

Senate

20/17 A meeting of the Senate was held via teams , on Wednesday 6 May 2020 at 2.15pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Dr Emma Aston
Professor Cindy Becker
Professor Adrian Bell
Dr Rebecca Berkley
Dr Katrina Bicknell
Professor Helen Bilton
Professor Ingo Bojak
Professor David Carter
Professor Claire Collins
Professor Ben Cosh
Dr Giuseppe Di Fatta
Professor Mark Fellowes
Dr David Field
Professor Richard Frazier
Professor Clare Furneaux
Dr Francesca Greco
Professor Andrew Godley
Professor Louise Hague
Dr Rebecca Harris
Professor Chris Harty
Dr Lawrence Hill -Cawthorne
Dr Chloe Houston
Professor Carmel Houston -Price
Dr Katherine Hyde
Ms Rebecca
Professor Steve Musson
Dr Karen Poulter
Professor Jane Setter

Dr Mark Shanahan
Dr Stephanie Sharp
Professor Simon Sheratt
Professor David Stack
Professor Vesna Stojanovic
Professor Katja Strohfeldt
Dr Maria Vahdati
Professor Sue Walker
Dr Hong Wei
Professor Emily West
Dr Karin Whiteside
Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Paul Williams
Dr Hong Yang
Professor Parveen Yaqoob
Professor Dominik Zaum

Students :

Molli Cleaver
Fifi Bangham
Gemma King
Daisy O'Connor

Student Representatives:

Nikola os Dimitriou

In attendance :

Ms Louise Sharman (Secretary)
Ms Sam Foley
Dr Richard Messer
Deepa Govindarajan Driver

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed members to the Senate and explained how the meeting would be run through teams . Questions had been collated in advance of the meeting and additional comments would be raised via the chat function.

20/18 The Minutes (20/01 - 20/16) of the meeting held on 4 March 2020 were approved .

Items for Presentation and M T9d ()Tj /To

c) University of Reading Malaysia

In Malaysia, the lockdown was extended until at least 12 May with conditions tighter than in the UK. All teaching for the summer term was online and preparations were complete for take-home exams. The QAA had published a report on TNE in Malaysia, which was very positive.

d) Support for the NHS and local community

Many colleagues continued to play an important role in contributing to the response to the pandemic in the UK and worldwide. The University has received a number of requests to support the NHS and local community; the #wearetogether campaign has shared a number of these stories.

e) Financial Implications of COVID -19

The Vice-Chancellor had been clear in the start of term message and the recent all-staff talks that there would be significant financial implications of the pandemic. A report commissioned from (London) by (MCP) 4-8 Dec 11-43 (Sweden) (C)

- x The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that the pace of decision making around exams, assessment and changes to processes had been quicker than would have been liked. It was noted that Senate had been asked to comment at very short notice

- x Students had been engaged with through RUSU and via School Boards for Teaching and Learning.

In response to questions raised ahead of the meeting and in the meeting chat:

- x Could all policy-related communications to students be sent to staff first and

academic year.

With no current published national plan for a phased return to activities the University was considering a variety of scenarios. It was likely that formal decisions

group was currently gathering information from student s and Schools and was reviewing what other HEIs were planning.

The Senate noted that ideally a decision on the autumn term would need to be taken in the next couple of weeks.

time to be ill/ recover/teach/learn.

- x TEL and ADE would give guidance and advise on best practice re blended versus face-to-face.
- x The University already had good online provision – MOOCs, AHEP, HBS, AFTP. It would be good to combine that experience and share good practice (Professor Strohfeldt was pulling that together).
- x [Redacted, section 43]
- x The start date for HBS international MScs was 28.9.20 was not the cliff -edge. It was three months before then when IELTS were taken and then applications for pre -sessional English. Delaying the Autumn Term by 3 or 4 weeks would be really helpful for those students. IELTS had not restarted in China. ISLI had recently approved a number of online tests as alternatives to IELTS and give access to our pre-sessional English programme.
- x SPEIR had upgraded a room for lecture capture – this would be shared to allow a quality product for students.
- x

