

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on 17th March 2021
Virtually via Microsoft Teams

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO
1.	<p>Apologies and Absences The attendance, apologies and absences are noted on the attached list.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Senators to the meeting and noted that it was the final meeting for Professor Pat Owen, Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery and both Professor Helen O’Sullivan and Professor David Amigoni, Pro Vice-Chancellor’s for Education and Research respectively.</p> <p>Senate were asked to consider item B5 in the Secretary’s Report to approve the addition of the Director of the Keele Doctoral Academy to the Senate membership, this would allow Dr Alex Lamont to join the meeting as a full member.</p> <p>Senate resolved: That the addition of the Director of the Keele Doctoral Academy to the Senate membership be approved.</p> <p>Dr Lamont joined the meeting and was welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor.</p>		
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest None.</p>		
3.	<p>Minutes and Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate approved the minutes of the meeting on 2 December 2020, subject to an amendment requested by Professor Susan Bruce to correct the record of the discussion regarding the IHRA Definition. • Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2021 as an accurate record. 		
4.	<p>Matters Arising Senate received an updated actions list, there were no further matters arising.</p>		
5A	<p>Update from the Vice-Chancellor The Vice-Chancellor provided verbal updates on the items noted in his report. It was confirmed that the</p>		

	<p>recruitment processes for the Pro Vice-Chancellor positions had taken place, with a strong field for both. An announcement regarding the Education and Students role would follow in the next week. Discussions on the Research role were ongoing and it was hoped an announcement could be made before Easter.</p>		
5B(a)	<p>KeeleSU Report Jack Karimi presented the report and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans were being made for the re-opening of the SU building in line with the government restrictions. Initially this would be to offer click and collect services over reduced hours, with the provision expanding as restrictions continued to be eased. • Recent events had been held online including volunteering week and the SU elections in early March. • The Annual General Meeting had taken place in December and a Union General Meeting had been held in February where the items discussed included the 2021 Safety Net provision, the national campaign for tuition fee reduction and the Be Better Do Better campaign. Senators were urged to consider the information in the report on Be Better Do Better which had been progressing well. • A campaign to encourage students to consider the benefits of Counselling and to reduce the perceived stigma around accessing support was being developed. 		
5B(b)	<p>KPA Report Katie Charlton presented the report and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KPA were currently supporting PGR students, including monitoring feedback on University support and ensuring communications from Schools were consistent to disseminate key messages. • The KPA had collaborated with the SU for green week activities for the second year running, these had been well received. • To mark international women's day, the KPA had hosted an anonymous form to allow members to nominate an inspirational woman at Keele to be recognised. • Thanks were noted to the Keele Communities Together fund for allocating funds that had been used to host online social events, the response 		

	<p>to which had been really positive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clubhouse had offered a take away menu throughout lockdown which had been very well received. Plans were in place to open up the external seating area from 12 April in line with government restrictions. • Significant changes had been made to the KPA bursary to allow applications for funding to cover a wider range of activities. • The annual elections process was approaching, nominations were open until 30th March 2021. It was hoped the new team would be in place by 1st June 2021. 		
	<p>Support for students with rent costs was queried. It was confirmed that there had been additional support available since January 2021. The Vice-Chancellor clarified that students with campus accommodation who were not able to be on campus would not be charged up to 7th March. Next steps were still being considered as the government released further guidelines concerning which groups of students could return. Hardship support was available to cover rent costs, particularly for off-campus students. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed the University was mindful of the stresses students were facing, particularly around payment of rent.</p>		
	<p>The Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted thanks to the SU and KPA for their work on Green Fest.</p>		
5C(a)	<p>The Future of Programmes in Music and Music Technology</p> <p>Professor O'Neill presented the paper and confirmed that following the withdrawal of the initial proposal to Senate in December 2020, full consultation had been undertaken to develop the proposal presented in the paper.</p> <p>The new proposal for Senate consideration was to withdraw existing MMT programmes in a phased manner to be replaced with a new undergraduate programme focused on music and sound engineering.</p> <p>Professor O'Neill confirmed that the original proposal had been based on declining intake and increased running costs for current programmes with limited options available to improve recruitment sufficiently to turn this position around.</p> <p>There had been a range of contributions to the consultation from students, staff, stakeholders, alumni and the community, all of which had noted the value of the programmes.</p> <p>The new proposal responded to both the consultation feedback and the report from the Knowledge Partnership and offered a more sustainable provision,</p>		

	<p>as the move away from Music significantly reduced the overheads incurred in offering the existing provision. It was hoped that the new programme was more attuned to the current market and would encourage rejuvenation.</p> <p>There were a number of examples of similar programmes within the sector but Keele would be among the first research intensive institutions to offer it.</p>		
	<p>In terms of the wider cultural role of music on campus, the intention was for these discussions to begin soon after a decision on the new proposal had been reached, as a clear steer on future provision was needed first.</p>		
	<p>It was confirmed that if approved, students would be informed of the decision immediately.</p>		
	<p>Senate resolved:</p> <p>That the proposals for withdrawal of existing programmes to be replaced with new provision, as set out in the paper be approved.</p>		
5D	<p>Research Report</p> <p>Professor Amigoni presented the report, noting the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University's submission for REF was due at 12noon on 31 March 2021. Thanks were noted to all involved who had helped to ensure the University was in a strong position, in particular Unit of Assessment Leads, Heads of School and Deans of Research. • The REF cycle was ongoing and the next period had now begun. • Research income for the last quarter was up compared to the previous year and the forecast for 2020/21 was positive, a significant achievement given the continued uncertainty within the sector, this was testament to the resilience of Keele's researchers. • Knowledge Exchange projects were highlighted in the report including those resulting from the University Enterprise Zone award. • Professor Amigoni echoed the welcome to Dr Lamont, noting the benefits of having the KDA up and running for the PGR agenda. • Condolences were formally noted to the family of Dr Rachel Green following her sudden and tragic passing which was a significant loss for all who knew her. • The Research Institutes had all provided an update within the report, the importance of concerted Faculty and School strategies for collaboration in the current period was 		

	emphasised.		
	There was a discussion on routes to join the Research Institutes. It was confirmed that the process was not as formal as it had been in the past and information could be found on the webpages for each institute. It was highlighted that the Institute for Global Health had not yet been fully launched but this was imminent and details would be shared via the usual communication channels when available.		
	Professor Amigoni confirmed that the University was carefully considering its response to the recent announcement on the reduction in Global Challenges Research Funding, impacting on the funding of current projects. Immediate action taken had included close contact with the Faculty Champions to ensure Principal Investigators were being supported regarding existing awards. Further action would follow including a sector wide campaign and media communications. Researchers were being encouraged to write to their local MP, however, the importance of ensuring letters were responsible and non-inflammatory was emphasised. The University would be writing to Aaron Bell, the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme. It was stressed that the full picture was not yet known and it was expected to take some time for the likely impact to be fully understood.		
	Senate heard a personal perspective from a Principal Investigator, noting that the period immediately following the announcement had been very stressful. It was highlighted that other Universities had already taken action, including writing to ministers, UKRI and in the press highlighting the extreme impact of the decision. Whilst it was recognised that the University had no control over the funding decision, the importance of swift action to try to demand reconsideration was emphasised, the University was urged to act before the end of the current week. This sentiment was echoed by a number of Senate colleagues.		
	The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University was working with partners to respond and would ensure this was actioned in the current week. There was some debate about the most effective way to act, whether through UKRI or politically but the urgency was noted.		
	Senate resolved: That the changes to Regulation C9 proposed in the report be approved .		
5E	Education Report Professor O'Sullivan presented the report and confirmed that much of the Education Committee agenda in recent meetings had been taken up by the Safety Net arrangements. Other key discussions had included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Keele Elective Pathways project, which was moving at pace with proposals due to come to a future Senate meeting. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Degree Algorithm, proposals being prepared for June Senate. 		
	The University's participation in the upcoming PTES survey was queried, Professor O'Sullivan confirmed the University was joining this time.		
	Mari Chappel noted thanks to Helen O'Sullivan from all at KeeleSU and the KPA for her work while in the role of PVC noting it had been a pleasure to work with her and that she had been an inspiration.		
	Professor O'Sullivan thanked the student officers for their feedback, noting that she had been supported by a great team who would continue to provide support after she left. Professor O'Sullivan thanked Senate for their support and challenge, noting that whilst not always comfortable, challenge helped to ensure proposals were robust. She highlighted that a number of exciting plans were being developed before the pandemic and these had been emphasised and accelerated as the University had adapted to respond to the challenges. Thanks were noted to those who had gone above and beyond to realise the response. She recalled her first presentation to Senate three years ago, had focussed on Social Learning, noting that this would help to emphasise the best of the pandemic experience without losing the ethos that made Keele unique around community, research led teaching, robust assessment and effective student support. Professor O'Sullivan wished the University well for the future.		
5F	<p>Secretary's Report Senate received the Secretary's report and approved the following items.</p> <p>Senate resolved:</p> <p>That the awards, prizes and honorary titles presented in the report be approved.</p> <p>To recommend to Council that the Senior Appointments presented in the report be approved.</p>		
6	<p>EDI Considerations Support for staff in the recovery from the pandemic was queried in the context that the student safety net had been agreed and the University had launched the Keele Deal Recovery for the wider community. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the latest staff survey had closed a few weeks ago. Data analysis was now underway to help shape future plans, which aimed to give more scope for flexibility while ensuring the University was sufficiently agile, and able to effectively fulfil business needs. It was emphasised that there was a shift towards thinking about the next normal, rather than a new normal.</p> <p>It was queried how the University would account for the various disruptions of the last year in terms of promotions. The Vice-Chancellor noted staff concerns in</p>		

	<p>this area.</p> <p>It was confirmed that for the REF, there was a Covid Annex as part of the submission for the University to reflect on the impact of the pandemic. It was also confirmed that Faculties would be analysing the impact over time, working with HR to ensure this was a University level exercise overall.</p> <p>The discussion emphasised the impact on all staff in different ways, including the impact of caring responsibilities but also in terms of the isolation felt by others. The importance of ensuring no staff were alienated from support measures and of ensuring the spectrum of impacts was considered was emphasised.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor noted the importance of this point and confirmed that the approach the University was taking was aimed to ensure all aspects of the discussion were heard and considered. The key aim was to ensure that flexibility was afforded without having a disproportionate impact on any other groups of colleagues. The decisions were complex and there was a need for caution to avoid any avoidable disruption.</p>		
7	<p>Any Other Business No further items raised.</p>		

(a) ***The Vice-Chancellor***

Professor Trevor McMillan

(b) ***Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost; and the Pro Vice-Chancellors and the Deans (including the Chairs of the Boards of Studies and Faculties)***

Professor Mark Ormerod	Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost
Professor Helen O'Sullivan	Pro Vice-Chancellor Education
Professor David Amigoni	Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise
Professor Pauline Walsh	Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Professor Shane O'Neill	Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Advancement in Global Engagement)
Professor Jonathan Wastling	Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate Studies)

(c) ***Academic Registrar and Director of Student and Academic Services***

(d) ***Librarian***

Mr Daniel Perry

(e) ***Heads of Departments and Schools***

Academic Schools:

School of Humanities: Dr Nick Seager

Keele Business School: Professor Elaine Ferneley

School of Law: Professor Alison Brammer

School of Social, Political and Global Studies: Professor Robert Ladrech

School of Allied Health Professionals: Ms Anne O'Brien

A School of Medicine: Professor Christian Mallen

School of Nursing and Midwifery: Dr Patricia Owen

School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering: Dr Katie Maddock

School of Chemical and Physical Sciences: Professor Mike Watkinson

School of Computing and Mathematics: Professor Peter Andras

School of Geography Geology and Environment: Professor Christopher Fogwill

A School of Life Sciences: Professor Dawn Scott

School of Psychology: Professor Abigail Locke

Deans of Research

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences- Professor Derek McGhee

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences- Professor Nick Forsyth

Faculty of Natural Sciences- Professor Clifford Stott

Deans of Education

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – Dr Tim Lustig

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences – Dr Julie Green

Faculty of Natural Sciences – Dr Katie Szkornik

Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE)

Director of KIITE: Dr Rafe Hallett

(g) ***Members of the Electoral Roll elected by the Electoral Roll***

Elected by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr Shalini Sharma (History)	2018-2021
Dr Rebecca Richards (International Relations)	2019-2022
Dr Samantha Weston (Criminology)	2019-2022
Mrs Catherine Edwards (Law)	2019-2022
Dr Mariangela Palladino (Humanities)	2020-2023
Dr Laura Pritchard-Jones (Law)	2020-2023
Dr Xuebing (Jack) Cao (KBS)	2020-2023

Elected by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Dr Clare Jinks (Primary, Community and Social Care)	2018-2021
Mrs Yvonne Flood (Nursing & Midwifery)	2018-2021
Dr Lisa Dikomitis (Medicine)	2018-2021
Dr Audrey Skidmore (Medicine)	2018-2021
Dr Abigail Rutter (Pharmacy & Biomedical Engineering)	2019-2022
A Professor Athula Sumathipala (Primary, Community and Social Care)	2019-2022
Dr Emma Healey (Medicine)	2019-2022
Mrs Cath Hill (Nursing and Midwifery)	2020-2023

Elected by the Faculty of Natural Sciences

Dr Masi Noor (Psychology)	2019-2022
A Dr David Mazzocchi-Jones (Life Sciences)	2019-2022
A Dr Laura Hibberts (Foundation Year)	2019-2022
Dr Adam Stanton (Computing and Mathematics)	2019-2022
Dr Jacco van Loon (Chemical and Physical Sciences)	2020-2023
Dr Anja Winter (Chemical and Physical Sciences)	2020-2023
Dr Dierdre McKay (Geography, Geology and Environment)	2020-2023
Mr Glenn Hussey (Life Sciences)	2020-2023

(h) Student Representatives: Elected Officers

KeeleSU

Mr Jack Karimi- <i>Union Development and Democracy Officer</i>	2020-2021
Ms Mari Chappell- <i>Education Officer</i>	2020-2021
Mr Miles Venvil- <i>Welfare and Internationalisation Officer</i>	2020-2021
Mr Leroy Cohoone - <i>Activities and Community Officer</i>	2020-2021
Ms Holly Brooks- <i>Athletic Union and Sport Officer</i>	2020-2021

Keele Postgraduate Association

Ms Katie Charlton- <i>President</i>	2020-2021
Ms Elisia Narbett- <i>Vice-President</i>	2020-2021

In-Attendance at Senate

Chief Operating Officer: Dr Mark Bacon

Director of Foundation Year: Simon Rimmington

Head of Academic Quality and Student Conduct: Dorothea Ross-Simpson

EDI Observer: Marie Doherty

Secretary: Laura Norcop, Governance Officer