

**SENATE**

**Minutes: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Present:** Principal

Dr A Gok, P Chambers, Dr A Dickson, Professor A Duffy, Professor A Galloway, Dr A Nordon, Dr A Hewitt, A Corrigan, Dr A Fletcher, Professor A Incecik, 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 L Gillies, 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 P Mulheran, Dr L Dennany, Professor D Brodie, R Cairns, A McFarlane, R McHugh, A Paddison, Professor R Maguire, R Smith, Dr S Murdy, S Kritharidou, Professor S MacGregor, Dr S Strachan, Dr S Yang, S Gwynne, S Brough, Dr T Tezdogan, Professor T Bedford, Professor T Sharpe, Professor T Scotto, Professor A Doherty, Dr Y Demirel, Dr Y Zhang, Professor Z Shipton, Dr S McCool

**Attending:** Dr V O'Halloran, A Gillespie, C Milligan, G Watt, S Wallace, S Heidinger, M Judge, J Kyle, A McCleave, C Jamieson, S Calderwood

**Apologies:** Professor W Kerr, Professor A Morton

Formal Matters

**12383. Welcome**

The Principal welcomed Senators to Senate's first virtual meeting which took place exceptionally online as a result of government measures to control the pandemic Covid19 Coronavirus outbreak requiring all Universities in the UK to take measures to stop the spread of the virus, which had required partial lock down of the University. The Principal thanked Senators for attending the meeting, particularly at a time of extremely challenging circumstances. Thanks were expressed to ISD colleagues for facilitating and supporting the meeting. The Principal reassured Senators that the University's governing committees were doing all in their power to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the University community at a time of great challenges and rapidly evolving circumstances. Senators were thanked for their support and dedication in ensuring the work of the University continued.

**12384. Minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020** (Paper 19-20 01)

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

**12385. Matters Arising**

There were none noted.

#### **12386. Report from Senate Business Committee (Paper 19-20 02)**

Deputy Associate Principal Brian Green, standing in for the Vice Principal, invited Senate to **note** the report of the Senate Business Committee which had met on 13<sup>th</sup> March 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 four collaborative agreements, and two study abroad agreements which were 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. Change of degree title - the Faculty of Engineering requested that the title of the MSc in Industrial Engineering and Management, approved at Senate on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, be amended to: "MSc in Industrial Engineering"  
b. A collaborative agreement between the Faculty of Engineering and Nantong University.
3. The Committee agreed the business agenda of Senate's meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, on the assumption at that stage that Senate would proceed as normal. In the light of the circumstances, a revised Senate agenda was subsequently agreed, noting that the presentations for the Strategic Engagement Session would be carried forward for a future Senate Meeting. However, it was stressed that the reports for the March Senate meeting had not changed.
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 **12390 – 12401**).

#### **12387. Principal's Report and Update**

##### **Principal's Update: Covid19 Coronavirus Situation**

The Principal assured Senate that the University has robust continuity plans in place and outlined some of the emergency measures being taken:

##### **Internal Management:**

An Operations and Business Continuity Team, working in partnership with student representatives, has been established and is meeting weekly to ensure the smooth operation of the campus during the period of Covid-19 lockdown and to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of any students remaining in the University's Halls of Residence.

Executive Team is meeting daily.

Court is receiving regular updates.

Financial scenario planning and SFC engagement is ongoing.

##### **External Engagement:**

The University is engaging with the UK and Scottish Government, and has offered a range of support, which has been taken up. The University is playing a significant role in providing support in the national effort to combat the pandemic, for example through its contribution towards the manufacture of ventilators, protective clothing, and pharmaceuticals, through volunteer networks and many other channels.

The Principal is in daily contact with all Scottish sector University Principals through a co-ordination group to share ideas and learn from each other at this time of crisis.

The Principal outlined a range of measures the University is taking to deal with the current situation, the following is noted:

## **Student-facing Measures**

**Student residences:** The University had taken the decision to waive students' residence fees as students were required to leave residences and campus. Other Universities have now followed Strathclyde's lead in this action, as had Unite student residences.

Provisions were being made and support provided for the remaining students on campus, who continued to receive support from the University. Thanks were expressed to StrathUnion staff for their excellent efforts and support in this regard.

**Security:** The University's Security staff Security have been working hard to implement the lockdown and to provide essential support. Thanks were expressed to them for their efforts. The Library was kept open as long as possible, but regrettably it had been necessary to close the Library at 5pm on Friday 20th March. The Sports facility had also been closed.

An update was given on the repatriation of students engaged in international study abroad. The University had implemented recommendations from the FCO on repatriating students. These students were being provided with support through RIO and Education Enhancement.

**Teaching:** Thanks were expressed to academic and support staff for their ongoing teaching support.

An update was given on online teaching sessions, which had been implemented as quickly as possible in order for students to continue their studies. Statistics on online usage were noted by Senate, noting that in the first week there had been a total of over 1000 Zoom meetings. Senate noted its thanks and appreciation to support staff and to students for their patience, and engagement at this difficult time.

### **Academic: Update on Assessment and Examinations**

The decision has been taken not to hold 1st and 2nd year examinations, which has received an empathetic response from the student body. The University is considering the position with respect to 3rd, 4th and 5th year students and will reach a definitive position shortly.

**Graduations:** A decision has been taken to postpone summer graduation ceremonies, until later in the year.

### **Supporting Wellbeing and Mental Health of Staff**

Every effort is being made to ensure the wellbeing and mental health of staff is supported through the crisis period. For example, staff have been given rest days, the first on Friday 27th March, to help them to cope with the additional pressures.

**Communications:** A series of regular and frequent communications and updates is being sent to students and staff to reassure them and to keep them informed of developments.

**REF:** The REF will be delayed by a maximum of 8 months, however the Census dates and output dates will remain the same.

**NSS:** The survey is still progressing, with the University doing all it can to maximise the student experience at this challenging time.

The Principal further updated Senate on a range of activity. The following was noted:

**Vision 2025:** The launch in February of Vision 2025, the University's new Strategic Plan, had been successful with more than 600 staff attending. Thanks were expressed to all those who had contributed to this significant exercise.

**Queen's Anniversary Prize:** The Principal had been delighted to receive on the University's behalf the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, the highest national honour conferred on the sector, for its excellence in Energy Innovation at Buckingham Palace.

**12388. Student Voice Update:** The StrathUnion President expressed thanks to the University for all it was doing to support students during the pandemic, noting in particular that the student body welcomed the decisions taken on residency fees, and the cancellation of 1st and 2nd year examinations. The financial challenges facing students in this period were highlighted, with a request for more information for students on accessing information about the University's Hardship Fund.

**12389. Questions:** Senators raised a range of questions, including: ensuring effective methods of communications to students at this time; access to appropriate IT equipment for students; confidentiality issues when using online meetings; clarity of communications regarding assessment notifications, and impact on student reps dealing with related queries; ensuring staff were kept informed of changes; access to health and wellbeing support. The Principal assured Senators that the issues raised would be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Closing the meeting, the Principal thanked Senate for its engagement in the online meeting, noting that this would be the means of engagement for the coming months.

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

**12390. Timetable for Senate Elections** (Paper 19-20 04)  
Senate **approved** the paper.

**12391. Proposed amendments to University Ordinances and Regulations\*** (Paper 19-20 05)  
Senate **approved** the report, **recommending** the paper for approval by Court.

**12392. Executive Team Report** (Paper 19-20 06)  
Senate **noted** the report.

**12393. Education Strategy Committee Report** (Paper 19-20 07)  
Senate homologated revisions to Internal Review: Policy Procedure and Guidelines following endorsement by QAC and ESC; and **noted** the introduction of governance and reporting arrangements for the Strathclyde Doctoral School; and the University's draft Gaelic Language plan following endorsement by ESC.

**12394. Quality Assurance Committee Report** (Paper 19-20 08)  
Senate noted the report from the Quality Assurance Committee and **approved:** an extension to a moratorium PhD from HASS; and a list of prizes outlined in the paper (Appendix 1)

**12395. Learning Enhancement Committee Report** (Paper 19-20 09)  
Senate **noted** the report from the Learning Enhancement Committee

**12396. Student Experience Committee Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20 10)  
Senate noted the report from the Student Experience Committee

**12397. Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20 11)  
Senate **approved** the Intellectual Property Policy recommending it to Court for approval and **noted** the report of RKEC.

**12398. Strathclyde Business School Report** (Paper 19-20 12)  
Senate **approved**

New programmes:

- MSc Health and Care Leadership
- MSc Technology, Policy and Management

And **noted:**

- A new version of existing MBA
- MOU with Chandrabhan Sharma College of Arts Science and commerce in Mumbai

**12399. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** (Paper 19-20 13)

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

New programmes:

- MPhil/PhD applied linguistics
- PGC Relative Matters
- MSc Technology Policy and Management

Withdrawals of programmes:

- MSc and PG Dip in Researcher Development and MSc and PG Dip in Knowledge Exchange

Prize: Wallace Creative Writing prize

**12400. Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20 14)

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

New Programmes

- PhD in Prosthetic and Orthotic Engineering
- MSc in Advanced Mechanical Engineering with Pilot Training
- MSc in Advanced Mechanical Engineering with Pilot Studies

Collaborative Agreements

- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Vellore Institute of Technology, India

Senate **noted:**

Nantong University, China

Inner Mongolia University of Technology

Senate **noted:**

New Programme:

- MSc in Industrial Engineering

Memoranda of Understanding:

- Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology, Korea
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Thailand
- Federal University of RIO Grande, Brazil

**12401. Faculty of Science Report to Senate** (Paper 19-20 15)

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

New Programmes/New Streams to Existing Programmes

- BSc Forensic and Analytical Chemistry Science with Teaching suite of programmes:
- BSc with Honours in Biology with Teaching (International)
- BSc with Honours in Chemistry with Teaching
- BSc with Honours in Chemistry with Teaching (International)
- BSc with Honours in Mathematics with Teaching
- BSc with Honours in Mathematics with Teaching (International)
- BSc with Honours in Physics with Teaching
- BSc with Honours in Physics with Teaching (International)

Senate **noted:**

Collaborative Agreement:

- Capital Normal University - addendum to the articulation agreement

**RESERVED BUSINESS**

**12402. Combined Student Business Report** (Paper 19-20 16)

Senate **approved** the report.

MJ  
06/04/2020