

## SENATE

**Minutes: Wednesday 2 September 2020 via Zoom**

- Present: Principal,  
M Schachtsiek, Dr N Rattray, Dr Z Rattray, Dr K Mitchell, Professor V Phoenix, M Gorrie, Professor J MacKenzie, K Burns, R Cairns, V Welsh, R Wallace, A Corrigan, P Chambers, C Hillan, Dr A Nordon, Dr A Hewitt, Dr A Fletcher, Professor A Incecik, Dr B Keating, B Rapson, Professor B Wagner, B Green, Professor B McNeil, Professor C Booth, Professor C McDiarmid, Dr D Harle, Dr C Gonzalez-Longo, Professor D Hillier, Professor D Willison, Dr A McLaren, Dr E Compton-Daw, Dr G West, Dr H Grierson, Professor I Stewart, Professor I Rivers, Professor J Sefcik, Dr K Kavanagh, Dr L Bonnar, L Brownlow, Dr M Cunningham, Professor P Cardwell, Professor P McKenna, Professor D Brodie, R McHugh, A Paddison, R Smith, Dr S Murdy, Professor S MacGregor, Dr S Yang, Dr T Tezdogan, Professor T Bedford, Professor T Sharpe, Dr Y Demirel, Dr Y Zhang, Dr S McCool, Professor W Kerr, A Merchant, Dr F Scott, Professor D Murphy, E Sneddon, E McIlhatton, Professor S Kuhr, Professor S Howick, Professor D Graham, Dr L Pritchard
- Attending: Dr V O'Halloran, A Gillespie, J Kyle, C Milligan, G Watt, S Wallace, A McCleave, C Jamieson
- Apologies: Professor E Shaw, Dr K Savage, Dr O Romice, Dr C Lindsay, Dr J Delafield-Butt, Dr M Neal, H Gould, A McFarlane, Professor A Duffy

### OPEN BUSINESS

#### **12431. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed Senators to the third virtual meeting of Senate and the first meeting of AY 2020-21, in particular all new Senate members, including student representatives who now comprised 10% of the total Senate membership. 14 new Senate members had attended the Induction session and the presentation slides were available on Sharepoint for reference. Although the University was moving towards a blended mode of participation, it was likely that modified operations for the University's governance would continue into 2021.

#### **12431. Minutes of the meeting of 3 June 2020 (Paper S20-21-01)**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **12432. Matters Arising**

No matters arising were noted.

#### **12433. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper S20-21-02)**

The Vice Principal invited Senate to **note** the report of the Senate Business Committee which had met on 21 August 2020.

The Committee had reviewed the following:

1. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) subgroup outlined in Appendix A of the report, noting that the CPA subgroup had processed eleven new agreements (comprising validation, articulation, joint PhD supervision and Study Abroad arrangements) which are detailed in the Faculty reports to Senate.
2. The Terms of Reference for Senate Business Committee which had been updated to reflect its role in considering Posthumous and Aegrotat awards as outlined in Annex B, noting that the membership would be refined to include the StrathUnion President.
3. Convener's Actions approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate since the last Senate meeting and outlined in Paper S20-21-03, were considered by Senate Business Committee:
  - a. The revision of the timeline for Boards of Examiners and associated processes leading to conferment of degree awards for students graduating from MBA and SBS Faculty Unit programmes in November 2020;
  - b. The approval of eleven new scholarships following approval by Quality Assurance Committee via Convener's action. These scholarships have all been approved by the relevant Boards of Study;
  - c. Specific recommendations pertaining to the implementation of the 'No Detriment' Policy (NDP Policy) being extended to include the resit diet; and
  - d. Out of Cycle approval of a request from Strathclyde Business School MBA Unit to create the new Executive MBA programme to integrate the current part-time and flexible learning MBA study modes to a new Executive MBA 2-year part-time programme.
4. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 2 September 2020.
5. The Committee reviewed the reports submitted for the Senate meeting which, subject to minor refinements, were approved by the Committee. The Committee was pleased to recommend for Senate's endorsement the proposal to award University status to NHS Lanarkshire as outlined in Paper S20-21-09.
6. Requests for Senate's attention and approval were highlighted; Senate giving its formal approval to reports as noted below (Minutes **12439 – 12449**).

## **12434. Principal's Report and Update**

### **Covid-19 News**

The Principal highlighted that 50 per cent of buildings on campus were now open for a range of academic research and professional services, with approximately 500 colleagues on campus every day. This number would increase as we progressed through the Scottish Government route map which continued to direct our transition out of Lockdown with all decisions being guided by Government advice.

The University community continued to input to and influence government thinking around the impact of COVID-19 on the HE sector and the economy. The Principal informed Senate of a range of ways in which the University was providing support in the national effort to combat the pandemic, highlighting the efforts of key individuals and funding secured from the Scottish Government for specific Covid-19 related research projects.

### **Intake for AY2020-21**

The Principal thanked those colleagues who had been involved in the effort necessitated in managing applications in response to the exam grades U-turn over the summer which potentially

impacted on student numbers for AY2020-21. Strathclyde's flexible approach to admissions, taking account of contextualised admissions for widening access applicants, has meant that many of our applicants receiving improved results had already secured a place. There was a good representation of applicants from SIMD groups and the intake was close to planned numbers. It was noted that the Scottish Government had announced, following Brexit, that EU students would no longer be eligible for home fee status from AY2021-22.

### **Start of the Academic Year**

The Principal was delighted to report that preparations for the start of the new academic year were being finalised. He extended his thanks on behalf of Senate for the combined efforts of those involved in Return and Resume Delivery Group, Strategic Campus Recovery and Start of the Academic Year (SOTAY) initiatives which reflected Strathclyde's Values in prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students and to colleagues from across the University who were working continually to welcome back our students for all their energy, hard work and dedication.

Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) students had already commenced studies in August and feedback received to date on their experience of on-line learning had been positive, enthusiastic and constructive with clear appreciation for this new way of teaching. Thanks were extended to colleagues in the School of Education as well as in Professional Services areas for managing this smooth transition.

The **Strathclyde Student Pledge** had been published in June 2020, providing a focus on a first-class Strathclyde education and the measures we will have in place to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all our staff and students.

### **SFC Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability**

Strathclyde submitted a constructive response to the first phase of this review in early August, and expects SFC to report soon to Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, setting out the thinking for more long-term proposals for the sector, covering funding models, skills development, pathways through education, and collaborations between institutions.

### **UK and Scottish Government funding and support**

Strathclyde had benefited from additional research funding totalling £75M announced by SFC – our allocation of £6.5M was the third largest in the sector; and we have additionally been allocated £250k to tackle digital exclusion – essentially to allow us to provide computer equipment to students.

### **Agile Working**

The Chief People Officer had been leading the development of a new, leading-edge Agile Working Toolkit for staff which will shortly be shared with key stakeholders – including campus unions, Leadership Group and Staff Committee – before wider roll out later in September. The **Return and Resume hub** on our website continued to be updated to support staff and students.

### **Principal's Staff Engagement Sessions**

The Principal would soon be undertaking another programme of Staff Engagement Sessions similar to those that ran earlier this year. This would be a valuable opportunity to tell colleagues about our progress, challenges and respond directly to questions. Dates would be published shortly.

### **Sustainable investment plans**

Later this month Strathclyde will announce the reconfiguration of a significant amount of its investment portfolio from direct investments to a sustainable fund portfolio as part of the University's commitment to implementing a responsible investment plan and cutting carbon emissions by 70% by 2025 in its efforts to address climate change. A University Climate Change and Social Responsibility Plan will be published in the coming months detailing how this reduction in emissions will be achieved.

## Awards

- Earlier in the summer, Strathclyde had been announced as the winner of the **2020 Whatuni Student Choice Award** for the 'Local Life' category. Voted for by students, this award was for the university which gives students 'the best lifestyle outside of lectures'. The awards were designed to help students make informed decisions about their university choices.
- Strathclyde was also recognised in the **2020 International Green Gown Award for Student Engagement** for our Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development (VIP4SD) programme. The VIP4SD programme offered students the opportunity to work in partnership with their peers on ambitious research projects that tackled the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Congratulations were extended to Dr Scott Strachan, Professor Steve Marshall and the wider team for recognition of this sector-leading initiative.

## Research news

The Principal informed Senate of the wide variety of research projects being undertaken across the University. These projects demonstrate the breadth of the research of which Strathclyde is at the forefront:

- Strathclyde was the principal partner in the **5G New Thinking** consortium led by technology firm Cisco and run in partnership with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport - a unique project to empower rural and poorly connected communities to build their own commercially viable and sustainable 5G wireless networks. With community and civic partners in the Orkney Islands, Borders and Northern Ireland, the project forms part of the work led by Professor Bob Stewart from the department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering.
- Dr Rebecca Ford, a Chancellor's Fellow and Lecturer who works between the School of Government & Public Policy and the department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering, had been awarded one of four unique **COP26 Fellowships** to engage with the international climate negotiations in the run up to COP26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Her focus was on energy justice and how it could be embedded and aligned with other decision-making areas to ensure a just transition.
- An industry fellowship designed to foster relationships between industrial and academic battery researchers has been awarded to Strathclyde. Strathclyde was one of six universities selected for the fellowships awarded by the Faraday Institution, the UK's independent institute for electrochemical energy storage science and technology. Dr Terry Dyer, a Research Fellow in the Department of Physics, was the University's lead on the project.

## 12435. NSS 2020 Results

Brian Green, Deputy Associate Principal (Learning and Teaching) and Cathy Milligan, Director of Education Enhancement presented Senate with a summary of the National Student Survey (NSS 2020) results. An Office for Students (OfS) data review had concluded that reliability of NSS 2020 results had not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, Strathclyde had noticed a year on year increase in response rates - the final overall response rate had been 76.96% (+4.71% on 2019). Positive headline messages were highlighted, demonstrating that the University had maintained its position in the top quartile in the UK for 'Overall Satisfaction' for the second year in a row (achieving 86.36%), moving up from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of the 153 HEIs in that category. The University had met its target for KPI 3; 15 subjects were in the top quartile (+2 compared with 2019); 3 out of 8 question sets were in the upper or second quartile; there had been increases in performance for 6 out of 8 question sets and a strong performance for 'Teaching on my Course' (achieving 86.74%). In terms of next steps, there would be a continued focus on the two key areas of Assessment & Feedback and Organisation & Management and this would be progressed through on-line fora, sharing good practice and reflecting on the challenges of blended learning.

The Convener noted that Strathclyde's results were pleasing and thanked the contributors for their comprehensive report. Senators were encouraged to view the full dataset available on the [Student Information and Data \(SID\) Dashboard](#) and cascade the link to Faculty colleagues.

## 12436. Return and Resume

### *Campus, Navigation and Occupancy*

The University Secretary and Compliance Officer provided Senate with an informative update on Return and Resume Development Group measures introduced in accordance with Phase 3 the Scottish Government's COVID-19 route map in terms of how the campus looked, new procedures, systems and signage in place for campus navigation mindful of spatial distancing and hand hygiene requirements, and detailing the re-opening schedule for buildings and facilities with reduced occupancy. The re-opening of the Andersonian Library was a significant milestone and a [flythrough video](#) of enhanced safety measures within the library was available to view. The phased return to campus would be kept under review to maintain the health and safety of staff and students. Information for staff was available via the [Return and Resume Hub](#) and the [Safety, Health and Wellbeing](#) webpages and information including FAQs for students was available on the [Campus Life 2020](#) webpages. Regular monitoring of these sites for updates was encouraged. Staff would be required to complete a Return to Campus Risk Assessment Health Self-Assessments and three re-useable face-coverings would be distributed to staff and students from mid-September. It was noted that the Scottish Government had published updated Coronavirus (COVID-19) [advice and guidance](#) for universities on 1 September. Staff or students returning from certain restricted countries would be required to quarantine for 2 weeks.

The following responses to questions from Senators were captured:

- The provision of adapted signage (eg braille) for campus users with disabilities would be factored into ongoing planning in consultation with the Disability Service.
- There was clarification that the recent resumption of local lockdown restrictions on visiting imposed in the City of Glasgow and other local authority areas by the Scottish Government was not applicable within college and university accommodation.
- As well as providing updates to students via the University's webpages, the Principal had been and would continue to send regular targeted email messages directly to students.

### *Learning and Teaching – Start of the Academic Year*

The Vice-Deans Academic were invited to present a brief overview of the plans within each Faculty for the delivery of learning and teaching within Semester 1 of AY2020-21. The SoTAY Continuity Group's planned approach - which had been shared with key stakeholders in the SoTAY Operational Delivery Group - was outlined (see below), transitioning from an initial online approach to blended learning which would include increasing levels of on-campus activity during the remainder of the first semester.

<b>AY 2020-21 Semester 1</b>		
Stage 1 (Online)	Stage 2 (Transition)	Stage 3 (Blended)
2-3 weeks	3-5 weeks	Remainder of Semester 1

The blended learning mode of delivery would necessitate on-campus access arrangements being made depending upon priorities, discipline, level of study and course requirements. This may include a combination of face-to-face teaching, group working, project supervision and appropriate lab work, online sessions/workshops, tutorials and on-campus learning activities. This approach would take account of the differing requirements of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PRSBs) and the differing expectations that PRSBs have for face-to-face learning opportunities, placements and assessment. The campus had been split into zones and overarching Teaching and Timetabling Principles would be in place to minimise the movement of students on campus and maximise timetabled activities that provided benefit to learners that could not be achieved successfully through alternative online activity during on-campus days. Faculties should decide the relative prioritisation of campus attendance for their students, within the institutional framework and associated estate allocation for 2 metres social distancing.

Senate was satisfied that both the general approach and Faculty interpretations offered focus and agility and were consistent with Scottish Government expectations. It was clarified that zoning

arrangements and 'out of hours' engagement for staff should be co-ordinated via Executive Deans in the first instance. Additionally, cross-Faculty programmes would be viewed as priority groups.

#### **12437. Student Voice**

The StrathUnion President shared priority issues for the coming academic year; the top priority being supporting students through the COVID-19 pandemic and ameliorating its impact, as outlined in the Senate Business Committee report. The StrathUnion President was appreciative of the measures put in place by the University to support students during the pandemic, making particular reference to work of the Return and Resume and SOTAY workstreams (led by Brian Green, Helyn Gould, Cathy Milligan and Gill Watt) and the strong communications from the University that had helped alleviate students' fears. Key areas of student focus included (i) the financial impact of tuition fees given necessary changes to modes of delivery, (ii) extended or local lockdowns and travel restrictions, and (iii) social isolation and limited interactions with peers. Freshers and Welcome events had been moved on-line and adapted for the gradual arrival of students extending over four weeks. The Student Mental Health Agreement was being developed and would soon be brought to the Student Parliament - its timely introduction was welcomed.

#### **12438. Financial Update**

The Chief Financial Officer presented Senate with a financial update focusing on the current forecast on the 2020/21 budget and the impact of the pandemic, addressing uncertainties facing the HE sector that had been widely reported in the media. It was reported that the University was in robust financial health, in a position of relative strength and would continue to seek out opportunities for growth. The Q3 Forecast indicated that income reduction resulting from residencies and conference / catering had been offset by campus running costs reductions during Lockdown. The year-end close was currently in progress and expected to track close to forecast. The timeline for Ernst & Young auditors to prepare the annual report for presentation to Court on 26 October 2020 was outlined.

#### **12439. Senate Appointments and Membership of Senate Committees** (Paper S20-21-04)

Senate **noted** the names of those elected to Senate for 2020/21 as well as membership of Senate Committees. This would be updated throughout the year to reflect staffing changes or promotions.

### **Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate**

#### **12440. Executive Team Report** (Paper S20-21-05)

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12441. Court Report** (Paper S20-21-06)

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12442. Education Strategy Committee Report** (Paper S20-21-07)

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12443. Student Experience Committee Report** (Paper S20-21-08)

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12444. Annual Statement to SFC on Institutional Quality** (Paper S20-21-09 *deferred*)

Senate was advised that the Annual Statement to the Scottish Funding Council on Institutional Quality and Institution-Led Review was currently being produced by Education Enhancement. It was anticipated that this would not be finalised for review via QAC and ESC ahead of September Senate. Instead, it was agreed that the report would be circulated electronically to Senate Business Committee members for approval and recommendation via Senate Convenor's Action to Court for endorsement ahead of the end of September deadline. The full report would be shared with Senate at its November meeting.

**12445. University Status for NHS Lanarkshire** (Paper S20-21-10)

Collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire had grown over recent years which had led to the signing of a Strategic Partnership Agreement. The CEO of NHS Lanarkshire had recently written to the Principal to request that University Status be agreed with the University. This paper set out the case for awarding University Status and was supported by Executive Team which had discussed and approved the paper at its meeting on 6 August 2020.

Senate welcomed the consolidation of this strategic and collaborative partnership which would provide additional benefits to the Student Experience through increased opportunities for Learning and Teaching, Research and CPD and **agreed to endorse** the proposal that NHS Lanarkshire be granted University status and **recommend this to Court for adoption**.

**12446. Strathclyde Business School Report** (Paper S20-21-11)

Senate **noted** the report from the Business School and **note** the following:

Collaborative Agreements:

- King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Saudi Arabia
- PGT Study Abroad Agreement with ISM Dortmund
- SQA Articulation Agreement

New Programme:

- Executive MBA (Part-time)

**12447. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report** (Paper S20-21-12)

Senate **noted** the report from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and **approved** the following:

Collaborative Agreements:

- King Abdulaziz University (KAU), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Tiangong University (TGU), Tianjin, China
- Validation agreement with Adoption and Fostering Alliance Scotland

**12448. Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate** (Paper S20-21-13)

Senate **noted** the report from the Faculty of Engineering, and **approved** the following:

Collaborative Agreements

- Guangdong University of Technology (GDUT), China
- Jiangsu University of Science and Technology (JUST), China

Senate **noted** the Collaborative Agreements with:

- Wuhan University of Technology (WUT), China
- Guangzhou University, China
- International School of Engineering, India (INSOFE)

Senate **noted** the Memorandum of Understanding with

- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Thailand

RESERVED BUSINESS

Senate **approved** a Regulation Waiver to support a disability-related reasonable adjustment

**12449. Faculty of Science Report to Senate** (Paper S20-21-14)

Senate **noted** the report from the Faculty of Science and **noted** the renewal of the following Collaborative Agreement with:

- King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia and Faculty of Science.

RESERVED BUSINESS

Senate **approved** Regulation Waivers for regulation 1.1 00001.UG.1.10

RESERVED BUSINESS

### **12450. Honorary Degrees**

The Principal intimated that the Honorary Degrees Advisory Group had identified five nominations of candidates proposed for the conferment of honorary degree awards. Details would be shared with Senators in strict confidence via Sharepoint post-Senate for consideration and comment within 10 days.

**ACTION:** Senate Manager to liaise with HDAG Manager and share details of proposed nominees to Senators.

*JFK*

*17/09/2020*