

**The University of Huddersfield  
Minutes of the Senate  
14 March 2018**

- Present:** Professor R Cryan (Chair), Professor M Adkins, Dr C Bordogna, Mr T Bowden, Dr S Burns, Dr M Cooper, Dr M Culshaw, Professor S Donnelly, Mrs S Furmedge, Professor P Goswani, Professor C Jarvis, Professor J Johnes, Professor M Kagioglou, Professor N King, Dr S Lui, Professor J Malay, Professor P Miller, Mr M Mills, Mr S Neves, Dr Y Novakovic, Professor J Owen-Lynch, Ms A Pettican, Professor P Sanderson, Professor T Schmidt, Mr J Stephen, Professor J Sweeney, Professor D Taylor, Professor T Thornton, Dr L Waters, Ms K White, Dr S White
- In Attendance:** Mrs M Boryslawskyj, Ms S Campbell, Ms K Engel, Dr J Grainger, Mr T Hosker (for Mr C Blair), Mr A Mandebura, Mr A McConnell, Professor L Towns-Andrews, Mrs K Sherlock
- Apologies:** Mr W Alenezi, Professor A Ball, Professor P Bissell, Mrs N Firth, Dr K Lewis, Professor P Ward, Mr C Blair

The Chair welcomed Dr S Burns, Professor P Goswani, Dr Y Novakovic, Ms A Pettican and Dr L Waters to their first meeting.

## **REGS-SC-14Mar18-1.0 SENATE BRIEFING**

### **1.1 Estates Briefing**

- Members were advised that the Barbara Hepworth Building should be completed by July 2019.
- Members noted that a substation was being built on Western Campus to provide additional power and this would be completed in Summer 2018.
- Members were advised that the Joseph Priestley Building was now completed and a new science building providing four floors of laboratories was likely to be completed by July 2019, providing that planning permission is granted in April 2018.
- Members were briefed on the new Student Realm Master Plan which would link University Square with Joseph Priestley and Barbara Hepworth.
- It was noted that the defects to Student Central were being repaired and that the Sports Hall defects would be completed during Summer 2018.
- The Assistant Director of Estates briefed members on the Institute of Railway Research, in partnership with the UK Rail Research & Innovation Network, creating an Innovation Centre which should be completed by March 2020.

## **REGS-SC-14Mar18-2.0 MINUTES**

- 2.1 **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 be accepted as a correct record. **(REGS-SC-2Nov17-M)**

### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-3.0 MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-4.0 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 University Strategy 2018-2025**

The Chair confirmed that the University was working on a new strategy for 2018-2025, which would be presented to Council in November 2018 following the consultation currently taking place across the University. The Chair asked Members to be ambitious yet realistic when responding to the consultation. The Chair expressed his pride at the transformation that the University had progressed through recently noting that the University was now one of the leaders in employing academics with PhDs. The Chair explained that the University could not be complacent and needed to stretch itself when creating the 2018-2025 strategy and that a cross-institution consultation would commence shortly and colleagues were encouraged to contribute.

### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-5.0 UNIVERSITY NEWS**

- 5.1 Members were briefed on a range of news from around the University including the following items:

- Young entrepreneurs from across the country visited the University to present their innovative business ideas to His Royal Highness the Duke of York when the latest edition of his Pitch@Palace was staged at the University. Later that same day, The Duke unveiled the foundation stone of the £30 million Barbara Hepworth Building, due for completion in 2019.
- CMI Companionships have been conferred upon Colin Blair, Andrew McConnell, Professor Tim Thornton and Professor Liz Towns-Andrews. The University is the first Higher Education Institution in the world to aim for all senior managers to achieve Chartered Managers (CMgr) of the Chartered Management Institute. The Chair noted that the University now had five companions which is the highest number in any single organisation. By July 2018 we will be the first organisation to have all its senior managers chartered by the CMI. This will be extended to middle managers shortly.
- Dapinder Singh QC, a University of Huddersfield law graduate, was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2017, raising him into the top echelon of barristers. These appointments are awarded each year by Her Majesty the Queen.
- The Institute of Railway Research has signed an agreement to join Network Rail's University Strategic Partnership programme. They will work together in order to solve some of the most pressing issues facing modern railways such as reliability of electric power supplies and how to maximise safety.
- Battlefield archaeologist Dr Glenn Foard is playing a key role in a three-year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, where he hopes to pinpoint the exact site of the War of the Roses battle known as Mortimer's Cross.
- Doctoral research by PhD Researcher, Sean Ward has led to the development of a method that quickly detects signs of multiple sclerosis and avoids the currently invasive and painful process of collecting fluid from the brain and spine by using advanced mass spectrometry techniques. The

discovery will also aid the investigation of the role of the compounds in the disease and assist potential new drug development.

- The University and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) are joining together for a €1.8bn European Spallation Source (ESS) project. The University's International Institute of Accelerator Applications (IIAA) headed by Professor Rob Edgecock, in tandem with the STFC's Daresbury Laboratory, will provide the ESS with its Radio Frequency distribution system, which delivers power to the enormous particle accelerator.
- Professor Liam Blunt and his team have been awarded €200,000 from Innovate UK to begin research which aims to ensure for the first time that evidence from firearms and ammunition achieves a similar degree of scientific accuracy as DNA.
- The book entitled "Yorkshire" by Emeritus Professor of Archaeology Richard Morris has been highly-acclaimed by critics and readers alike. The book has been described as 'a lyrical history of England's Greatest County' and with Professor Morris' unique story-telling style the book has already gathered critical and media interest.

### **To consider and approve:**

#### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-6.0 MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 **Resolved:** to approve the updated membership of Senate.

**(REGS-SC-14Mar18-6.1)**

6.2 **Resolved:** to approve the appointment of S Furmedge to represent Senate at the Governance & Membership Committee.

### **To note:**

#### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-7.0 HONORARY AWARDS**

7.1 Members were updated on the recipients for 2018 and were asked to invite colleagues to propose nominees for future years. Members were reminded that the names of those nominated were to be kept confidential until formally announced by the University.

#### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-8.0 APPLICATIONS FOR 2018**

8.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor updated members on the recruitment campaign for September 2018 entry at this relatively early stage in the process. Given the trend towards later decision-making, a much larger proportion of students had yet to make a firm decision than at this point last year. Members were reminded of the challenging recruitment environment and the need to demonstrate innovation and work hard to ensure effective applications and conversions. Members were advised that the approaching admissions cycle will continue to be competitive and cautioned against complacency.

#### **REGS-SC-14Mar18-9.0 REPORTS FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (TEACHING AND LEARNING)**

##### Attainment

9.1 The Pro Vice-Chancellor confirmed that there would be an update later in the year.

##### NSS

9.2

The Pro Vice-Chancellor reported on the importance for a strong return rate to ensure that all students are able to express their opinions about their experience. Members were advised that returns were slightly ahead of last year but warned against complacency. The Pro Vice-Chancellor asked the Schools to ensure that they encouraged their students to complete the NSS.

### 9.3 Teaching Excellence Framework

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised members to review the consultation on subject level TEF as this will have implications for the University.

### 9.4 UTLC Summaries

The summaries of the 29 November 2017 and 31 January 2018 meetings were noted.

- Members attention was drawn to the fact that too many surveys had been sent to students in the past and were reminded that any additional surveys had to seek approval before being disseminated amongst the students, especially given the importance of the NSS.
- It was noted that the Personal Academic Tutor policy had been approved.
- Members were advised that a thematic review of assessment had been carried out and a working group had been tasked with beginning to implement the standardisation.

**(REGS-SC-14Mar18-9.4)**

## **REGS-SC-14Mar18-10.0 REPORT FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (INTERNATIONAL)**

### Update on International Enrolments & Recruitment

10.1 The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised that recruitment was very strong in September 2017 and continued the trend in January 2018.

### International Student Barometer

10.2 The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised that the results from Autumn 2017 placed the University as 13 out of 120 institutions. Members noted that whilst we had not quite met the related KPI, no major issues had been identified.

### University International Committee Summary

The summary of the 6 December 2017 meeting was noted.

10.3

- Members attention was drawn to the recent joint validations between the School of Computing & Engineering and Huddersfield Business School where work experience was offered with Post Graduate Taught courses. It was noted that this was an innovative approach that was likely appeal to students.
- Members noted that the QS World Rankings for 2019 would be released soon and were reminded of the successful 2018 rankings. Members attention was drawn to the fact that research was providing gains for the University in these rankings and that we needed to work strategically across the World to build on these recent successes.

**(REGS-SC-14Mar18-10.3.1)**

**REGS-SC-14Mar18-11.0 REPORT FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE)**

**11.1 University Research Committee Summary**

The summary of the 5 December 2017 meeting was noted.

**(REGS-SC-14Mar18-11.1.1)**

**REGS-SC-14Mar18-12.0 SCHOOL BOARD SUMMARIES**

**12.1** The summaries of the School Boards were noted. Members attention was drawn to the renaming of the School of Applied Sciences' Department of Biological Sciences to the Department of Biological & Geographical Sciences.

**(REGS-SC-14Mar18-12.1-12.7)**

**REGS-SC-14Mar18-13.0 UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**13.1** The University Council minutes dated 23 November 2017 were noted.

**(REGS-SC-14Mar18-13.1)**

**REGS-SC-14Mar18-14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**14.1** There were no additional matters to discuss.

**REGS-SC-14Mar18-15.0 AVAILABILITY OF AGENDA, PAPERS AND MINUTES**

**15.1** There were no papers excluded from the Library under Standing Order 11.8.

**REGS-SC-14Mar18-16.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

**16.1** 27 June 2018 at 9.30am in the McClelland Suite

Katie Engel  
Registry  
March 2018