

THE SENATE



Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2016

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (Professor D.J. Richardson) (in the Chair), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. Petley and Professor N. Ward), the Executive Deans of Faculty (Professor J. Collier, Professor D. Edwards and Professor P. Gilmartin), Heads of Schools (Professor R. Jowett (Acting Head of School), Professor V. Moulton), Academic Representatives (Dr H. Adcock, Dr R. Denison, Professor M. Frenneaux, Dr M. O'Connell, Dr T. Smith, Professor N. Spalding, Dr J. Turner), and Acting Dean of Students (Ms J. Amos), and the Student Representatives except for business marked ** (Mr C. Rand and Ms J. Swo).

With: The Academic Director of Taught Programmes (Dr A. Longcroft), Academic Director of Learning and Teaching Enhancement (Mrs H. Gillespie), Academic Director of Pg Research Degree Programmes (Dr N. Watmough), Director of Learning and Teaching Services (Dr A Blanchflower), Assistant Registrar (Mrs L. Williams) and Senior Administrative Assistant (Mrs R. Phillips) and Assistant Head of Outreach (Dr Louise Bohn) for item 33 and Head of Admissions (Ms Alix Delany) for item 34.

Apologies: The Registrar and Secretary (Mr B. J. Summers), Executive Dean (Professor Y. Tasker), Head of School Representative (Professor G. Schofield), Academic Representative (Professor D. Andrews, Professor F. Lettice and Dr M. Williams, Dr L. Biggart), Ms C. Peasgood (CCN Representative), Director of Information Services (Mr J. Colam-French), Academic Director of Partnerships (Professor I. Dewing), Academic Director of Admissions (Dr R. Harvey).

31. MINUTES

Confirmed

the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016.

(Senate noted that following the last meeting the concerns and risks raised in relation to the Enrichment week had been discussed by the Executive Team. The strategy for coordinating activities was becoming firm with various groups and teams identified. The aim was for Schools to take responsibility for their own programmes but that there would need to be some coordination to manage the resources required by each School's proposals. A project manager role had been identified to coordinate all the central resources and professional service involvement and work with Schools and Faculties. Senate noted that this was a real opportunity to work in partnership with students, an opportunity to co-create and co-deliver activities which was an objective (1.6) in the UEA 2016-2020 plan. Looking across the sector it had been found that the University of Edinburgh already run an "Innovative learning" week, the vision for which looked to be very similar to UEA's aspirations. The Students' Union remained keen to have a week focussed on developmental activities rather than curriculum and were enthusiastic about working in partnership to deliver the enrichment activities. A progress report would be brought to the next Senate.)

32. STATEMENTS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

- (1) The UEA Plan 2016-2020 had been approved by Council and was now available via Blackboard. There was an official launch planned for March 2016. Some final iterative changes were being made to the UEA Vision 2030 and once complete this too would be published. Senate had a key role to play in monitoring the progress made towards achieving the University's objectives. A meeting of the Executive team and UUEAS sabbatical officers had already taken place to discuss the opportunities for working in partnership towards these goals. The University's financial plan was being developed in line with and to support the strategy but with the HEFCE funding letter now not due till late April there would be a consequent delay in finalising the financial plans.
- (2) The announcement about the building of the new £81.6m Quadram Institute was made this week. The Quadram Institute is the name of a new centre for food and health research due to open in 2018. The initial investment is being provided by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) together with its three Norwich-based partners - the Institute of Food Research (IFR), the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NNUH), and UEA. The Institute will integrate research teams from the IFR and UEA's Faculty of Science and Norwich Medical School with the NNUHs' gastrointestinal endoscopy facility under one roof.
- (3) The University was exploring partnerships with a number of European Universities that would enhance our, and their, global reputation.
- (4) The new rules regarding open access of research publication would be coming into operation in April 2016. From this moment for a publication to be eligible for submission to the REF it must be either on-line or published in the University repository within 3 months of being accepted for publication. Senate noted that this requirement also applied to staff joining UEA in that their papers would have to meet this REF open access requirement at their current institution for them to be eligible at UEA once the staff member had re-located to UEA.
- (5) Following some guidance from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark, the LEP Board were expanding the devolution bid from one that encompassed Norfolk and Suffolk to also include the area around Cambridge and Peterborough and so covered the East of England.

33. WIDENING PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

Approved

a University Widening Participation Strategy. (A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. SEN15D018)

(Senate welcomed the report and proposed strategy noting that widening participation was high on the Government agenda. The social mobility index had highlighted some concerns and the Office of Fair Access (OFFA) was addressing these and were issuing guidance to Universities. The Teaching Excellence Framework proposals also had an emphasis on widening participation. Senate also noted whilst OFFA currently has a focus on UG courses it was giving consideration to PGT and PGR provision and so some

changes may arise in due course. The changes in moving the financial support for professional health courses from bursaries to loans was considered likely to impact negatively upon the University's widening participation performance. This was being mitigated by marketing and recruitment activities and by working closely with regional employers. It was too early to evaluate the situation).

*34. ADMISSIONS PROCESSES AND UPDATE

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

*35. COURSEWORK TURNAROUND

This minute is confidential and attached as a separate sheet.

36. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF THE SENATE TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL

Reported

- (1) that the Council includes amongst its membership two members of the Senate whom currently are Ms Helen Lewis (2018) and Professor Gillian Schofield (2016);
- (2) that the term of office of Professor Gillian Schofield would end on 31 July 2016;
- (3) nominations of candidates for the vacancy (which need not be for serving members of the Senate) should be lodged with the Registrar and Secretary in writing no later than **5pm, Thursday 31st March 2016** and shall state that the consent of the nominee has been obtained. The nomination form is on the Blackboard site.
- (4) In the event that there are no nominations for this vacancy, at the first ordinary meeting of the Senate nominations shall be asked for and voted upon by ballot by those persons present and entitled to vote.

37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

that the next meeting of the Senate is scheduled for Wednesday 8 June 2016.