

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Senate Business Committee will be held at **1.30 p.m. on Monday 4 October 2021** via Teams.

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

AGENDA

FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021** **SBC21-22:01**
2. **Remit and Membership** **SBC21-22:02**
3. **Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 27 October 2021** **SBC21-22:03**
4. **Review of the Operation of the Senate in 2021/22**

The Committee is asked to reflect on the operation of the Senate in 2020/2021 and to consider whether there may be any ways to further enhance the effectiveness of the Senate.

5. **Trustee for Aberdeen Endowments Trust**

As per the City of Aberdeen Endowments Scheme 1985 (as amended), the Senatus Academicus of the University of Aberdeen are asked to appoint a Trustee to our Board of Trustees. The current appointee's tenure, Professor Norman Hutchison, is due to expire on 15th October. He wishes to be considered for re-appointment and the Trust would be very glad to have him continue in his role. The Senate Business Committee are asked to consider the approach to be taken in determining how to fill the vacancy.

FOR INFORMATION

6. **Senate Elections**

The Committee is invited to note the outcome of the Senate elections conducted at the end of last academic year as detailed below:

The following have been elected to serve on the Senatus Academicus from 01 October 2020 until 30 September 2024 (except where indicated otherwise)

School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture

Phillip Cooke (until 2022)

School of Social Science

Malcom Harvey

7. Senate Assessor Elections

The Committee is invited to note that following recent elections Diane Skátun and Joachim Schaper were elected as Senate Assessors to Court from 1 October 2021 to September 2025.

8. Nomination of Postgraduate Research Officer

The Committee approved by circulation in August, changes to the nominated PGR School Officers for Psychology and Divinity, History, Philosophy & Art History (DHPAH) respectively:

Soren Anderson replaced Madge Jackson as PGO for Psychology with immediate effect.
Paul Nimmo replaced Brian Brock as PGO for DHPAH from September.

9. Dates of meetings in 2020/21

The Committee is invited to note the dates of the meetings to be held in 2020/21:

- Thursday 4 November 2021 at 3.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Thursday 17 February 2021 at 2.05 p.m.
- Tuesday 12 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**Minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2021**

Present: Karl Leydecker (Chair), Tracey Slaven, Ondrej Kucerak, Javier González Cuervos, Ruth Taylor, Kath Shennan, Marion Campbell, Abbe Brown, Kirsty Kiezebrink, Graeme Nixon, Cheryl Dowie, Georgios Leontidis, Iain McEwan, Neil Vargesson and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Scott Styles, Amy Bryzgel and Allan Sim

500. Minutes

500.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2021.

501. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 12 May 2021

501.1 In discussing the draft agenda for the meeting the Committee discussed issues around the timing of Senate meetings. It was noted that Senate had previously agreed that meetings should commence at 1pm and that this was at odds with current guidance for meeting timings.

501.2 It was noted that it would be inappropriate for Senate to be setting a bad example and that Schools are already operating a variety of models within the institutional guidance.

501.3 Following much discussion it was decided that the meeting should start at 1pm in order to ensure as many members are able to attend, but that the meeting should be scheduled to finish at 3.30pm.

Action: Clerk

501.4 The Committee approved the draft agenda for the meeting on 12 May, noting that there would be an item looking forward in research terms, seeking to redress the balance of Senate's focus in recent months back to a more of a balance between teaching and research. The Committee also noted that the paper on teaching principles for 2021/22 was currently out for consultation and that the version brought to Senate would be updated to reflect feedback gathered from the consultation.

502. Senate Elections

502.1 The Committee approved the proposed timelines for the Senate member elections and also the proposals for the Senate Assessor elections.

503. Students' Progress Committee Convenor

503.1 On the recommendation of the Heads of School for Biological Sciences, Geosciences, Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition, Natural & Computing Sciences and Psychology, the Committee approved the appointment of Michelle Pinard as Convenor for the Student Progress Committee for Science.

504. Dates of meetings in 2021/22

The Committee noted the dates of the meetings to be held in 2021/22 as follows:

- Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 3.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Thursday 17 February 2022 at 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Senate Business Committee
(4 October 2021)

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE
*(Sub-Committee of Senate)***1. COMMITTEE TITLE**

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2. DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT

October 2006

3. CONVENER AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AREA

Convener: Senior Vice-Principal
Clerk: Academic Affairs (Registry)

4. PURPOSE

The Senate Business Committee has a primary role to agree Senate agendas. In order to engage Senate in open debate, the Senate Business Committee also identifies for each meeting of Senate at least one major strategic topic for discussion.

The Committee has delegated responsibility from the Senate to approve the appointment of Senate members or representatives to University Committees and the schedule for Senate elections.

5. REMIT: *(To be reviewed annually at first meeting of committee cycle)*

The primary role of the Senate Business Committee is to agree Senate agendas.

In order to engage Senate in open debate and to inform future policy and development by sub-committees for subsequent approval by the Senate, it has been agreed that the Senate Business Committee should identify at least one topic for discussion of a major strategic issue at each Senate meeting. This would not preclude such topics being included on the agenda *ad hoc* in response to, in particular, national consultations and major issues that emerged during the course of an academic year that the University should address.

The Senate Business Committee, in drafting Senate agendas, should also decide, as deemed appropriate whether an external speaker (e.g. from the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Executive, Universities Scotland, the Higher Education Academy) should be invited to address the Senate on a topic of current interest or debate within the HE sector.

The Senate Business Committee is also asked to determine the timing of consideration, by the Senate, of annual reports from the Senior Vice-Principal, the central Vice-Principals and the University Secretary.

6. COMPOSITION AND QUORUM:

- The Senior Vice-Principal (Chair)
- University Secretary
- The Senate Assessor on the Policy & Resources Committee

- The Chairs of the following Committees:
University [Education Committee \(UEC\)](#) ~~on Teaching & Learning~~
Quality Assurance Sub-Committee of [UEC-UCTL](#)
~~Undergraduate Sub-Committee of UCTL~~
~~Postgraduate (Taught) Sub-Committee of UCTL~~
Research Policy Committee
- Dean of the Graduate School
- [Vice-President for Education](#) of the Students' Association
- Eight elected members of Senate- elected for a two year term of office
- [Vice-Chair AUSA Education Committee](#) ~~Rep (nominated by Student President)~~

Quorum: 50%

ACCOUNT TO BE TAKEN OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN MEMBERSHIP

7. MEMBERSHIP

Karl Leydecker
[Tracey Slaven](#) ~~Steve Cannon~~
 Neil Vargesson
 Ruth Taylor
[Vacant](#) ~~Kath Shennan~~
~~Abbe Brown~~
~~Kirsty Kiezebrink~~
 Marion Campbell
 Graeme Nixon
[Ondrej Kucerak](#) ~~Cecelia Wallbeck~~
 Iain McEwan (until September 2021)
 Amy Bryzgel (until September 2021)
 Scott Styles (until September 2021)
 Allan Sim (until September 2021)
[Cheryl Dowie](#) (until September 2022)
[Georgios Leontidis](#) (until September 2022)
~~4~~ ~~2~~-vacancies (until September 2022)
[David Mercieca](#) ~~Ondrej Kucerak~~
 Clerk: Rachael Bernard

8. REPORTING LINE/PARENT COMMITTEE AND INTERFACE WITH OTHER COMMITTEES

Formal reporting line: Senate
 Interface with other committees: ~~Undergraduate Committee, Postgraduate (Taught) Committee~~ [University Education Committee](#), Quality Assurance Committee, ~~UCTL~~, Research Policy Committee

9. FREQUENCY AND TIMING OF MEETINGS

The Committee will meet at least five times per year (September, November, December, February and April)
 Meetings between 10am – 4pm in accordance with University Policy.

10. PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

Cognisance will be taken of the University's Publication Scheme and Agenda papers will be made available on web pages/StaffNet where possible.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SENATUS ACADEMICUS
Wednesday 27 October 2020

The next meeting of the Senate will be held on **Wednesday 27 October 2020** at **1.00 p.m.** via **Microsoft Teams**.

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. Non-members wishing to attend are asked to notify academicservices@abdn.ac.uk by 11am Wednesday 27 October.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of 12 May 2021
3. Oral Report from the Principal and Update on HE Sector/University Developments
4. Report from the University Court
5. Update on IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism

Item for Discussion and Approval

6. Final Report from the Senate Effectiveness Review

Items for Discussion to Provide an Academic View**7 Items from Education Committee**

- 7.1 Presentation from Vice-Principal Education regarding approach to the delivery of Aberdeen 2040 Education Commitments
- 7.2 Session Dates 2022-23

8 Items from Research Policy Committee

- 8.1 Open Access Policy
 - 8.1.1 UKRI Draft Open Access Policy
 - 8.1.2 Elsevier Scencedirect Negotiations

Any Other Items for Discussion

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

Items for Routine Approval or Information

11. Items for Routine Approval

- 11.1 Report from the University Education Committee

12. Items for Information

- 12.1 Report from the University Education Committee
- 12.2 Senate Election Outcome
- 12.3 Senate Assessor Election Outcome

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 25 October 2021, indicating the reasons for their request.