UNIVERSITY OF YORK

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor D Smith
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor J Robinson
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor C Mellors

Professor E Annandale
Professor D Attwell
Professor S Bell
Professor J Bennett
Professor C Brown
Professor S Carroll
Dr J Clarbour
Mr T Clarke
Professor E Corrigan
Professor C Dytham
Professor N Ellison
Professor C Fewster
Dr A Field
Professor R Godby
Professor V Gould
Professor I Graham
Ms D Hale
Dr T Helgason
Professor A Higson
Professor D Howard
Dr O Lisagor

Dr J Moir
Mr A Oloyede
Professor M Ormrod
Professor G Ozkan
Professor E Prettejohn
Professor C Runciman
Professor J Schofield
Dr J Schofield
Professor P Sells
Professor T Sheldon
Professor L Stewart
Professor T Stoneham
Professor Q Summerfield
Mr K Taylor (SU)
Professor R Taylor
Professor S Thompson
Mr C ap Tomos
Mr H Toynton
Mr G Wall
Mr Y Wang (GSA)
Mr R Yates

In attendance: The Registrar and Secretary
The Academic Registrar
University Governance Officer, Dr P Evans
SU Academic Officer, Mr D Whitmore

Apologies for absence were received from Professor B Chambers, Dr S Chong, Professor M Goddard, Professor H Graham, Dr J de Groot, Professor C Hunter, Dr R Jacobs, Mr S Town and Professor A Tyrrell.
The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 were approved.

Statement by the Vice-Chancellor

Noting that this was his first meeting of Senate since taking up the post of Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lamberts reported the following matters:

- As the most important academic decision-making body in the University, the Senate should be an open and collegial forum for frank discussion of important academic matters.

- Since being in post he had met all Heads of Department and other colleagues in order to gain a better understanding of the key issues faced by the University.

- The recent ‘York Talks’ event, at which Anniversary Chairs had presented their research, had been highly successful in demonstrating the University’s research capacity and impact.

- Various meetings had been held with significant partnership groups (eg N8, White Rose Consortium, Science City York etc), and an evaluation would now be undertaken of these collaborations in order to ensure optimal engagement and value to the University.

- Productive meetings had been held with student leaders and sabbatical officers in order to establish a close working relationship and active engagement with the University’s development.

- A key priority would be to refresh the overarching University strategy, acknowledging the changed external environment since development of the current University Plan. Following a recent strategic away day held by the Senior Management Group, careful consideration would be given to the University’s future trajectory via a consultative process involving the governing body (Council) and the wider University community. The Vice-Chancellor expressed the hope that colleagues would actively contribute to the development of a strategy to guarantee the University’s future success, with the intention of bringing a strategy to Council for formal agreement in November 2014.

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- Work would be undertaken to extend the University’s influence in external networks such as government, the research councils, major charities/funders etc, making use of membership of the Russell Group where necessary, to ensure the University had a voice in critical policy-making arenas. Part of this activity would involve inviting the chief executives of the research councils to York in order to showcase the University’s research capabilities.

- Supported by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Academic Coordinators, work would continue to enhance the University’s research income, with particular emphasis on European funding through the ‘Horizon 20/20’ programme, which was about to be launched (nearly €80 billion of funding available over the period 2014 to 2020). It was noted that successfully accessing this European research fund could be transformational for the University.

- Following on from the outcome of the most recent Staff Survey, work would continue to develop processes for enhanced performance management, an area in which greater support was clearly needed for managers and individual members of staff.

- Once the longer term strategy had been finalised, further consideration would be given to the best structures to support its implementation. This would include reaching final resolution on a number of major ongoing issues, such as the future of the current academic clusters and also the structure of the academic year.

- With regard to the current industrial action by campus trade unions, the University’s position remained unchanged, namely that it hoped national negotiations would resolve the pay dispute, although it seemed likely that the employers’ association would maintain its position. The main concern throughout would be to ensure minimal disruption to students and their studies. In recognition of the effect of below-inflation pay increases on the lowest paid staff, the University had recently increased the salaries of staff on the bottom grades of the scale.

- The recent graduation ceremonies had been a great success and thanks were offered to staff in the Academic Registry and External Relations for organising such a complex series of events. The strong academic presence at graduation was also welcomed as it sent a positive message to graduands and their guests.
Business from Committees

Senate noted and approved business from the following committee meetings (S.13-14/15):

- Teaching Committee: 28 October and 2 December 2013
- Research Committee: 9 October and 20 November 2013
- Planning Committee: 30 October and 27 November 2013
- Special Cases Committee: 6 December 2013
- HYMS Joint Senate Committee: 10 October, 19 November 2013 and 16 January 2014

Committee Appointment

Senate approved the appointment of Professor Colin Brown (Head of Environment Department) to the Planning Committee, with immediate effect until 31 July 2016.

Periodic Review Reports

Senate received for information periodic review reports in respect of the Department of Psychology, Politics and Philosophy (S.13-14/17).

Review of EngD Programme

Senate received for information the report of the triennial review of the EngD programme in Computer Science (S.13-14/18).

Review of York International Foundation Programme

Senate received for information the report of the triennial review of the York International Foundation Programme (S.13-14/19).

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of Senate was scheduled for Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 3.15pm.