

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**Minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2024**

Present: Karl Leydecker (Chair), Scott Alan, Chantal Den Daas, Nick Forsyth, Richard Hepworth-Young, Rhiannon Ledwell, Diane Skatun, Mary Stephen, Tracey Slaven, Neil Vargesson, Jo-Anne Young and Rachael Bernard (Clerk)

584 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and reminded the Committee that the main function of the Senate Business Committee was to set the agenda for meetings of Senate.

585 Approval of previous meeting's minutes **SBC2324:12**

585.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 January were approved.

586 Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 27 March 2024 **SBC2324:13**

586.1 The Committee discussed the draft agenda for the meeting of Senate on 27 March 2024.

586.2 The Committee noted that there was a desire, being drive by the student representatives, for a discussion around the ongoing situation in Gaza.

586.3 It was agreed that this was a complex area and that it was not a straightforward area for Senate to find a position, on particularly as it would not be appropriate for matters of faith to be included in any discussion.

586.4 In the context of Gaza it was acknowledged that the situation needed to be approached differently from the previous discussions around Ukraine. This had been addressed from the perspective of the changes to UK immigration policy, which had been made to accommodate individuals fleeing the conflict.

586.5 Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the most appropriate approach would be for an initial discussion to be held, framed in the context of the Motion passed by the AUSA Student Council on the academic implications of the situation, with a view to reaching an appropriate position for Senate to support either at the March meeting or subsequently.

586.6 The Committee also noted that there was a desire from students for Senate to agree a position on sustainability and the climate crisis. It was agreed that the appropriate route for consideration would be for the initial discussion to be held at the Sustainable Development Committee.

586.7 The Committee noted that the revisions to the marking and moderation procedures were included for approval on their first inclusion in the Senate

agenda in order that the community might benefit from the potential changes in time for the May examination diet.

[Clerks Note: subsequent to the meeting, it was agreed that input from Senate might be useful before finalising the proposed changes]

- 586.8 The Committee agreed that, in order to ensure sufficient time was available for full discussion, the proposed research items should be scaled back for the current meeting. The agenda for March would just include the postgraduate research item.
- 586.9 It was also agreed that there should be an item for discussion centred on Guidance, issued recently to schools, around minimum student numbers required for courses to run. The Committee agreed the Guidance should be included for Senate and the item would be led by the Senior Vice-Principal and the Vice-Principal (Education).
- 586.10 With the amendments discussed, the Committee approved the agenda for the meeting of Senate on 27 March.

587 Use of Teams for Senate Meetings

- 587.1 The Committee agreed that the experience for members attend the meeting via Teams in February had not been a good one.
- 587.2 The Committee noted that there had been issues with part of the hardware set-up at the time of the meeting and that these particular problems were not anticipated to reoccur at subsequent meetings.
- 587.3 The Committee noted that it was the expectation that members attend meetings in person. Attendance for members via Teams was facilitated where geographical constraints made in person attendance impractical.
- 587.4 It was suggested that, if a fully online meeting was required in the future as had happened in December, the use of Teams Live would be considered in preference to the usual version of the software.