In the Chair: Professor Richard A Williams

Present Also: Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi * Professor Gabriela Medero
Professor Scott Arthur Dr Kevin Muldoon
Dr Frédéric Bosché Dr Gillian Murray
Dr Jim Cameron Professor Jemina Napier
Dr Antonin Chapoy Dr Mehdi Nazarinia *
Professor Malcolm Chrisp Dr Gina Netto
Professor Patrick Corbett Mrs Vanessa Northway *
Professor Susan Dewar Mr Larry O’Brien *
Dr Catherine Donnelly Mr Mark Parker
Professor Dugald Duncan Professor Beatrice Pelloni
Dr Ahmed ElSheik Dr Sandhya Patidar
Dr Alan Forster Professor Garry Pender
Professor Ian Galbraith Ms Jane Priest
Dr Shumei Gao Dr James Richards
Dr Alan Gow Mr Kieran Robson Renner
Dr Aude Le Guennec Professor John Sawkins *
Professor Gillian Hogg Mr Rahul Singh
Professor Julian Jones Professor Nick Taylor
Professor Ammar Kaka * Dr Sue Thomas
Dr Sara Keith Dr Gillian Thomson
Professor Angus Macdonald Dr Kathryn Waite
Professor Robert Maclntosh Professor Fiona Waldron *
Dr Fiona McNeill Professor Robert Weston
Dr Jingsheng Ma Dr Daniil Yurchenko

In Attendance: Ms Ann Marie Dalton-Pillay Mr Paul Travill
Ms Lucy Graham Mr Richard McGookin
Dr Maggie King Mr John McDermott (Clerk)
Ms Kathy McCabe Dr Tony Weir and Ms Carolyn Brock
(Research Engagement) (to M19/04)

Observers: Mr Mubin Mohd Hanafiah (President, Mr Anthony Kingston D’Santos (President,
Student Association, Malaysia) * Student Council, Dubai) *
Mr Andrew Milligan (Member of Court)

* Indicates participated remotely

Apologies: Dr Lyonell Boulton Dr Nasir Al Lagtah
Dr Tessa Berg Professor Steve McLaughlin
Ms Sue Collier Professor Stuart Macgregor
Mr Shai Davidov Professor Heather McGregor
Dr Christopher Dodd Dr Mutasim Nour
Dr Fadi Ghaith Mr Gerry Reilly
Dr Amos Haniff Dr Mohamed Sheriff
Dr Paul Hopkinson Professor Vicki Stone
Dr David Jenkins Ms Rachel Sutherland
Dr Marion Winters

MIN REF

M19/01 WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting, making special mention of those colleagues
joining remotely from Dubai and Malaysia.

The Chair also welcomed Mr Milligan, a member of Court, who was observing the meeting.
The Chair further noted that the Student Presidents in Dubai and Malaysia, Mr D’Santos and Mr Hanafiah were also observing, in advance of becoming members of the Senate (along with some further Student members) subsequent to the anticipated approval and enactment of the revised Charter and Statutes.

The Chair reported that this was to be the last meeting of the Senate for Dr Bosché, who would be leaving the University on March 29th and would thus demit office as a Senator. The Senate joined the Chair in thanking Dr Bosché for his service to the Senate, and to the University, over several years and wished him well in his future career. It was noted that a successor would be sought in the elections to Senate in the Spring.

A further welcome was extended to colleagues from Research Engagement, Dr Weir (Head of Policy, Strategy and Impact) and Ms Brock (Impact Manager), who were attending to assist in particular with the REF Readiness presentation and discussion.

The apologies for absence were recorded.

**M19/02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Received

Approved

The Senate approved the minutes as a correct record, following the agreement of some amendments to section M18/80 and the correction of some typographical errors.

**M19/03 MATTERS ARISING**

Noted

There were no matters arising from the minutes not flagged for consideration elsewhere on the agenda.

**M19/04 REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR [Paper: SEN/19/01]**

Received

Noted

A report from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, which gave the Senate a summary of key issues and news for the University and the wider HE sector.

The Senate considered the themes contained in the report from the Principal and noted in particular the position regarding student recruitment for 2019/20. The application rates from the Rest of UK was giving concern, although many colleagues were working very hard to address the situation. It was noted that although applications were down, offer making was up (with no degradation of standards), and activities such as applicant visit days would help to convert applicants to entrants. The Senate noted that Postgraduate taught applications were up, and, again much work was underway to ensure that the enrolment figure in the autumn was positive.

The Senate noted that the Scottish Funding Council had announced an effective cut in resources for the coming year, which would require some work to make good the shortfall. It was noted that the growing success of Graduate Apprentice programmes was one element of the efforts to grow income and enhance connectivity with employers. It was further noted that a review of the University’s portfolio of programmes would shortly be underway, and that the outcomes of this review would be brought to the Senate via its committees as appropriate.

The Senate noted that a close monitor was being kept on developments in relation to Brexit, where continued uncertainty made forward planning difficult. Further uncertainty surrounded the potential plans for a change of fee structure in England, via the Augur Review. It was noted that the anticipated outcomes of this Review could have opportunities for Scottish institutions, as well as potential difficulties. The UK government approach was therefore awaited with interest.

In relation to Staff engagement, the Senate noted that the groups set up under the four themes previously discussed at Senate were now meeting, and that the new Director of HR Development was now in post and would be informing future activities in this regard. In addition it was expected that engagement would play a part in the PDR process, and that initiatives such as the regular ‘this week at UE’ videos would help to raise awareness among colleagues of some of the decision-making in the University. The commitment to make genuine progress on Staff engagement was reaffirmed.

The Senate noted the remainder of the Report.
EXCELLING IN RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
(Paper SEN/19/02)

Received
The Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation) and Deputy Principal (Enterprise and Business) presented a Strategy Implementation Plan towards ‘Excelling in Research and Enterprise’. (NB the slides are logged on the Senate SharePoint site)

Noted
It was noted that the Research and Enterprise Strategy was a core pillar of the overall Strategy 2025, and that the University Committee for Research and Innovation (UCRI) was still in the process of developing a Strategy document for approval. The Strategy would drive forward the Research and Enterprise agenda, including through scaling up activities, enhancing connectivity between initiatives and cultivating partnerships.

It was suggested that the imminent opening of the GRID, which would be a flagship facility for the whole University, would provide further opportunities to build upon existing strengths as well as developing and expanding new areas of opportunity and growth. It was reaffirmed that the Research and Enterprise Strategy would continue the interdisciplinary approach and close collaboration with industry and business, as well as the public and voluntary sectors, providing a seamless evolution from fundamental research to innovation and enterprise.

It was anticipated that the National Robotarium would provide a template for joint collaborative working, including enhancing links with government and the third sector, and in developing methodology that shares best practice. It was further noted that work was underway to map the research and enterprise contacts so as to refine awareness of routes to influencers.

The Senate thanked the Deputy Principals (R&I and E&B) for the update presentation and looked forward to receiving the proposed Research and Enterprise Strategy at a future meeting.

RESEARCH: REF READINESS REPORT  
(Presentation) (Paper SEN/19/03)

Received
The Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation), supported by the colleagues from Research Engagement, Dr Weir (Head of Policy, Strategy and Impact) and Ms Brock (Impact Manager), gave the Senate a detailed presentation of the preparations towards the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021. (NB the slides are logged on the Senate SharePoint site)

Noted
The Senate noted the pertinent changes between REF 2021 and the previous iteration (REF 2014), and considered how these were impacting on the preparations. It was noted that the University expected to submit fewer outputs on this occasion, but that this would involve more colleagues. The Senate was presented with the detailed findings of a 2018 (internal) review to assess research activity and impact under the eleven units of assessment. It was noted that quality assessments were still in the development process and being evidenced and profiled. It was further noted that more case studies had been conducted than would be required. The next phase would be to provide systematic feedback, and that the case studies could be updated and refined before submission.

The Senate thanked the colleagues from Research Engagement, and all others involved in the process, for the significant volume of work so far, and looked forward to receiving further updates in future.

STRATEGY 2025: LAUNCH AND IMPLEMENTATION  
(Presentation)

Received
The Senate received and considered a presentation from the Principal to mark the launch of the Strategy 2025 and the early stages of its implementation. (NB the slides are logged on the Senate SharePoint site)

Noted
The Principal thanked Senators for their previous work to bring together the Strategy, and now for being strategy ambassadors as it got underway. The Senate noted that the launch events – which were taking place at every campus of the University – were opportunities to play out the values of the University and to celebrate our successes. The launch was also opportunity to engage in conversation as to how the University will achieve its strategic goals.

It was suggested that the distinctiveness of the University, informed by the Strategy, would greatly assist it to meet the challenging environment of the coming years, not least the prospect of changing funding regimes in the rest of the UK (RUK) and the on-going uncertainties around Brexit, with possible economic downturn.
The Senate noted that the Values – Inspire, Belong, Collaborate, Celebrate – were positive and ambitious, and were intended to provide a ‘golden thread’ to help bring together our community of Staff and Students. Senators were reminded to keep engaging with the microsite, which would provide frequent updates on progress against milestones for Year 1 of the Plan.

The Senate noted that the annual stakeholder meeting, in September 2019, would provide the first opportunity for celebration of the Strategy with external partners and the community at large.

The Senate noted the launch of the Strategy 2025, and anticipated further discussion at future meetings of progress against milestones.

M19/08 SENATE GOVERNANCE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW [Paper: SEN/19/04]

Received The Senate received and considered the Report on the outcomes of the externally conducted Governance Effectiveness Review, and in particular focused on the findings as they related to the Senate. The opportunity for the Senate to comment was noted to be the penultimate stage in forming the University’s response to the Report, which would be agreed by the Court at an upcoming meeting.

Noted The Secretary of the University informed the Senate of the background to the Review and Senate noted that a requirement of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance was for the Court and Senate of each HE institution to regularly review their effectiveness and to report publicly on the results these reviews and the associated actions. The input of the Senate was therefore integral to the overall response to the report.

The Senate noted that one action from the report would be the articulation of the role of Senator. Work had commenced on this, and there would be opportunity to consider a draft at the next meeting of Senate.

The Senate noted disappointment that the review report had not reflected the extent of the consultation and engagement that had been undertaken by the consultants. In particular there had been an expectation that the level of support that had been provided around the Standing Committees of Senate may have informed some analysis of the important work that these committees undertake on behalf of the Senate. It was suggested that in preparing for future exercises, the external reviewers would have this element underlined at an early stage.

Considered In considering the recommendations, the Senate concurred with the need for suitable time set aside at its meetings to consider and reach conclusion on important topics. It was recognised as important to try to keep ‘formulaic’ business to a minimum, and for Senators to engage in discussion of Strategic topics to a greater extent. It was emphasised that the Senate Committee for Interim Business and Effectiveness (SCIBE) had a key role in setting the forward agenda for meetings of the Senate, and that Senators could suggest to the SCIBE possible topics for inclusion on the Senate agenda.

The Senate considered its relationship with the Court, and welcomed the occasional attendance of Court members as observers at Senate meetings. The Senate also welcomed the suggestion of an annual joint meeting with the Court – as long as there would be suitable strategic content for joint consideration. It was agreed that the joint session in November 2018 to consider the values to inform Strategy 2025 had been successful.

Agreed The Senate agreed to endorse the response to the report, with the above comments factored in accordingly, and to commend it to the Court to submit.

The Senate noted that the response – once agreed by the Court – would be published along with the report of the review.

M19/09 STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS 2016/17 AND 2017/18 [Paper: SEN/19/05]

Received The Senate received and considered the report on Student Discipline, which was introduced by the Academic Registrar in the absence of the Chair of the Discipline Committee.

Noted The Senate noted that there had been considerable work behind the scenes by the Student Conduct Officer, in collaboration with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee in preparing
the report, and interrogating the figures in order to gain an appreciation of what behaviours they were reflecting, and what actions or policies could be put in place to change those behaviours. The Senate noted that the Chair of the Discipline Committee would welcome any comments on the matter from Senators outwith the meeting. It was further noted that the cycle of reports would be back on track from February 2020.

Considered
A number of Senators contributed to discussion. It was noted that although the greatest volume of cases related to plagiarism, this still amounted to less than 1% of the Student body. It was noted that future reports would be enhanced with greater detail and context where available. The President of the Student Union requested that future reports should record cases by campus in order that attention could be brought to bear if necessary. The Senate noted the report and thanked all those involved with its preparation.

M19/10
REPORT FROM ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE [Paper: SEN/19/06]

Received
The report of matters considered by the Committee by correspondence in February 2019, which included proposed modifications to Regulations, for the approval of the Senate, and a draft Ordinance, for which agreement was sought to submit to the Court for approval.

Considered
The Senate considered and was content with a series of proposed modifications to Regulations in order to put into effect a decision of the Research Degrees Committee, via the University Committee for Research and Innovation, to reduce from two to one the number of copies of theses that candidates for research degrees were required to submit. The Senate further considered a proposed Ordinance to govern the use of the University Seal. It was noted that this matter properly should be governed within the Ordinances rather than the Regulations as at present, and that the proposed Ordinance replicated the wording of the current Regulation 24. It was noted that the current Regulation 24 would require to be rescinded if and when the Court approved the new Ordinance. At the request of the Secretary of the University, the Senate agreed modified wording so that the final sentence of paragraph 5 would read “No additional witnesses are required by the University.”.

Agreed
The Senate approved to come into immediate effect the proposed modifications to Regulations: 6 (Degree of Doctor of Philosophy); 7 (Degree of Doctor of Science and Doctor of Engineering); 8 (Degree of Doctor of Letters); 37 (Degree of Doctor of Business Administration); 43 (Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Published Research); and 49 (Higher Degrees of Master (Research).

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Court approval of the proposed Ordinance A7 (Common Seal of the University), as amended above and to come into immediate effect; and further agreed to rescind Regulation 24 (Common Seal of the University) from the date that the Court approved Ordinance A7.

M19/11
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY AND STANDARDS [Paper: SEN/19/07]

Received
The minutes of the meetings of the University Committee for Quality and Standards (UCQS) held on 12 December 2018 and 30 January 2019.

Considered
The Senate received and considered the report of business conducted by the Committee, which had included:

a) proposed modification to the Terms of Reference for UCQS to incorporate an oversight role for Student-related matters that the Senate recently had agreed to delegate to Schools (it was noted that the SCIBE had been content to endorse the change);

b) a proposal that all integrated Masters degrees across all Schools should be classified according to the established Honours degree classification system. Consequently, undergraduate Integrated Masters should no longer be classified in terms of Merit or Distinction (proposed to come into effect from 2019/20). It was noted that Regulation 3 would require to be modified accordingly;

c) a proposal for classification of Taught Postgraduate Masters Degrees to introduce ‘Merit’ for Taught Postgraduate Masters degrees (to come into effect from 2019/20). It was noted that Regulation 48 would require to be modified accordingly;

d) a proposal for a new University Policy for Undergraduate Degree-Classification Borderline Cases (implementation from 2018/19 – ie with immediate effect); and
Approved at the Senate meeting on 11 April 2019

Agreed

The Senate approved:

a) the modification to the Terms of Reference for UCQS as proposed;
b) the proposal that Regulation 3 (Modular First Degrees) would be modified so that from 2019/20 all integrated Masters degrees across all Schools would be classified according to the established Honours degree classification system, and that undergraduate Integrated Masters would no longer be classified in terms of Merit or Distinction;
c) the proposal that Regulation 48 (Higher Degrees of Master (Taught)) would be modified so that from 2019/20 classification of Taught Postgraduate Masters Degrees would include ‘Merit’;
d) the University Policy for Undergraduate Degree-Classification Borderline Cases, to come into immediate effect; and

e) the modifications to Regulation 33 (Combined Studies) as proposed, to come into immediate effect.

It was noted that the modified Regulations properly would be referred to the Ordinances and Regulations Committee to ensure that the respective wording would be consistent with Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and other Regulations.
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE [Paper: SEN/19/11]

Received
The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018.

Noted
The Senate received and noted the report of business conducted by the Committee at its final meeting prior to being disestablished, which included: new and modified programme proposals. The Senate noted that the Chair’s Actions taken between meetings as reported in the minutes related to: the approval of amendments to registration of Students.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE [Paper: SEN/19/12]

Received
The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2018.

Noted
The Senate received and noted the report of business conducted by the Committee at its final meeting prior to being disestablished. The Senate noted that the Chair’s Actions taken between meetings as reported in the minutes related to: the approval of amendments to registration of Students. The Senate again recorded its appreciation of the Chairs, members and clerks of the Studies Committees over the years in which they had conducted importance business on behalf of the Senate.

CLOSING REMARKS

Noted
The Principal and Vice-Chancellor thanked all present for participating in the meeting, and informed Senators of the intention for the next meeting to focus on Strategic discussions on the topics of: Mental Health / Wellbeing; and ELIR4 2020.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted
The dates of further meetings of the Senate in Session 2018/19 were noted as:
Thursday 11 April 2019;       Wednesday 12 June 2019;
Wednesday 11 September 2019;  Thursday 12 December 2019;
Wednesday 26 February 2020;   Thursday 23 April 2020;
Wednesday 17 June 2020.

It was noted that the normal timing of meetings was 9.30 am to 12.00 noon (UK time), and the Edinburgh location would normally be the South Pod, in the EBS building (if available).