

**The University of Huddersfield  
Minutes of the Senate  
1 November 2017**

**Present:** Professor R Cryan (Chair), Professor M Adkins, Mr W Alenezi, Professor A Ball, Dr C Bordogna, Mr T Bowden, Dr M Culshaw, Professor S Donnelly, Mrs N Firth, Mrs S Furmedge, Professor C Jarvis, Professor J Johnes, Professor M Kagioglou, Dr K Lewis, Dr S Lui, Professor J Malay, Professor P Miller, Mr M Mills, Mr S Neves, Professor J Owen-Lynch, Professor P Sanderson, Professor T Schmidt, Mr J Stephen, Professor J Sweeney, Professor D Taylor, Professor P Ward, Ms K White, Dr S White

**In Attendance:** Mrs M Boryslawskij, Mr C Blair, Ms S Campbell, Dr J Grainger, Professor L Towns-Andrews, Mrs K Sherlock (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Professor P Bissell, Dr M Cooper, Mr A Mandebura, Mr A McConnell

**Observing:** Mr P Shercliffe

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the new Dean of the School of Music, Humanities and Media, Professor Thomas Schmidt. Professor Schmidt joined the University today, 1 November 2017, from the University of Manchester where he previously was Professor of Music and Head of Division of Art History, Drama and Music.

## **REGS-SC-1Nov17-1.0 SENATE BRIEFING**

### **1.1 Estates Briefing**

The Director of Estates briefed members on the progress of the Joseph Priestley Building refurbishment and confirmed that the design of the Holocaust Heritage and Learning Centre was well advanced and due to open in the early summer of 2018. Members noted that the new facility for the School of Art, Design and Architecture which is due to open in the autumn of 2019 will be known as the Barbara Hepworth Building. Members were advised that staff should ensure all parking badges are displayed in cars when in University run car parks.

## **REGS-SC-1Nov17-2.0 MINUTES**

**2.1 Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2017 be accepted as a correct record. **(REGS-SC-28Jun17-M)**

## **REGS-SC-1Nov17-3.0 MATTERS ARISING**

**3.1** There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## **REGS-SC-1Nov17-4.0 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

**4.1** KPI Presentation

The Vice-Chancellor delivered a comprehensive presentation on progress in achieving the University's KPIs during the penultimate year of the current Strategy Map. Key aspects included:

- The positive trajectory for the KPIs associated with “good degrees” and DLHE outcomes.
- Re-grading of the KPI relating to NSS performance from red to amber given the University's TEF Gold status and Global Teaching Excellence Award success and the aspects of NSS achievement underpinning these accolades.
- A significant improvement in the number of staff publishing at a national level, which, combined with the impact of VS changes, warranted a re-grading to amber.
- A down-grading of the research income KPI from green to amber due to a decline in spend in 2016/17, which was at odds with the previous growth over the Strategy Map period.
- A fall in Quality of Working Life Survey outcomes, despite employee engagement and satisfaction being above the UK sector average. Initiatives were in place to improve outcomes and members had agreed at SMT to downgrade the KPI from green to amber on this basis, whilst noting that the provision of trend data against the sector average would be beneficial for future presentations.
- The upward trend for all international, financial sustainability, estate and efficiency & effectiveness KPIs, warranting upgrades to green in the case of A7, E6, and E8-9.
- Overall improvement in the achievement of the Strategy Map, with no ‘red’ performance areas, and an upgrade to green for the E7 KPI improvement measure.

**Resolved:** to approve the KPIs as presented for onward recommendation to Audit Committee and University Council.

## **REGS-SC-1Nov17-5.0      UNIVERSITY NEWS**

**5.1**      Members were briefed on a range of news from around the University including the following items:

- Senior Lecturer in Music Technology, Dr Elizabeth Dobson, has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) by the Higher Education Academy (HEA). She is the 15<sup>th</sup> University of Huddersfield academic to receive one of the fellowships since 2008. This is more than any other university in the country over the last ten years of the scheme, and no other institution has been awarded at least one NTF annually over this period.
- Leading educationalists from around the world have selected the University of Huddersfield as the first winner of the Global Teaching Excellence Award. The Global Teaching Excellence Awards (GTEA) are organised by the UK-based Higher Education Academy (HEA), and entries were received from around the world. In July, it was announced that Huddersfield had been shortlisted, alongside 26 other finalists from countries that included Australia, Switzerland, Canada, South Africa, The Netherlands and the UK. Several other British institutions also reached the final.

- The West Yorkshire Local Authority Building Control Awards conferred the award for the *Best Education Building* which was presented to the University's Assistant Director of Estates and Facilities, Tim Hosker, and his team for the construction of the University's newest structure, the Oastler Building. The LABC awards are the country's largest business-to-business awards for building excellence with all of the regions coming together to compete for top spot in the final to be held in London at the end of the year.
- The seven-year Future Metrology Hub, which receives £10 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, with extra funding from universities and business partners, was officially launched at an event attended by more than 130 scientists, engineers, academics and industrialists from around the UK.
- The University's Institute of Railway Research (IRR) is to play a key role in a £92 million network aimed at establishing the UK as a world leader in rail technology. Experts at the IRR, working with other universities and major manufacturers, will develop rolling stock that lasts longer, is more energy efficient and is less costly to maintain, leading to major environmental and economic gains. The IRR will receive research funding of almost £30 million.
- Professor Adele Jones heads the None in Three group who have been awarded over £4.5 million to develop computer games that aim to reduce domestic violence by raising awareness and altering attitudes among young people. The £4.5 million award comes from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), administered by Research Councils UK as part of the country's overseas aid strategy.
- Professor McCluskey has developed an Artificial Intelligence system called SimplifAI. that will be able to carry out data analysis and devise complex strategies in a fraction of the time required by human operators to ease traffic congestion in Manchester. The project has been awarded more than £850,000 by the Government-backed Innovate UK and trials for traffic management system are starting late 2017.
- Former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams delivered the Harold Wilson Lecture to a record audience for his talk titled *Christianity and democracy: does theology have anything to say to our political crises?* He was also one of the speakers at the University's Spirituality in Health Care Conference, a conference that celebrated the role of spirituality and compassion in mental health care.
- The Head of Network Rail Sir Peter Hendy paid a fact-finding visit to the University and visited the new £4.5 million test rig in the University's Institute of Railway Research and spoke to students entering the IMechE Railway Challenge. He hailed its role in developing technology for 21<sup>st</sup> century railways and in training the new generations of engineers who will be vital for the future of the system.
- Building work on the new Holocaust Heritage and Learning Centre (HHLC), based at the University of Huddersfield, is now firmly underway and the developments were given the seal of approval by Holocaust survivor Iby Knill after she paid a special visit to view the Centre's progress.

**To consider and approve:**

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-6.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP**

**6.1 Resolved:** to approve the terms of reference and membership of Senate following an amendment to the Membership.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-6.1)**

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-7.0 ANNUAL ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE REPORT**

**7.1 Resolved:** to approve the Annual Academic Governance Report, including the assurance statement therein, for onward recommendation to Audit Committee and University Council.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-7.1)**

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-8.0 HONORARY AWARDS**

**8.1** Members were updated on the Honorary Award recipients for 2017 and 2018 and were asked to invite colleagues to propose nominees for future years. Members were reminded that the names of those nominated were to be kept confidential until formally announced by the University.

**Resolved:** to recommend the nominations to Council

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-9.0 ENROLMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 & APPLICATIONS FOR 2018**

**9.1** The Deputy Vice-Chancellor updated members on September 2017 enrolments which were encouraging given the challenging environment. Members were advised that the approaching admissions cycle will continue to be competitive and cautioned against complacency. The Chair congratulated all colleagues for their positive work in this area.

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-10.0 REPORTS FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (TEACHING AND LEARNING)**

Attainment

**10.1** The Pro Vice-Chancellor reported the University had met its target on attainment. The University-wide focus on assessment had contributed to closing the gap by 5%. Members were advised on reported government concerns in relation to rising classifications and were reminded that University classification algorithms had not changed since 2007.

NSS

**10.2** The Pro Vice-Chancellor reported on a small decline in NSS responses at the University and overall within the sector which may be attributed to the NUS campaign against the TEF. Members were advised that colleagues are working to address the two areas of concern.

Teaching Excellence Framework

**10.3**

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised that the TEF has been expanded to include Student Outcomes and will be known as the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TESOF). Changes to the metrics which include a reduction in the NSS weighting and the addition of highly skilled graduate outcomes, benchmark changes for social disadvantage and classification and grade inflation.

#### UTLC Summary

10.4

The summary of the 27 September 2017 meeting was noted.

Members attention was drawn to a restriction on student surveys to encourage students to respond to core surveys they are expected to complete. Members were advised that first year taught students would be asked to participate in a UKES national survey which is run by the HEA instead of the standard UCES survey.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-10.4)**

### **REGS-SC-1Nov17-11.0 REPORT FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (INTERNATIONAL)**

#### Update on International Enrolments & Recruitment

11.1 The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised that recruitment was encouraging and initiatives introduced earlier in the year had contributed to a positive outcome.

#### University International Committee Summary

11.2 The summary of the 18 October 2017 meeting was noted.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-11.2)**

### **REGS-SC-1Nov17-12.0 REPORT FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE)**

#### Research Annual Integrity Statement

12.1 It was noted that this had been approved at the University Research Committee and this would be recommended to be approved at Audit Committee and University Council.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-12.1)**

#### University Research Committee Summary

12.2

The summary of the 19 September 2017 meeting was noted.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-12.2)**

### **REGS-SC-1Nov17-13.0 SCHOOL BOARD SUMMARIES**

13.1 The summaries of the School Boards were noted. Members attention was drawn to the renaming of the School of Computing and Engineering's Department of Informatics to the Department of Computer Science.

**(REGS-SC-01NOV17-13.1-13.8)**

### **REGS-SC-1Nov17-14.0 UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

14.1 The University Council minutes of 6 July 2017 were noted.

(REGS-SC-01NOV17-14.1)

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-15.0 WHISTLEBLOWING REPORT**

15.1 The Committee noted a nil return for the year to 31 July 2017.

(REGS-SC-01NOV17-15.1)

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-16.0 FREEDOM OF SPEECH POLICY**

16.1 The University Secretary presented a revised Freedom of Speech Policy and External Speakers' Policy noting that the minor changes had been recommended by Deans and the University's Prevent Working Group.

**Resolved:** to approve the policy for onward recommendation to University Council.

(REGS-SC-01NOV17-16.1)

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-17.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

17.1 There were no matters of any other business.

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-18.0 AVAILABILITY OF AGENDA, PAPERS AND MINUTES**

18.1 There were no papers excluded from the Library under Standing Order 11.8.

**REGS-SC-1Nov17-19.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

19.1 14 March 2018 at 9.30am in the McClelland Suite  
27 June 2018 at 9.30am in the McClelland Suite

Kathy Sherlock  
Head of Registry