NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SENATE

27 June 2017

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor Tony Stevenson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Professor David Burn, Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Professor Richard Davies, Professor Julie Sanders, Professor Phillip Wright, (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Dr Phil Ansell, Professor Caroline Austin, Dr John Appleby, Professor Paul Christensen, Professor Nicola Curtin, Mr Mike Davison, Dr Stuart Dawley, Mr Christopher Duddy (Education Officer, Students’ Union), Dr Lindsey Ferrie, Dr Ruth Graham, Professor Nigel Harkness, Dr Joan Harvey, Professor Peter Jorgensen, Miss Rachael Kitching (Welfare & Equality Officer, Students’ Union), Dr Sara Maioli, Dr Lindsay Pennington, Professor Klaus Schoefer, Professor Chris Seal, Professor Jackie Leach Scully and Mr Jack Taylor, (President, Students’ Union).

In attendance: Mrs Lesley Braiden (Academic Registrar), Miss Sarah Craggs (Welfare and Equality Officer Elect, Students’ Union), Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Ms Abi Kelly (Executive Director of Corporate Affairs), Mr George (Ronnie) Reid (President Elect, Students’ Union), Mr Rowan South (Education Officer Elect, Students’ Union) and Miss Janice Trewick (Executive Officer, Governance).

Apologies: Mr Richard Dale, Dr Emma Foster, Professor Patrick Olivier, Professor Jane Pollard, Mr Patrick Rosichuk (Student Representative), Dr Ruth Valentine, Mrs Judith Whitaker and Professor Nick Wright.

MINUTES

90. MINUTES

That minutes of the meeting of Senate on 2 May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed.

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

91. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Minute is classified as ‘strictly confidential’.

(ii) Annual Report of Student Casework (Minute 61, 07.03.17)

Received a report from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning & Teaching

[Tabled at the meeting. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. Senate had received the annual Report of Student Casework, however the report had not included information relating to the time scales involved in dealing with complaints.

2. The targets for dealing with casework are set by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator. Meeting targets is a challenge in respect of Level 2 and 3 cases. Level
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1. cases are dealt with locally and those not resolved are escalated. Students are kept informed about the progress of their case especially those cases which take longer in reaching a conclusion.

3. Student Progress Service had requested system developments to assist with the administration of complaints and appeals although it was noted that other methods of monitoring of the cases could also be beneficial.

92. VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT’S BUSINESS

Received the Vice-Chancellor and President’s report. Highlights of this report are discussed below.

[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. Vision Consultation

A number of focus groups had been held and the process for revising the vision and strategy is on-going. A revised vision would be brought to Senate and Council in due course.

3. Queen’s Birthday Honours

Received a report on Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Resolved that Senate record its congratulations to all concerned.

4. Published League Tables

The University had improved in recent published national league tables. The University has risen from 25th to 23rd in the Complete University Guide.

The University has risen 7 places in the QS World Rankings from 168 to 161 and has improved its relative position in three of the six metrics: academic and employer reputation surveys and the proportion of international staff.

The University has also improved in the Leiden ranking from 114th to 105th worldwide. Medicine is in the top 50 at 46th, Arts and Humanities and Mathematics and Computing Science have also improved.

5. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

The University was awarded Gold in the TEF. A Gold award in the TEF is the highest rating and the University was one of only eight Russell Group Universities to receive Gold.

6. Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences
Reported that Professors David Burn, Derek Mann and newly appointed Brian Walker have joined world-leading scientists elected to the prestigious Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Resolved that Senate record its congratulations to Professors Burn, Mann and Walker.

7. Faith Space

A number of issues have become apparent with regards to faith space and chaplaincy provision on campus which included the reduction of faith space available to some student and staff groups due to the closure of Windsor Terrace and the discovery of asbestos in the King George VI Prayer Space.

It had been agreed by Executive Board that the King George VI Prayer Space would be closed after congregations to allow for the removal of the asbestos and to refurbish the area. The space would be reopened as a multi faith space. It is envisaged that the space will be closed for around two months to allow the works to be carried out and that it may be possible, over the summer period, to allocate space elsewhere on campus for faith groups.

Council will be notified of the plans at its meeting on 10 July 2017.

8. Ranking and Reputation Special Interest Group

Members of Senate are invited to submit expression of interests in the SIG to the Registrar by Thursday 31 August 2017.

9. Reports from Committees of Senate

University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (ULTSEC) – Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning & Teaching

ULTSEC had approved the latest ReCap Strategy and the strategy had been developed with the Students’ Union. The strategy does not include the need to video-record lectures and this feature had not been requested by students.

That the University was one of 18 Russell Group universities taking part in the Learning Gain project, thanks were recorded to the subject areas, Chemistry, MBBS, NUBS who are involved in the project.

ULTSEC had considered the capacity and flexibility of the learning and teaching estate. The discussions had focused on potential options and solutions, however, no recommendations had been made. Feedback had been received from all Faculties. There had been no support to extend the teaching day until 7:00pm. Proposals had been made to use the space more efficiently and to consider splitting the week in order that lectures commenced at the end of the week and seminars at the beginning and this is being investigated. It was noted that the Students’ Union Council opposed any plans to extend the teaching day after 6:00pm.

University Research Committee (URC) – Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation:

There had been a discussion around reproducibility of data in research reports and this had led to questions of research methodology and how the data are analysed and presented. It had been suggested that to deal with the issue of research integrity that
researchers are trained in what constitutes good academic practice in research. A training course by UKRIO (UK Research Integrity Office) had been suggested.

There had been discussion regarding PGR student numbers and methods to attract funding for PGR students and the opportunity to fund students in areas of strategic importance. Planning longer in advance for whole University bids had also been discussed. Many schemes need matched funding and the current ad hoc system for securing this is a source of delay and sometimes a stumbling block.

93. SUMMARY REPORT FROM COUNCIL, 22 May 2017

Received a summary report from the meeting of Council that took place on 22 May 2017.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document D. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

94. INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

To receive the International Strategy Progress Report from Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Internationalisation & Engagement, on behalf of Executive Board.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document E. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Received a PowerPoint presentation from Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Internationalisation & Engagement, on behalf of Executive Board.
[Copies of the PowerPoint slides are filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The report set out the summary of progress against the internationalisation strategy for 2016-17 and the overall performance indicator remains at amber.

2. A number of new developments have taken place to enhance the University’s international presence and impact. In Singapore a new Research and Innovation Institute (NewRIIS) has been completed and will be officially launched later in the year. NewRIIS will provide research space and will be offering CPD and Master level courses. NewRIIS have applied for PEI status (Private Education Institute) and the outcome is awaited. The NUMed campus is developing its regional research presence and is developing a primary care facility.

3. The partnership with Xiamen continues to progress and a number of joint degrees are developing in the HaSS Faculty. A number of joint research opportunities are also being developed.

4. Newcastle University London continues to hold a number of events focusing on widening participation and alumni. The space is available for colleagues to host events in London.

5. The international profile of the University can be further enhance by joining international networks. There are a range of networks which support teaching and research and consideration would be given to joining one or more of these networks.

6. It was acknowledged that more work can be done to promote the Newcastle University brand and colleagues are encouraged to use the Newcastle University logo on all presentations.

95. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT
Received the Engagement Strategy Progress Report from Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Internationalisation & Engagement, on behalf of Executive Board.  
[Circulated with the agenda as Document F. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The Freedom City 2017 programme of events, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King receiving an honorary degree from Newcastle, will include cultural, artistic and public engagement events. The University programme will include an honorary degree ceremony with esteemed individuals who have worked on the three themes highlighted in Dr King’s speech; war, poverty and racism.

2. The Great Exhibition of the North will take place in 2018, it is expected there will be over 3 million people visiting the region during the event. A working group has been established to co-ordinate the offer from Newcastle University

3. A series of Engage and Learn fora had been held over the previous 12 months to share knowledge and experience.

96. SPORT STRATEGY

Received the Sport Strategy from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Learning & Teaching, and Dr Phil Ansell, Dean of Sport, on behalf of Executive Board.  
[Circulated with the agenda as Document G. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. Sport is seen as an increasing part of the student offer and in recent years there has been institutional investment into sports facilities and the development of new degree programmes in the area. A number of key stakeholders had been involved with the development of the strategy.

2. The strategy relates to both student and staff engagement with sport although staff engagement with sport on campus appears less so than that of the students. Initiatives to involve staff with sport on and around campus have included the lunch time run on the town moor and the netball club.

3. That further amendments are required to the draft sport strategy and that the KPIs need to be revised and a risk register should also be produced.

Resolved that the Sport Strategy be revised and be considered at the next meeting of Senate.

97. BUDGET

Received a presentation from Professor Tony Stevenson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of Executive Board.  
[Copy of PowerPoint slides filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. The presentation noted that 2017-18 would be more challenging than 2016-17. Particular areas of concern are student numbers and non-EU recruitment, USS issues and research income. Research income is down 3% year on year in 2016-17 and the University’s market share with research councils is becoming less.
2. During the 2017-18 recruitment cycle there is no plan to over recruit home student as had been the previous strategy. The estate is at capacity and the previous increase in student numbers had fallen largely on to the HaSS faculty. There would be increases in the student numbers due to the transfer of Pharmacy students from Durham. There would be an increase in fee income from the increase in international student fees.

3. Following the tragic event at Grenfell Tower a survey is being carried out on all buildings with cladding and student accommodation to identify any risks and early reports are showing no areas of concern. St James’ Point, which had been highlighted in the press, is not owned by the University. The estate has many older buildings and maintenance and remedial work is allocated in the budget.

98. ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS – TITLE OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS (STATUTE 29(4))

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

Considered a proposal from the Vice-Chancellor and President following consultation with the relevant Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, for the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus.

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

**Resolved that the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred on:**

**Professor Máire Cross with effect from 1 October 2017**

99. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES OF SENATE

The following meetings of Senate committees had taken place and the minutes from each committee are provided for information:

(a) University Research Committee: 24 April & 8 May 2017
(b) University Internationalisation Committee: 12 April & 4 May 2017
(c) University Engagement Committee: 3 May & 14 June 2017
(d) University Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee: 3 May 2017

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

100. MEMBERS OF SENATE

(a) Sabbatical Officers 2017-18

Reported that he following have been appointed Sabbatical Officers of the Students’ Union for 2017-18 and would be members of Senate for the same period:

President Mr George (Ronnie) Reid
Education Officer Mr Rowan South
Welfare and Equality Officer Miss Sarah Craggs

(b) Student Representative on Senate

Reported that Miss Saffron Kershaw-Mee has been elected by the Students’ Union as the student representative on Senate for 2017-18.

(c) Senate Election 2017
Reported that an election for Non-Professorial members of Senate is underway. The voting deadline is 12 noon on Wednesday 5 July 2017.

101. SENATE APPOINTED CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Considered a report containing recommendations for the appointment/re-appointment of Chairs and members of University Committees.

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

Resolved that the recommendations in Document N be approved.

102. REPORT FROM GREAT NORTH MUSEUM BOARD

Received the Great North Museum Hancock Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

[Circulated with the agenda as Documents O. Copies filed in the Minute Book.]

103. CONGREGATION CEREMONIES

(a) December 2017

Reported that Congregation ceremonies would be held on 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 December 2017 in the King’s Hall, Armstrong Building.

(b) July 2018

Reported that Congregation ceremonies following the end of the Summer Term 2018 would be held in the King’s Hall, Armstrong Building on:

- Monday 9 July 2018 (all day)
- Tuesday 10 July 2018 (all day)
- Wednesday 11 July 2018 (all day)
- Thursday 12 July 2018 (all day)
- Friday 13 July 2018 (all day)
- Monday 16 July 2018 (all day)
- Tuesday 17 July 2018 (all day)
- Wednesday 18 July 2018 (all day)
- Thursday 19 July 2018 (all day)
- Friday 20 July 2018 (all day)

104. 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 P. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]