

**UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD
SENATE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
11 DECEMBER 2013**

Present: Prof M Hall (Chair)
Prof M Bull (Deputy Chair and Acting Chair for Minutes SEN.13.41 to SEN.13.48)
Dr C Bryant
Prof C Egbu
T Hewitt
Dr J Leigh
Prof N Linge
J Lloyd
Prof H Marshall
Prof N Mellors
Prof M Pearson
Prof P Rowlett
M Saeed
Prof J Smith
L Tatham
Dr C Thorp
L Tompkins
Prof S Vadera
Prof T Warne
D Whittaker

Apologies: P Bradbury
Prof A Broderick
Prof S Braid
H Franks
Dr K Kniveton
Prof B Longhurst
Prof G Murphy
Prof A Walker

In attendance: J Berry, University Librarian
V Goddard, Registrar
M Rollinson, University Secretary
S Talboys, Director of Estates and Property Services
G Clark, Governance Services Unit (Secretary)

SEN.13.41 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP (SEN/13/20)

Senate **resolved** that no amendment need be sought to the Terms of Reference and Membership.

The Acting Chair welcomed Professor Helen Marshall, Professor Nigel Linge and Dr Jacqueline Leigh to Senate membership. The Acting Chair thanked Dr Karen Kniveton for her past services to Senate and wished her well for her forthcoming retirement. In response to a query from Senate members, it was confirmed that the College of Business and Law was co-terminous with Salford Business School and that Professor Amanda Broderick was ex-officio, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, already a member of Senate and that the ex officio Senate membership for her as Dean of Salford Business School was therefore shown as vacant.

SEN.13.42 STANDING ORDERS (SEN/13/21)

Senate noted receipt of Standing Orders: Regulations for Committees.

SEN.13.43 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2013 (SEN/13/22)

Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2013 as a correct record.

SEN.13.44 MATTERS ARISING

1. Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes (ARTP): Salford Alternative Entry Scheme

Further to Minute SEN.13.24, Senate noted that, as authorised by Senate and on the recommendation of the Chair of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee, advised by the Deputy Registrar Academic and Assistant Director UK/EU Conversion, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the following wording for ARTP Section 6.3.

6.3 Entry via Salford Alternative Entry Scheme or Accreditation of Prior Learning

- 6.3.1 An applicant who does not possess one of the qualifications which satisfies the General Entry Requirement may be admitted through the Salford Alternative Entry Scheme or through the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)
- 6.3.2 The Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) may be used for entry by APL to any University programme.
- 6.3.3 The Salford Alternative Entry Scheme may be used for entry to Level 4 of any University programme and the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) may be used for entry to APL to any other Level.

2. Appointment of Professor Emerita

Further to Minute SEN.13.30, Senate noted that, at its meeting on 4 July 2013, Council had approved Senate's recommendation for the appointment of Professor Sue Powell as Professor Emerita.

3. Council Chamber

Further to Minute SEN.13.32, Senate noted that the refurbishment of the Council Chamber had been delayed by essential maintenance work.

SEN.13.45 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2013 (SEN/13/23)

Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the special meeting on 2 October 2013 as a correct record with no matters arising.

SEN.13.46 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2013 (SEN/13/24)

Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the special meeting on 23 October 2013 as a correct record.

SEN.13.47 MATTERS ARISING

The Acting Chair confirmed that, at its meeting on 21 November 2013, Council had approved the new University Strategic Plan.

SEN.13.48 CHAIR'S ACTIONS

1. Posthumous Awards (Taught)

On the recommendation of the respective Boards of Examiners, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the following posthumous awards:

- Maria Barile, MSc Accessibility and Inclusive Design, School of the Built Environment
- Lana Jennifer Maartens, BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences

2. Posthumous Awards (Research)

On the recommendation of an academic reviewer appointed by the College of Health and Social Care, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the posthumous award of MPhil by Research to Rachel Majumdar, School of Health Sciences.

3. Academic Structure 2013/14

On the recommendation of Academic Audit and Governance Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the Academic Structure 2013/14.

4. Scheme of Academic Governance 2013/14

On the recommendation of Academic Audit and Governance Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the Scheme of Academic Governance 2013/14.

5. Staff / Student Committee Standard Agenda

On the recommendation of the Chair of Academic Audit and Governance Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to revise the Standard Agenda of the Staff/Student Committee.

6. Appointment of Two Senate Members to Council's Nominations and Governance Committee (for the Purpose of Considering Honorary Degree Candidates)

On the recommendation of Academic Audit and Governance Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the appointment of two Senate members to Council's Nominations and Governance Committee (for the purpose of considering Honorary Degrees candidates).

7. Rules Governing the Election and Appointment of Staff to Senate

On the recommendation of Academic Audit and Governance Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the Rules Governing the Election and Appointment of Staff to Senate.

8. Pilot Operation of Revised Annual Programme Monitoring and Enhancement (APME) Procedures in the College of Science and Technology

On the recommendation of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the pilot operation of revised APMC Procedures in the College of Science and Technology.

9. Change to the Personal Mitigating Circumstances Procedure

On the recommendation of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve changes to the Personal Mitigating Circumstances Procedure.

10. Amended Student Facing Procedures

On the recommendation of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve amended Student Facing Procedures.

11. Research Award Regulations 2013/14

On the recommendation of Research Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the Research Award Regulations 2013/14.

12. Minimum Standards of Provision for Postgraduate Research Students 2013/14

On the recommendation of Research Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve the Minimum Standards of Provision for Postgraduate Research Students 2013/14.

13. Evaluating the Student Experience: Student Voice (Postgraduate Research Students)

On the recommendation of Research Committee, the Chair had taken Chair's Action to approve Evaluating the Student Experience: Student Voice (Postgraduate Research Students).

SEN.13.49 CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Chair advised that a series of future presentation and consultation events was scheduled in relation to the new University Strategic Plan. He highlighted the flexible and adaptable nature of the Strategic Plan which was designed to be non-prescriptive and able to respond to a rapidly changing external environment.

The Chair reported on three recent, successful, major events involving the University:

- the launch of the cross-University of Salford Institute for Dementia;
- the Salford Media Festival;
- the Next Generation Festival.

The Chair advised that the Joint University/UCUS Task Group had been convened to review the future of Modern Foreign Languages with the aim of securing some form of sustainable provision at the University. He also thanked all those involved, including the Students' Union, in securing the continued provision of Politics and Contemporary History at the University.

The Chair offered an overview of the likely impact of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statements on the HE Sector and the University in particular. He noted that the loosening and eventual abolition of Student Number Controls (SNC) had been a surprise to HEFCE and the HE Sector. The consequent expansion of available places might well be perceived as a politically reactive response to flawed assumptions and might present problems to North West universities where there was an oversupply of places in proportion to regional demand. He advised that there was a 4% downturn, compared with an exceptional, high demand previous year, in undergraduate applications, although the University was itself performing better than competitor and comparator institutions.

The Chair advised that Executive was still thinking through the implications of the changing funding arrangements including the proposed selling off of the Student Loan Book which had prompted Students' Union fears of increased interest rates for Student Loans. However, he advised that the University would not be reacting by offering lower entry tariffs or in any other way lowering standards. He emphasised the difficulty of considering major capital investments, such as laboratory provision in the School of Environment and Life Sciences, when funding arrangements were so volatile.

Finally, he expanded his own personal amazement and displeasure when the University of London had sought a six month injunction against any student demonstrations in the week of the death of Nelson Mandela

The Chair also commended Professor Nigel Linge and staff and student colleagues for an attempt to gain entry into the Guinness Book of Records for the largest variety of mobile phones brought to a public event.

SEN.13.50 **THE VISION FOR THE GATEWAY BUILDING: A PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF ESTATES AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

The Director of Estates and Property Services gave a presentation on the Vision for the Gateway Building. He advised that it was being developed in the context of a proposed Cultural Quarter and with knowledge gained from the opening of the University's premises at MediaCityUK.

In response to comment from Senate members, the Director of Estates and Property Services advised that the Gateway Building was an integrated part of the University and designed for multi-purpose as well as specialist use and would consequently be timetabled in that context with an aim of 50% utilisation compared with a MediaCityUK utilisation of 29% and a University-wide utilisation of less than 15%.

The Head of School of Environment and Life Sciences suggested that an interesting juxtaposition of disciplines on the unallocated higher floors in the Gateway Building could broaden understanding of 'Cultural' so as to encompass 'Science' whilst at the same time permitting a more unified home for her School. The Chair endorsed the importance of the sense of place for disciplines and their School communities including both Science and Engineering. The Director of Estates and Property Services advised that allocated areas were chiefly for the School of Arts and Media, as the current Adelphi Building was not sustainable, but confirmed that no final decision had been made on the more general, unallocated areas.

Senate members advised that the Director of Estates and Property Services should liaise closely with the City of Salford and local community groups so as to avoid duplication of effort in creating local performance venues. It was important that external parties were fully aware of the University's plans and the potential availability of such University facilities as the Robert Powell Theatre to the local community.

SEN.13.51 **ANNUAL ENHANCEMENT REPORT: REVIEW OF SENATE OPERATION 2012/13 (SEN/13/25)**

Senate noted the Annual Enhancement Report: Review of Senate Operation 2012/13 based on the completion of questionnaires by members.

SEN.13.52 **ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS (SEN/13/26)**

Senate **approved** its Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14 and **resolved** that this Schedule should be presented at the first meeting of each academic session whether that meeting be ordinary or special.

SEN.13.53 **REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF ACADEMIC AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (AAGC) HELD ON 21 AUGUST 2013 AND 20 NOVEMBER 2013 (SEN/13/27)**

1. School Title: School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

Senate was advised of the extensive internal and external consultation on the School's title and the advantages and disadvantages of citing particular professions in a School title.

In discharge of its remit to comment on the academic merit of changes to Academic Structure, Senate **recommended** to Council endorsement of the revised School title, School of Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Social Sciences.

2. General Board of Study

Senate noted AAGC's consideration of a possible cross-University mechanism to oversee certain accredited and non-accredited academic provision and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor briefed Senate on the broader context of seeking more adaptable, flexible and outward facing mechanisms to facilitate significant opportunities for growth available to the

University. In that context, Senate welcomed AAGC's continuing review of appropriate cross-University mechanisms.

Senate members suggested that cross-University mechanisms would also be welcomed in such aspects as funding, as current arrangements were perceived as a deterrent to cross-University working. The Chair advised that the Director of Finance had work in train on that aspect.

3. Academic Structure 2013/14

Senate noted AAGC's consideration of the academic merit of the Academic Structure 2013/14, noting that this would operate for a single transitional year based on two model Colleges and two non-model Colleges. Senate also noted the additional internal externality required of the College of Business and Law which was co-terminous with Salford Business School and that the Chair of AAGC had been authorised to take Chair's Action on any residual or emerging issues arising from the mappings of the College of Arts and Social Sciences and College of Business and Law against the model College structure.

Senate members believed the mappings of local variation against a central model might provide a helpful and flexible framework for addressing an increasing complexity in academic management roles.

4. Staff/Student Committee Standard Agenda

Senate noted AAGC's consideration of a Standard Agenda for Staff/Student Committees. Student members of Senate broadly supported the agenda as a framework but advised that their preference would be a student-set agenda.

Some Senate members advised that they were unaware of the Standard Agenda and Senate **resolved** that information on the Standard Agenda should be recirculated.

5. Centres (including Research Centres) and Institutes

Senate noted AAGC's consideration, in consultation with Executive Board, of the process for approval of the establishment and disestablishment of academic units of organisation. Senate was advised that the current catalogue of such units had been drawn up on the advice of the College Registrars.

The Chair and other Senate members expressed the view that the aftermath of the Research Excellence Framework was an opportune time to review the governance of Research including both the optimisation of the use of Research Committee to inform the Research agenda reporting as appropriate to Senate and a review of the governance of Research Centres which had replaced the former Research Institutes. Senate members believed that, although College Research and Innovation Committees were working well, they might not be duly reporting to University level Research Committee. Senate **resolved** that the Chair of Research Committee should review the governance of all Research and non-Research academic units (other than Schools and Colleges), informed by Senate's discussion, with a view to reporting via Research Committee to Senate on the appropriateness of existing governance arrangements.

6. Scheme of Academic Governance 2013/14

Senate noted AAGC's consideration of the Scheme of Academic Governance 2013/14.

7. Appointment of Two Senate Members to Council's Nominations and Governance Committee (for the Purpose of Consideration of Honorary Degree Candidates)

Senate noted that Professor Helen Marshall, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee) and Professor Brian Longhurst (Chair of Academic Programmes and Partnerships Committee) had been appointed to serve as Senate

members on Council's Nominations and Governance Committee for the purpose of consideration of honorary degree candidates.

8. Rules Governing the Election and Appointment of Staff to Senate

Senate noted minor changes to the Rules Governing the Election and Appointment of Staff to Senate consequent upon changes to the University's structure and governance.

9. Acting Chair of Academic Programmes and Partnerships Committee

In the light of the absence from the University of the Chair of Academic Programmes and Partnerships Committee, Senate noted the appointment of Professor Helen Marshall, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, as Interim Chair of Academic Programmes and Partnerships Committee, until the return of the substantive Chair.

10. Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14

Senate noted AAGC's Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14.

11. Academic Audit Topics

Senate noted AAGC's commissioning of additional academic audits after selection of academic audit topics.

12. Academic Audit Action Plan: PhD by Submission of Published Works

Senate noted AAGC's approval of the Academic Audit Action Plan: PhD by Submission of Published Works and asked for sign off of the Action Plan no later than its Autumn Term meeting 2014/15.

SEN.13.54 REPORT OF PROFESSORIAL PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY GROUP (SEN/13/28)

Senate noted Professorial Promotions and Appointments Advisory Group's report on its consultations upon the appointment of three nominees to the status of Professor Emeritus and its approval of particular appointments and promotions.

Senate also considered the academic merit of the nomination of:

- Professor Roger Bisby
- Professor Rose Baker
- and Professor David Forrest

to the status of Professor Emeritus and **recommended** all these nominees to Council.

SEN.13.55 REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF LEARNING, TEACHING AND ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE (LTEC) HELD ON 19 JUNE 2013, 16 OCTOBER 2013 AND 13 NOVEMBER 2013 (SEN/13/29)

1. Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14

Senate noted LTEC's Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14.

2. Overview of Governance Overviews

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of the schedule of quality assurance overview reports considered by Senate and its standing committees.

3. USSU Student Experience Reports, Semester 2, 2012/13

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of the USSU Student Experience Reports, Semester 2, 2012/13.

The Chair emphasised the importance attached by the University to this Students' Union-initiated process and the Students' Union President confirmed that the current sabbatical team would encourage their successor teams to continue the process, allowing both current and trend information to be considered.

4. Student Voice: Module Evaluation

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of an updated Student Voice Policy and revised Module Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQ).

A Senate member queried whether the revised MEQ form should explicitly state that, as it was completed anonymously by students (and unless so authorised by some ethical approval process), it would not be used for Professional Development Review (PDR), Personal Improvement Plan (PIP) or assessment of staff promotion purposes. Other Senate members believed MEQs could benefit, rather than cause detriment to, staff if used for such purposes. The use of anonymous MEQs was a long-standing Sector practice and unattributable MEQs would be unlikely to encourage students to offer frank evaluation. The MEQ had been duly considered by the University's academic community through LTEC and Senate and was a recognised standard mechanism for eliciting the student voice.

The Chair invited the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to place the matter in the context of her ongoing review with Programme Leaders of NSS ratings and programme performance. She endorsed comments about the wide Sector acceptance of the mechanism and similarly its wide acceptance in the University as evidenced in LTEC's approval of the revised MEQ. It was crucial that the University's academic community took ownership of the improvement of incidences of low NSS ratings and poorly performing programmes.

In response to Senate members' queries, it was confirmed that the MEQs could be used in hard copy, although this meant the loss of automatic analysis of results. It was also confirmed that Blackboard had offered assurance that online submission did not compromise anonymity.

5. Student Surveys

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of Student Surveys in the context of the Student Voice Policy.

6. QAA Institutional Review Action Plan

Senate noted that QAA had accepted the Action Plan, approved by LTEC and Executive, in response to the QAA Institutional Review report and had embedded a link to the Action Plan in the electronic publication of that report. The Action Plan would continue to be monitored by LTEC and Executive.

7. Annual Reports of Professional Services

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of annual reports by:

- Estates and Property Services
- IT Services
- Library

against the ASPIRES, Learning and Teaching Strategy.

8. Schedule and Format of ASPIRES Updates

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's work on reviewing the content and delivery arrangements for the ASPIRES, Learning and Teaching Strategy.

9. Pilot Operation of Revised Annual Programme Monitoring and Enhancement (APME) Procedures in the College of Science and Technology

Senate noted LTEC's approval of revised APME procedures for piloting in the College of Science and Technology.

10. Annual Programme Monitoring and Enhancement (APME) Procedure 2013/14 in Colleges other than the College of Science and Technology

Senate noted LTEC's consideration and minor variation of the APME Procedure to be used in 2013/14 in Colleges other than the College of Science and Technology.

11. Consideration of Proposed Changes to Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes for Consultation

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of the 'longlist' of possible changes to Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes which had been issued for University-wide consultation.

12. Request from Politics and Contemporary History Directorate for Exception to Standard University Referencing System

Senate noted LTEC's approval of an exception to the Standard University Referencing System for programmes offered by Politics and Contemporary History.

13. Managing International Students: Progress Report on Implementation of the Recommendations Arising from the Analysis of Current University Practice against QAA Guidance

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of a mapping of University practice with regard to Managing International Students against QAA guidance in that area, issued to complement the QAA Quality Code, and LTEC's decision to include that mapping in a proposed schedule of periodic reviews of Academic Handbook policies and QAA Quality Code mappings.

14. Scheduling of Assessment

Senate noted LTEC's proposed consideration, through a project group, of the implementation and impact of possible changes to assessment practice, with particular regard to a more adaptable approach to reassessment and replacement assessment scheduling. It was anticipated that LTEC would be able to report to the next Senate meeting on that consideration.

15. Student Data

Senate noted LTEC's consideration of data and analysis with regard to:

- Continuation and Progression 2011/12 to 2012/13
- First Degree Results 2011/12

Senate also noted that similar reports on academic session 2012/13 would be considered earlier in the cycle, at the next LTEC meeting in Spring Term, to enable a quicker response to issues discerned through analysis.

The Chair reminded Senate that the University's revised Classification Scheme, which would better align the University with Sector practice whilst still safeguarding academic standards, would apply from 2014/15.

16. Proposal to Develop a New Policy and Guidance on Assessing Student Engagement

Senate noted LTEC's proposed review of the University's existing policies in respect of student retention and participation, with a view to recommending a more coherent policy on student engagement.

17. General Board of Study

Senate noted LTEC's contribution to consideration of a General Board of Study. See minute SEN.13.53.2)

18. Changes to Personal Mitigating Circumstances (PMC) Procedure

Senate noted LTEC's consideration, following a review of the PMC Procedure, staff and student consultation and Office of the Independent Adjudicator findings, of a revised PMC Procedure, focusing in particular on exceptions to the 'Fit to Sit' principle. Senate also noted that the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work was conducting an internal consideration of impact upon the University's Fitness for Professional Practice Procedure.

19. Amended Student Facing Procedures

Senate noted LTEC's consideration and amendment of the following Student Facing Procedures:

- Academic Misconduct Procedure
- Student Complaints Procedure
- Student Disciplinary Procedure

SEN.13.56 REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE (APPC) HELD ON 19 JUNE 2013, 3 JULY 2013, 14 AUGUST 2013, 9 OCTOBER 2013 AND 6 NOVEMBER 2013 (SEN/13/30)

1. Affiliation between Bury College and the Schools of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences, and of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work for delivery of:

- **BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology (Levels 4 and 5)**
- **BSc (Hons) Social Policy (Levels 4 and 5)**

Senate noted APPC's approval of the affiliation between Bury College and the Schools of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences, and of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work for delivery of:

- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology (Levels 4 and 5)
- BSc (Hons) Social Policy (Levels 4 and 5)

2. Affiliation between AEC, Singapore and the School of Health Sciences for the delivery of:

- **BSc (Hons) Sports Science (Levels 5 and 6)**

Senate noted APPC's approval of the affiliation between AEC, Singapore and the School of Health Sciences for the delivery of:

- BSc (Hons) Sports Science (Levels 5 and 6)

- 3. Affiliation between Carmel College and the School of Arts and Media for the delivery of:**
– **BA (Hons) Graphic Design (Level 4)**

Senate noted APPC's approval of the affiliation between Carmel College and the School of Arts and Media for the delivery of:

- BA (Hons) Graphic Design (Level 4)

- 4. Update on Affiliation between the School of Computing, Science and Engineering and Thinklabs, Mumbai**

Senate noted APPC's consideration of lessons learned from the discontinued affiliation between the School of Computing, Science and Engineering and Thinklabs, Mumbai

- 5. Affiliation between Liverpool City College and the School of Arts and Media for the delivery of:**

- **FdA Popular Music**

Senate noted APPC's approval of the affiliation between Liverpool City College and the School of Arts and Media for the delivery of:

- FdA Popular Music

- 6. Revised Programme Design, Approval, Amendment and Review Procedure**

Senate noted APPC's approval of operational amendments to the Programme Design, Approval, Amendment and Review Procedure.

- 7. Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRB) Overview Report 2010/11 and 2011/12**

Senate noted APPC's consideration of an overview report on generic matters arising from PSRB engagements including accreditation visits.

- 8. Overview of the Minutes of the Joint Boards of Study (JBoS) and the Annual Programme Monitoring and Enhancement (APME) Reports for Programmes Delivered Through Affiliated Collaborative Provision 2011/12**

Senate noted APPC's consideration of an overview report on generic matters arising from JBoS minutes and Collaborative Provision APME reports.

- 9. Summary of New Programmes Approved in 2012/13**

Senate noted APPC's monitoring of trends and other generic matters arising from a summary of new programmes approved in 2012/13.

- 10. Summary of Programmes Withdrawn or Suspended in 2012/13**

Senate noted APPC's monitoring of trends and other generic matters arising from a summary of programmes withdrawn or suspended in 2012/13.

- 11. Annual Schedule of Committee Business**

Senate noted APPC's Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14.

- 12. Collaborative Provision Register**

Senate noted APPC's continuous monitoring of Collaborative Provision and maintenance of an up to date, publicly available, Collaborative Provision Register. Senate was reminded that the Collaborative Provision Register was also, at least once a year, forwarded to

Senate and then to Council. Senate **resolved** that the Collaborative Provision Register, as a snapshot of current Collaborative Provision, should be forwarded to Council.

13. General Board of Study

Senate noted APPC's contribution to consideration of a General Board of Study. See minute SEN.13.53.2 above.

SEN.13.57 REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2013 AND 30 OCTOBER 2013 (SEN/13/31)

1. Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14

Senate noted Research Committee's Annual Schedule of Committee Business 2013/14.

2. Postgraduate Research Student Consultation Committee

Senate noted Research Committee's integration of a Postgraduate Research Student Consultation Committee into its mechanisms for capturing the postgraduate research student voice.

Some Senate members advised that they were unaware of the establishment of the Postgraduate Research Student Consultation Committee and Senate **resolved** that information on the Postgraduate Research Student Consultation Committee should be recirculated. Other Senate members reported that Postgraduate Research Student Consultation Committees were working well.

The Associate Dean (Research), College of Health and Social Care, sought an exemption to the requirement to establish Postgraduate Research Student Consultation Committees, proposing that instead, in that College, in view of the relatively low number of postgraduate research students, this function be discharged via student membership of the College Research and Innovation Committee (CRAIC). Senate **approved** that exemption. Student members of Senate queried how the Students' Union would then be kept abreast of postgraduate research student matters in the College. The Chair stressed the need for the University to support the Students' Union in strengthening its representation of postgraduate research students. He saw that strengthening as more likely to engage the postgraduate research student community than, say, a Postgraduate Society. He cited lessons learned from postgraduate research student dissatisfaction at changes to opening hours of Maxwell Building, where extensive University consultation with the Students' Union and student body had nevertheless not reached some postgraduate research students. The Associate Dean (Research) advised that student members of CRAIC were free to report back to the Students' Union on meetings and that the College would forward CRAIC agendas, reports and minutes to the Students' Union.

3. Research Award Regulations 2013/14

Senate noted Research Committee's consideration of revisions to the Research Award Regulations 2013/14.

4. Minimum Standards of Provision for Postgraduate Research Students 2013/14

Senate noted Research Committee's consideration of Minimum Standards of Provision for Postgraduate Research Students 2013/14, the mechanism by which postgraduate research students' entitlements to support were identified. Senate members welcomed that exposition of entitlements and advised that these were minimum entitlements which individual Schools could go beyond if they so wished.

However, Senate members also expressed concern that, in relation to IT support for postgraduate research students, delivery might not always be reaching the level of minimum entitlement. Senate **resolved** that the Registrar be requested to review the level

of IT support for postgraduate research students so as to be able to report back to Senate through Research Committee on whether the level of IT support was having any adverse impact on the quality of learning opportunities.

5. Evaluating the Student Experience: Student Voice (Postgraduate Research Students)

Senate noted Research Committee's consideration and evaluation of the Student Experience: Student Voice (Postgraduate Research Students).

SEN.13.58 STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS AND APPEALS PANEL: ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13 (SEN/13/32)

The Acting Director of Student Life spoke to the annual report on Student Support Funds and Appeals Panel 2012/13. She advised on emergent trends, for example, the first use of funding to support child care and the increasing number of students facing eviction for rent arrears.

The Chair advised that changes and reductions in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement in relation to students from low income households would have an adverse impact on many individual students and would disproportionately impact upon universities such as the University of Salford with an active and longstanding Widening Participation agenda rather than upon Russell Group universities.

The Registrar briefed Senate on the possible means Executive Board was considering in response, in terms of the matched funding provided for Student Support, from seeking to make good the shortfall to changing the criteria for eligibility. Consideration was being given to how best to deploy the range of Student Support mechanisms including scholarships, bursaries and direct funding. The Acting Director of Student Life also advised that some mitigation might be provided through creative use of the University's Graduate Employment Service. Senate members suggested that the University might explore the creation of full-year and part-time internships.

The Chair and the Acting Director of Student Life expressed concern at the further impact these funding changes might have on stress, mental health and consequent academic performance. The Chair expressed his appreciation for the valuable work of all Student Life staff in supporting the University's students.

SEN.13.59 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None notified.

SEN.13.60 DATE OF MEETINGS IN 2013/14 AND FIRST MEETING OF 2014/15

On Wednesday at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Old Fire Station

26 February 2014

21 May 2014

24 September 2014 (venue and format to be confirmed)

The full University Almanac for 2013-14 is available on the link below:

<http://www.governance.salford.ac.uk/almanac>