NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SENATE

28 February 2012

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy-Vice-Chancellor), Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Professor Chris Day, Professor Charles Harvey, Professor Steve Homans, Professor Tony Stevenson and Professor Nick Wright (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Professor Simi Ali, Dr Peter Andras, Mr Charles Barry (student member), Dr Debbie Bevitt, Professor Alan Boddy, Professor Ian Clarke, Mr Wayne Connolly, Professor Eric Cross, Mr Liam Dale (Education Officer), Dr Hugh Dauncey, Dr Catherine Exley, Ms Katy Hargreaves (Welfare and Equality Officer), Ms Jacqui Henderson, Dr Alton Horsfall, Dr David Kennedy, Professor John Kirby, Professor David Parker, Miss Laura Perry (President, Students’ Union), Professor Paul Watson, Mr Steve Williams and Dr Kirsten Wolff.

In attendance: Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Mrs Jeanette Strachan (Academic Registrar) and Mrs Sam Taylor (Administrative Officer).

MINUTES

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

65. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 10 January 2012 and the joint meeting of Senate and Council held on 6 February 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed.

Noted that Professor Ella Ritchie, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching would present a report to Senate and Council on actions arising from the joint meeting held on 6 February 2012, at the next meeting.

66. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Progress of business

There were no outstanding items on the business tracking form.

(ii) Honorary Degrees (Minute 45 (ii), 10.01.2012)

Received an oral report from Dr John Hogan, Registrar that the following had accepted the University’s invitation to be awarded an honorary degree at Congregation Ceremonies to be held on 12 July 2012:

John Krebs     DSc
Dorothy Bishop DSc
Thomas Zehetmair DMus
Noted that a response was still awaited from a fourth candidate.

67. **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.

The Vice-Chancellor reported the death, on 17 February 2012, of Mr Fraser McLintock, a 2nd year dental student.

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

(ii) **Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research**

A new centre for research which could pave the way for in-vitro fertilisation treatment to prevent the hereditary transmission of devastating mitochondrial diseases would be launched in Newcastle.

The new Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research at Newcastle University would open due to a £5.8 million funding boost. The Wellcome Trust had awarded £4.4 million to Newcastle University to establish a world-leading centre dedicated to understanding the biology of mitochondria and its relation to health and disease. Newcastle University had contributed a further £1.4 million for the centre.

The techniques had been developed in human eggs by Professor Doug Turnbull and Professor Mary Herbert at Newcastle University. Professor Turnbull would be the Director of the Wellcome Trust for Mitochondrial research, where the follow-up work would take place.

The announcement had attracted widespread regional, national and international media coverage and resulted in over 600 women who had come forward to support the research. The PR aspect of this launch had been handled well.

(iii) **Arts Council funding for Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums**

The organisation which manages the Great North Museum and Hatton Gallery on behalf of the University had secured a major funding boost.

Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM) was one of only 16 applicants nationwide to have bid successfully for Renaissance major grant funding from Arts Council England for the three year period to 2015.

In the coming weeks TWAM would learn what proportion of funding it would receive from the £60 million funds available.

(iv) **N8 Innovation Forum**

The Vice-Chancellor and Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, attended the N8 Innovation Forum in January. The new Industry Innovation Forum (IIF) led by the N8, in partnership with the Technology Strategy Board and HEFCE,
was officially launched at Leeds. The first meeting focussed on Advanced Materials Technologies, which are linked to the aerospace and consumer goods sectors.

The Technology Strategy Board’s role within the Industry Innovation Forum would be able to facilitate the forum meetings and encourage industry and academia to ‘engage and explore’ ideas and insights. HEFCE’s role would be to support the N8 universities to develop and implement the ideas and insights that come from the Industry Innovation Forum events, working with industry, and put them into practice. Both of these bodies announced substantial financial support for the Forum at the meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor became Chair of the N8 on 24 February 2012.

(v) **Director of the Newcastle Institute for Social Renewal (NISR)**

Following an internal round of recruitment, Professor Mark Shucksmith was appointed as the Director of the Institute of Social Renewal, effective from April 2012.

(vi) **Director of Newcastle Science Company Ltd.**

The recruitment process for the post of Director of Newcastle Science Company Ltd was underway with interviews scheduled to take place on 29 February 2012.

(vii) **Initial Teacher Training funding and allocations**

The University had received a letter from the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), the body that was responsible for allocating and funding teacher training places. The letter announced a further cut in places for the next year which would adversely affect all initial teacher training providers.

(viii) **UK Border Agency**

Revised regulations in relation to travel outside of the UK for non UK individuals had been introduced by the UK Border Agency; this may be an issue for some members of staff seeking indefinite leave to remain. The University was working with the UUK and the Russell Group on this issue and would advise international members of staff.

(ix) **Late News**

**NUMed and the General Medical Council (GMC)**

Senate was briefed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Medical Sciences on recent developments concerning accreditation of the NUMed programmes by the General Medical Council.

It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Medical Sciences had attended a meeting with the GMC quality assurance team with a view to working collaboratively to review the cultural issues arising from teaching outside the UK, and to determine a way to enable accreditation by the General Medical Council.

**Newcastle Confucius Institute**

The Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Undergraduate studies for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, had attended a meeting with the Xiamen University to sign an agreement to establish a Confucius Institute at Newcastle.
Confucius Institutes are worldwide non-profit public institutions intended by the Chinese government to promote Chinese language and culture through teaching programmes and cultural exchanges.

The initial agreement is for a period of five years, with the option of extending for a further period of five years, with a view to developing sustainable income streams through short course developments. There is no long-term commitment to future funding for either party.

The Newcastle Confucius Institute would be located in the Old Library Building.

(x) Early warnings

Undergraduate Admissions Report

Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board, tabled a report detailing the latest figures on undergraduate admissions for September 2012.

[Copy filed in the Minute Book]

68. INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

Received a report from Professor Ella Ritchie, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

An extract from the draft Council Minutes of 6 February 2012 on Council’s discussion of this item.

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

Noted that:

1. The draft strategy had previously been discussed at Council, and would be disseminated to the Faculties, key University committees and groups and the Heads of Unit Forum for consultation, before returning to Council for approval in May.

2. The comments and suggestions raised at the meeting of Council had been taken into consideration and amendments made as necessary.

3. The purpose of the strategy was to consolidate Newcastle University’s position whilst also raising the profile of the work that was currently being undertaken.

4. Executive Board and Council had agreed that the University would not be supportive of franchising proposals.

The following points were raised by members of Senate:

1. Strategic Aim: what criteria would be used for determining when a relationship should be developed into a partnership?

2. Strategic Objective: Improvement of the relationship with international alumni should be considered as a strategic issue.

3. Strategic Objective [SO2] - Further develop our portfolio of international academic and
5. Strategic Objective: How should this be approached; should this be pitched at partnerships that could benefit from Newcastle University or where Newcastle University could improve and increase its portfolio of international activity?

4. Strategic Objective: Would student exchanges be restricted by limitations of partnerships only with institutions considered to be equal to Newcastle University?

5. Strategic Objective [SO4] - Recruit strong and diverse cohorts of high quality international staff and students: What criteria would we need to identify a country as being deemed as a priority?

6. The Internationalisation Strategic Vision detailed in the document might be difficult to achieve, as not all Schools and Institutes are currently positioned strategically in the same way.

7. The document was considered to be a well put together strategy that recognised that some objectives would be harder to achieve than others.

69. KPMG AND THE DIGITAL CAMPUS INITIATIVE

Considered a report from Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources on behalf of Executive Board.

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

Noted that:

1. Following the recent KPMG review undertaken in November 2011, the Registrar held a series of meetings during November to discuss key findings from the report and to explain the way in which the University would handle the outcome of the review.

2. Executive Board subsequently agreed that the outcome from the review would form one component of a Digital Campus Initiative that would cover four key aspects of the IT business:

   (i) Implementation of the recommendations from the KPMG report as appropriate (to be led by Steve Williams, Director of ISS).

   (ii) An academic led, open-ended future look at IT, including the use of social media, cloud computing etc (the lead for this is to be determined.)

   (iii) The external facing component that dealt with positioning the University (led by Abi Kelly, Director of PR).

   (iv) Our digital literacy: the way staff use the IT environment.

3. Professor Tony Stevenson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources, had been appointed as the Executive Board lead for the overall project.

4. The timescale for implementing the recommendations reflected that progress in some areas would be much quicker than others.

5. The recommendations arising from the KPMG report would be progressed as part of the Digital Campus Initiative and would not be implemented in isolation.

The following points were raised by members of Senate:
1. A balance between procurement, specialised provision and value for money should be considered when reviewing innovation and compliance. Innovation could come from anywhere within the University, from academic colleagues, others in Faculties and from ISS.

2. It was acknowledged that some IT services need to be located locally and the KPMG report acknowledged the importance of this. Some staff members would wish ISS to concentrate on running core services with specialist support remaining at a local level.

3. From a student perspective it seemed obvious that the University should standardise wherever possible whilst retaining the innovative capability to do things differently where there was an academic need to do so.

4. Students had raised concerns with regard to the profusion of Twitter names, in that it is unclear which Newcastle University user names were official. It was also reported that students found that Apple devices did not integrate well with University systems.

5. Digital Literacy should not be limited to effective use of Microsoft Office, but should also include literacy using academic tools, (e.g. Blackboard, Recap).

6. There was a need to map the University’s current IT capabilities onto future academic requirements, and a ‘Think Tank’ meeting being arranged in March, would be the first step of this process.

7. There was enormous potential for developing strands of Teaching, Learning and Research through the progression of IT systems.

In response to a question the Registrar explained why he had not circulated the full KPMG report. The report was the property of KPMG, it was long and a little unwieldy with 82 pages written in PowerPoint. It also contains some specific criticisms of processes and procedures which were used as examples of more general issues and it would be possible to identify some relatively junior members of staff. Instead the University had produced its own twenty page version which had been cut and pasted from the original report and KPMG were content for this to be in open circulation.

70. PROJECT 2012 : SCORECARD

Received a report from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

71. OVERVIEW REPORT: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Reported that the Working Group on Governance had recommended that Executive Board should ensure that at least once a year Council and Senate should receive overview reports on the key strategies within Vision 2021, in addition to the current reports on Finance.

Received the annual report from University Research Committee, endorsed by Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document H. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]
72. **WOOLF REPORT**

Considered a report from Dr John Hogan, Registrar on behalf of Executive Board
[Circulated with the agenda as Document J. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

After noting that:

1. The three Postgraduate Deans were fully aware of the issues raised by the Woolf report, and had agreed that the existing admissions Code of Practice that is followed by all faculties should be reviewed. Guidance would be provided to Postgraduate Deans to assist with ensuring comparability across the faculties.

2. The Ethical Policy for the Acceptance of Corporate Gifts and Donations: Major Gifts was approved by Council in April 2011.

3. The University’s principles and values are set out in Vision 2021. Following a governance review, the Executive Board’s terms of reference were amended to include responsibility for ethical issues.

4. The Ethical Policy for the Acceptance of Corporate Gifts and Donations could be highlighted in the Staff Induction process.

**Resolved that:**

(i) *Consideration should be given to specifying cash limits in the Ethical Policy for the Acceptance for Corporate Gifts and Donations : Major Gifts, above which the decision to accept a gift should be escalated to Executive Board and Council.*

(ii) *Senate endorse the notion that the University should set out a clear statement of principles and values as in Vision 2021, and have some escalation procedure.*

73. **RESEARCH GOVERNANCE POLICIES (REVISED)**

Reported that Council at its meeting on 6 February 2012 approved revisions to Research Governance Policies subject to any comments from Senate.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document K. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that the policies would be added to the University’s Policies and Procedures website at: https://my.ncl.ac.uk/staff/policies/

**Resolved that Senate approve the Research Governance Policies.**

74. **REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

Received a report from the meetings of UTLSEC on 15 December 2011 and 1 February 2012.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document L. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

75. **ANNUAL REPORT FROM PUBLIC LECTURES COMMITTEE**

Received the Annual Report from Public Lectures Committee 2010-2011.
Senate, 28 February 2012

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

76. FEES SCHEDULE

Considered the Fees Schedule for 2012-13 which had been endorsed by Executive Board
[Circulated with the agenda as Document N. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Resolved that Senate approve the fees schedule for 2012-13, subject to the agreement of Council.

77. SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Considered a proposed change in the title of the School of Historical Studies to School of History, Classics and Archaeology with immediate effect.

Noted that the proposed change was intended to raise the visibility of the three subject disciplines in the School, particularly on the website and to assist in the marketing and promotion of degrees both nationally and internationally.

Resolved that Senate approve the change in title from the School of Historical Studies to the School of History, Classics and Archaeology with immediate effect, subject to the approval of Council.

78. DATES OF MEETINGS OF SENATE FOR 2012-2013

Noted that meetings of Senate would take place at 2pm on the following dates in 2012-2013:

2 October 2012
6 November 2012
15 January 2013
29 April 2013 (joint meeting with Council)
7 May 2013
2 July 2013

79. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Reported that Council, at its meeting on 6 February 2012, approved one new policy and amendments to two policies, as detailed below:

Policy on Gifts and Hospitality (revised)
Policy on Executive Board Expenses (new)
Research Governance Policies (revised) [see Minute 73 above]

The policies are available on the University’s website at https://my.ncl.ac.uk/staff/policies/

80. 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 O. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]