

## SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Present: Principal

Dr A Gok, P Chambers, Professor A Duffy, Professor A Galloway, Dr A Nordon, Dr A Hewitt, Dr A Fletcher, Professor A Incecik, A McFarlane, Dr B Keating, B Rapson, Professor B Wagner, B Green, Professor B McNeil, Professor C Booth, C Whitley, C Hillan, Dr C White, Professor C McDiarmid, Dr D Harle, Dr C Lindsay, Dr C Gonzalez-Longo, Dr D Rotondo, Professor D Hillier, Professor D Willison, Dr A McLaren, Dr M Salamati, Professor E Shaw, Dr E Compton-Daw, E Ahadzie, Dr G West, H Gould, Dr H Grierson, Professor I Stewart, Professor I Greener, Professor I Rivers, Professor J Sefcik, Dr J Pestana, Dr J Delafield-Butt, Dr J Smith, Dr K Hamilton, K Burns, Dr K Kavanagh, Prof K Blair, Dr L Fleming, Dr L Bonnar, Dr L Gibson, M Watson, L Brownlow, Dr M Cunningham, Matt Crilly, Professor P Cardwell, Professor P McKenna, Dr L Dennany, Professor D Brodie, R Cairns, R McHugh, A Paddison, Professor R Maguire, R Smith, Dr S Murdy, S Kritharidou, Professor S MacGregor, Dr S Strachan, Dr S Yang, S Brough, Dr T Tezdogan, Professor T Bedford, Professor T Sharpe, Professor A Doherty, Dr Y Demirel, Dr Y Zhang, Professor Z Shipton, Dr S McCool, Professor A Morton.

Attending: Dr V O'Halloran, A Corrigan, S Currie (standing in for M Judge), A Gillespie, G Kyle, C Milligan, G Watt, S Wallace, S Heidinger, A McCleave, C Jamieson, S Calderwood.

Apologies: Dr A Dickson, Dr L Gillies, Dr T Gourlay, S Gwynne, M Judge, Dr P Mulheran, Dr D Robertson, Professor T Scotto, Professor W Kerr, G Watt.

### Formal Matters

#### **12403. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed Senators to the second virtual meeting of Senate. Senators were thanked for their continued support and dedication in ensuring the work of the University continued. The Principal thanked those Senators whose terms of office had come to an end.

The Principal informed members that in addition to the published agenda the President of Strath Union will be invited to address Senate, following the Chief People Officer's presentation.

#### **12404. Minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020** (Paper 19-20-01)

Members approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **12405. Matters Arising**

There were none noted.

#### **12406. Report from Senate Business Committee** (Paper 19-20-02)

The Vice Principal, invited Senate to **note** the report of the Senate Business Committee which had met on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The Committee had reviewed the following:

1. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) subgroup (Appendix A of the report). It was noted that the CPA subgroup had considered three articulation agreements, and one International Joint Education Programme with China Pharmaceutical University which are detailed in the Faculty reports to Senate.
2. Convener's Actions approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate since the last Senate meeting, outlined in Paper 19-20-03, had been considered by Senate Business Committee:
  - a. Procedure for Markers and Boards of Examiners in Response to Covid-19;
  - b. Extended Timeline for Marks Return and Boards of Examiner Meetings; and
  - c. The following collaborative agreements: i. A renewal of a collaborative agreement between the Faculty of Engineering and Northeast Electric Power University (NEEPU), China, ii. An International Joint Education Programme with China Pharmaceutical University, iii. A new agreement between Humanities and Social Sciences and Huashang College, Guandong University of Finance and Economics.
3. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.
4. The Committee reviewed the reports submitted for the Senate meeting, which subject to minor modifications were approved by the Committee.
5. Requests for Senate's attention and approval were highlighted, Senate giving its formal approval to reports as noted below (Minutes **12413** – **12428**).

## **12407. Principal's Report and Update**

### **Covid-19 Update and Planning Activities**

The Principal thanked staff for their dedication and commitment in undertaking necessary roles both on and off campus. There are currently around 200 staff who are still on-campus, it was noted that the University is enormously appreciative of work they have been doing during this time. The Principal thanked these individuals on behalf of Senate. The Principal thanked academic and support staff and the students, in particular the Student Executive team. Of particular note was the fairly seamless transition to online learning over the past few months, which speaks volumes for our staff. Senators were informed that the rest days will continue until the end of June. The rest days have been very well received and considered essential for staff wellbeing at this time.

The Principal informed Senate that the Covid-19 Hardship Fund is assisting students in meeting essential needs during the pandemic response to Covid-19 and that a total of £336,000 has been contributed to the Fund from alumni, donors, staff and the wider University community.

### **Covid-19 News**

The University continues to input to and influence government thinking around the impacts of Covid-19 on the HE sector and the economy. Our research is being applied across a number of NHS boards and care organisations and through seeking to influence UK Government and Scottish Government thinking. The Principal informed Senate of a range of ways in which the University was providing support in the national effort to combat the pandemic, for example by securing funding from the Scottish Government for specific Covid-19 related projects.

## **Return and Resume**

The University's Return and Resume Development Group, chaired by University Secretary and Compliance Officer, Veena O'Halloran will continue to assess all aspects of a gradual return to campus. The Scottish Government's own assessment is that easing lockdown is complex, requiring a cautious and incremental approach.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

The majority of Strathclyders have adapted well to working from home and this will continue for some time. The health, safety and wellbeing of all staff, students and wider Strathclyde community remains vital.

Senators were reminded that there is a dedicated area on the University's website for online support with information, advice and FAQs for students, staff and prospective students regarding the Covid-19 outbreak. This continues to be updated regularly. More recently, an online Wellbeing & Working from Home Hub was added which focuses on mental and physical wellbeing and has lots of support for agile and remote working.

## **Launch of People Strategy**

The University has launched its Strathclyde People Strategy. The strategy is built around our values and places staff at the heart of our plans and recognises that their collective talents, effort and commitment will deliver the University's ambitious Vision for 2025.

## **Staff engagement sessions**

Through the Strathclyde engagement sessions the Principal and other Senior Officers have met around 1,400 staff so far, with more sessions to follow. It is likely that an additional 1,000 will have been reached.

## **ADR**

The Executive Team has decided that this year's ADR process will still run. A few extra weeks will be allowed for completion. Reviewers are being asked to arrange Zoom meetings to suit the personal circumstances of the reviewees and asking reviewers to recognise the impact of Covid-19 on objectives set last year which may not have been concluded over the last couple of months due to the need to reprioritise work focus.

## **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**

The University intends to use the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (also known as Furlough) in a careful and people oriented manner for staff who are not able to work on campus or at home due to the current pandemic. This allows the University to place staff on temporary leave and to access a grant to cover 80% of their salary during the temporary leave period. The Scottish Funding Council has confirmed that universities are eligible to participate in the Scheme and has encouraged universities to give full consideration to its use as part of their strategies to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on their finances. This scheme has recently been extended to the end of October.

## **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 that the University is at the forefront of.

## **Rankings**

Strathclyde has been ranked as among the best in the world by a global performance table that assesses institutions against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Strathclyde is ranked 70th overall out of 766 research intensive institutions worldwide in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2020 which show how the global higher education sector is working towards the 17 United Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **12408. Questions**

The Strath Union Vice President Education asked the Principal what the University was doing to support students of colour, particularly in relation to the Black Lives Matter movement. The Principal informed Senate that the University Vision 2025 is predicated on a supportive environment for both staff and students and that the University is proactive in encouraging a diverse community at Strathclyde.

The Principal also responded to a question about graduations and informed Senators that there will be no graduations in July and that consideration is being given to a November timeline, while being mindful that the pandemic situation is continually evolving.

#### **12409. Financial Update**

The Chief Financial Officer provided Senate with a financial update focusing on the current forecast and an update on the 2020/21 budget and the impact of the pandemic. It was reported that the University is in a position of relative strength but is not complacent.

#### **12410. Staff Support and Wellbeing**

The Chief People Officer presented to Senate on staff support and wellbeing during the pandemic. It was noted that Heads of Department are holding weekly meetings with their staff and that the University continues to engage with the campus unions to ensure all staff are supported. In terms of future planning, Senate was informed of that the Strathclyde Innovation Forum was due to be launched. The Strathclyde Innovation Forum's aims are to enhance and formalise the University's approach to innovation and to encourage all staff to communicate and share innovative ideas, both as individuals and in teams. The University is a values-based organisation and this is reflected in the decisions made.

#### **12411. Student Voice**

The Student President spoke about the Black Lives Matter movement and the efforts being made to ensure that all of our students are supported throughout their time at Strathclyde. Earlier in the meeting the Vice President Education, Strath Union, asked what the University is doing to support students in light of recent events in North America. The University's Vision 2025 is predicated on a supportive environment for all staff and students. The Principal together with the Directors of Education Enhancement and Student Experience have been speaking to international students during the lockdown to ensure that their experiences on campus are positive.

The Student President was appreciative of the measures put in place by the University to support students during the pandemic, making particular reference to the No Detriment Policy and the Covid-19 Hardship Fund. Key questions for students are what semester 1 of Academic Year 2020/21 will look like and ongoing challenges around fees during a time of financial hardship.

#### **12412. Return and Resume Developments**

The University Secretary and Compliance Officer presented to Senate on Return and Resume Planning activities. Senate was provided with an informative routemap and overview of the University's preparations for a phased return to work based on Faculty priorities, institutional capability and readiness. It was noted that everything outlined in the routemap is done in the context

of guidance and good practice and that the phases outlined can be extended. A link to this presentation was incorporated in the Principal's update to all staff, sent on 4th June.

The University Secretary and Compliance Officer also informed senators that degrees will be conferred, or formally awarded to students by Senate, on 3 July 2020. Shortly after this date, students will be given access to a digital copy of their degree certificate.

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

#### **12413. Senate Election Results** (Paper 19-20-04)

Senate **noted** the names of those elected to Senate for 2020/21.

#### **12414. Policy for Flexible Learning Arrangements** (Paper 19-20-05)

Senate **approved** the Policy for Flexible Learning Arrangements.

#### **12415. ELIR Follow-up Report** (Paper 19-20-06)

Senate **approved** this report and **recommended** to Court for endorsement.

#### **12416. Procedure for Markers & Boards of Examiners in Response to Covid-19** (Paper 19-20-7i)

Senate **homologated** this Procedure following approval by the Principal on behalf of Senate out of cycle, effective immediately.

#### **12417. Extended Timeline for Marks Return and Boards of Examiners Meetings** (Paper 19-20-7ii)

Senate **homologated** this Timeline following approval by the Principal on behalf of Senate out of cycle, effective immediately.

#### **12418. Executive Team Report** (Paper 19-20 08)

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12419. Court Report** (Paper 19-20-09)

Senate **noted** the report.

#### **12420. Education Strategy Committee Report** (Paper 19-20-10)

Senate homologated: the Procedure for Markers and Boards of Examiners in Response to Covid-19 following endorsement by QAC and ESC; and, the Extended Timeline for Marks Return and Boards of Examiners Meetings following endorsement by QAC and ESC. Senate approved the introduction of the Policy for Flexible Learning Arrangements and noted that an Equality Impact Assessment was underway.

#### **12421. Quality Assurance Committee Report** (Paper 19-20-11)

Senate noted the report from the Quality Assurance Committee and **approved**: an extension to a moratorium PhD from the Faculty of Science; and a list of prizes outlined in the paper (Appendix 1).

#### **12422. Learning Enhancement Committee Report** (Paper 19-20-12)

Senate **noted** the report from the Learning Enhancement Committee.

#### **12423. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20-13)

Senate **noted** the report of RKEC.

#### **12424. Strathclyde Business School Report** (Paper 19-20-14)

Senate **noted** the report from the Business School and in particular the review and redesign of the Undergraduate Programmes (BA Hons Business, BBA Hons, BA Hons International Business and Masters of International Business and Modern Languages).

**12425. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report** (Paper 19-20-15)

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

New doctorates

- MPhil/PhD in Applied Linguistics
- MPhil/PhD in Applied Autism Research
- DProf in Professional Practice

Prizes

- The Beatrice Colin Memorial Prize
- The Calum McDonald Memorial Prize

Senate **noted** the introduction of:

- The Faculty Contingency Working Groups

Senate **noted** the collaborative agreement with:

- Collaborative Agreement with Huashang College, Guangdong University of Finance and Economics

**12427. Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20-16)

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

New programme:

- MSc, PGDip, PGCert in Advanced Engineering Studies
- MSc Advanced Chemical & Process Engineering (Distance Learning)
- EngD/PhD with Integrated Study in Ultrasonic Engineering

Collaborative Agreement with:

- Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore

Senate *noted* the Collaborative Agreement with:

- Northeast Electric Power University (NEEPU), China

**12428. Faculty of Science Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20-17)

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

Withdrawal of the following programme:

- MSc in Information Management with Placement

Senate **noted** the amendment to an existing collaborative agreement with:

- East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST)

RESERVED BUSINESS

**12429. Combined Student Business Report** (Paper 19-20-18)

Senate **approved** the report.

**12430. Senate Discipline Committee Report** (Paper 19-20-19)

Senate **noted** the report.