work. It was considered that the peer review process had been absolutely pivotal in the successful outcome.

(2) The support for the Curriculum Review process from the EDU and the QA Team in Registry was praised and the Strategic Teaching Fellows had helped to develop learning across faculties and departments in developing teaching expertise and had enhanced the sharing of good practice, which had been recorded and would help facilitate support for the next stage of implementation and innovation of the revised curricula.

(3) That the Lecturer and Module Evaluation Working Group had been meeting to review the Student Online Evaluation tool (SOLE) as a follow up to work undertaken which revealed bias in the outcomes. Different evaluation systems were being considered, including one from the University of Helsinki which would help students to evaluate themselves as effective learners as well as providing feedback. However, care was being taken to ensure that the right approach was taken and it was likely that in the first instance the SOLE questions would be revised. It was noted that a decision had been taken to remove the SOLE metrics from the Promotions Round but after feedback that this decision had not been effectively communicated, it was agreed not to remove them this year. The risk of the impact of the teaching innovations being introduced through curriculum review was also noted.

2345

Academic Regulations

Received: Academic Regulations 2019-20 (**Paper Senate/2018/27**).

Reported: (1) That Senate had approved an earlier version of the Academic Regulations at its meeting in October 2018. Since that meeting further work had been undertaken and a series of further updates had been made. These had been considered and approved by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee following a long period of discussion and consultation through the Regulations and Policy Review Group and through the Vice Deans (Education).

(2) That there were still a few outstanding issues to be resolved and some aspects still to be clarified and so a further report would be made to the next meeting of the Senate. The need to clearly communicate the new regulations to new students was highlighted but it was noted that continuing students would continue on the existing academic regulations. Care had also been taken to identify where Professional and Statutory Bodies may have different expectations or requirements and Senate was advised that these could be accommodated through Programme Specific Regulations.

Considered in discussion: That a concern was expressed over the algorithmic approach to mitigating circumstances and of the role of the examination board. Members were reminded of the need for the regulations to be fair, transparent and accessible and it was reported that where areas had taken steps to have greater clarity over the use of discretion, particularly at the borderline, there had been a reduction in student appeals. The issue of programmes, such as an MRes, which the programme structure did not facilitate the award of compensation was also raised as an issue.

Approved: Senate approved the Academic Regulations 2019-20 as presented to the meeting.

2346 Learning and Teaching Committee

Received: A report from meetings of the Committee (**Paper Senate/2018/28**).

Reported: (1) That a draft Student Support Strategy had been developed and consulted upon. An update would be provided to the Provost's Board to provide further detail on how the three priority actions would be taken forward.

(2) That further work was being undertaken with Departments on taking decisions about what specific digital offerings would be developed and also to identify the support that would be available to students on online programmes of study.

(3) That the Committee had considered and approved a review ethics process for educational research.

(4) That the Learning and Teaching Committee had also considered the following items of business:

- Pedagogy Transformation

2347 Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee

Received: A report from the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (**Paper Senate/2018/29**).

Reported: (1) That the Committee had considered the following items of business:

- Academic Regulations
- Academic Calendar
- Annual Report on undergraduate Academic Appeals
- Faculty Annual Monitoring Reports and a College summary Report
- Student Surveys
- Report from Programmes Committee
- Wednesday afternoon timetabling audit
- Timeliness and quality of feedback
- External Expertise in Quality Processes
- Postgraduate Entry Requirements 2020/21

2348 Appointment of External Examiners

Received: A note from the Academic Registrar (**Paper Senate/2018/30**)

2349 Staff Matters

Received: A note by the Provost (**Paper Senate/2018/31**)

Noted: The names of those appointed to senior academic positions since the last Senate meeting.

2350 Date of Next Meeting

Reported: The next meeting of the Senate would take place on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 3.00 pm