

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on 16 March 2022
Virtually via Microsoft Teams

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies For a record of attendance and apologies see attached list.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor welcomed members to the meeting and, in particular, Donna Lee (Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences) and Theo Kyriacou (Head of School of Computing & Maths) to their first meeting.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor confirmed the activities being undertaken by the University to support staff and students affected by the war in Ukraine. It was confirmed that the University had identified students directly impacted and was working to ensure they had the required support. Whilst the University did not have any Ukrainian staff, it was recognised that wider groups may be impacted and staff requiring support were urged to make contact via their line manger or through HR. It was confirmed that the University was monitoring the sector response and hoped to participate in any emerging schemes. Keele specific responses were also being considered.</p>		
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest None.</p>		
3.	<p>Minutes and Actions The minutes of the meeting on 8 December 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to corrections to the attendance list.</p> <p>The actions list was noted.</p>		
4.	<p>Matters Arising <u>Questions for the VC - Diversity Flag</u> An update was requested on the discussion on displaying the Diversity flag over Keele Hall permanently. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the policy on flying a flag was under review. It was confirmed that there were a range of views to consider and finding an appropriate balance was important to reflect the diverse campus community.</p>		

	<p><u>Questions for the VC – HR Event</u> Feedback that the answer given did not reflect an understanding of academic workloads. The Vice-Chancellor noted the feedback and reiterated the response provided to the question which explained the event was held for the specific team in recognition of their local circumstances.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Proposal to Establish a Confucius Institute at Keele The Vice-Chancellor introduced the paper noting that the topic was complex and had stimulated a range of views as part of the consultation discussions. It was highlighted that as a University, Keele was relatively inexperienced in internationalisation and needed to explore its role and purpose in order to establish an international presence and reputation. The need for a strong international community to support and nurture international students who study here was also highlighted.</p> <p>The Pro Vice-Chancellor Education presented the paper highlighting the hard work ongoing in a number of areas to cement international partnerships and the strategic significance of China as an international market. It was confirmed that the CI would represent a significant step forward in advancing this agenda making the University more visible, better connected and more outward facing to the market.</p> <p>The controversy attracted by the proposal was acknowledged in terms of the challenges of working with international partners whose governments had different agendas. The opportunity presented by the CI to help bring the debates together and to enhance understanding of Chinese language and culture, as well as building a community was emphasised.</p> <p>In addition to the consultation process outlined in the paper, it was confirmed that an initial risk assessment had been considered by UEC this week and was intended to evolve with the progression of the project.</p> <p>The benefits for the Faculty were summarised by the Dean of Education for HUMSS, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits for language teaching, in particular Mandarin. • An opportunity to build partnerships with schools and to provide a resource to the wider community. • Improving the experience for international students who study at Keele. <p>The Academic Director: Global Partnerships responded to some of the reservations expressed following circulation of the proposal with the Senate papers, confirming that the University would be well protected</p>		

	<p>against undue influence via robust governance structures and that the CI would be an independent unit, delivering non-credit bearing modules that were not a part of any programme. It was also confirmed that the process to develop the CI would be open and transparent. In terms of the reputations of other CI's, it was noted that there were no recorded instances of infringement of academic freedom and of those that had closed in recent years, there were no examples within the UK. It was confirmed that the University was exploring international partnerships in a number of countries, with China the logical starting point due to the size and scale of the market.</p>		
5.1	<p>Senate held a substantial discussion on the proposal. Some members of Senate spoke in favour of the proposals noting that dialogue with other states was important and a culture of understanding and cooperation was necessary to foster influence or positive engagement. Colleagues with experience of working in China emphasised the benefit of understanding that came from working together.</p> <p>Members of Senate expressed concerns around the risk assessment process and felt that sight of the ongoing risk assessment was required before a decision could be made. Concern was also expressed that the views of students were not well understood, however, it was highlighted that these had been sought via the Elected Officers who had participated in the consultation meeting.</p>		
5.2	<p>Following the discussion a vote was held, counted via the show of hands function in MS Teams. Senators were asked to vote in favour or against the approval of the proposal to proceed with the application process.</p> <p>The Secretary recorded 12 votes in favour and 20 votes against, with 6 abstentions.</p> <p>Senate resolved:</p> <p>That the proposal presented in the paper was not approved.</p>		
5.3	<p>It was confirmed that, following this decision reflection on the implications and future actions would take place and a report would be made back to Senate in due course.</p>		
5.	<p>(a) KeeleSU Report</p> <p>Senate received the update from the KeeleSU elected officers covering recent events and ongoing campaigns including LGBTQ+ History Month, Industrial Action and the annual election processes. Members of Senate were asked to contact the elected officers if they wished to support or participate in any campaign activity.</p>		

	<p>(b) KPA Report</p> <p>Senate received the paper, noting the updates provided in the paper including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the ongoing election process were due by 29th April.’ • The revised KPA constitution would be presented to Council for approval in July. 		
6.	<p>Education Report</p> <p>Senate received the Education report and noted the summary of Education Committee business including the External Examining Overview where it was reported that the examiner had confidence in the standard of awards and outcomes and had praised the quality and support for online delivery. Ongoing actions identified from the previous report had been noted and the examiner had commented on the long-term impact of the safety-net implemented during the pandemic, where students who had automatically progressed had gone on to struggle. The report also contained the Degree Outcome Statement which had been updated and the published data refreshed.</p> <p>Senators welcomed the review of the EC process, noting the developments already highlighted in the report and the ongoing consideration in other areas.</p> <p>Developments in assessment approach were discussed and it was agreed that there was a need to balance the positive outcomes that had been realised following the changed approach with wider considerations including bringing associated processes in to line including addressing concerns around academic integrity.</p> <p>Senate approved the withdrawal of the programmes listed in the paper</p>		
7.	<p>Research Report</p> <p>Senate received the report and noted that preparatory work for the next REF submission was now underway and communications were being prepared ahead of the release of the results on 9th May.</p> <p>The update on Research Institutes provided in the paper was highlighted and it was confirmed that work was ongoing to develop support for research centres.</p>		
8.	<p>Recruitment Update</p> <p>Senate received the update form the Director of Global Student Recruitment and Admissions noting that the number of international PG applicants had increased significantly, building on the increase in the previous year and representing a consolidation of the recovering position in international student numbers.</p> <p>For undergraduate applications, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy had seen strong growth and there were</p>		

	<p>encouraging numbers for programmes within the School of Geography, Geology and Environment. Challenges were noted in the numbers for other areas including Law, though it was noted that more applications had been received than in the previous cycle.</p> <p>It was confirmed that recruitment fayres for 2023 were underway and Keele would be offering over 40 new programmes, supporting the University's ambitions to grow student numbers.</p>		
9.	<p>VC Report Senate received the report which was taken as read. Responses provided to the questions for the VC were noted. Question authors had the opportunity to ask follow up questions on the responses provided in the paper which covered, timetabling and gender pay gap.</p> <p>Senate discussed the pensions update provided in the paper and the Vice-Chancellor reiterated the University's position, recognising the importance of maintaining the attractiveness of the scheme was important and the problem of staff leaving the scheme.</p>		
10.	<p>Secretary's Report Senate received the report and confirmed approval of the items in Section A including awards, prizes and Honorary Titles.</p> <p>Senate resolved: To recommend approval to Council the Senior Appointments as set out in the paper.</p>		
11.	<p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations No further items raised.</p>		
12.	<p>Any Other Business The status of the Staff Voice Group was queried and it was confirmed that this would be one of the things the Director of HR would be asked to consider when an appointment was made.</p>		

SENATE ATTENDANCE LIST – 16 MARCH 2022

- (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 Krystian Spelman Miller Pro Vice-Chancellor Education
Professor Professor Eran Edirisinghe Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise
Professor Pauline Walsh Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Pro Vice-Chancellor
Professor Tim Lustig Interim 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**
A Ms Victoria Macfarlane Academic Registrar
- (d) **Librarian**
Mr Daniel Perry
- (e) **Heads of Departments and Schools**
- Academic Schools:**
School of Humanities: Dr Nicholas Seager
A Keele Business School: Professor Elaine Ferneley
School of Law: Professor Alison Brammer
School of Social, Political and Global Studies: Professor Helen Parr
School of Allied Health Professions: Ms Anne O'Brien
A School of Medicine: Professor Christian Mallen
A School of Nursing and Midwifery: Professor Julie Green
School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering: Professor Katie Maddock
School of Chemical and Physical Sciences: Professor Mike Watkinson
School of Computing and Mathematics: Professor Theo Kyriacou
School of Geography Geology and Environment: Professor Clare Holdsworth
School of Life Sciences: Dr Naomi Forrester - Soto
School of Psychology: Professor Abigail Locke
A Harper and Keele Veterinary School: Professor Matthew Jones
Keele Doctoral Academy: Professor Alexandra Lamont
- Deans of Research**
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences- Professor Mariangela Palladino
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 – Tim Lustig
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences – Dr Heidi Fuller
Faculty of Natural Sciences – Dr Katie Szkornik
A 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 Rebecca Richards (International Relations)	2019-2022
Dr Samantha Weston (Criminology)	2019-2022
Mrs Catherine Edwards (Law)	2019-2022
Dr Xuebing (Jack) Cao (Keele Business School)	2020-2023
Dr Laura Pritchard-Jones (Law)	2020-2023
Dr Shalini Sharma (History)	2018-2025

Elected by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Dr Abigail Rutter (Pharmacy & Biomedical Engineering)	2019-2022
Dr Emma Healey (Medicine)	2019-2022
Mrs Cath Hill (Nursing and Midwifery)	2020-2023
Dr Lisa Dikomitis (Medicine)	2020-2024
Professor Saeed Farooq, School of Medicine	2021-2024
Miss Marie Doherty, School of Nursing and Midwifery	2021-2024
Dr Simon White, School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering	2021-2024
Dr Desiree O'Leary, School of Allied Health Professions	2021-2024

Elected by the Faculty of Natural Sciences

Dr Masi Noor (Psychology)	2019-2022
Dr David Mazzocchi-Jones (Life Sciences)	2019-2022
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 Deirdre McKay (Geography, Geology and Environment)	2020-2023
Dr Glenn Hussey (School of Life Sciences)	2020-2023
Dr Anja Winter (School of Chemical and Physical Sciences)	2020-2023

(h) Student Representatives: Elected Officers

KeeleSU

Ms Holly Brooks <i>Union Development and Democracy Officer</i>	2021-2022
Mr Jack Medlin- <i>Education Officer</i>	2021-2022
Mr Dan Lay - <i>Welfare and Diversity Officer</i>	2021-2022
Mr Tom Guilbert-Newell - <i>Activities and Community Officer</i>	2021-2022
Ms Lucy Whitehouse- <i>Athletic Union and Sport Officer</i>	2021-2022

Keele Postgraduate Association

Ms Sarah Hammond	2020-2021
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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 Observers (Rotational Attendance)

Hinna Sheikh Race Equality Officer
Lisa Lau RECSAT Co-Chair
Tess Phillips FNS
Marie Doherty FMHS
Susan Bruce Gender Equality Lead

Professor David Law, Academic Director: Global Partnerships (Item 5)
Robbie Pickles Director:GSRA (Item 8)