**Key Messages from the Meeting of Senate on 28 February 2024**

**Strategic Item**

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| **Education Strategy** | Senate received the new Education Strategy (Education for life 2030+: A vision for education and skills at Newcastle) and noted it had been created in partnership with University colleagues, students and the Students’ Union. Three key aims were considered: Equity, Encounters with the leading edge, and Fit for the future. Further internal documentation on the shape of the offer and the delivery plan were in working progress and would be submitted to Executive Board and discussed with Senate and Council in due course, with a strategy launch date set for 15 April 2024. Senate approved the Education Strategy for onward submission to Council. |

**Reports**

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| **Annual Student Casework Report** | Senate received the Student Casework Report for the 2022-23 academic year. There was an increasing trend of cases across most categories covered by the report, although reports of antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance had decreased. The 2022-23 year had been challenging for many students, with the cost-of-living crisis and the rising prevalence of mental health difficulties presenting additional challenges. A working group within Student Services was reviewing the process for Support to Study Plans (SSP) with a view to reducing workloads by ensuring universal and inclusive design where possible. |
| **Senate received updates from:** | Vice-Chancellor’s Business:* International Student Recruitment Transnational Education
* International Students and Foundation Programmes
* Generative AI and Automation
* Neurodisability Rehabilitation Trial
* Ageing Cluster
* Environmental Biotechnology Innovation Centre
* UK-KSA International Institute for Sustainable Energy
* Definitions of Discrimination
* Independent Review of the Office for Students
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**Approvals**

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| **Degree Outcomes Statement** | Senate received the 2022-23 Degree Outcomes Statement and noted the University had consistently awarded a smaller proportion of firsts and upper second class awards than the average across the Russell Group. The University’s largest awarding gaps were for international students, minoritised ethnic students, and mature students. Senate approved the University’s degree outcomes statement for the 2022-23 academic year. |
| **Appointment of University Deans** | Senate approved the continuation of a Dean of Business and Innovation, and discussed executive leadership of Culture and Inclusion. |
| **Re-appointment of a University Dean** | Senate endorsed the re-appointment of Professor Rene Koglbauer as Dean of Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice until 31 July 2029, and to increase the FTE by 0.2, subject to final approval from Council. |
| **Academic Distinctions** | Senate approved the conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor on: Professor Nick Girdler, with effect from 1 February 2025Senate approved the conferment of the title of Emerita Professor on: Professor Sian Robinson, with effect from 1 July 2024 |

Heidi Shultz
4 March 2024