NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SENATE

16 June 2009

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor C P Day, Professor C Harvey, Professor O R Hinton, Professor E Ritchie, Professor A C Stevenson and Professor N G Wright (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Professor J P Boulton, Professor S J Bull, Professor J G Burgess, Professor D I Clarke, Professor M F Cross, Professor A K Daly, Ms C J Ellis (Education Officer), Dr D Ford, Professor A E Gillespie, Ms J Henderson, Professor B H Hirst, Professor J N S Matthews, Mr C McCallion (student member), Mr P S Mercer (Student Support Officer), Mr S D Pallet, Professor D Parker, Professor N J Reynolds, Ms S M Robson, Professor D J Roddy, Professor B S Sharif, Dr O A E Sparagano and Professor A Tanaka.

In attendance: Dr J V Hogan (Registrar), Mr R C Dale (Executive Director of Finance), Mrs V S Johnston (Executive Director of Human Resources) and Miss E M Niven (Administrative Officer).

Dr J Terry, Head of the International Office, attended for item 71.
Professor E G N Cross, Dean of Cultural Affairs, attended for item 76.
Dr D Ford and Dr O A E Sparagano were not in attendance for item 93.

M I N U T E S

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

67. RETIRING MEMBERS

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Mr Will Richens (President, Union Society), Ms Charlie Ellis (Education Officer) and Mr P S Mercer (Student Support Officer) for their contribution to the work of Senate.

68. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 21 April 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed.

69. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Progress of business

Received a business tracking form.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document B. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
70. **VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS**

Received the Vice-Chancellor’s report.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document C. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

(i) **Deaths**

Received a report on deaths recently announced by the University.

*Resolved that Senate record its deep regret and sympathy for the relatives concerned.*

(ii) **Swine Flu**

Noted that:

1. The government had issued new guidelines to HEIs on 16 June concerning the declaration of the flu pandemic. The basic advice was to ask members of staff or students with flu like symptoms to stay at home or their place of residence but the University should continue to operate as normal.

2. International students would have particular concerns and this emphasised the importance of good communication.

(iii) **Great North Museum**

Noted that the Museum offered many opportunities to promote the University’s engagement strategy.

*Resolved that Senate's congratulations be conveyed to Professor Goddard and Professor Younger and others involved in the successful project leading to the opening of the Great North Museum.*

71. **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONALISATION**

Considered a report from Executive Board.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document D. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

After noting that:

1. A degree of co-ordination was considered necessary in order to maximise the benefits that could be achieved from the many internationally-focussed activities which took place within the University. Following a recent ‘Think Tank’ event a strategic framework for internationalisation (Document D) had been produced which was designed to enhance, develop and increase the visibility of the University’s international activities.

2. Document D contained a list of principles and actions which were intended to help the University realise its international ambitions. The Internationalisation portfolio would be assigned to a member of Executive Board. This would be a co-
ordinating rather than management role as it was important to ensure that international activities continued to develop organically.

3. The role which regional partners, such as One North East, could play in helping the University to make connections with other agencies should be considered.

4. Members of Senate were invited to express their views on the possibility of establishing a central fund to support and ‘pump-prime’ international activities.

5. The acknowledgement of the role which the Union Society could play was welcomed. It was noted that it could be a strong partner for the University due to the strength of its numerous international societies.

6. The establishment of a Newcastle University brand was considered necessary to assist the development of the University’s international activities. The production of the Strategic Overview document was the beginning of this process and it was to continue via the Strategic Positioning Project which was the responsibility of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Engagement.

7. It was considered helpful for an articulation of the expected outcomes of international projects, and research projects in particular, to be provided.

8. In addition to supporting international student recruitment, the International Office was also responsible for administering student mobility programmes, and supporting work on international partnerships. A further expansion of the International Office’s role, to enable it to support other international activities within the University, was a possibility.

9. It was necessary to establish links between the University’s international activities, including those undertaken by sections within the Central Services, e.g. the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

Resolved that the Strategic Framework for Internationalisation be presented to Council together with Senate’s comments above.

72. DRAFT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

Considered the draft Research and Innovation Strategy.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document E. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

After noting that:

1. The Research and Innovation Strategy followed from the Strategic Overview document and was also linked to the faculty strategies.

2. The document had been produced on 5 June and had been considered by Executive Board and other interested groups. It was acknowledged that the document should contain further details about staff recruitment, career development and retention. A stronger emphasis on corporate and personal ambition was to be included. The governance arrangements of the societal challenge themes needed to be determined and links with the
Engagement and International Strategies also needed to be stated. The importance of learned societies and fellowships was to be further emphasised.

3. Whilst it would be helpful for the document to contain details of where the University sought to position itself internationally, there was no reliable method which could be used to determine international rankings.

4. Reference to ‘business engagement’ activities, as distinct from research and spin-out companies, and the University’s participation in the business community should be included. Acknowledgment of the role the University played in helping businesses to innovate could also be added.

5. A discussion of the terms ‘innovation’ and ‘impact’ should be included.

6. It was suggested that some academics could consider the final sentence of section 6.1, which stated that all research areas would be expected to be performing at a level of excellence commensurate with the University’s overall institutional targets within three years, as unsettling. The Research Excellence Framework was the only independent criteria which could be used to measure this and the University could not allow large discrepancies to develop between various disciplines. Work was already underway to identify areas where improvements were required in light of the RAE results.

7. The University’s submission rate in the most recent RAE was low when compared with that of its competitors. It would be necessary to improve on this for the REF whilst also protecting the University’s broad base of disciplines.

Resolved that the draft Research and Innovation Strategy be submitted to Council together with Senate’s comments.

73. ANNUAL REPORT FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE

Received the Annual Report from Ethics Committee.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document F. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

After noting that:

1. The Research Centre of Policy Ethics and Life Sciences (PEALS) was to provide training to members of Ethics Committee, Faculty Ethics Committees and staff who supported the ethics process in academic and service units.

2. It was suggested that the last sentence of the second paragraph of the report should be amended as follows: ‘...research that has an impact on the natural and built environments should also receive positive ethical scrutiny.’

Resolved that the above comments be forwarded to Ethics Committee for consideration.

74. ANNUAL REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Received the Annual Report from URC, which had been endorsed by Executive Board.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document G. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
Noted that:

1. Figure 2.5 in the report displayed a real improvement in the amount of research income being generated, which suggested that more staff were receiving awards. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his thanks to all staff who had been responsible for this achievement.

2. Cautious optimism was expressed about the number of awards and the amount of research income that had been generated during the current academic year, which were expect to exceed those generated during 2007/08.

3. Data was available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency which enabled the University to identify its position in relation to its competitor in terms of income generated per FTE. Newcastle was considered to be ranked 18th nationally, which represented a significant improvement on previous years.

75. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

Considered a report from Executive Board.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document J. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Resolved that:

(i) The Centre for Software Reliability with Professor Tom Anderson as Director be re-approved for one year from 01.08.09 pending a SAgE Faculty review of research structures.

(ii) The establishment of the University Research Centre for Literary Arts (CLA) with Professor Linda Anderson as Director be approved for three years from 01.08.09.

(iii) The establishment of the Centre for Earth Systems Engineering (CESER) with Professor Jim Hall as Director be approved for three years from 01.08.09.

76. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY : INTERIM REPORT

Received a report from the Engagement Strategy Development Group.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document K. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that Senate welcomed the outline development of the Engagement strategy and looked forward to receiving a further iteration of the strategy in due course.

77. REPORT FROM SUSTAINABILITY THINK TANK

Received a report from Executive Board.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document L. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
Noted that:

1. A number of actions had been identified as a consequence of the Sustainability Think Tank. These included ensuring that sustainability targets were embedded in academic and service unit plans.

2. The current financial climate would increase the difficulty of achieving the University’s sustainability aims in relation to the Science Central site.

3. The HEFCE required the University to have an Environmental Policy in place. The University’s policy had been reworked and renamed following the Think Tank but further revisions were expected as targets were introduced and the actions from the Think Tank were implemented.

78. UCU 2009 PAY CLAIM (Minute 54, 21.4.2009)

Received an oral update from the Executive Director of Human Resources.

Noted that:

1. On 19 May, the UCU withdrew ballot papers for industrial action, citing a ‘software problem’ for the postponement.

2. An increased pay offer of 0.4% was made at the third meeting of the New JNCHES on 19 May but was rejected by all unions.

3. The UCU was claiming an eight per cent pay rise in national negotiations and an assurance that any pay settlement would not jeopardise job security.

79. CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE

Reported that Senate, at its meeting on 19 June 2007, had resolved that from 2007-08 only professors should be eligible to be elected in the professorial constituency of Senate and that the Librarian and holders of other posts whose remit was essential for the successful academic work of the University (who had previously been specified by Senate as being equivalent to professors for this purpose), and who were not already included in the Senate electorate, should be considered by Senate as potential candidates for co-option as members of Senate.

[The Senate electorate comprised the professors, readers, lecturers and research staff (whose pay is linked to points above the bar on Grade F or above) of the University.]

Considered whether Senate wished to co-opt any persons whose remit was essential for the successful academic work of the University, who were not already included in the Senate electorate, as members of Senate.

[The maximum number of co-opted members was three and Ms Jacqui Henderson was already a member in this category.]

Resolved that Mr Wayne Connolly, University Librarian, be co-opted as a member of Senate for three years with immediate effect to 31 July 2012.
80. **REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Received a report from the meetings of UTLC held on 29 April and 27 May 2009.  
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document P. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

81. **NEWCASTLE SCIENCE CITY (Minute 54, 21.4.2009)**

Received a progress report from Executive Board.  
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document Q. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

82. **CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

Considered a report on the appointment/re-appointment of chairmen and members of University committees.  
[Circulated with the agenda as Document R. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

\textit{Resolved that the recommendations in the report be approved.}

83. **MUSEUMS AND GALLERY BOARD**

Reported that Council, at its meeting on 18 May 2009, had approved the establishment of a Great North Museum Board as a committee of Council, and the consequential disestablishment of the following committees, subject to the agreement of Senate:

- Museums and Gallery Board
- Hancock Museum Management Sub-Committee
- Joint Museums Sub-Committee
- Hatton Gallery Policy Sub-Committee

\textit{Resolved that Senate approve the disestablishment of the committees listed above with immediate effect.}

84. **PUBLIC LECTURES COMMITTEE**

Received the Annual Report of the Public Lectures Committee for 2007-08.  
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document S. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Considered proposed amendments to the membership of the Public Lectures Committee.  
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document T. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

\textit{Resolved that the amendments to the membership of the Public Lectures Committee, as set out in Document T, be approved.}

85. **APPOINTMENTS TO CHAIRS AND READERSHIPS**

Received a report from Executive Board on appointments to Chairs and Readerships.  
[Circulated with the agenda as Document U. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
86. MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE 2009-10

Reported that:

(a) The following had been elected by their colleagues to serve on Senate from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>professorial constituency</th>
<th>non-professorial constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor V G Bruce</td>
<td>Dr S Ali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor J A Kirby</td>
<td>Dr P E Andras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor P A Lee</td>
<td>Dr D J Kennedy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor C P Rodgers</td>
<td>Dr C L Rowe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr K Wolff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(b) The following had been appointed/*re-appointed by the faculties shown to serve on Senate from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HASS</th>
<th>Professor E G N Cross</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor I M Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med Sci</td>
<td>Professor A V Boddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Professor N J Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAgE</td>
<td>Professor P Watson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Professor D Parker</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(c) The following had been elected Sabbatical Officers of the Union Society for 2009-10 and would be members of Senate for the same period:

| President               | Ms Andriana Georgiou          |
| Education Officer       | Ms Emma Budge                 |
| Student Support Officer | Mr Pete Mercer                |

87. CONGREGATION CEREMONIES : DECEMBER 2009

Reported that Congregation ceremonies would be held on 8 and 9 December 2009 in the King’s Hall, Armstrong Building.

88. CONGREGATION CEREMONIES : JULY 2010

Reported that the provisional dates for congregation ceremonies following the end of the Summer Term 2010 were:

- Monday, 5 July 2010 (all day)
- Tuesday, 6 July (all day)
- Wednesday, 7 July (all day)
- Thursday, 8 July (all day)
- Friday, 9 July (all day)
- Saturday, 10 July (all day)
89. **MEETING OF SENATE : 21 JULY 2009**

Reported that it had been confirmed that the meeting of Senate which had been provisionally scheduled for 2 pm on Tuesday, 21 July 2009 would take place.

90. **REPORTED BUSINESS**

Received a report of action taken in accordance with agreed procedures, approved where necessary by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate and/or the Chairman of Council on behalf of Council, and by other University bodies and Chairmen.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document V. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

**RESERVED BUSINESS**

91. **REPORT FROM FACULTY APPOINTMENT BOARDS**

Considered a report from Faculty Appointment Boards

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document M. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

*Resolved that the recommendation in the report be approved, subject to the agreement of Council.*

[Note: In accordance with agreed procedures, the Chairman of Council had subsequently approved the recommendation on behalf of Council.]

92. **REPORT FROM FACULTY PROMOTIONS COMMITTEES**

Considered a consolidated report from the Faculty Promotions Committees.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document N. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

*Resolved that the recommendations in the report be approved, subject to the agreement of Council.*

[Note: In accordance with agreed procedures, the Chairman of Council had subsequently approved the recommendations on behalf of Council.]

93. **REPORT FROM THE STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON PROMOTIONS TO PERSONAL PROFESSORSHIPS AND READERSHIPS**

Considered a report from the Statutory Committee on Promotions to Personal Professorships and Readerships.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document O. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

*Resolved that the recommendations in the report be approved, subject to the agreement of Council.*

[Note: In accordance with agreed procedures, the Chairman of Council had subsequently approved the recommendations on behalf of Council.]
94. ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS – TITLE OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS (STATUTE 31(4))

Reported that, in accordance with Statute 31(4), Senate may accord the title of Professor Emeritus on professors retiring from the University.

Considered proposals from the Vice-Chancellor, following consultation with the faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellors, for the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus.

Resolved that the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred on the following individuals from the dates shown:

- Professor B F Babington, from 1 August 2009
- Professor A R J Briggs, from 1 September 2009
- Professor R R Russell, from 1 October 2009