

Web update from Senate

The following issues were discussed at the meeting of Senate on 18 November 2020:

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor presented his report on key issues facing the University; see report at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/vice-chancellors-reports-to-senate-2020-21/>

He thanked everyone in the University community for their continued hard work responding to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Student Admissions

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, along with Mike Nicholson and Prof Bruce Rayton, gave an update on UG and PGT student admissions. He thanked all those involved in the challenging recruitment and admissions work this cycle.

COVID-19 Arrangements

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International and Doctoral) gave an update on actions taken by the Doctoral College to support doctoral students; Prof Tim Ibell reported on the recent work of the Resilient Curriculum Project Team; and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) and Acting Director of Academic Registry gave a report on COVID-19 arrangements being planned for 2020/21.

Academic Standards in Undergraduate Outcomes

Senate received a report on undergraduate degree outcomes from 2019/20. The percentage of upper classifications was noted, and the impact of the No Detriment policy to ensure students were not disadvantaged by the coronavirus pandemic. However, academic standards had been assured and learning outcomes met.

Academic Performance Information

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) presented the latest benchmarked data and trends of institutional performance, along with a range of academic KPIs.

Student Monitoring Data 2019/20

Senate noted summary data on Student Complaints, Disciplinary cases, Fitness to Practise and Fitness to Study and also noted the recent increase in disciplinary cases.

University Independent Advisor for Postgraduate Research Students

Senate discussed the annual report for 2019/20 from Prof Marcelle McManus, the University Independent Advisor for Postgraduate Research Students. There was a discussion of matters of concern which had been raised.

Deputy Independent Advisors for Postgraduate Research Students

Senate appointed Dr Aurelien Mondon and Dr Emma Denham as Deputy Independent Advisors for Postgraduate Research Students for three years. Dr Jannis Wenk continues as the other Deputy working with Prof McManus.

Awards and prizes

Senate approved a new Civic Engagement Award and new arrangements for the Excellence in Doctoral Supervision Prize.

Library Annual report

Senate received the Library annual report for 2019/20.

Equality and Diversity Committee

Senate received the annual report of the Equality and Diversity Committee for 2019/20.

Committee Terms of Reference

Senate approved revised Committee Terms of Reference for two Senate Committees, with immediate effect:

- [Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee;](#)
- [Academic Ethics and Integrity Committee.](#)

Senate Effectiveness review

Senate agreed to recommend to Council changes to Statutes relating to Senate composition and functions, which would be rationalised, and some of which would be moved to University Ordinances.

University Strategy

Senate discussed the timescale and proposals for the development of the University Strategy 2021-26 and its key sub-strategies.

Antisemitism Definition

Senate discussed and agreed to support a draft University statement in response to a letter received from the Secretary of State for universities to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

Digital Matters

Senate discussed the development of the Digital Accessibility Policy and also discussed high performance computing.

AP