NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SENATE

27 April 2010

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor C P Day, Professor C Harvey, Professor E Ritchie, Professor A C Stevenson, Professor N G Wright and Professor P L Younger (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Dr J C Appleby, Dr D R Bell, Professor A V Boddy, Ms E Budge (Education Officer), Professor J E Calvert, Mr W Connolly, Professor E G N Cross, Professor D Ford, Ms A Georgiou (President, Union Society), Ms J Henderson, Professor J R Hentschke, Professor B H Hirst, Professor J A Kirby, Professor P A Lee, Professor J N S Matthews, Mr P S Mercer (Student Support Officer), Professor D Parker, Professor N J Reynolds, Ms S M Robson, Professor D J Roddy, Professor C P Rodgers, Professor P Watson and Dr K Wolff.

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

Mr L G Wilson (Head of Capital Development) attended for item 68.
Dr J C Appleby, Professor J E Calvert and Professor B H Hirst were not present for item 80.

M I N U T E S

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

65. MINUTES

Noted that under item 44, Dr Appleby’s declaration of interest should read that he was a member of the UCU Committee.

Subject to the above point of clarification, the Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 2 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed.

66. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Progress of business

Received a business tracking form.

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

(ii) Dates of meetings 2010-11

Reported that Senate would meet at 2 pm on 12 April 2011, and not on 19 April 2011 as previously reported.

67. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS

Received the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document C. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
Senate 27 April 2010

(i) **Senate Election Results**

The Senate election results were announced. The following individuals had been elected as members of Senate from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2013:

Professor Ashley Adamson, Institute of Health and Society
Professor Florence Myles, School of Modern Languages

(ii) **Volcanic Ash Cloud**

A small number of staff members had been affected by the travel disruption caused by the volcanic ash cloud. It was suggested that staff who had been forced to pay additional costs to return from overseas could benefit from a cash advance. It was agreed that this would be considered on a case by case basis.

(iii) **Meeting with the Conservative Party**

It was clarified that the meeting with the two Conservatives noted in the Vice-Chancellor’s report had taken place in February. The Vice-Chancellor had previously held discussions with the Liberal Democrat members of the City Council and members of the Labour Party.

(iv) **North Tyneside Learning Trust**

North Tyneside Council had invited the University to become a partner in the proposed North Tyneside Learning Trust. The Trust was intended to bring together all schools in North Tyneside (with the exception of Monkseaton which was already a Trust school) with the aim of establishing strategic alliances between the Council, universities (Newcastle and Northumbria), employers, Further Education Colleges, partner schools and community organisations. In particular the Trust would provide a framework for the strategic co-ordination of all HE widening participation and aspiration-raising initiatives in the Authority. Executive Board had agreed to the University’s participation in the Learning Trust but had made it clear that it did not wish to have a physical presence in the Learning Village that North Tyneside Council was also seeking to establish.

68. **SCIENCE CENTRAL MASTERPLAN**

Received a presentation on the Science Central Masterplan from Mr Len Wilson, Head of Capital Development.

[A copy of the slides used in the presentation is filed in the Minute Book.]

After noting that:

1. The masterplan for the Science Central site was being developed by the city development company 1NG in conjunction with Make Architects.

2. The site would be mixed purpose, incorporating residential, commercial, retail, leisure, and educational areas. The need to ensure adequate connectivity with the city was central to the site’s design. The site would provide a pedestrian friendly environment giving pedestrians rights of way over traffic.

3. Buildings on the site would be constructed with environmental and sustainability considerations in mind and it was hoped that the University buildings on the site would achieve the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating of at least ‘excellent’.
4. Investigations were continuing into the possibility of including a geothermal borehole which would feed into the site’s energy centre.

5. The University’s buildings would not include air conditioning but instead would be heated and cooled via a process of natural ventilation. Sun path analysis had also been undertaken to ensure buildings were positioned in order to make best use of natural light.

6. The construction of the initial Science Gateway building and the Phase 1 infrastructure development was expected to cost £24m.

7. It was anticipated that it would take 10-15 years to develop the whole site. It was intended to have a design freeze in May 2010 to allow the plan to be fully costed and for public consultation to be conducted. Public consultation had been undertaken three years previously and views expressed at that time had been incorporated into the plan. It was hoped that a planning application for the first phase of development would be submitted towards the end of August 2010.

8. The importance of providing transport links to other sites in the city in which University staff and students were based, such as the Campus for Ageing and Vitality, was emphasised. It was intended to investigate the time required to travel between the Science Central site and other University locations and to consider the results of the investigations when making future plans for the site. It was noted that cycle routes across the city could be improved.

9. There was an existing bus route which connected Stanhope Street, to the north of the Science Central site, with the General Hospital site. Consideration was also being given to the possibility of diverting existing bus routes through the site via Wellington Street. Potential travel routes to the International Centre for Life were also being explored.

10. The possibility of Science Central being used as a living laboratory for green living, involving the installation of environmental sensors, was suggested. It was noted that there were plans to include a research module in the residential area of the site and a member of staff was considering using Science Central as a test site for urban sustainability applications, subject to funding being available.

11. The student accommodation on the site would be privately managed with the University entering into a nominations agreement to provide occupants for 260 beds. It was anticipated that this accommodation would be available from September 2012.

12. No large-scale teaching of undergraduates was planned for the Science Central site (other than in the Business School) but undergraduate students would be able to access the available facilities to undertake specific projects.

Resolved that Mr Wilson be thanked for his informative presentation.

69. REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Considered the revised Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech which had been approved by the University/Union Society Partnership Committee and endorsed by Executive Board.

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

Received an extract from the draft Council Minutes of 29 March 2010 on Council’s consideration of this item.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Document E. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
After noting that:

1. The 1986 Education Act required the University to put procedures in place to protect freedom of speech within the law. The University had recently reviewed and updated its Code of Practice as required by the Act.

2. The Code of Practice had been considered by Council at its meeting on 29 March and concern had been expressed that it included a number of clauses which appeared to prevent rather than protect freedom of speech. As a result the Registrar had agreed to strengthen the preamble to make clear the University’s commitment to freedom of speech.

3. Clause 2.2 had been included in order to indicate clearly which activities and expressions were not within the law.

Resolved that the revised Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech be approved.

70. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

Considered a report from Executive Board.

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

Resolved that:

(i) The University Centre for Catalysis and Intensified Processing be re-approved for a further period of three years, from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2013.

(ii) Professors Mike North and Ian Metcalfe be re-appointed as Co-Directors for the same period.

71. UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE OF THE INTO JOINT VENTURE

Received an oral progress report from Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources.

Noted that:

1. INTO had now secured the loans required for the construction of the teaching and one of the accommodation buildings. Balfour Beaty were to be engaged as the constructors.

2. It was understood that ground preparations and construction would commence in the near future with a view to the buildings being available for occupancy in September 2012.

72. HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION FUND (Minute 35, 12.1.2010)

Reported that Senate, at its meeting on 12 January 2010, had noted that income from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) continued to increase and a review of how the University had used this funding in the past was requested.

Received a report from Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation on behalf of Executive Board.

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

1. HEIF funding was allocated to the University by HEFCE on a formula basis following approval of an organisational strategy. Document G sought to provide a broad perspective of the activities supported by HEIF funding.

2. Each faculty and the Central Services were provided with a proportion of HEIF funding which could be spent on knowledge exchange activities which resulted in economic and social benefit to the UK.

3. Within the Central Services, HEIF funding was used to support the Public Lectures programme, employer engagement and IP commercialisation activities and was also used to fund a number of sports events. Within the faculties much of the funding was used for strategic initiatives and pump-priming. Medical Sciences used some of the funding for business activities and for employer engagement posts. The HEIF funding received by the Faculty of HaSS was used to support a small business team and a summer school.

4. It was noted that the HEIF allocation to the HaSS Faculty was to reduce in 2010/11 when the other faculties and the Central Services were to receive an increase. It was established that this was due to funding being brought forward and spent in earlier years.

5. As yet HEFCE’s intentions regarding the future of the HEIF funding stream were unclear.

Resolved that a full list of activities supported by HEIF funding should be prepared and posted on the internal website.

73. HONORARY DEGREES (Minute 36, 12.1.2010)

Reported that:

(a) The following candidates had accepted the University’s invitation to be awarded an Honorary Degree at a special Ageing and Health Honorary Degree Ceremony on 6 December 2010:

   DCL Dame Joan Bakewell
   DSc Professor John Hardy FRS
   DCL Professor Anne Martin-Matthews
   DCL Professor James Vaupel
   MD Professor Rudi Westendorp

(b) Mr Sean Scully had been unable to attend the Honorary Degree Ceremony on 16 April and it was now hoped he would be able to attend one of the July ceremonies.

74. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Received a report from the meeting of UTLC held on 1 March 2010.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document J. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

75. NEWCASTLE SCIENCE CITY

Received a progress report from Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation on behalf of Executive Board.
[Circulated with the Agenda as Document K. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
76. **CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE**

   Considered a recommendation that Ms Jacqui Henderson be re-appointed as a co-opted member of Senate from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011.

   *Resolved that the above recommendation be approved.*

77. **FEES SCHEDULE 2010-11**

   Considered the Fees Schedule 2010-11, which had been endorsed by Executive Board.  
   [Circulated with the Agenda as Document L. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

   *Resolved that the Fees Schedule 2010-11 be approved for submission to Council.*

78. **UNIVERSITY/UNION SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: REVISED MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

   Reported that Executive Board had approved revised membership and terms of reference for the University/Union Society Partnership Committee.  
   [Circulated with the Agenda as Document M. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

79. **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 N. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

   **RESERVED BUSINESS**

80. **REPORT FROM FACULTY APPOINTMENT BOARDS**

   Considered a report from Faculty Appointment Boards.  
   [Circulated with the Agenda as Document H. 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 in the report on behalf of Council.]