

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**Minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2023**

Present: Karl Leydecker (Chair), Marion Campbell, Chantel Den Daas, Diane Skatun, Tracey Slaven Ruth Taylor, Neil Vargesson, and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

In attendance: Louise Thompson

Apologies were received from: Akua Agyeman, Mary Stephen, and Zeray Yihdego

Karl welcomed the new elected Senate members who had joined the Committee since the meeting in October.

546. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022

546.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022

547 Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 8 February 2023

547.1 The Committee noted the procedure for consideration of the honorary degree nominations. Tracey clarified that it was proposed that taking a consensus view would not prevent members raising objections to any of the proposed candidates or asking for a formal vote on candidates if they felt it was required.

547.2 It was clarified that two additional items, draft Resolutions on degree regulation changes and changes to honorary degrees available for conferral, would be added 'above the line' as both required Senate's approval in order to ensure they were in place for the start of academic year 2023/24.

547.3 In noting the detail of the items on the draft agenda, including those being brought forward by the Education and Research Committees, the Committee agreed to return to the exact ordering of the agenda items following discussion of the proposed motion.

548 Items submitted for inclusion on Senate Agenda

548.1 The Committee noted that a motion had been received regarding the *Protocol for the Approval of Papers in Senate*.

548.2 Diane and Richard drew the Committee's attention to them both being signatories to the motion.

548.3 Karl invited Diane and Richard to explain the issues which had led to the proposed motion. He noted that 'approval in principle', as referred to in the motion, was not an action which was formally identifiable within Senate proceedings.

548.4 Diane and Richard together explained that the need for the motion had been identified following the November meeting of Senate and the discussions around the proposed changes to the academic promotion procedures. It was highlighted that, due to the complex discussions and the number of amendments being agreed, by the time the vote was taken some members had been unsure of exactly what they were being asked to approve. This had especially been the case for some of the new elected members who had not been present at the previous meeting and so were unaware of the discussion at that time.

548.5 Following discussion of various possible approaches, which might adopted to improve the situation without unnecessarily prolonging the time taken to approve changes at Senate, it was agreed that:

- Future discussions would conclude with a formal summary of the changes agreed prior to a vote being held
- If approved, the final version of the paper, incorporating the agreed changes, would be made available to members following the meeting
- If deemed necessary by members, papers would return to a future meeting in their final form before approval is sought

548.6 The Committee agreed that the motion should be included on the agenda for Senate and that the proposer should be asked to reframe the motion to ensure that it was clear what was being sought and why.

[Action: Clerk]

549 Finalising the agenda.

549.1 Following discussion of several approaches to the ordering of the agenda items, it was agreed to amend the agenda:

- To move the presentation from the Vice-Principal (Regional Engagement) to be the final item of the meeting
- Consideration of the motion should be inserted following the Court Report
- To ensure the draft Resolutions were considered before the Honorary degree nominations were considered and that these three items should immediately precede the Vice-Principal's presentation
- The break should be moved to reflect the amended order of the meeting, and the inductive timings adjusted accordingly.

549.2 Subject to the items noted above, the Committee approved the content of the draft agenda.

[Action: Clerk]

550 Dates of meetings in 2022/23

The Committee noted the dates of the meetings to be held in 2022/23:

- Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 2.05 p.m.
- Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 3.05 p.m.