

SENATE

Minutes: Wednesday 18 November 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 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, 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 S McCool, Dr F Scott, Professor D Murphy, E Sneddon, E McIlhatton, Professor S Kuhr, Professor S Howick, Professor D Graham, Dr L Pritchard, Professor A Galloway, A McFarlane, Professor A McGann, C Whitley, Dr C Lindsay, Dr D Robertson, Professor F Brennan, H Gould, Professor I Greener, Dr J Delafield-Butt, Dr K Savage, Dr L Gibson, Dr M Neal, Dr M Salamati, Dr O Romice, Professor E Shaw, Dr P Mulheran, Professor R Maguire, Professor S McArthur, Professor S Reid, Dr L Dennany
- Attending: Dr V O'Halloran, A Gillespie, J Kyle, C Milligan, G Watt, S Wallace, A McCleave, C Jamieson, C Carroll
- Apologies: Professor W Kerr, A Merchant, Dr Y Zhang, Professor A Morton, Dr M Cunningham, Dr D Rotondo, Dr S Brough, Professor A Duffy, Professor N Lockett, Dr J Pestana, Professor N Ghani

OPEN BUSINESS

12451. Welcome

The Principal warmly welcomed Senators to another virtual meeting of Senate; in particular, highlighting that this was Professor Ian Rivers' first Senate meeting in his new role as Associate Principal and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

12452. Minutes of the meeting of 2 September 2020 (Paper S20-21-16)

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

12453. Matters Arising

No matters arising were noted.

12454. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper S20-21-17)

The Vice Principal invited Senate to **note** the report of the Senate Business Committee which had met on 30 October 2020.

The Committee had reviewed the following:

1. The report of the Collaborative Provision Agreement (CPA) subgroup outlined in Appendix A, noting that the CPA subgroup had processed one new agreement (joint PhD supervision) and addenda to two separate existing articulation agreements (for PGT and PGR respectively) which are detailed in the Faculty reports to Senate.
2. The Terms of Reference for Senate Business Committee which had been revised to reflect the StrathUnion President within the membership as outlined in Appendix B.
3. Convener's Actions approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate since the last Senate meeting and outlined in Paper S20-21-18, were considered by Senate Business Committee, for **homologation** by Senate:
 - a. The University's Annual Statement on Institution-led Review of Quality Academic Year 2019-20 for the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). This was subsequently endorsed by Court with a Statement of Assurance signed by the Convener of Court and sent to the SFC (S20-21-09)
 - b. Guidelines to Support the Learning & Teaching of Students During Periods of Disruption: 2020/21 COVID-19 Pandemic (S20-21-35)
 - c. The University's involvement in the Knowledge Exchange Concordat [note presentation at item **12458**]
4. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 18 November 2020.
5. The Committee reviewed the reports submitted for the Senate meeting which, subject to minor refinements, were approved by the Committee. Members were pleased and reassured to note that the operational reports reflected a responsiveness to COVID-19 in addition to underpinning themes of continuity, development and enhancement contained in the regular updates on more routine academic business.
6. Requests for Senate's attention and approval were highlighted; Senate giving its formal approval to reports as noted below (Minutes **12460 – 12473**).

12455. Principal's Report and Update

QC-led Independent Inquiry

The Principal reflected at length on the report of the independent review he commissioned led by Craig Sandison QC into the behaviour of Kevin O'Gorman following publication of the QC's report and recommendations on Monday 9 November 2020 which had been shared with Senators, staff, students and the public via media outlets in the interests of transparency. The QC's report provided a forensic analysis of the case with six recommendations summarised at the end, two of which had already been addressed. The University's commitment to comply with and fully implement all of the recommendations was noted. This will be overseen by an Inquiry Recommendations Implementation Group comprising staff and students convened by the USCO.

ACTION: The USCO to meet with StrathUnion Executive and student representatives of Senate to unpack concerns raised within the Zoom Chat ahead of the first meeting of the Inquiry Recommendations Implementation Group.

External Environment and Covid-19 News

Since the last Senate meeting, the external environment had continued to change at pace. The Scottish Government's Protection Levels – the new five-level system designed to tackle the spread of coronavirus – had come into force, and lockdown had begun south of the border. Strathclyders had continued to adapt well to change, and the University community had responded positively to

the ongoing, and difficult, restrictions affecting life for everyone. On 17 November, the First Minister had announced that Glasgow, in common with 10 other Scottish council areas, would move to Level 4 from 6pm on Friday 20 November until 11 December with the aim of reducing the level of virus transmission ahead of Christmas.

The University was continuing discussions with the sector and the Scottish Government about the provision of **asymptomatic testing on campus** to assist Strathclyde students who wished to go home for the Christmas break with the Barony Hall earmarked as a potential testing centre. Those students remaining on campus would be supported to ensure the holiday period would be as pleasant as possible.

The Principal reminded colleagues that positive mental health and wellbeing support was available on the **Wellbeing & Working from Home Hub** on the University's website and encouraged Senators to remind colleagues in their areas about this resource in the weeks ahead. Colleagues were also invited to consider what other wellbeing support might be provided in addition to the 'Thrive at Strathclyde' initiative for which ideas and suggestions could be submitted through the **Strathclyde Innovation Forum** online. The accelerated roll out of the **Agile Working Toolkit** in mid-October represented an important step to provide a flexible and dynamic working environment for many colleagues. The Principal had written to all staff to announce three extra rest days over Christmas, to allow colleagues to fully recharge over the Christmas break.

Strathclyde Endorsements

While Covid-19 was creating a challenging environment, the University is continuing to deliver the objectives set out in Vision 2025. Further external endorsement of our strategy was received recently when Strathclyde was shortlisted in **The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide for the UK University of the Year award 2021**, just 12 months after being named their Scottish University of the Year. Strathclyde had climbed to joint 23rd in the Guide's league tables – the biggest move of any university in the top 30.

Conferment Day

Conferment Day took place on 3 November 2020, celebrating the achievements of our graduating students. While it was not possible to gather together in the Barony in the traditional way, Dame Sue Bruce, the Executive Deans, the Students' Association and the Principal shared video messages with the students and were delighted to see many of them sharing their photographs and stories on social media. The achievements of the Class of 2020 were all the more remarkable given the current unprecedented times, and the maturity, focus and dedication the students had shown would be the attributes required by employers as they moved through the pandemic and towards recovery.

Postgraduate Programmes: January Intake

In recent weeks, the University had made swift progress on developing 30 Masters degrees which will begin in January 2021. The programmes, spread across every Faculty, were attracting strong interest from applicants. The Principal thanked everyone who had supported the creation of this new academic year entry point.

Principal's Staff Engagement Sessions

The Principal had now completed the Autumn staff engagement sessions which were attended by almost 1,400 colleagues from across the institution. He highlighted that the collective talents, efforts and commitment of Strathclyders would deliver the ambitious Vision 2025 plans, and it was important that teams were kept up-to-date with progress and where their contributions were making an impact.

Strathclyde Medals

In October, the University celebrated the work and achievements of colleagues at the Strathclyde Medals ceremony. This year, we acknowledged 18 individuals and 8 teams from across the University, with special recognition for our Estates Services colleagues who have kept the campus operational throughout the pandemic.

MMIC Ground-breaking

At the end of October, the Principal took part in a virtual ground-breaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction of the **Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre** near Glasgow Airport. This is a great example of the University's model of working with business, industry and the public sector to make a positive impact on society and the economy. The vision for the MMIC grew from the success of CMAC. It will support companies in testing new processes for manufacturing, to produce drugs more efficiently, and bring new medicines to market more quickly. Importantly, it will help to reduce the financial burden of medicines on healthcare providers. The new centre is being built near the **National Manufacturing Institute Scotland** (NMIS) and together, the two centres form the core of the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland. They are both set to be operational in 2022, underlining that we are continuing to make significant strides forward, despite the challenging pandemic backdrop.

Launch of Strathclyde Inspire Preview

The Chief Commercial Officer was invited to introduce the University's new Entrepreneurial Strategy, which would be launched on 19 November 2020. The launch would see the new '**Strathclyde Inspire**' webpages going live. These showcased the many entrepreneurial opportunities available for students and staff – whether they had an idea for a business or social enterprise, were considering commercialising their research, or looking to develop entrepreneurial skills to help future employers flourish when they graduated. Senators were encouraged to visit the web pages and become involved at a time when the University's founding mission as 'the place of useful learning' had rarely been more relevant.

Strathclyde Innovation Forum

The University recently launched its **second Grand Challenge** which relates to supporting Vision 2025 delivery in a changed world. Senators were asked to encourage colleagues in their areas to consider submitting ideas, which will help inform our thinking and prioritisation. The Challenge complements the work the Leadership Group is doing through the five Visioning Groups ahead of Court in November.

Climate change: Students Organising for Sustainability

Vision 2025 sets out how the University will deliver a step-change in its response to climate change, with examples including the new Centre for Sustainable Development. Strathclyde had been ranked as 'leading' by Students Organising for Sustainability UK, a group which was attempting to measure which universities and colleges were taking action on climate change. The University was continuing to work closely with our students in this area.

Core Cities Declaration

The University has signed up to a new declaration setting out proposals for the UK's post Covid-19 economic recovery. The Core Cities declaration involves 11 UK cities and 21 of their universities, and outlines how they can boost and broaden research and development spending, create highly-skilled jobs and help to 'level up' the UK's nations and regions.

Strathclyde People

Congratulations were extended to the following individuals in recognition of their achievements:

- Professor Jennifer Davidson, Executive Director of the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures and founding Director of CELCIS, for being appointed an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List
- Professors Duncan Graham and Karen Faulds, Pure and Applied Chemistry, for being named in The Power List 2020, compiled by The Analytical Scientist magazine. The list features 60 scientists, nominated by their peers and selected by a judging panel.
- Professor David Birch (Physics) and Paul Chambers (Education) who had been awarded the Dennis Gabor Medal and the Marie Curie-Skłodowska Medal respectively by the Institute of Physics (for distinguished contributions to the application of physics in industrial / educational settings)

- Professor Paul Hoskisson, SIPBS, would take up an RAEng Chair and Dr Michael Strain, Institute of Photonics, had been awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the Academy.

12456. Financial and Student Recruitment Update

The Chief Financial Officer and Director of Strategy and Policy presented Senate with an update on the current financial forecast on the 2020/21 budget and details of student recruitment for 2020/21 respectively. It was reported that the University was in strong financial health and would continue to be proactive, responsive and responsible. Although international recruitment had been adversely impacted by COVID-19, undergraduate widening access targets had met or exceeded KPIs. The final picture for PGT recruitment would be clearer following the January 2021 intakes; however, budgeted recruitment targets would need to be exceeded to reach the growth trajectory required to meet our total PGR population target for 2025.

ACTION: CFO/Director of Strategy and Policy to share Q1 Business Reports with Senate.

12456. Return and Resume and Start of the Academic Year

The Vice Principal and University Secretary and Compliance Officer presented Senate with an informative update on the management of **Return and Resume** activities, campus recovery and building occupancy based on a steady increase in daily footfall, health and safety considerations to support on-campus learning and teaching in Semesters 1 and 2, an update on Residences and COVID-19 reporting, and information on Testing, Wellbeing and Positive Mental Health including helpful videos on *Campus Navigation*, *Self-Isolation Support* and *FACTS & Managing COVID*.

Further Scottish Government guidance on the definition of 'restricted blended' within Protection Level 4 was expected by 19 November 2020 and institutions would require time to reflect on the implications of this for the wellbeing of staff and students. It was anticipated that the Library would be able to remain open but, once this was clarified, communications would be sent out to staff and students to confirm arrangements.

12457. Research Excellence Framework

Professor Stephen McArthur, Deputy Associate Principal, Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation presented Senate with an update on preparations for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 submission which had been delayed due to COVID-19. Key changes were highlighted namely the new submission deadline of 31 March 2021 and extension to the impact period to 31 December 2020, and outlined the priorities and reporting programme for the coming months. Efforts were currently focussed on impact and environment narratives. Given the reputational and financial significance of the REF, which determines the University's level of quality-related research (QR) funding, the benefits of small gains and the need for sustained engagement was emphasised.

12458. Knowledge Exchange Concordat

Professor Tim Bedford, Associate Principal, Research and Innovation, presented to Senate on the Knowledge Exchange (KE) Concordat to which the University had signed up, ensuring that Senate was fully appraised of the University's commitment. The Knowledge Exchange (KE) Concordat had been developed by Universities UK and Research England to set out the key principles of KE for the sector. It was reported that the KE Policy Officer in RKES would be engaging with Vice Deans (Knowledge Exchange) to develop exemplars of good practice for dissemination via Faculties and Departments.

12459. Student Voice

The StrathUnion President provided a Student Voice update, sharing details of StrathUnion's ongoing efforts to support students through the COVID-19 pandemic. The University's introduction of COVID-19 Scholarships was welcomed and it was noted that this had generated many applications from students. Key areas of focus included (i) supporting Strathclyde students in Halls of Residence operated by private providers and the University community was encouraged to be

compassionate to students whose access to suitable study space may be limited, (ii) encouraging an extension of Library opening hours to enable students to study later in the evenings and at the weekend, and (iii) considering how best to support the larger than usual numbers of students (~300) who would likely be remaining on campus during the winter break due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The StrathUnion by-elections had been held the previous week and, following an excellent response, all the positions had been filled. Two significant surveys had been undertaken during Semester 1, namely Online Learning and Sexual Health, the outcomes of which would be shared with the Student Experience Committee in January 2021 and could also be shared with Senators. The lessons learned from the online and blended learning experiences in Semester 1 of 2020-21 would also be shared with the Education Strategy Committee and SOTAY Operational Delivery Group to inform plans for Semester 2. The StrathUnion President thanked all who had contributed to the QC-led Inquiry and welcomed the University's commitment to implement the report's recommendations, providing clear opportunities for reporting and challenging abuse.

ACTION: StrathUnion Semester 1 Survey results to be shared with Senators via the Senate Manager

12460. Senate Annual Report 2019-20 (Paper S20-21-19)

Senate **noted** the report.

12461. Annual Statement to SFC on Institutional Quality (Paper S20-21-09)

Senate **noted** the report.

Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

12462. Executive Team Report (Paper S20-21-20)

Senate **noted** the report.

12463. Court Report (Paper S20-21-21)

Senate **noted** the report.

12464. Education Strategy Committee Report (Paper S20-21-22)

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **endorsed** the Guidelines for the Recording and Use of Pre-Recorded Audio and Video Teaching Materials (Paper S20-21-34) for onward travel to Staff Committee for adoption and implementation; and
- **approved** the introduction of the following policies with immediate effect:
 - o PGR Leave Fund: New Policy and Process (Paper S20-21-31)
 - o Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (Paper S20-21-32)

ACTION: Senate Manager to refer Paper S20-21-34 to the Staff Committee.

12465. Student Experience Committee Report (Paper S20-21-23)

Senate **noted** the report.

12466. Quality Assurance Committee Report

Senate

- **noted** the report; and
- **approved** the request for an extension to a moratorium from the Faculty of Science to approve a 3-year extension to an existing 2-year moratorium.

12467. Learning Enhancement Committee Report

Senate **noted** the report.

12468. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee Report

Senate

- **noted** the report; and
- **endorsed** the Annual Narrative Statement on Research Integrity 2019-20 (Paper S20-21-26 Annex A) and **recommended this to Court for approval and publication.**

ACTION: Senate Manager to include reference to Paper S20-21-26 in Senate Report to Court

12469. Strathclyde Business School Report (Paper S20-21-27)

Senate

- **noted** the report from the Strathclyde Business School;
- **noted** the following Collaborative Agreements:
 - Joint PGR Supervision Agreement with University of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
 - Annex to existing Articulation Agreement with Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST); and
- **approved** the introduction of the following new programmes, from 2021-22:
 - Master of Business Administration
 - UG BA (Hons) Business, International Business (IB), Master in International Business with a Modern Language (MIBML), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

12470. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report (Paper S20-21-28)

Senate

- **noted** the report from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences;
- **noted** the appointment of a new Associate Dean PGT; and
- **approved** the introduction of the following new programmes, from 2021-22:
 - PgCert Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning (Digital Education)
 - MSc Psychology with specialisation in Health (existing programme with new pathway leading to award)

12471. Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate (Paper S20-21-29)

Senate

- **noted** the report from the Faculty of Engineering;
- **noted** the appointment of a new Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research);
- **noted** the Memoranda of Understanding with
 - Soochow University, China
 - University of Genoa, Italy
 - Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India;
- **approved** the introduction of the following new programme from January 2021
 - MSc in Satellite Data for Sustainable Development; and
- **approved** a Collaborative Agreement with
 - International School of Engineering, India (INSOFE)

RESERVED BUSINESS

Senate **approved** a Regulation Waiver of regulation 20.40.4 to enable a student to undertake an alternative compulsory curriculum.

12472. Faculty of Science Report to Senate (Paper S20-21-30)

Senate

- **noted** the report from the Faculty of Science; and
- **approved** the introduction of a new programme in Chemistry with Education from September 2020

RESERVED BUSINESS

Senate **approved** Regulation Waivers for regulations 12305.UG.340 and 12212.UG.147 respectively to enable students to undertake an alternative compulsory curriculum

RESERVED BUSINESS

12473. Senate Discipline Committee Report (Paper S20-21-31)
Senate **noted** the report.

JFK
25/11/2020