NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SENATE

4 October 2016

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor Tony Stevenson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Professor Richard Davies, Professor Julie Sanders, Professor Phillip Wright, Professor Nick Wright (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), Dr Phil Ansell, Professor Caroline Austin, Dr John Appleby, Professor Jane Calvert (Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Medical Sciences), Professor Paul Christensen, Professor Nicola Curtin, Mr Christopher Duddy (Education Officer, Students' Union), Dr Lindsey Ferrie, Dr Emma Foster, Dr Ruth Graham, Professor Nigel Harkness, Dr Joan Harvey, Professor Peter Jorgensen, Miss Rachael Kitching (Welfare & Equality Officer, Students' Union), Dr Sara Maioli, Professor Patrick Olivier, Dr Lindsay Pennington, Professor Jane Pollard, Professor Klaus Schoefer, Mr Patrick Rosichuk (Student Representative), Professor Chris Seal, Mr Jack Taylor, (President, Students' Union), Dr Ruth Valentine, and

In attendance: Mrs Lesley Braden (Academic Registrar), Mr Richard Dale (Executive Director of Finance), Professor Chris Day (Vice-Chancellor-elect), Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Mrs Louise Edwards-Holland (Acting Director of Human Resources), and Mrs Lizzie Taylor (Executive Officer, Governance).

Apologies: Mr Wayne Connolly, Mr Mike Davison, Dr Stuart Dawley, Professor Jackie Leach Scully, Mr Steve Williams.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 28 June 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 EU Fees

Reported that, at the meeting on 28 June 2016 it was agreed that the fees position for EU students entering the University in September 2018 would be considered at the meeting on 4 October 2016.

Received a report outlining the legal advice received in relation to the setting of fees for EU students from September 2018 onwards, from Dr John Hogan, Registrar, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

Noted that:
1. The University had received legal advice from Universities UK (UUK) on the implications of universities offering different fees for EU and international students. There was a potential illegality under the Equality Act 2010 which would make it unlawful to discriminate between students on the grounds of their race/nationality.

2. The recommendation could be made to Council that, in principle, EU students admitted for entry in 2018 should be admitted on the basis of home fees but this would need to be caveated with a statement to the effect that EU students would not be subject to the international fee rate at any point during the course of their study provided this continued to be permitted by UK law.

   **Resolved that the recommendation be made to Council that EU students admitted for entry in 2018 should be admitted on the basis of home fees which should apply for the duration of their studies subject to this being permitted by UK law.**

3.2 **Effectiveness of Senate**

   Received a report setting out a number of actions to be taken to address the recommendations approved at the meeting on 28 June 2016 from Dr John Hogan, Registrar, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

   Noted that Document C recommended that Senate should consider appointing at least one member to each of its four core committees namely, University Research Committee, University Teaching Learning & Student Experience Committee, University Engagement Committee and University International Committee. It was envisaged that the members appointed would be in a position to provide Senate with a better understanding of the work undertaken by these key committees.

   **Resolved that:**

   (i) **The recommendations included in Document C be approved;**

   (ii) **Members of Senate interested in becoming a member of one of the four Committees of Senate noted above and the two Special Interest Groups (Rankings and Reputation and Science City) should submit an expression of interest to the Registrar by 28 October 2016. Where more than one expression of interest was received for a committee, Senate would decide on its representative at the meeting on 15 November 2016.**

4. **VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS**

   Received the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

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

   Noted:

   1. **Deaths**

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

   2. **EU Referendum Result**
The Vice-Chancellor invited members of Senate to submit feedback where they had noticed that the outcome of the EU referendum had impacted upon the work of the University and its interests.

3. Schools that Work for Everyone

The Department of Education had launched a consultation exercise on proposals to create more good school places which included asking universities to commit to sponsoring or setting up new schools in exchange for the ability to charge higher fees.

The University had previously entered into a partnership with All Saints College which had closed in 2014 and it was suggested that this experience should be reviewed and those involved consulted before any future proposal to partner or sponsor a school was considered.

The launch of new science schools such as the Discovery School in Blandford Street was considered to provide interesting opportunities for University involvement, particularly due to the proximity to the Science Central site. It was noted, however, that the Discovery School had existing links with Newcastle College.

It was not yet clear what the term ‘sponsoring’ meant in terms of the Government’s proposal but it was thought that HEIs would be expected to become involved with a view to improving a school’s performance and that they would be expected to invest resources, although not necessarily capital, to do this.

The University had existing links with hundreds of schools through its widening participation activities and it was considered that selecting just one school to ‘sponsor’ could prove divisive. It was suggested that the University should use the consultation exercise as an opportunity to showcase its current activities with schools and the impact of existing schemes such as Realising Opportunities.

It was proposed that, as an alternative, the University could identify an underperforming group that was not currently being served well by the National Curriculum and seek to raise performance amongst this group whichever school they were in.

It was agreed that the University’s consultation response should make reference to Senate’s comments.

4. Pensions Update

The outcome of the EU Referendum had had a significant, negative effect on the position of the USS. The most recent published accounts showed a deficit of £10 billion and a further increase in the deficit was likely as a result of the recent reduction in interest rates following the EU Referendum. A covenant review had taken place but a further benefit review was required which was expected to result in increases in contributions from both employers and employees. There was a need to reconsider the actuarial assumptions used to value the scheme. The next 12-18 months was expected to be difficult.

5. Public Orator Appointment

Resolved that:

(i) Honorary Degree Committees should be the body responsible for recommending the appointment of a Public Orator to Senate;

(ii) Members of Senate are invited to submit nominations for the position of Public Orator to the Registrar by 12 October 2016;
(iii) **Honorary Degrees Committee would submit a recommendation for the appointment of a third Public Orator to Senate for approval by at its meeting on 15 November 2016.**

6. **North East Raising Aspirations Partnership**

Senate was informed that the North East Raising Aspirations Partnership (NERAP) led by Newcastle University had won £7.7m as a result of a successful bid to the National Collaborative Outreach Programme. Newcastle University was the lead institution for a consortium of all HEIs and FE colleges in the region, working with schools to encourage progression to higher education for students from the most deprived wards in the region.

7. **Proposed Increase in Medical Student Numbers**

Senate was advised that at the Conservative Party Conference on 4 October 2016, the government had announced plans to increase the number of medical school places by 25% from 2018 under plans to make England “self-sufficient” in training doctors. The government's plan would see an expansion in training places from 6,000 to 7,500 a year.

8. **Sunergos**

Senate was informed that the proposed IPO of the Sunergos joint venture between Newcastle and Edinburgh University, which would have raised funds to support University spin outs, had been indefinitely delayed partly because of the EU Referendum result. Alternative options that would allow the University to gain access to external capital were being explored in conjunction with Edinburgh University.

9. **Devolution**

Members of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) had recently voted down a proposal for a consultation exercise to take place regarding Devolution. The seven local authorities that formed the NECA were split, with the three councils north of the Tyne in favour but the four to the south against. This has put in doubt a deal agreed last year to give the region more power and control over the spending in areas such as transport and skills.

Senate was asked to express its views as to whether the University should set out its position in relation to Devolution. It was considered that it would be a mistake for the University to do nothing if its involvement could help progress discussions. It was suggested that the University should consider approaching the three Councils that had voted in favour of the consultation process. It was considered that the city of Newcastle itself had a strong brand and this could be developed further with the involvement of the other local authorities that had supported Devolution. Any agreement reached should allow for other parties to participate in the future and economic partners based south of the river should not be excluded.

Students were aware of the Devolution issue, particularly those who were interested in politics. Concern was expressed that recent developments, added to the EU referendum outcome, could serve to create a negative perception of the wider region. For the sake of the University’s own reputation, it was considered that it should engage in whatever positive action it could to counter this and to highlight the fact that a majority of people in the city of Newcastle had voted to remain within the EU.
10. Teaching Excellence Framework

Senate was informed of developments in relation to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). The TEF would be implemented over a four year timeline. It had been confirmed that the University, along with all Higher Education Providers (HEPs) in good standing with the QAA as of 2016 had been deemed to ‘Meet Expectations’ in Year One of the TEF. Year Two of the TEF was described by the government as relating to 2017-18, but was already progressing and would lead to a single, institution-wide judgement on each participating HEP. It has been confirmed that institutions would receive one of three judgements: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The grade achieved by each institution would remain valid for three years. The TEF was not compulsory for HEPs.

Modelling was underway to determine how the University would perform against the core metrics. It was confirmed that assessments were made on a subject level and not on an individual basis. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning & Teaching was currently meeting with all schools to consult with them and prepare them for the TEF, should the University decide to participate. It was recognised that a decision to engage or not would be a judgement which would take into account reputation, financial considerations and quality of methodology.

11. Reports from Committees of Senate

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

URC had met on two occasions since the start of the academic year.

A major consideration for URC had been the publication of the Stern Report and its recommendations regarding the next Research Excellence Framework (REF), due for submission in 2020.

The report set out a number of proposed changes including a requirement for all research active staff to be submitted into the REF. It proposed that outputs should not be transferable between institutions and rules would be introduced to protect early career researchers. The idea of what constituted ‘impact’ would also be widened and deepened.

It was suggested that the REF could present members of Senate with a conflict of interest since both it and the Stern review could be viewed as an infringement of academic freedom. Concerns were also expressed that the implementation of the Stern recommendations could serve to increase the power of University management over academic staff. The increased focus on interdisciplinary activity proposed by Stern was considered to be a positive development, however.

URC had also noted that statistics in relation to the impact of Brexit on members of the Russell Group were to be published in the near future.

University Internationalisation Committee (UIC) – Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Internationalisation and Engagement:

UIC was focusing on implementing the new Internationalisation Strategy that had been approved by Senate and Council at the end of the last academic year. Consultation was taking place with the faculties to identify the international institutions to be included as second tier partners i.e. high quality, productive, multi-faceted, research and/or teaching partnerships that were established for a specific purpose.
The University had participated in a number of ministerial delegations to south-east Asia and preparations were being made for a forthcoming visit to India. There had also been recent visits to Indiana, Xiamen and Groningen and recruitment for a new Director of International Relations was underway.

University Engagement Committee (UEC) – Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Internationalisation and Engagement:

As with UIC, UEC was focused on the implementation of the new Engagement Strategy approved at the end of the previous academic year. A re-evaluation of how the University worked with not-for-profit organisations was also underway. Plans were being progressed for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King receiving his honorary degree from the University and a Memorandum of Understanding had recently been signed with ENGIE, the global utility company. This strategic relationship would link ENGIE’s ‘Cities of Tomorrow’ initiative with Newcastle City Futures. It would allow the University to explore opportunities for joint projects that spanned each of the three national research centres recently announced for Science Central looking at energy, smart data and ageing and would take the University a step closer to realising its vision for Science Central as an exemplar of sustainable urban development.

Noted that the report from ULTSEC would follow later on the agenda (see Minute 12 below).

5. SUMMARY REPORT FROM COUNCIL, 11 JULY 2016

Received a summary report from the meeting of Council that took place on 11 July 2016.

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

6. BUDGET BRIEFING

Received a presentation on the income flows to the University and their allocation from Mr Richard Dale, Executive Director of Finance.

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

Noted that:

1. Due to the changes to the HEFCE grant in recent years, it was now necessary to invest any surplus that was generated at the end of an academic year for the purpose of funding future capital developments.

2. The presentation noted that a full cradle to grave review of research administration arrangements had been undertaken. This had been informed by the recent Cubane benchmarking of administrative costs. The benchmarking exercise had identified that the University’s research administration arrangements were 20-25% more expensive than other institutions in the comparator group. The review had resulted in a number of recommendations including a consideration of the allocation of roles in relation to contracting and the development of a process that encouraged greater accuracy in relation to costings. Increased pooling of expertise was being considered, subject to a suitable process being identified that worked for all involved. It was noted that academics appreciated the support that they received at a local level, but this was costly. Further consultation would be undertaken in relation to alternative arrangements. Work would also be undertaken to streamline the processes for conducting research in conjunction with the NHS.

3. The University had anticipated a downturn in international student numbers and, to offset this, the decision had been taken to recruit an increased number of home students. This
strategy had been successful but, due to the difference in the fees charged to home and international students, the question was raised as to whether the budget would be achieved from an increased number of home students alone. Early indications suggested that the budget would be achieved but this would be reviewed following the receipt of the registered student numbers figures that would be available after 1 December 2016.

7. SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE PROJECT – ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURING

Received a report on the proposed restructuring of the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering from Professor Phillip Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Science, Agriculture and Engineering, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

Noted that:

1. Significant consultation had taken place prior to the preparation of the proposal to restructure the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering which would result in the number of academic units being reduced from ten to five (four in Newcastle and one in Singapore). The proposals were designed to provide academic staff with quality time to engage in their research whilst also ensuring students received the best quality experience.

2. Meetings had taken place with student and trade union groups and there had also been a meeting with the professoriate as part of the consultation process.

3. As currently structured, the role of Head of School with the Faculty of SAgE provided the individuals who occupied those roles with little time to focus on their school’s academic mission. It was considered that the proposed restructure would address this, providing more time for strategic leadership which, it was anticipated, would make positions Head of School positions easier to fill.

4. In the short term, the restructure would create some turbulence and it would be necessary to manage this carefully to avoid a negative impact on research grants.

5. There was considered to be some disadvantages in grouping all natural sciences subjects together since these subjects were diverse and could result in challenges for staff management. Within this group there were subjects that had struggled due to lack of investment and they could require significant support. There were also estimated to be in excess of 30 degree subjects offered in natural sciences subjects and it could prove challenging to offer these from one school. It was noted that discussion of the secondary support structures was still ongoing.

6. It was considered important for the word ‘Agriculture’ to feature in the Faculty’s future title due to the long association this subject area had had with the University.

7. It was important for School structures to be coherent and cohesive. This would be achieved by introducing discipline leads but it was not intended to add an additional layer that could lead to pseudo structures emerging.

8. A rationalisation of the teaching offer would be undertaken which would consider the requirements of accreditation bodies, but no specific issues were anticipated in relation to this.

9. Despite the review of the teaching offer that was to take place, the impact upon students was expected to be minimal. Colleagues within the Marketing and Recruitment Team would be consulted to ensure a coherent message was communicated to prospective
students about the degree programmes that were available. Ultimately, the aim was to provide students with improved facilities and a better quality student experience.

10. It was confirmed that the proposed restructure would take into account the Faculty’s responsibilities in addressing the Athena SWAN agenda and a core statement in relation to this would be included in future documentation.

Resolved that Senate:

(i) Supports in principle the direction of travel for the further development of the Science and Engineering Excellence Project leading to a business case for capital investment;

(ii) Endorses proceeding with the proposed academic unit reorganisation, including recruitment of new unit Heads to begin after Council approval;

(iii) Endorses proceeding with the design and implementation of an administrative and technical service to support the new academic structure, including the recruitment of the new academic units’ senior, technical and Faculty managers to begin after Council approval.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Received a report recommending the establishment of a School of Pharmacy from Professor Jane Calvert, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor Medical Sciences, on behalf of Executive Board. [Circulated with the agenda as Document G. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. At its meeting on 28 June 2016 Senate had approved the transfer of the School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health (SMPH) from Durham University to Newcastle University. Council had subsequently approved this recommendation at its meeting on 11 July 2016. It was now necessary to give consideration to the academic structures that were required to accommodate the pharmacy students.

2. It was considered that establishing a School of Pharmacy was the most appropriate option since there would be sufficient critical mass to do so and there was no obvious fit with existing school structures within the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The School would be a similar size to the existing Schools of Psychology and Dental Sciences.

3. Temporary accommodation had been identified for the new school within the King George VI Building. There was also potential to use some of the chemistry laboratories located within the Bedson Building. In the longer term, however, it was confirmed that there was no intention to provide a stand along building for the School of Pharmacy.

4. The need to establish a separate academic unit was considered to be important for providing appropriate reassurance to the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Resolved that Senate approve the request to establish a new School of Pharmacy in the Faculty of Medical Sciences for the academic year 2017-18.

9. NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS 2016

Received a report on the National Student Survey Results 2016 from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board. [Circulated with the agenda as Document H. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:
1. The outcome of the National Student Survey (NSS) for 2016 was positive for the University, with an overall satisfaction score of 90% being achieved. This represented a drop of 1% on the previous year but it remained in line with the KPI for NSS performance.

2. In future years the overall satisfaction score would become less important and focus would shift to the metrics to be used in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). These were expected to include the outcomes of the Teaching, Assessment and Feedback and Academic Support questions.

3. The University had achieved top quartile results in five out of six areas and had exceeded the benchmark set for Assessment and Feedback. There was an expectation that no subject area should be placed in the third or fourth quartile for overall satisfaction. Work was underway to improve subject areas where performance had fallen below expectations.

10. LEARNING, TEACHING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Received:

(a) An introductory report from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board, setting out the background to and purpose of Documents K and L.

(b) A report on the implementation of the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Strategy presented by Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board.

(c) A report on the assurance of the student academic experience, student outcomes and degree standards from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board.

[Circulated with the agenda as Documents J-L. Copies filed in the Minute Book.]

Noted that:

1. From 2016-17 the University’s governing body, Council, was required to give an opinion in its Annual Accountability Return as to the quality of the University’s student academic experience, student outcomes and degrees standards. It was considered that Council should base its opinion on a report from Senate, the University’s academic governing body. Senate’s report should take into account progress in relation to the implementation of the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Strategy and the recent successful outcome of the QAA Higher Education Review. It was considered that these pieces of evidence should provide the assurance that Council would require.

2. The overall rating of progress in relation to the implementation of the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Strategy had been assessed as Amber/Green. Individual core function strategic objectives had maintained their previous ratings with the exception of the employability strategic objective which had improved from Amber/Green to Green as a result of improved results in a number of metrics.

3. The overall rating of Amber/Green was considered to be appropriate, particularly in light of the rapidly changing external environment the University (along with other English HEP) was facing.
4. It was noted that there were a number of gaps on page 8 of Document L where data was now available and this information would be added prior to the report being submitted to Council.

Resolved that, based on the information provided in Documents L & K, a recommendation be made to Council that assurance could be given to HEFCE regarding the University’s student academic experience, student outcomes and degree standards.

11. UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS FOR 2016 ENTRY

Received a report on undergraduate and postgraduate admissions for 2016 from Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, on behalf of Executive Board.

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

Noted that:

1. It was important to acknowledge the support received from staff across the University who had contributed to the success of the admissions cycle. This support had been particularly important on this occasion due to the decision that had been taken to increase home student numbers in light of an anticipated downturn in international student recruitment.

2. It was acknowledged that the success of the University’s strategy would present challenges in parts of the University. Steps had already been taken to increase teaching resource, particularly within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, where a significant increase in recruitment had been achieved.

3. The recruitment cycle had resulted in a positive outcome in terms of the proportion of students registering from widening participation backgrounds. Additionally, a high proportion of high quality students had been accepted automatically and this was to be welcomed.

4. As a result of its strategy, the University had been identified by the *Good University Guide* as the easiest Russell Group university to get an offer from. It was acknowledged that the University may have been the easiest Russell Group university from which students could obtain an offer but entry standards had not been lowered and students were still required to achieve high grades in order to be accepted.

5. It was acknowledged that the high levels of recruitment achieved had presented some challenges for the estate but, by working closely with colleagues in Timetabling and Estates Support Service, appropriate arrangements had been made. ULTSEC had considered the possibility of extending the teaching day but this was ultimately found to be unnecessary.

6. It was noted that, given the increase in student numbers it might be necessary to increase the resources allocated to student support services. Some concern had been expressed in relation to the workload of the Student Wellbeing Team and this was to be kept under review. Additional funding of £122,500 had been added to the library budget to help resource library materials for an increase in student numbers of up to 500. Should the total number of additional students exceed 500 when the final figures are confirmed on 1 December 2016, the Library is expected to make a request for additional resourcing to ensure that the student experience of access to library resources is not compromised.
7. It was suggested that the short term pressures created by the University’s change in recruitment strategy might necessitate a swifter response. It was noted, however, that the total student population was not significantly higher than the original target and it should be possible to accommodate the additional students with minimal disruption. It was acknowledged, however, that the increase in students from WP backgrounds might result in different or increased support needs. It was proposed that more consideration should be given to the University’s support services, particularly those that contributed to a student’s personal development, since this was one area where the University had not achieved its benchmark in the NSS.

8. It was confirmed that there was a clear strategy in place for identifying near miss students and that competitive strategies were being developed to respond to the downturn in the international student market.

9. It was noted that 36 undergraduate students had been housed in Henderson Old Hall and it was noted that this accommodation had not been intended to be used for 2016-17. It was confirmed that, whilst the accommodation was fit for purpose, these students would be offered alternative accommodation once vacant rooms became available elsewhere.

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

Received a report from the meeting of ULTSEC held on 6 July 2016.

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

Noted that, as referred to under Minute 11 above, ULTSEC had considered whether it might be necessary to increase the length of the teaching day, in light of the increase in student numbers. ULTSEC had concluded that this was unnecessary but it was confirmed that any future proposals to do this would be discussed widely with colleagues across the University.

13. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

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

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

Noted that:

1. Documentation to support each of the research centre applications was available and could be provided to members of Senate on request.

2. Research centres had increased in number in recent years but there had not been a significant increase in the funding to support the centres. It was noted that funding was made available from academic unit and faculty sources.

3. As part of the scrutiny process, University Research Committee verified that the research centre proposals were aligned with faculty strategies. It was noted that the SAgE Faculty was reviewing its research centres as part of its restructure.

4. The Stern Review had highlighted interdisciplinary research as an approach that would be given credit in the next REF. Since many of the centres that were established encouraged interdisciplinary research, it was suggested that consideration could be given to increasing the support that was available to these centres.
Resolved that:

(i) **University Research Centre status be renewed in relation to the following research centres for three years:**
   - Centre for Oral Health Research
   - Centre for In Vivo Imaging
   - New Rail Research Centre
   - Sir Joseph Swan Centre for Energy Research

(ii) **University Research Centre status be renewed in relation to the following research centres for one year:**
   - North-East Stem Cell Institute (NESCi)
   - Centre for Integrated Systems Biology of Ageing and Nutrition (CISBAN)

(iii) **University Research Centre status be conveyed upon the Research Centre in Ageing Biology for a period of three years from 1 October 2016 with Prof von Zglinicki as Director.**

14. **COMMITTEES OF SENATE**

Received a report from Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Internationalisation and Engagement, on behalf of Executive Board, recommending the approval of the terms of reference for University Internationalisation Committee and University Engagement Committee which had been established as committees of Senate.

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

Noted that:

1. There was considered to be scope to enhance the constitution to include members who could provide teaching expertise to University Engagement Committee. It was proposed that an additional member should be added for this purpose.

2. University Internationalisation Committee did not currently include a student representative and it was suggested that this should be addressed.

3. As noted under Minute 3.2 above, the terms of reference of both committees would be amended to include a member appointed by and from Senate.

Resolved that, subject to the amendments noted above, the terms of reference for University Internationalisation Committee and University Engagement Committee be approved.

15. **PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR MEDICAL SCIENCES**

Received a report from the Vice-Chancellor, regarding a Selection Committee for the appointment of a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

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

Noted that:
1. Members of Senate had been invited to submit nominations for the Senate-appointed members of the joint selection committee by 31 August 2016. From the names submitted, three individuals had been identified who were considered to provide particular skills and experience that would be of value to the selection committee.

2. It was suggested by one member of Senate that, in future, the process to appoint a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor should begin with a short paper being presented to Senate to invite discussion about the role and the constitution of the selection committee. This discussion should take place prior to nominations for membership of the selection committee being requested. It was considered that Senate-appointed members should be in a position to exercise the will of Senate and they would only be in a position to do this if there had been a prior discussion at Senate as to what was required of a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

3. Consideration should also be given to including a student amongst the membership of the selection committee. It was noted that there was an opportunity for student involvement in the appointment process at the point at which shortlisted candidates were invited to meet with key individuals at the University.

**Resolved that:**

(i) The following individuals be approved as the Senate-appointed members of the selection committee for the appointment of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medical Sciences:

   Professor Jane Calvert  
   Professor John Simpson  
   Professor Jackie Leach Scully

(ii) Future recommendations for Pro-Vice-Chancellor appointments should commence with a brief paper being presented to Senate to initiate a discussion as to the role and remit of the position. The papers should also highlight the skills and expertise required by the selection committee to allow appropriate individuals to be nominated.

16. **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 following consultation with the relevant faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, for the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus.

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

Noted that Chair’s action had been taken to accord the title of Emeritus Professor to Professor Jimmy Steele with effect from 12 July 2016.

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

   Professor Paul Flecknell with effect from 31 March 2017  
   Professor Andy Hall with effect from 31 October 2016  
   Professor Alastair Hawkins with effect from 30 June 2016  
   Professor Tom Kirkwood with effect from 30 November 2016
Senate, 4 October 2016

17. SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

Received the business schedule for meetings of Senate and Council for 2016-17.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document S. Copy filed in the Minute Book]

18. MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE

18.1 Senate Election 2016

Reported that the individuals elected to the 6 vacancies in the Professorial constituency in the 2016 Senate election were:

- Professor Caroline Austin, Institute for Cell and Molecular Biosciences
- Professor Peter Jorgensen, Mathematics and Statistics
- Professor Jackie Leach Scully, Geography, Politics & Sociology
- Professor Patrick Olivier, Computing Science
- Professor Jane Pollard, Geography, Politics & Sociology
- Professor Chris Seal, Agriculture, Food & Rural Development

18.2 Council Members on Senate

Reported that the Chair of Council had taken Chair's action to reappoint Mr Mike Davison as the Council member on Senate from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2019.

18.3 Membership of Senate 2016-17

Received the membership of Senate for 2016-17.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document T. Copy filed in the Minute Book]

19. DELEGATION OF POWER AND AUTHORITY

Received Senate's delegation of power and authority document.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document U. Copy filed in the Minute Book]

20. FACULTY APPOINTED MEMBERS OF HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

Reported that the following member of Senate had been appointed by their faculty as a member of Honorary Degrees Committee from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2019:

Science, Agriculture and Engineering: Dr Phil Ansell

21. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Received a report recommending the appointment of representative on outside bodies.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document V. Copy filed in the Minute Book]

Resolved that:

(i) Mrs Lynne Edis, Head of Estate Customer Service, be appointed as the University’s official representative on the St Thomas Chapel Charity: Nominative Trust;

(ii) Miss Lydia Wysocki, Research Assistant in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, be appointed as the University’s official representative on the governing body of Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College, North Shields.
22. 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 W. Copy filed in the Minute Book.]