

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Senate Business Committee will be held at **9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 19 February 2020** in **Committee Room 2, University Office**.

Rachael Bernard
Academic Registrar
(r.bernard@abdn.ac.uk)

AGENDA

FOR DISCUSSION

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1. | Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January | SBC19:20-09 |
| 2. | Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 18 March 2020 | SBC19:20-10 |
| 3. | Annual Senate Survey 2019 | SBC19:20-11 |

FOR INFORMATION

4. **Dates of meetings in 2019/20**

The Committee is invited to note the next date of the meetings to be held in 2019/20:

Tuesday 14 April 2020 at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 2

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SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**Minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2020**

Present: Karl Leydecker (Convener), Steve Cannon, Ondrej Kucerak, Ruth Taylor, Kath Shennan, Kirsty Kiezebrink, Graeme Nixon, Alfred Akisanya, Scott Styles, Helen Martin, Iain McEwan, Neil Vargesson, Amy Bryzgel, Michelle Pinard and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Cecilia Wallback, Marion Campbell, Abbe Brown, and Allan Sim

459. Minutes

459.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019.

460. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 5 February 2020

460.1 The Committee noted that the location of the meeting on 5 February had been changed and would now take place in KCG 7 to enable senate members to have sight of part of the newly refurbished teaching space.

460.2 It was agreed that, assuming approval was given by the Honorary Degrees Committee at its meeting on 16 January, the proposed new criteria and process for honorary degree nominations would be an addition to the agenda for discussion and approval.

460.3 The possibility of including a general debate on teaching and learning at the February meeting was discussed in some detail. The Committee agreed that a general discussion of this sort at Senate might not be the most productive approach. It was noted that Ruth would be leading an education item at the March meeting focused around actions arising from Aberdeen 2040.

460.4 The Committee agreed that Scott's motion regretting the UK decision to leave the European Union should be included on the agenda as item three.

461. Nomination of Postgraduate Research Officers

461.1 The Committee approved the nominated PGR School Officers for academic year 2019/20 as follows:

Biological Sciences: Alan Bowman

Business School: Audrey Paterson

Divinity, History & Philosophy: Jackson Armstrong

Education: Liz Curtis, David Johnston

Engineering: Jefferson Gomes

Geosciences: Matteo Spagnolo

Language, Literature, Film & Visual Culture: Andrew Gordon

Law: Roy Partain

Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition: Isobel Crane, Jerry Morse

Natural and Computing Sciences: Ekkehard Ullner

Psychology: Margaret Jackson

Social Sciences: Andrew McKinnon

462. Senate Membership of Committees

462.1 Following amendments to the composition of the Estates Committee (formerly the Capital Programme Management Committee (CPMC)) and the Digital Strategy Committee to include two elected members of Senate, the Senate Business Committee approved:

Amy Bryzgel as a member of the Estates Committee, and
Murilo da Silva Baptista as a member of the Digital Strategy Committee

462.2 The composition of both the above committees includes two elected members of Senate; the Committee agreed that further volunteers should be sought. It was agreed that the additional member of the Estates Committee should ideally be a member based at Foresterhill.

463. Dates of meetings in 2019/20

463.1 The Committee noted that the next meetings in 2019/20 had been scheduled for:

- Thursday 20 February 2020 at 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 14 April 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

**SENATUS ACADEMICUS
Wednesday 18 March 2020**

The next meeting of the Senate will be held on **Wednesday 18 March 2020** at **1.00 p.m.** in the **King's Conference Centre**.

A sandwich lunch will be available in the James McKay Hall from 12.30 p.m.

Staff and student members of the University are welcome to attend meetings of the Senate as observers. Those wishing to do so are asked to respect the formal nature of the proceedings and the understanding that no intervention or lobbying will be permitted from non-members who may be invited to leave when items of confidential business are to be considered.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of 5 February 2020
3. Update from Principal
4. Report from the University Court

Items for Discussion

5. Presentation from Ruth Taylor, Vice-Principal (Education)
6. Qatar: Governance; and Health and Safety

Annex A
(to follow)

Item for Discussion & Approval

7. Late Submission of Work Policy

Any Other Items for Discussion

8. Opportunity for Senate members to raise any other items of academic interest for discussion.

Items for Routine Approval or Information**9. Items for Routine Approval**

- 9.1 Report from the University Committee on Teaching & Learning

10. Items for Information

- 10.1 Report from the University Committee on Teaching & Learning

Notes

Formal Business and Questions for the Principal

Any member of Senate wishing an item for routine approval or for information to be brought forward for discussion or to propose an amendment to the Minutes of the last meeting or to put a question to the Principal on general matters is asked to email the Academic Registrar no later than by 5.00 p.m. on Monday 16 March 2020, indicating the reasons for their request.

DRAFT

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE
(20 February 2020)

HEADLINE SENATE SURVEY OUTCOMES 2019

1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This is a paper providing **the outcomes of the Annual Senate Survey for 2019/20**

This paper is provided for **discussion**

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee is invited to discuss the outcomes of the survey and make appropriate recommendations for actions to address the issues identified.

3. DISCUSSION

The Senate Effectiveness Review completed in February 2016 brought forward a number of recommendations regarding the operation of the Senate. One of these was that an annual survey of Senate members should be conducted with a more substantive effectiveness review being undertaken every five years.

In line with the recommendations of the Senate Effectiveness Review, a survey of all members of Senate was originally conducted in October 2016. For comparison, the same survey was repeated in March 2018 and December 2019. This paper presents the outcome of the 2019 survey for consideration.

The survey was open online during a four-week period in December/January 2019/20 with all Senate members (ex officio, elected and student Senators) who were Senate members during academic year 2019/20 being invited to participate.

The report appended to this paper gives details of the responses received to the 2019 survey, both in terms of the responses to the individual questions and the text of any written comments received.

30% of the Senate membership responded to the survey (2018 response rate was 45%): 41 responses were received from the total membership of 134¹. This can be broken down as:

<i>Ex Officio</i>	20% (7 out of 35 members)
Elected	40% (30 out of 77 members)
Student	20% (4 out of 20 members)

When the results of the survey are compared with the 2018 survey, it can be seen that the responses overall are more positive: in 2018, there were three questions where less than 50% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed or agreed with the statement made; in 2019, only two responses fell into this category (see below). In 2016 there were eight responses in this category.

In the 2019 survey, the two questions were:

¹ At the time of the survey there were 2 vacant seats on Senate

- (i) 52% of respondents indicated that they did not feel that they had had an appropriate induction to their role on Senate. From the comments received to this question, this appeared to be less to do with the quality of the session offered and more to do with the timing having meant that staff had been unable to attend.
- (ii) In 2018, 38% of respondents felt that there was effective communication between the Senate and University Court (up from 14% in 2016). Although members' responses in 2019 acknowledged that this is an area that has again improved, with 46% responding positively, there is still a desire to see this improve further with more than one member suggesting that the opportunity for some sort of informal interaction with Court members might be of value.

Significant positive change has been seen in the response to a key question:

in 2018, 46% of respondents felt that meetings and the business of Senate were effectively conducted and in a way which encouraged an appropriate degree of transparency and engagement, and in which they had confidence (33% in 2016). However, in the 2019 survey this figure had increased to 81%. Written comments in connection with this question support the impression given by the figures, that things have changed for the better in this regard in the previous 18 months.

In summary, the results indicate that many of the measures introduced following previous surveys and the last Senate Effectiveness Review, together with changes in personnel, have had a continued positive effect on members' perceptions of the way the Senate conducts its business.

Following the 2018 survey, it was noted that members felt that 'Senate ha[d] lost sight of its core remits of teaching and research and was spending too much of its time involved in unproductive discussions driven by a 'vocal minority' of members on matters which fall outside its remit' (SEN18:03). In contrast, comments submitted as part of the 2019 do not convey this impression: instead there is a sense of a significant positive change and general improvement in the atmosphere of meetings.

The Committee is asked to consider the outcome of the survey and to agree what action, if any, needs taken.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Professor Karl Leydecker (karl.leydecker@abdn.ac.uk or extn 2017) or Dr Rachael Bernard (r.bernard@abdn.ac.uk or extn 3388).

Q1

	2017	2018	2019
Elected	65	67	73
Exofficio	31	25	17
Student	4	8	10

Q2 I have a clear understanding of Senate remit

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	35	48	37
Agree	38	43	61
Neutral	17	7	2
Disagree	10	2	0
Strongly Di	0	0	0

q3 Clear understanding of individual responsibility

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	44	48	51
Agree	41	48	46
Neutral	7	2	2
Disagree	7	2	0
Strongly Di	1	0	0

q4 I received an appropriate induction

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	11	17	24
Agree	23	33	24
Neutral	29	20	24
Disagree	20	22	22
Strongly Di	17	8	5

q5 I have sufficient understanding of key strategic issues

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	44	53	6
Agree	32	33	76
Neutral	14	12	2
Disagree	6	2	5
Strongly Di	4	0	2

q6 Senate papers issued timely and accessible

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	34	40	49
Agree	43	52	42
Neutral	16	3	7
Disagree	6	3	2
Strongly Di	1	2	0

q7 Senate uses its time effectively

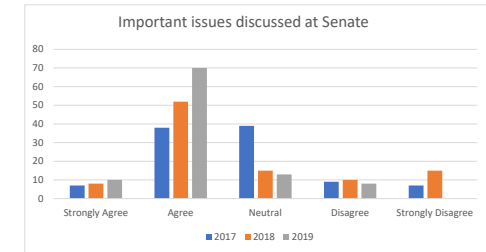
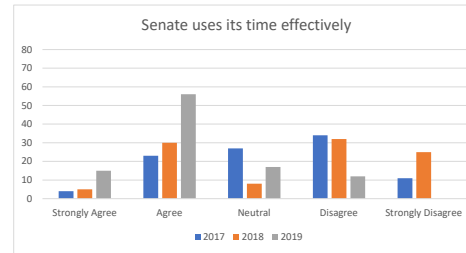
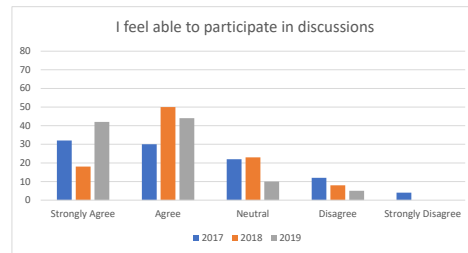
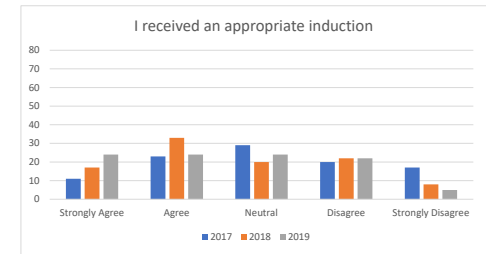
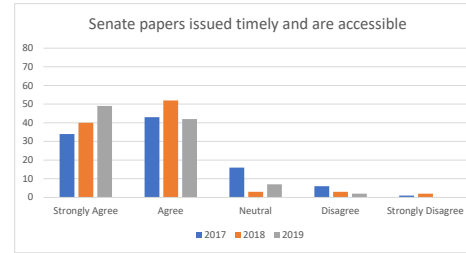
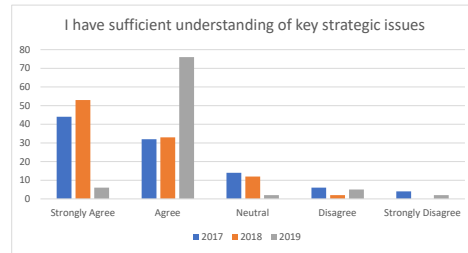
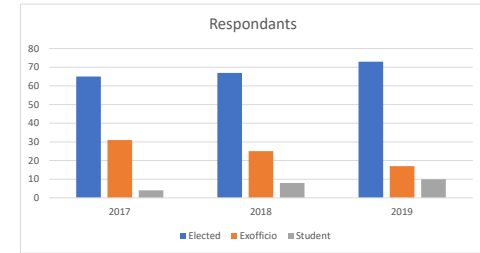
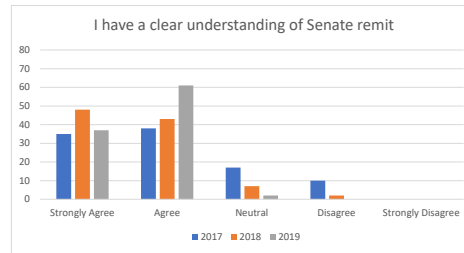
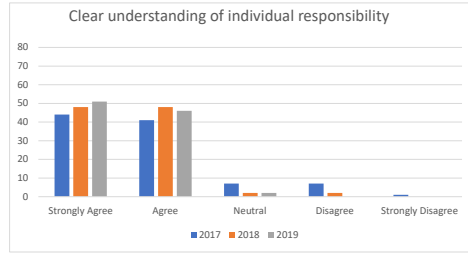
	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	4	5	15
Agree	23	30	56
Neutral	27	8	17
Disagree	34	32	12
Strongly Di	11	25	0

q8 Important issues discussed at Senate

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	7	8	10
Agree	38	52	70
Neutral	39	15	13
Disagree	9	10	8
Strongly Di	7	15	0

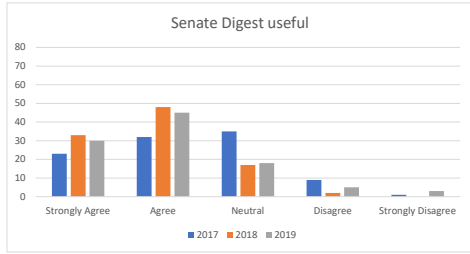
q8 I feel able to participate in discussions

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	32	18	42
Agree	30	50	44
Neutral	22	23	10
Disagree	12	8	5
Strongly Di	4	0	0



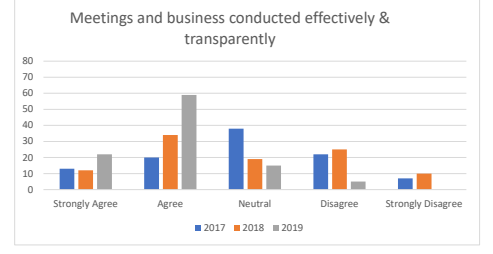
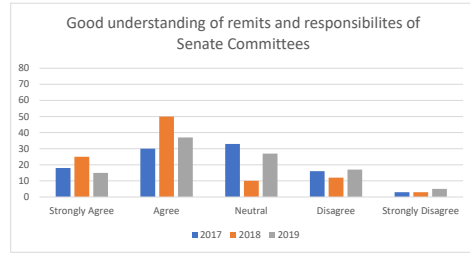
q9 Meetings and business conducted effectively & transparently

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	13	12	22
Agree	20	34	59
Neutral	38	19	15
Disagree	22	25	5
Strongly Di	7	10	0



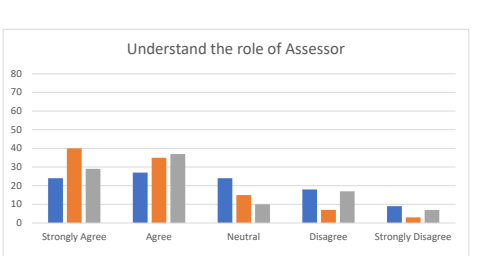
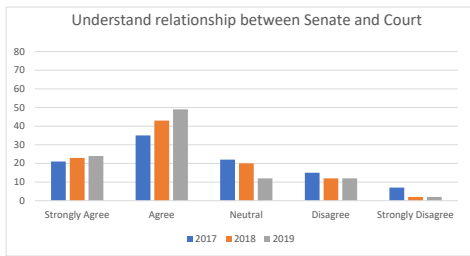
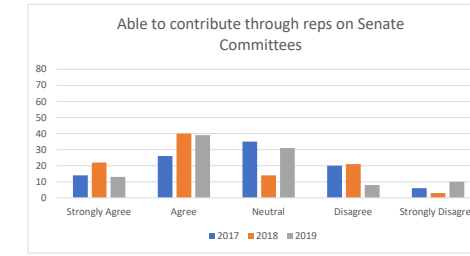
q10 Senate digest useful

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	23	33	30
Agree	32	48	45
Neutral	35	17	18
Disagree	9	2	5
Strongly Di	1	0	3



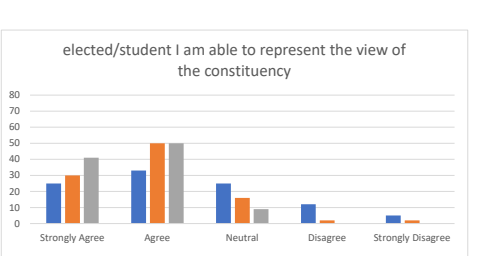
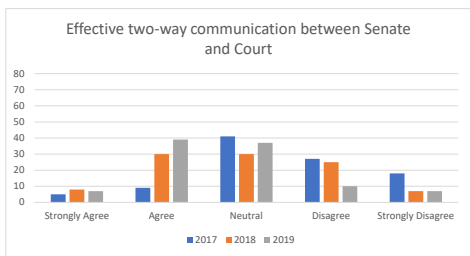
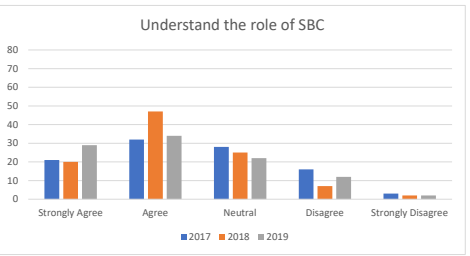
q10 Good understanding of remits and responsibilities of Senate Committees

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	18	25	15
Agree	30	50	37
Neutral	33	10	27
Disagree	16	12	17
Strongly Di	3	3	5



q11 Able to contribute through reps on Senate Committees

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	14	22	13
Agree	26	40	39
Neutral	35	14	31
Disagree	20	21	8
Strongly Di	6	3	10



q12 Understand relationship between Senate and Court

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	21	23	24
Agree	35	43	49
Neutral	22	20	12
Disagree	15	12	12
Strongly Di	7	2	2

q13 Understand the role of assessor

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	24	40	29
Agree	27	35	37
Neutral	24	15	10
Disagree	18	7	17
Strongly Di	9	3	7

q14 Effective two-way communication between Senate and Court

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	5	8	7
Agree	9	30	39
Neutral	41	30	37
Disagree	27	25	10
Strongly Di	18	7	7

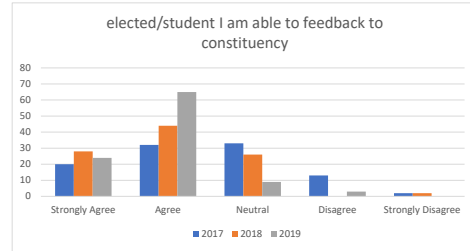
q15 Understand the role of SBC

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	21	20	29
Agree	32	47	34
Neutral	28	25	22
Disagree	16	7	12
Strongly Di	3	2	2

q16 As elected/student I am able to represent the view of the constituency

	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	25	30	41
Agree	33	50	50
Neutral	25	16	9
Disagree	12	2	0
Strongly Di	5	2	0

q17	As elected/student I am able to feedback to constituency		
	2017	2018	2019
Strongly Ag	20	28	24
Agree	32	44	65
Neutral	33	26	9
Disagree	13	0	3
Strongly Di	2	2	0

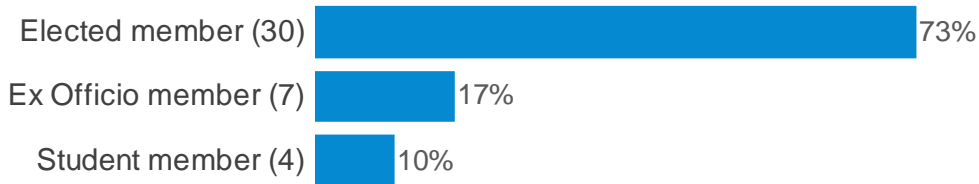


Annual Senate Survey 2019

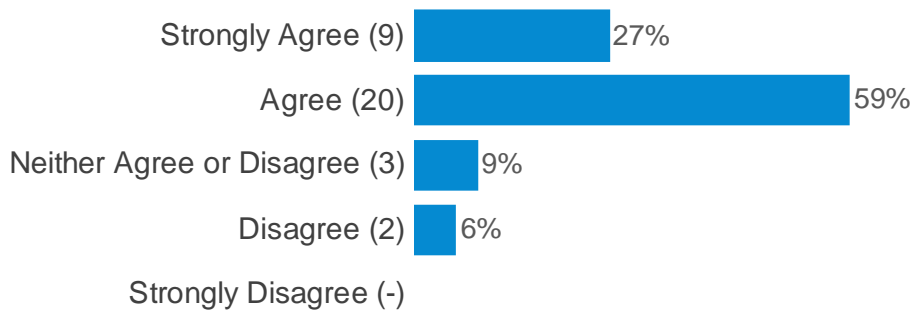
This report was generated on 08/01/20. Overall 41 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

What is your role on Senate? (Senate Member)



As an elected Senator or Student Senator, I feel able to consult with my constituency in advance of meetings regarding items of Senate business (Consult with constituency)



Comments

In our school, it can be difficult to get time in school meetings or with colleagues to consult

Unfortunately rather than Senate business being part of the core part of meetings with academics in my School, it is instead put at the end of staff meetings and a large number of academic staff leave for this last 30 minutes.

The main constraint is time taken to consult, from when the Senate Agenda is announced. Delays in contacting colleagues and receiving a reply are further exacerbated by complex issues and/or multiple issues.

I am ABLE, in SMMSN there is seldom a forum for this.

such a large school so tends to be more restricted to immediate colleagues and assume other colleagues within school are equally represented. School meetings not aligned to senate dates

Can be challenging to elicit engagement

Emails and drop-in canvas meetings have extremely poor uptake. It's really only through informal chats with colleagues, but I don't know or see everyone across the School or even in my own department.

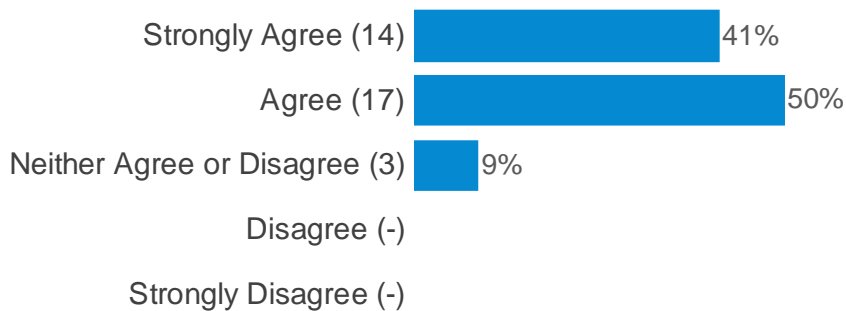
This is often quite difficult as Senate is not a standing time on school meetings

Able, yes; but the general pressures of work around the School means that it can be a challenge for colleagues to engage effectively.

A qualified yes, but usually by e-mail which is not always ideal or through informal discussion about specific issues.

This year for the first time I have difficulty booking a room where I could conduct a surgery. I wonder if Senate could provide accomodation.

As an elected Senator or Student Senator, I feel able to represent the views of my constituency effectively in debate at Senate (Represent views)

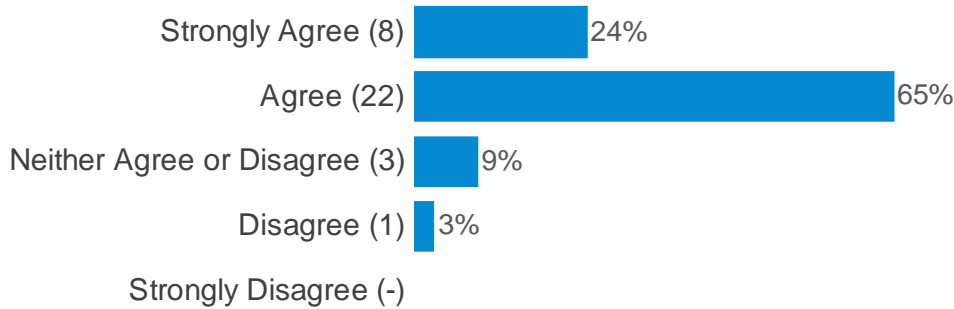


Comments

I'm happy to speak at Senate and represent the views I know about, but canvasng opinion across the department/School isn't easy. I do wonder if some people don't speak at Senate because someone else has already voiced a similar opinion which means that overall everyone can't fully judge the feeling in the room.

Consultation is usually through email, and not all of my constituents respond.

As an elected Senator or Student Senator, I feel that I am able to effectively feedback to my constituency following Senate meetings (Feedback to consituecy)



Comments

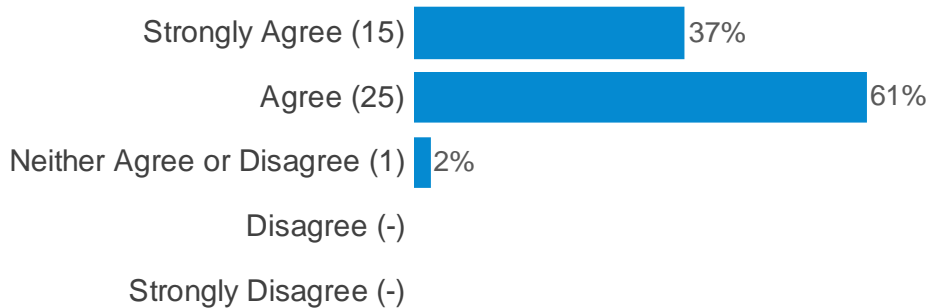
See earlier answer, however elected senators in my School do send out a report after each Senate meeting and prior to Senate meetings we ask for comments from colleagues on items on the agenda.

I am ABLE, in SMMSN there is seldom a forum for this.

We feedback with a brief email after each senate although again ti would be helpful for this to be a standing item on school meetings

If I'm honest I think I could do better!

I have a clear understanding of the Senate's remit and responsibilities (Senate Remit and Responsibility)



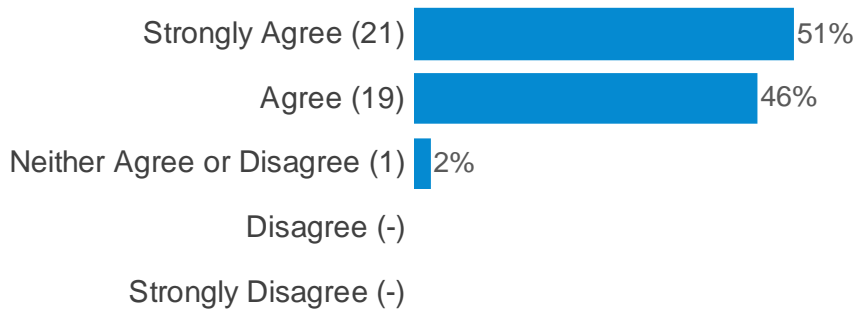
Comments

I'm relatively recently arrived, and have only attended Senate three times.

I think I agree with the Principal when he said (I think) that Senate sometimes seems more operational than strategic. Discussing the minutiae of academic handbook policy on degree classifications etc. doesn't always seem like a productive use of Senate time.

There continues to be a lack of clarity as to what is considered to be "confidential" business of Court. I find this troubling since I can't always communicate to my constituency about university business perhaps overanxiously labelled as confidential.

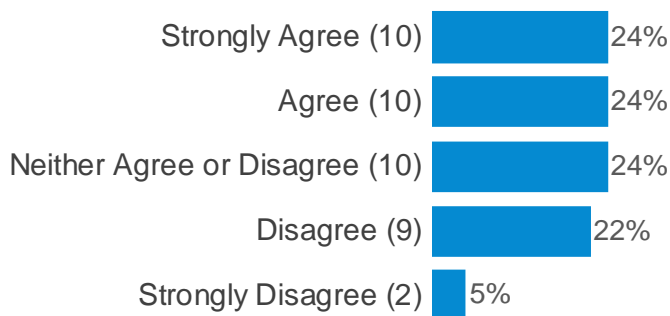
I have a clear understanding of my individual responsibilities as a Senate member (Clear Understanding of Individual)



Comments

See previous comment.

I received an appropriate induction into my role as a Senator (Induction recieved)



Comments

It was not available when I became a Senator. But I spoke with my predecessors to fins out what I needed to do.

I don't remember being invited to an induction when I started 3 1/2 years ago or perhaps I could not make the session due to a clash.

Induction was held on a day when I already had exisiting commitments I could not change.

It was a bit vauge and generic.

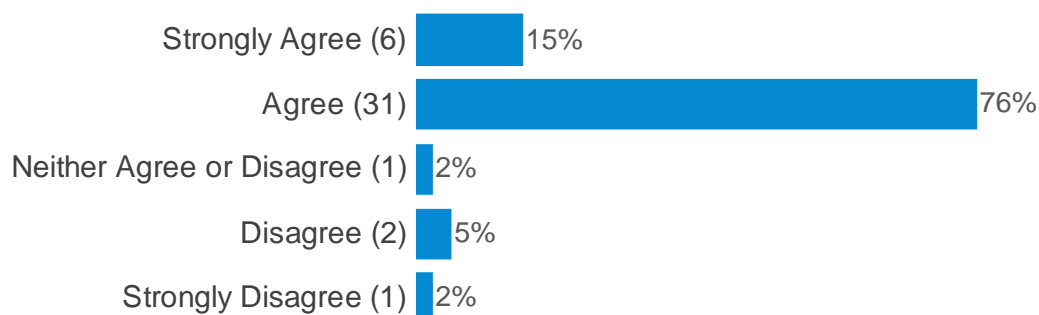
Would be helpful to have time in the KCC to acclimatise the induction event in the realities of senate meetings. Also, suggest opening the invitation to returning senators (as well as 'new') and student senators.

No, I have not had this. I went through such a process at my previous institution, which was very helpful.

Yes I attended an induction session, which was well run and was an opportunity to meet other new senators.

I have had no induction since becoming a Senator in 2019

I have a sufficient understanding of the key strategic issues relating to academic matters (both teaching and research) and that I am kept adequately informed of progress against these in my role on Senate (Understand Key Strategic Issues)



Comments

I do not feel informed by the School representatives on other University Committees, e.g. Teaching and Learning to Agree with this statement.

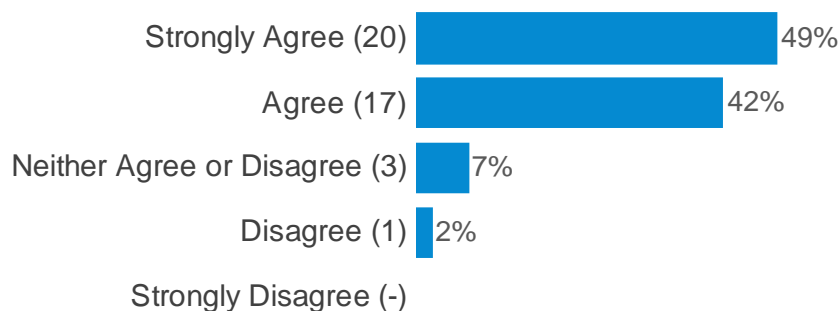
As scholarship I have a better understanding of teaching then research.

Some variation in agenda and minutes available online for joint/sub-committees of senate (/court).

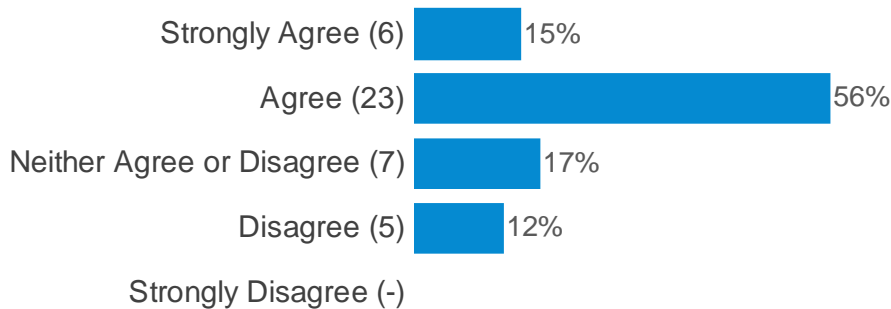
We are well informed, but sometimes it is hard to keep up with all the changes in policy and strategy, and to understand the boarder sector and our place in it. I don't really know to address this, as we are already provided with excellent overviews, a Senate digest and the Management reports. Perhaps a little bit of training on University finances and the HE sector in the UK - or even just some suggested resources for those interested.

I sometimes find myself surprised by business discussed within Senate sub-committees which unexpectedly come to the floor of the Senate as "having been discussed".

The Senate papers are issued in a timely manner and are accessible (Timing of Senate Papers)



The Senate uses its time effectively – time available is allocated to the most important issues (Use of time in Senate mtg)



Comments

There is less time for discussion than I had anticipated and more top-down dissemination

Sometimes, discussions are sidelined or hijacked by Senators who do not keep their contributions short and who do not always sense when an issue is too niche or specific to justify sustained discussion.

This has improved in recent meetings.

There has been significant improvement with this over the last year. This is particularly important for those with caring responsibilities.

Sometimes important items can come quite late on the agenda.

Discussions often go on unnecessarily. A small number of members speak far too often, normally repeating themselves. This distracts from the time spent for meaningful discussion. I think this puts other members off from speaking. Those who do speak often should realise that the issues that they are raising (which are sometimes valid) are no longer given much attention and are unlikely to be supported by other members as they are tired of hearing them speak.

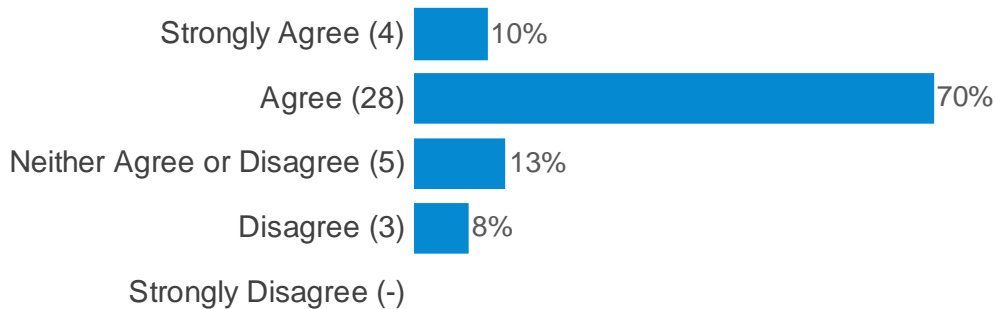
This has improved dramatically since George has started chairing. Conversations are civil, brief, and to the point. In previous years conversations would go on far longer than needed.

As I said before, sometimes the discussion seems to delve into details unnecessarily. Attention to detail is very important, but going round in circles raising multiple objections to e.g. degree classification (which have already been raised at School and University level Teaching and Learning committees) does not seem productive to me.

Only caveat to 'strongly agree'-was when an item I expected to be debated, and had prepared for, was pulled from the agenda at the beginning of the senate session. This was rather frustrating, although I accept it was done within the rules.

There should be more time for questions from the floor.

The issues I feel are important are discussed at meetings of Senate (Important issues discussed)



Comments

and also in elected member pre-senate meetings

The committee structure should be fully empowered

Sometimes there appears to be too much focus on minor detail but it is a lot better than it was.

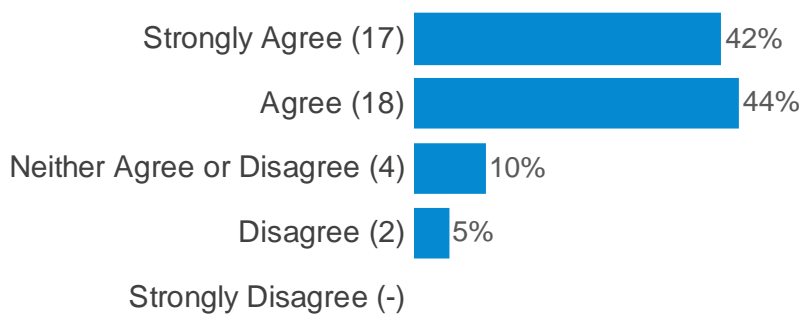
Although not always and sometimes the discussions are brief - a need for clarity between significant issues and standing items

Difficult to access this, however, I plan to contribute towards this going forward.

This happens sometimes by questions being table in addition to the regularly scheduled material

Again, focusing on strategic rather than operational, I would like to see more discussion of (i) the financial health of the institution, and regular updates on plans for growth; (ii) the Univeristy's attempts to engage with the local community and various local stakeholders; (iii) equality, diversity, open access and widening participation issues.

I feel able to participate in discussion at Senate meetings (Able to participate in discussion)



Comments

There is significantly more engagement of the wider Senate. Previously, there was too much of a vocal minority. I'm pleased that this is no longer the case.

Comments are often the same people over and over again usually with the same point to make. This is not conducive to discussion where everyone has an equal voice and say.

Mostly, discussion is open but sometimes Senators dominate by long or multiple contributions. The Chair does not always recognise Senators who are trying to contribute, and time may prevent even a persistent Senator from contributions.

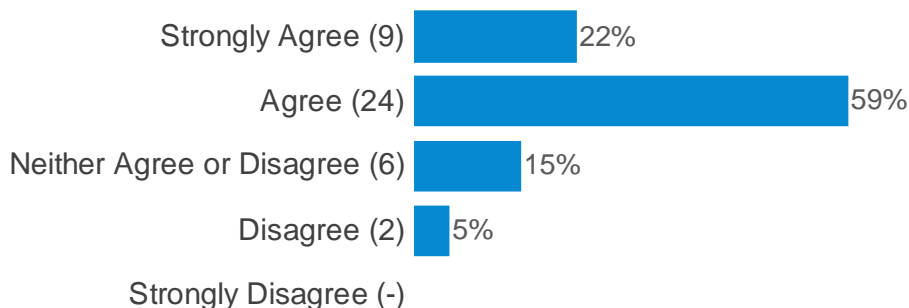
The process of inviting everyone to speak once before returning if time allows is very effective in inviting in a broader range of views. It is something we should be rolling out at all meetings.

This has also dramatically improved. I used to be reluctant to speak in senate. Many of those who did speak was very polemical and even argumentative. With a more civil approach, I feel comfortable to share my views even if they aren't as strong or vehemently expressed as those by others.

I certainly don't feel prevented from doing so, but would note that issues relating to my area of responsibility (ex officio member) are picked up without me being invited to comment.

Although many times discussions are taken over by the views of a small number of senate members which wastes valuable time. Many times, they are just agreeing with each other.

The meetings and business of Senate are effectively conducted and in a way which encourages an appropriate degree of transparency and engagement and in which I have confidence (Transparency and Engagement)



Comments

See last comment

I think meetings have improved over the last year to 18 months.

This has improved in recent meetings.

Getting better, not perfect yet

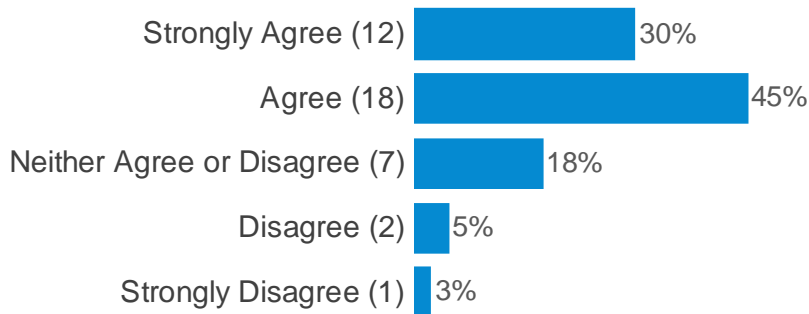
Discussions overtaken by a few members, most of us sit in silence waiting for the vote to be cast, which usually outvotes their opinion anyway.

SMT clearly listening to members of senate, and when issues about a lack of transparency have been raised, they have been addressed. (E.g. change management, HoS appointment in MMSN, etc.)

Senate meetings are chaired both efficiently and fairly and expression of views is actively encouraged from different constituencies.

The role of the senate committees works against transparency and engagement.

The Senate digest produced following Senate meetings provides a helpful summary of meeting outcomes (Digest - helpful summary)



Comments

This has been a very useful addition

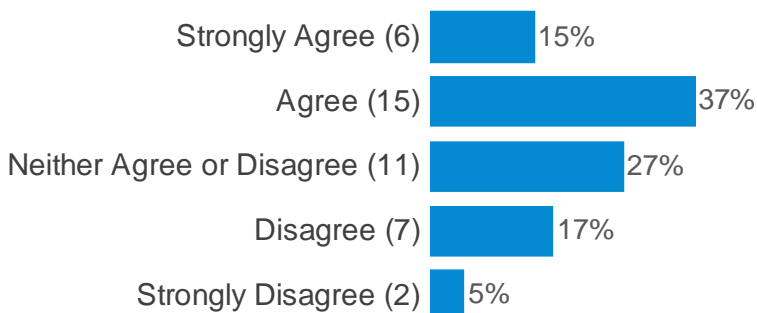
The minutes are more helpful in this regard where staff not on senate can see the points that have been raised

This could be improved. Sometimes key debates, decisions are muffled.

Rather too concise, doesn't always reflect level of agreement or disagreement.

This I think this is a good way to reach the academic community. From a personal point of view I was disappointed that senate voted to retain the Minutes as a verbatim transcript- I don't think this helps with dissemination of information or aids with engagement with the wider academic community. However, I accept that it was the clear majority view of senate to maintain the current system.

I have a good understanding of the remits and responsibilities of the Senate Committees (Senate Committees - remits and responsibilities)



Comments

Not across the board

See earlier comment, I do not know who sits on many of the Senate Committees.

still a little bit of a black box and hard to navigate through web-pages

There needs more transparency in this area.

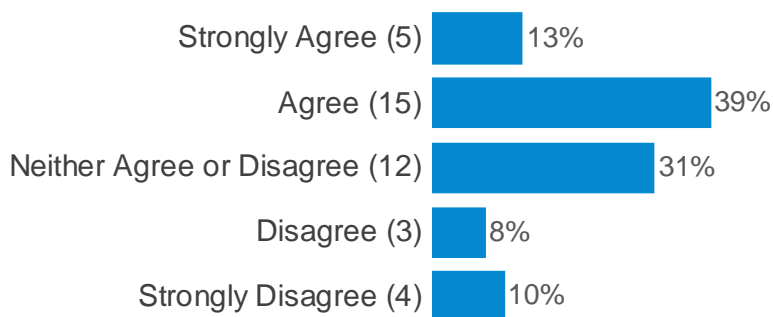
No, there is vagueness about several of them

But perhaps some of the committee members do not have a good understanding of the remits and responsibilities of the Senate Committees.

No, I'm afraid I'm rather ignorant about this.

There is a helpful flow diagram on the web outlining the committee structure in relation to both Senate and Court. However, the make up and membership and remit of committees is not always obvious- although I suspect the information is available on the web? Also there appears to be different sub-committees and whether they report to the overseeing committee (for example QAC, UGC and PGC under Teaching and Learning, or if they are autonomous and report (?) to directly to Senate/ Court is also not clear

I feel able to contribute through my relevant representatives on Senate Committees to discussions at these meetings (Contribute via rep to committees)



Comments

I do not know who they are and do not receive feedback from them in my School.

This varies across the joint/sub committees in terms of transparency of papers but is improving

I think better awareness of what committees do and how Senators might feed into debates would be helpful.

Members of some of these committees do not seem to appreciate they are there as representatives of their school/unit, they do not circulate agendas and papers in advance of meetings to solicit opinion, I never even know when the meetings are happening. Usually the first I know about important matters is when they come to Senate as supposedly approved by a committee which seems to have been unaware of any dissenting opinion.

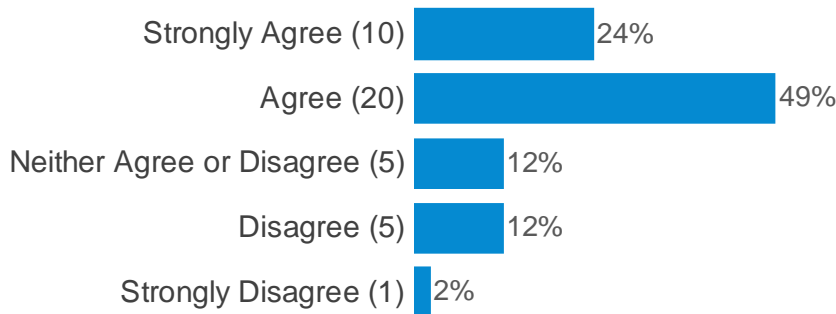
I feel able to contribute through my relevant representatives on some Senate Committees. On others this is not so.

I haven't done this, and don't remember being asked to feed in to any such committees.

I don't know my relevant representative on all the different committees only for two or three.

The input at Senate Committees tends to come from exofficio unelected members.

I understand the relationship between Senate and the University Court (Senate and Court)



Comments

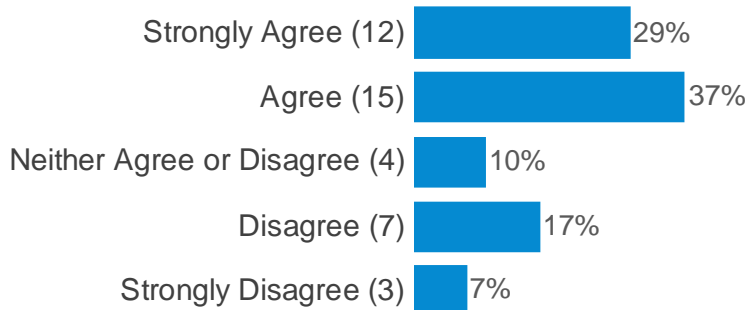
joint committees make this difficult

I thought so, but events suggest my understanding may not always be correct.

Senate- deals with academic matters (Teaching and Research) ? Court-operational matters and governance of the University ?

This is a troubled relationship and needs improvement.

I understand the role of Senate Assessors on the University Court (Senate Assessor Role)



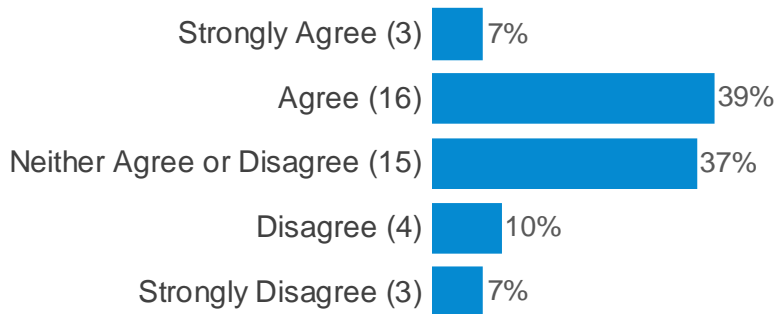
Comments

While the reports from the assessors is very helpful, and current and past assessors have done an excellent job (including in their role in the appointment of a new principal), I am a bit hazy on the relation between senate and court and the place of the role of assessor in this relationship. This could be entirely my fault for not fully understanding the structure of governance at the University (but I'm probably not the only one in this situation).

Communication link between Senate and Court ?

Senate Assessors are unable to speak about court business due to a confidentiality clause.

I feel that there is effective two-way communication between the Senate and the University Court (Communication between Senate and Court)



Comments

Perhaps not so much coming back from Court except the report given by the Assessors to Senate

I think there could be much more dialogue between Senate and Court. Even some social gatherings for people to meet would be useful.

there is now

This has improved somewhat, but there is still scope for more. A social function to get Senators and Court Members together has been suggested in the past. Mostly, Senators have limited awareness of the Court membership (apart from Assessors).

It's much better, but it would be good if Senators and Court Members were able to meet and talk

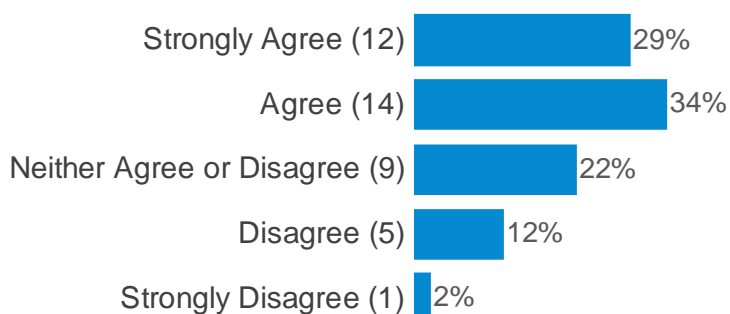
We get the digest of Court activities. It is not always entirely clear how the views of Senate are taken over to Court.

I really don't know. Court is a bit of a closed book to me...I don't have a good grasp of the details of what goes on there.

Qualified yes.

The confidentiality clauses obscure communication.

I understand the role of the Senate Business Committee and its responsibilities in regard to the work of Senate (Understand SBC)



Please add any other comments you may wish to make that have not been covered above. (Comments)

The pre-senate meetings with the Principal have been revolutionary in allowing Senate to perform more efficiently and effectively. Much more is getting accomplished as a result

I believe that unless people have been on Committees they will not understand how they operate, e.g. Senate Business Committee. I also think there needs to be much more transparency about who is on what Committee and how they got there and how long they will be there for.

More opportunities for those on senate to meet Court members would be appreciated.

Would appreciate more opportunities for elected senators - staff and students - to meet

For the first time since being at the university (11 years) I enjoy my role as a senator, look forward to senate meetings, feel that I can make a valuable contribution, and feel that senate is a relevant body at the university.

My recent experience of Senate has been a positive one and the atmosphere is more constructive than in earlier years when I was a senator.

I think this survey has shone a light on the lack of any induction. I wonder if ex officio members are not picked up in the same way as elected members? I'd welcome something that would increase my understanding.

Although slightly improved in last few meetings, still occasions where the strong opinions of the few completely overshadow the views of the majority.

I appreciate the opportunity Senate provides, to meet and interact with colleagues from across the University and from different disciplines. Senate meetings and discussions also has provided insight into challenges we all face, as well as those that may affect one discipline alone and how we need to be flexible in meeting these different challenges. As an elected senator, I would also highlight the positive effect of the informal meetings initiated by the Principal. These have provided an oppo