

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of 4 October 2021

Present: Karl Leydecker (Chair), Tracey Slaven, Ondrej Kucerak, Ruth Taylor, Marion Campbell, Abbe Brown, Kirsty Kiezebrink, Graeme Nixon, Scott Styles, Cheryl Dowie, Iain McEwan, Neil Vargesson and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from: Javier González Cuervos, Georgios Leontidis, and Amy Bryzgel

505. Minutes

505.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021.

506. Remit and Membership

506.1 The Committee noted that elections had not been held as scheduled normally for the Committee. The membership would be held over pending the outcome of the Senate Effectiveness Review and the remit and composition would be considered at a future meeting.

507. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 27 October 2021

507.1 In approving the draft agenda for Senate, the Committee noted that a short report on general activities in the sector would be included as had been introduced at Court.

507.2 An update on discussions to date regarding antisemitism to be included at the meeting would be a precursor to a more substantive discussion in the future. The Committee agreed that the proposed motion was not necessary at this stage and agreed that Ruth Taylor would engage with the motion proposers.

507.3 The Senate Effectiveness Review (SER) Report would be presented by the author Professor Ella Ritchie (AdvanceHE)

507.4 The Committee noted the change of approach to reporting from the University Education Committee (UEC). There would be a single report from the UEC which would be 'above the line'; this would include a presentation from the UEC Chair around the education commitments in Aberdeen 2040; there would also be an initial discussion for an academic view around possible amendments to session dates for 2022/23.

507.5 It was noted that the papers from the Research Policy Committee would be presented by the Librarian.

507.6 The Committee noted the proposed motion concerning recruitment expenditure and it was agreed that the Secretary would engage with the proposers to explain the details behind the figures quoted and that the motion should be withdrawn. If, following this engagement, there remained a need for further explanation a question to the Principal could be submitted.

508. Review of the Operation of the Senate in 2021/22

508.1 The Committee reflected on the operation of the Senate in 2020/2021 and considered whether there may be any ways to further enhance the effectiveness of the Senate.

508.2 The Committee discussed the importance of the activities of the UEC, as highlighted by the proposed motion, to academic staff across the institution and noted that changes to the UEC's relationship with Court and Senate to be proposed as part of the SER Report would seek to improve transparency in this area. It was agreed that the motion would be withdrawn.

508.3 Clarification was sought regarding the plans for the next meeting of Senate being online while Court had been able to hold an in-person meeting. It was acknowledged that this was due largely to differences in size but also reflected the perception that the move to online Senate meetings had been a positive move for Senate while being less positive for Court. In addition it was noted that space on campus was being prioritised for educational activity.

509. Trustee for Aberdeen Endowments Trust

509.1 The Committee agreed that the vacancy for a Trustee should be advertised to Senate members and if, necessary, an election would be held.

510. Senate Elections

510.1 The Committee noted 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

511. Senate Assessor Elections

511.1 The Committee noted that following recent elections Diane Skåtun and Joachim Schaper were elected as Senate Assessors to Court from 1 October 2021 to September 2025.

512. Nomination of Postgraduate Research Officer

512.1 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.

513. Dates of meetings in 2021/22

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

- Thursday 4 November 2021 at 3.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Thursday 17 February 2022 at 2.05 p.m.
- Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 10.00 a.m.