NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SENATE

1 July 2014

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Professor Chris Day, Professor Charles Harvey, Professor Tony Stevenson, Professor Nick Wright, (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Ms Eve Berwin (Education Officer, Students’ Union), Ms Claire Boothman, (President elect, Students’ Union), Dr Tim Cheek, Professor Zofia Chrzanowska-Lightowlers, Professor Peter Clarke, Mr Wayne Connolly, Mr Mike Davison, Dr Joanna Elson, Dr Catherine Exley, Dr Alton Horsfall, Ms Olivia Jeffery (Welfare and Equality Officer, Students’ Union), Professor Tom Joyce, Ms Abi Kelly, Mr Tolu Kolawole (student member elect), Mr Calum Mackenzie (President, Students’ Union), Professor Neill Marshall, Mr David Morris (Education Officer elect, Students’ Union), Professor Julia Newton, Professor Paul Seedhouse, Ms Emily Waller, (Welfare and Equality Officer, Students’ Union), Mr Steve Williams, and Professor Martha Young-Scholten.

In attendance: Mrs Lesley Braiden (Academic Registrar), Mr Richard Dale (Executive Director of Finance), Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Mrs Veryan Johnston (Executive Director of Human Resources), and Mrs Sam Taylor (Executive Officer, Governance).

Apologies: Dr Debbie Bevitt, Professor Colin Brooks, Dr Heather Brown, Professor Steve Clifford, Dr Hugh Dauncey, Professor John Fitzgerald, Professor Steve Homans, Ms Sabine Kucher (student member), Dr Ole Pedersen, Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Dr Neelam Srivastava, and Dr Tony Young.

M I N U T E S

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

78. RETIRING MEMBERS

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the retiring members for their contribution to the work of Senate.

79. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 20 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed.

80. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Progress of business

There were no outstanding items on the business tracking form.

Raising the Bar: Recruitment and Selection of Academic Heads

Received a report from Mrs Veryan Johnston, Executive Director of Human Resources, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

1. The process for the recruitment and selection of Heads of Academic Unit was agreed by Senate, at its meeting on 20 November 2013. At the meeting of Senate on 20 May 2014, some concerns were raised with regard to this process, and it was resolved that Executive Board would consider the issues raised for this matter to be considered at a future meeting of Senate.

2. A report detailing the recruitment and selection of Heads of Academic Units which have been appointed in the previous 12 months, was tabled at the meeting.

3. At the previous meeting of Senate, Professor Brooks raised concern that staff members within the academic unit were not able to comment or contribute toward the recruitment process for the appointment of a Head of Academic Unit, and that a lack of transparency in the recruitment and selection process could be damaging to the academic unit.

4. There is a necessity for confidentiality during the recruitment process for external applicants who often do not wish their home institutions to be aware that they have applied to another institution at the initial stage. This level of confidentiality is also applied to internal applicants.

5. That Executive Board proposed changes to the recruitment process to ensure more involvement by the academic unit whilst respecting the confidentiality issues.

Resolved that Senate approve the recommendations in the report to revise the policy.

81. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS

Received the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

[ Circulated with the agenda as Document C. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted:

1. Deaths

Received a report on deaths recently announced by the University.

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

2. Vice-Chancellor’s Distinguished Teacher Awards 2014

The following members of staff have received the Vice-Chancellor’s distinguished Teacher Awards for 2014.

Dr Lindsay Marshall, School of Computing Science
Dr Sue Thorpe, School of Psychology
Dr Alison Tyson-Capper, Institute of Cellular Medicine.

The Professional Support Staff Award was presented to Dr Christine Harner, Faculty Office, Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering.

Resolved that Senate record its congratulations to the award winners.
3. **Change of Director in a University Research Centre**

Professor Tim Cawston, the current Director for the MRC/Arthritis Research UK Centre for Integrated Research into Musculoskeletal Ageing, is due to retire on 1 August 2014. Senate were asked to consider the recommendation from Executive Board that Professor John Loughlin be appointed as the new Director with effect from 1 August 2014 for one year.

*Resolved that Senate approve the appointment of Professor John Loughlin as the Director of the MRC/Arthritis Research UK Centre for Integrated Research into Musculoskeletal Ageing, with effect from 1 August 2014 for a period of one year.*

4. **Dr Martin Luther King**

The University has been working with the BBC on a film about Martin Luther King’s visit to Tyneside and his Honorary Graduation. This was broadcast on BBC1 in the North East and Cumbria, and it is hoped that BBC4 will broadcast this nationally later this year.

Copies of the film are available on request from Ms Abi Kelly, Director of Public Relations by email to abi.kelly@ncl.ac.uk

5. **Late news**

(i) **Vice President (Clinical) of the Academy of Medical Sciences**

Professor Chris Day, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Medical Sciences, has been elected as the Vice President (Clinical) of the Academy of Medical Sciences. This is a key role engaging the Fellowship and working with the Honorary Officers to promote medical science and its translation into benefits for society. Honorary Officers of the Academy each serve a four year term of office, their role being to provide strategic advice on all aspect of Academy business and procedures.

(ii) **Non-Executive Director of NHS**

Professor Sir John Burn has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director of NHS England.

(iii) **NUMed Malaysia Graduation**

The Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor Chris Day, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Medical Sciences have recently attended the first graduation ceremony at NUMed Campus, Malaysia. The University is the first UK University to deliver General Medical Council (GMC) accredited medical doctors abroad.

(iv) **The University Visit Days on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 June welcomed 18,091 visitors.**

*Resolved that Senate recorded wished to record its thanks to everyone involved for the hard work to ensure the success of the event.*
6. Early Warnings

Scottish Referendum on independence

The Scottish independence referendum will take place on 18 September. There are implications for the University if there is a ‘yes’ vote for Scottish Independence.

82. FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STRATEGIC REVIEW (INCLUDING SOCIAL RENEWAL)

Received the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Strategic review from Professor Charles Harvey, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document D. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Received a presentation from Professor Charles Harvey, Pro-Vice-Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Copy of the slides filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. There is more work to be undertaken to increase the number of citations and to improve the quality of publications to raise the quality of research within the Faculty.

2. One of the aims within the Faculty is to grow the staffing numbers in line with the growth in student numbers, to improve the student experience and improve the NSS and PTES results.

Resolved that Senate record its thanks to Professor Harvey for an informative presentation.

83. DIGITAL CAMPUS UPDATE

Received the Digital Campus update report from Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Planning and Resources, and Mr Steve Williams, Director of Information, Systems and Services, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document E. Copies filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The Digital Campus Steering Group, chaired by Professor Tony Stevenson is established to address IT Governance matters. The group considers all IT projects and ensures effective communication with the project teams and stakeholders.

2. The Vice-Chancellor enquired on the accessibility of free Wi-Fi access for visitors to the University, other than on Visit Days.

3. There is an opportunity to explore if there are any community facilities which can be identified, for example a shared file store service.

Resolved that Senate note the progress made on the four main strands of activities.
84. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

Considered the refreshed report from Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

Noted that:

1. Members of Senate are invited to submit input and feedback for the refreshed Research and Innovation Strategy, with particular focus in the following areas:

   (a) Institutional Objectives and Strategy: should the target be raised to Top 15 in the UK for research quality and power?

   (b) Grow areas of strength and address areas of weakness to achieve international excellence in all we do: with an emphasis on reputation and rankings, the University should aim to have at least ten subjects in the top 50 worldwide.

   (c) The mechanisms for Research investment planning: this should be transparent.

Resolved that the feedback received from Senate, and from Council at its meeting on 16 June 2014, will be considered for inclusion in the refreshed Research and Innovation Strategy, to be presented at a future meeting of Council and Senate for approval.

85. PROPOSAL FOR A NEWCASTLE CAMPUS IN LONDON

‘Commercial in confidence’ Minute, filed in the Minute Book.

86. RESPONSE FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD FROM THE JOINT MEETING OF SENATE AND COUNCIL

Considered the Executive Board response from the Registrar, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document H. Copy filed in the Minute Book]

Noted that:

1. The joint meeting of Senate and Council allowed members to receive a holistic overview and understanding of projects encompassed in the Raising the Bar paper.

2. The Raising the Bar: Project Summary report can be revised on an ongoing basis, and items marked as ‘under consideration’ will either proceed to ‘planned’ or will be removed if the decision is taken not to continue.

Resolved that the Raising the Bar: Project Summary report was agreed as a working document to be revised as necessary.

87. APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC ORATOR

Considered the recommendation to approve the appointment of a Public Orator

[Circulated with the agenda as Document J. Copy filed in the Minute Book]

Noted that Senate standing Order XI states that “The Public Orators shall be appointed by Senate after considering a report of a Committee. (This has been agreed by Executive Board). One of
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the Public Orators shall be designated as the Senior Public Orator who shall have responsibility for allocating the duties across the year. The Public Orator shall hold office for three years."

Resolved that Senate approve the appointment of Jill Taylor-Roe as Public Orator with effect from 1 August 2014 until 31 July 2017.

88. ANNUAL SAFETY REPORT

Received the Annual Safety Report 2012-13 from Mrs Veryan Johnston, Executive Director of Human Resources, on behalf of Executive Office.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document K. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

89. BUDGET

Received an oral presentation from Mr Richard Dale, Executive Director of Finance, on behalf of Executive Office.
[Copy of the slides filed in the Minute Book.]

90. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRE

Considered the recommendations in the report from Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation, on behalf of Executive Board.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document L. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Resolved that:

(i) University Research Centre status be conferred upon the Centre for Self-Organised Learning Environments (SOLE Central) for an initial period of three years from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

(ii) Professor Sugata Mitra be appointed as Director of the Centre for Self-Organised Learning Environments (SOLE Central) with effect from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

(iii) Professor Liz Todd and Professor David Leat be appointed as Deputy Directors of the Centre for Self-Organised Learning Environments (SOLE Central) for an initial period of three years from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

91. ANNUAL REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY ETHICS COMMITTEE

Received a report from the University Ethics Committee held on 9 January 2014.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document M. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The terms of reference with regard to the membership of the University Ethics Committee includes a student appointed annually by the Students’ Union (this is usually the Ethics and Environment Officer). The President elect of the Students’ Union is asked to give consideration to which student representative should be invited to join the University Ethics Committee for academic year 2014-15.

Resolved that:

(i) The President and the President elect of the Students’ Union are asked to give consideration to which student representative should be invited to join the University Ethics Committee for academic year 2014-15.
(ii) The President and the President elect of the Students’ Union are asked to give consideration to which student representative should be invited to join the Environment and Sustainability Group for academic year 2014-15.

92. ANNUAL REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Received a report from the University Research Committee.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document N. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

93. ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS – TITLE OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS (STATUE 29(4))

In accordance with Statute 29(4), Senate may accord the title of Professor Emeritus on professors retiring from the University.

Received the recommendations in the report from Professor Chris Brink, Vice-Chancellor.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document O. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Resolved that:

Senate approve the proposal from the Vice-Chancellor, following consultation with the faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor Medical Sciences and Dr John Hogan, Registrar, for the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus to:

(i) Professor Nicol Ferrier, with effect from 1 September 2014.
(ii) Professor Ella Ritchie, with effect from 1 October 2014.

Noted that Senate would like to record its gratitude to Professor Ritchie for her 40 years of service to the University, and for her contribution to the Senior Management of the University as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and as Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

94. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY LEARNING, TEACHING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

Received the report from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document P. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that an amendment to the report should be recorded under item 2 Collaborative Arrangements to read:

That the committee granted an exemption from the University’s joint PhD Framework for the IDEALAB programme. The committee noted the circumstances surrounding the IDEALAB programme, in particular that it was part of a consortia arrangement wherein the consensus of the consortia was that the name of each University would appear on the degree certificate.

95. MAXIMISING BRAND REPUTATION

Received a report on the rebranding of the Societal Challenge Research Institutes.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document Q. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

96. MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE 2014-15

Reported that:
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(a) Following a ballot, the following have been elected to serve on Senate in the non-professorial constituency from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2017:

Dr John Appleby  School of Mechanical & Systems Engineering  
Dr Stuart Dawley  School of Geography, Politics and Sociology  
Dr Sara Maiolo  Newcastle University Business School  
Dr Lindsay Pennington Institute of Health and Society  
Dr Ruth Valentine  School of Dental Sciences  

(b) The following have been appointed Sabbatical Officers of the Students’ Union for 2014-15 and will be members of Senate for the same period:

President   Ms Claire Boothman  
Education Officer  Mr David Morris  
Welfare and Equality Officer Ms Olivia Jeffery  

[Secretary’s note: A correction has been made to the President’s name in the membership report.]

(c) Mr Tolu Kolawole has been elected by the Students’ Union as the student representative on Senate for 2014-15.

(d) Received the membership of Senate for 2014-15  

[When circulated with the agenda as Document R. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

97. DATES OF MEETINGS OF SENATE 2014-15

Reported that:

Senate will meet at 2pm on the following dates in 2014-15:

Tuesday 7 October 2014  
Tuesday 11 November 2014  
Tuesday 20 January 2015  
Tuesday 17 March 2015  
Monday 27 April 2015 (Joint meeting with Council)  
Tuesday 12 May 2015  
Tuesday 7 July 2015  

98. CONGREGATION CEREMONIES

(a) Congregation ceremonies will be held on 2, 3 and 4 December 2014 in the King’s Hall, Armstrong Building.

(b) Congregation ceremonies following the end of the Summer Term 2014 will be held on:

Monday 6 July 2015 (all day) (provisional)  
Tuesday 7 July 2015 (all day)  
Wednesday 8 July 2015 (all day)  
Thursday 9 July 2015 (all day)  
Friday 10 July 2015 (all day)  
Monday 13 July 2015 (all day)  
Tuesday 14 July 2015 (all day)  
Wednesday 15 July 2015 (all day)  
Thursday 16 July 2015 (all day) (provisional)
99. 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 Chair of Council on behalf of Council, and by other University bodies and Chairs.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document S. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]