UNIVERSITY OF YORK

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellor, Ms E Heaps
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor J Local
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor J Robinson
Academic Co-ordinator, Professor M Ormrod

Professor E Annandale
Professor K Atkin
Professor S Bell
Professor M Bentley
Professor C Brown
Professor B Chambers
Dr A Charlwood
Dr S Chong
Dr J Clarbour
Mr T Clarke
Professor E Corrigan
Professor I Davies
Professor R Godby
Professor V Gould
Professor J Hill
Professor D Howard

Professor A Jones
Professor E Prettejohn
Professor J Schofield
Dr J Schofield
Professor P Sells
Professor D Smith
Professor T Stoneham
Professor Q Summerfield
Professor R Taylor
Mr C ap Tomos (SU)
Mr H Toynton (SU)
Professor J Wainwright
Mr G Wall
Professor J Woodcock
Mr K Zu (GSA)

In attendance: The Registrar and Secretary
The Academic Registrar
University Governance Officer, Dr P Evans
SU Academic Officer, Mr D Whitmore
Deputy Director of Corporate Planning, Mr J Busby (for M12-13/42)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor C Mellors, Mr S Town, Professor A Webster, Professor J Bennett, Professor M Goddard, Professor B Chambers, Professor H Graham, Professor S Carroll, Professor S Thompson, Professor M Maynard, Dr C Fewster, Dr O Lisagor and Mr R Yates.
Membership

On behalf of Senate, the Vice-Chancellor thanked those members who were attending their last meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the business transacted in May 2013 were approved.

Appointments to Committees

Further to M12-13/29, Senate approved the following appointments to committees (S.12-13/34):

Court
Professor Jim Woodcock (Head of Department of Computer Science)
Dr Jane Clarbour (Psychology and Provost of Goodricke College)
Professor Elizabeth Prettejohn (Head of Department of History of Art)
Dr John Schofield (Head of Department of Archaeology)

Council
Professor Richard Taylor (Head of Department of Chemistry)

Special Cases Committee
Mrs Penny Broadley (Health Sciences) (re-appointment)
Mr Tim Clarke (Electronics) (re-appointment)
Dr Gustav Delius (Mathematics) (re-appointment)
Dr Louise Haagh (Politics) (re-appointment)
Professor Jo Swaffield (Economics) (re-appointment)
Mr Steve Roskams (Department of Archaeology)
Dr Paul Johnson (Sociology)

Equality & Diversity Committee
Professor Maria Goddard (Centre for Health Economics) (re-appointment)
Dr Sabrina Chai (Department of Social Policy & Social Work)

Health Safety and Welfare Committee
Lucy Hudson (Operational Manager, Biology)

Nominations Committee
Professor Kathleen Kiernan (Department of Social Policy & Social Work)
Dr Kate Giles (Department of Archaeology)

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Professor David Howard (Head of Department of Electronics)

Research Committee
Dr Jon Finch (Department of Archaeology)
Professor Timo Gans (Department of Physics)

Teaching Committee
Dr Cordula van Wyhe (History of Art)
Dr Aine Shiel (Music)
Cathy Dantec (Language & Linguistic Science)
Dr Jan Hardman (Education)
Dr Jacco Thijssen (Economics)
Mrs Lesley Booth (Lifelong Learning) (re-appointment)

[All appointments for a period of three years from 1 August 2013 until 31 July 2016 unless otherwise stated.]

It was noted that as more nominations had been received than there were vacancies for the following positions, a ballot would be held:

- Academic Promotions Committee (one social scientist)
- Teaching Committee (two scientists)

It was also noted that vacancies remained on the following committees:

- Special Cases Committee (two academic members)
- Research Committee (one academic member)
- Student Experience Committee (one academic member)

Senate decided to delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor to make appointments to the remaining vacancies and the Vice-Chancellor asked members to notify the University Governance Officer (philip.evans@york.ac.uk) of any nominations as soon as possible.

12-13/41 Statement by the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor reported the following matters:

Events/Developments

York was the only UK university to rank in the top 10 in the Times Higher Education (THE) world ranking of universities less than 50 years old. Eight
nations were represented in the top 10 of the rankings for 2013, with York rising one place to seventh.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the University had held three graduation ceremonies in Beijing to confer degrees on nearly 400 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The University had hosted the Royal Academy of Engineering’s Annual Soiree in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, as Royal Fellow of the Academy.

The University had been the focus for the 2013 York Festival of Ideas with a diverse programme of mostly free events across the city on the theme of ‘North and South’.

The University had hosted the ‘Fragile States’ conference in New York at which experts from around the world met to promote the role of education in helping to deliver peace and long-term development in fragile or conflict-affected countries.

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Conservation and Learning (CIRCLE), a joint initiative between the University and Flamingo Land Theme Park and Zoo, had won the PraxisUnico Collaborative Impact Award for the outstanding impact of its conservation and educational work.

People

Professor David Smith (Chemistry) had been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning.

Dr Alice Hall (English and Related Literature) had been named as one of ten ‘New Generation Thinkers’ for 2013 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the BBC.

Dr Atsufumi Hirohata (Electronics) had received one of eight new Royal Society Industry Fellowships.

Professor Jo Wainwright (Music) had been awarded the Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians for his work in the field.
Dr Nick Pears (Computer Science) had won a Leverhulme Trust-supported Royal Academy of Engineering Senior Research Fellowship.

Dr Isabel Saez (Chemistry) had been awarded the Cyril Hilsum Medal by the British Liquid Crystal Society.

**Student Recruitment**

The Vice-Chancellor reported that with the period for confirmation and clearing approaching, he had written to Heads of Departments to emphasise the importance of seeking to achieve agreed student recruitment targets. It was noted that, while application numbers had held up in 2013, the ratio of acceptances to offers had diminished slightly, which would require mitigating actions to be taken in some departments, including through adjustments to medium-term planning (MTP) agreements as necessary.

**12-13/42 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degree Outcomes**

Senate considered the annual statistical report on undergraduate and postgraduate taught outcomes and postgraduate research submission rates (S.12-13/35).

Attending the meeting to present the report, the Deputy Director of Corporate Planning (John Busby) highlighted the main points, including:

**Undergraduate**

- rise of 3.2% in award of good (first and upper second) degrees, bringing the University more closely in line with the Russell Group average;
- ongoing variation in outcomes across academic departments (to be further explored by a deeper analysis of a more extensive data set, with the assistance of statisticians from the Department of Health Sciences, in order to isolate causes of variation);
- sector-level HESA data by subject (likewise to be subject to further analysis, including entry tariff trends by subject);
- suggestions from Teaching Committee regarding specific areas for further analysis (including in respect of minority groups, OFFA target groups and study abroad);
PGR

- replication of the Guardian Postgraduate Guide methodology for analysing the data;
- 92.7% of students obtaining intended awards (2.1% obtaining lower-level award, 5.3% no qualification);
- three-year trend of outcomes by department (with intention to seek sector benchmarking data for comparison);

PGR

- institutional submission rates for full-time study over a four-year period for 2008/09 starters (67% submitted on time, 12% with extension, 10% not yet submitted, 10% withdrawn);
- small shifts at institutional level but wider variations across the three subject areas (including marked deterioration in timely submission rates in Social Sciences);
- HEFCE data providing projected (not historic) rates of submission assessed over a seven-year period (with the next such published data to confirm a decline at the University from 79.7% to 75%).

During discussion the following points were noted:

(a) The postgraduate analysis presented in the report aggregated full-time and part-time students for PGT outcomes and focused solely on full-time students for PGR outcomes. In future analyses it would be desirable to separate out these different modes of study.

(b) Degree class outcomes for specific programmes were now reported on the Unistats website as part of the Key Information Set (KIS), where cohorts were of a sufficient size.

(c) The volume of PGR extensions across departments was a useful performance indicator for both students and the University, although it was acknowledged that, as there would be legitimate grounds for such extensions, less pejorative terminology might be used than simply describing them as late and aggregating them with those that had submitted following an agreed leave of absence.

Senate thanked the Planning Office for compiling the report and noted that the proposed deeper analysis, based on the first full cohort through the new
Modular Scheme, would be presented to Teaching Committee and then Senate in Spring 2014.

12-13/43 Business from Committees

Senate noted and approved business from the following committee meetings (S.12-13/36):

- Teaching Committee: 20 May and 24 June 2013
- Research Committee: 14 June 2013
- Planning Committee: 8 May 2013
- Special Cases Committee: 31 May 2013
- HYMS Joint Senate Committee: 2 May 2013

12-13/44 Periodic Review Reports

Senate received for information periodic review reports in respect of the Department of Archaeology and the Law School (S.12-13/37).

12-13/45 Replacement Degree Certificates

Senate received for information a report from the Assistant Registrar (Student Progress) in respect of the provision of replacement degree certificates (S.12-13/38).

12-13/46 Calendar of Meetings 2013/14

Senate received for information the Calendar of Meetings for 2013/14 (S.12-13/39).

12-13/47 Dates of Meetings in 2013/14

The dates of Senate meetings in 2013/14 were noted as follows:

- Tuesday 22 October 2013
- Tuesday 28 January 2014
- Tuesday 13 May 2014
- Tuesday 8 July 2014

Note: Following the meeting the Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that it had been the last meeting for Professor Brian Cantor as Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Senate. On behalf of the University and the Senate the Deputy Vice-Chancellor offered thanks to Professor Cantor for his leadership and achievements as Vice-Chancellor since 2002. The Senate also wished Professor Cantor continued success in his new role as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford.

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