

Web Update from Senate

Meeting on 2 February 2022

The following issues were discussed at the meeting of Senate on 2 February 2022:

Institutional update

The Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research and Education presented a report on key issues facing the University.

Review of Education in Semester 1 and planning for Semester 2

The Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Education) reported on the findings of an internal audit of communications with students about the delivery of teaching and assessment in 2021/22, with a particular focus on delivery against requirements set by the Competition and Markets Authority. No critical issues or areas of non-compliance had been identified. Planning for Semester 2 was being informed by lessons learned from the National Student Survey 2021 and the student pulse surveys.

Department of Life Sciences

The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology and the Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry introduced a proposal to create a new Department of Life Sciences, bringing together the two departments, as recommended by an external review panel. After a wide-ranging discussion, and subject to consultation with the campus trade unions, Senate agreed to recommend to Council that the University proceeds with the formation of the new Department by 1 August 2022.

Curriculum Transformation

Senate received an update on Curriculum Transformation and approved a set of rules for postgraduate taught assessment and award.

Admissions

Senate noted an update on the admissions cycle for 2022, which took into account applications received by the UCAS equal consideration deadline.

Degree outcomes

Senate considered departmental-level analysis of degree outcomes for the period from 2015/16 to 2021/22. A paper with national benchmarking data would come to Senate in June. Senate also agreed to recommend to Council an updated institutional Degree Outcomes Statement.

New courses and partnerships

Senate approved two new courses on the recommendation of the Courses and Partnerships Approval Committee.

Online unit evaluations

Senate approved recommendations from the Education Quality and Standards Committee on the introduction of a specific set of questions for professional doctorates and changes to questions for students on placement.

Library

Senate considered and commended the Annual Report from the Library.

Digital Strategy

Senate received a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer on a new University digital strategy, which would form the basis for a programme of work, which would be developed in the coming months. The Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research and Education set out the ways in which the digital strategy would support delivery against the University strategy in these two key areas. The Digital Strategy will return for sign-off by the University Executive Board.

Award ceremonies

Senate approved changes to the dates of award ceremonies for 2022 Finalists and consequential adjustments to the Calendar of Boards of Studies. It also approved arrangements for ceremonies for graduates from 2020 and 2021.

Committees

Senate approved a change of name and amendments to Terms of Reference for Research Committees at faculty and department level, designed to embed knowledge exchange into the committee structure. It also approved changes to the membership of the University Doctoral Studies Committee, the Board of Studies (Doctoral), and the Godfrey and Sue Hall Postgraduate Research Student Prize Committee.