

Web update from Senate

The following issues were discussed at the meeting of Senate on 3 February 2021:

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 working hard responding to the Coronavirus pandemic and also gave an update from the meeting of Court on 28 January.

COVID-19 Arrangements

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) and Chief Operating Officer gave an update on COVID-19 arrangements.

Academic Year Dates

Senate agreed Academic Year Dates 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Senate received an update statement from Alex Butler, the Executive Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and recommended that the University support the application for a Silver Athena Swann award, instigate measures needed to seek a Race Equality Charter and continue work on participation in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index and as a Disability Confident Employer.

Senate also voted to recommend to Council that it should adopt 'the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's \(IHRA\)](#) working definition on anti-Semitism as a reference point in the development of our staff and student processes'. It also recommended a clarification be added to protect freedom of speech, acknowledging that it is not anti-Semitic to criticise the Government of Israel and its policies or actions alone, as other universities have done and as recommended by the by the [Home Affairs Select Committee in 2016](#).

Student Discipline

Senate agreed in principle changes regarding Student Discipline and Misconduct Committee and its Chair, and arrangements for student appeals but would further consider some detailed points before these changes were implemented.

Honorary Degrees

Senate agreed changes to the Honorary Degrees criteria and guidance; and to recommend to Council additions to the composition of the Honorary Degrees Committee.

It also agreed to recommend an amendment to Ordinance 14.12 to Council to slightly expand the potential presenters of Honorary Degrees, so they could be presented by senior members of staff or members of University Council, but also that the Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee may appoint other presenters in specific cases if appropriate.

Committee Terms of Reference

Senate also agreed further minor revisions to Committee Terms of Reference for two Senate Committees, with immediate effect:

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

It also noted that terms of reference for Curriculum committee / Curriculum transformation committee would be revised following email consultation.

Standing Orders for Joint Committees of Council and Senate

Senate agreed revised Standing Orders for Joint Committees of Council and Senate,

Joint Scheme of delegation for Council and Senate

Senate approved the Joint Scheme of delegation for Council and Senate.

Senate membership of Council

Senate agreed that the maximum term of Senate members on Council would be nine years (three x three year terms), with a recommendation that the measure should not be introduced retrospectively if possible.