

# THE UNIVERSITIES OF HULL/YORK

## Senate

### HYMS Joint Senate Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2011

Present: Professor T Sheldon (**Chair**)  
Professor J Greenman  
Dr S Holland  
Professor T Kendrick  
Mr A Mersch  
Mr T Ngwena

In attendance: Dr G Davidson  
Dr P Evans, Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from Professor G Burgess, Ms K Dodd, Professor N Stafford and Dr A Wilcox.

#### **PART A: UNRESERVED BUSINESS**

##### **11/12 Minutes**

The unreserved minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011 were **approved**.

Further to M11/1, it was **decided** that a recent BMJ report on progression and ethnicity should be considered at the next meeting.

##### **11/13 Review of HYMS Governance**

The Chair and Secretary **reported** verbally on the current status of an ongoing review of HYMS governance. It was **noted** that recommendations were currently being considered by the Vice-Chancellors of both universities before submission to the HYMS Joint Board and consequential amendment of the HYMS Memorandum of Understanding. Areas reviewed included the following:

- communication
- oversight of research governance
- joint planning arrangements
- the Joint Board
- the Joint Senate & Joint Learning & Teaching Committee

- internal management arrangements
- internal audit arrangements
- engagement/attendance
- research staff contracts

The Chair also **reported** the possibility, now that HYMS had entered into a more advanced stage of its development, that the Joint Senate and Joint Learning & Teaching Committee might be merged to rationalise and streamline the academic governance of HYMS. In the event of this happening, the terms of reference and constituency of the new joint body would be amended accordingly.

#### 11/14 Writing Up/Extension Periods

Further to M11/2, the Joint Senate **considered** a report from the Joint Learning & Teaching Committee which confirmed that it had responded to comments from the Joint Senate on the policy for writing up and extension periods for postgraduate research students, and that the policy had been amended accordingly.

With regard to writing-up periods for MPhil students, the Joint Senate Committee **considered** whether the policy should be harmonised with the regulations of the two universities or with the regulations relating to other HYMS postgraduate programmes, and specifically whether there should be differentiation between full- and part-time students. After due consideration of the issues, and acknowledging that direct registration for an MPhil was highly unusual, it **decided** that the writing-up period for MPhil students, both full- and part-time, should be 12 months.

#### 11/15 Joint Learning & Teaching Committee

The Committee **considered** the unreserved minutes from the meeting of the Joint Learning & Teaching Committee held on 17 March 2011, noting specifically that:

- it had been agreed not to progress with a proposal for the introduction of distinction and merit awards in postgraduate certificates and diplomas;
- regulations were being drafted for the introduction of a PhD/MD by Published Work.

The Joint Senate **approved** the recommendation from the Joint Learning & Teaching Committee that an amended Code of Practice on Admissions to the MB BS programme be approved, noting that the amendments related to health questionnaires and CRB checks.

## 11/16 Report from Dean of HYMS

The Committee **received** a report from the Dean of HYMS, noting in particular:

- current status of medium-term planning arrangements in respect of the HYMS budget;
- variations in NSS response rate between York and Hull-registered HYMS students;
- allocation of foundation posts;
- new appointments in the area of assessment;
- in the context of agreed recruitment numbers, real terms cut to SIFT funding for 2011/12;
- postgraduate developments (including postgraduate numbers, CPD for GPs and proposal to offer an MSc in Human Evolution);
- research developments (including opening of the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research, bid for Biomedical Research Unit, pump priming from the Research Strategy Committee and the successful HONEI project in Hull).

With regard to staffing, it was **noted** that Professor David Blaney (Dean of the Undergraduate School) was leaving HYMS and would be replaced in the short term (until December 2011) by two Deputy Deans, Drs Colin Melville and Steven Oliver. The Joint Senate offered its thanks to Professor Blaney for his contribution to the development of the undergraduate curriculum.

## 11/17 Revised Term Dates

The Joint Senate **noted** the revised HYMS term dates for 2010/11 - 2014/15 which had been approved by Chair's Action.

## 11/18 Dates of Meetings in 2011/12

The dates of meetings in 2011/12 were **noted** as follows:

Thursday 13 October 2011, 10am  
Thursday 19 January 2012, 2pm  
Thursday 3 May 2012, 10am