

Key Messages from the Meeting of Senate on 30 April 2025

Strategic Items

Education Strategy	Senate received an update on the Education Strategy and the progress on related workstreams. A sector wide discovery exercise had confirmed that key partner institutions were in similar stages of reviewing their curriculum frameworks. Education for life skills and attributes had been developed to have genuine meaning and real-life application for students. Objectives 1 and 3 (Leading Edge Curriculum and Student Launchpad) were on schedule for completion, while Objectives 2 and 4 (Educator Accelerator and Newcastle Beyond) had yet to be scheduled.
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Monitoring of Academic Performance

Code of Conduct for Freedom of Speech	Senate received and endorsed the updated Code of Conduct for Freedom of Speech for approval by Council. In January 2025 the government reaffirmed their commitment to free speech and the Education Secretary confirmed that key provisions of the act would be brought into force but with some changes. The University had therefore updated the Code of Practice with minor amendments to reflect the proposed changes.
Minutes from Committees of Senate	Senate received updates from Committee Chairs and Senate representatives from the below sub-committees of Senate: University Education Committee: 13 March 2025 University Engagement and Place Committee: 27 January 2025 University Research and Innovation Committee: 21 January 2025

Reports

Senate received updates from:	<p>Vice-Chancellor's Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom ▪ Joint Institute for Clean Hydrogen ▪ Graduate Start-ups ▪ Transnational Education (TNE) ▪ Behaviour Matters ▪ Industrial Action ▪ Senior Leadership Appointments <p>Senate approved an extension of David Kennedy's term as Dean of Digital Education for five years until 1 September 2030, subject to approval from Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion to Senate <p>In accordance with Standing Order 4.3, the Vice-Chancellor, as Chair of Senate, reported that a motion had been submitted by members of Academic Board on 17 April, and also that a revised version had been submitted by members of Senate. Based on independent advice, the Chair reported that the motion and requested resolutions exceed the powers of Senate and contradict our statutes and governing documents. The lead author of the motion would be provided with feedback and would be invited to meet with the Registrar to discuss any further queries.</p>
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Approvals

Academic Distinctions	<p>Senate approved the conferment of the title of Emeritus/Emerita Professor on:</p> <p><i>Professor Caroline Austin with effect from 1 August 2025</i> <i>Professor Steve Bull with effect from 1 November 2025</i> <i>Professor Andy Houlton with effect from 1 July 2025</i> <i>Professor David Lydall with effect from 1 July 2025</i> <i>Professor Neil Perkins with effect from 1 September 2025</i> <i>Professor Adrian Rees with effect from 1 July 2025</i> <i>Professor Thomas von Zglinicki with effect from 1 October 2025</i> <i>Professor Rachel Woodward with effect from 1 June 2025</i></p>
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Heidi Shultz
30 April 2025