

Senate Meeting on 18 October 2022
Executive Summary for note by Council at its meeting on 30 November 2022

- (a) As it was the first meeting of the 2022/23 academic year the Vice-Chancellor welcomed all new members. Attention was also drawn to the revised agenda format/content which had been introduced as part of the implementation of the effectiveness review recommendations approved by Senate at its last meeting. The University Secretary also highlighted the membership changes arising from the review, some of which would be finalised during the coming term. Senate also approved an updated generic role descriptor for its members.
- (b) Senate considered an overview report from the Vice-Chancellor covering a range of current topics, issues, events and achievements. The Vice-Chancellor drew particular attention to: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; sectoral funding challenges, in particular as regards home undergraduate teaching; targeted financial support packages for students and lower paid staff in response to the current economic situation; the student recruitment out-turn for the current year and associated student accommodation matters; increase in QR funding from successful REF results and best ever research grant performance during 2021/22; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's planned retirement in August 2023. During discussion comments were noted on the University's debt portfolio (in the context of current interest rate rises); cost-of-living support funding for PGR students; risk assessment by the Chief Operating Officer regarding potential Winter power cuts and their effect on laboratory work; ongoing lobbying at national level regarding the USS pension scheme ahead of its next valuation in March 2023 [REDACTED].
- (c) Senate considered linked presentations from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TLS) and Director of Student Careers and Systems on National Student Survey (NSS) 2022 results and HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019/20. With regard to the NSS, attention was drawn to the headline institutional results, trends in the different survey dimensions over the last 5 years and comparison with the Russell Group (RG) and the University's benchmark group. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Current and planned responsive actions were noted as part of the ongoing development of a data-enabled Teaching and Learning Strategy which linked across the entire student journey in order to achieve the strategic aim of "no gaps" (in access, progression and attainment) by 2030. The report on Graduate Outcomes presented summary findings from the third annual publication of the survey and confirmed that overall the picture was relatively positive, with the University achieving a 3.9% increase to 82% in the *Times Graduate Prospects* metric (which was also an internal University performance indicator and used in the Teaching Excellence Framework [TEF]). This confirmed that more than 4 in 5 York graduates from the cohort in question were in highly skilled jobs or further study 15 months after graduating. The Director also drew attention to the ways in which different datasets were being integrated to enhance the careers planning guidance provided to students from enrolment through to graduation and beyond. In discussion Senate members commented on changes to self-certification policies for students presenting with exceptional circumstances and how enhanced use of the Blackboard virtual learning environment (VLE) would improve the timeliness of feedback to students. In response to a query on employability/career support for international students, it was reported that this was a key objective for Careers which had established a dedicated new post to develop a better understanding of global labour markets, an initiative which would also be supported by the University's Employability Strategy Group and its international alumni network.
- (d) Senate considered a presentation from the Director of Library, Archives and Learning Services on Digital Scholarship which covered: the application of computational methods to fields of study; the exploitation of digital collections; the unique collections and primary source databases held in the Library and Borthwick Institute; the transition to open access and 'pay to publish'; using collections as data/tools in research; training in digital skills and creativity; supporting activities such as digitisation and research data management. Senate members commented positively on the Library's role in making its collections more accessible as a teaching resource through digitisation. The ongoing development of Virtual Reality (VR) technology was also discussed as having great potential for enhancing both teaching and research activities.

- (e) Senate considered a presentation from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (P&E) and the Director of the Enterprise Hub (Enterprise Works) on its role in supporting entrepreneurial activity by staff and students and driving economic, social and cultural growth as part of the University's vision and ambition as an organisation committed to public good. Attention was drawn to examples of the specific activities and successful funding bids which the Hub had supported including in relation to start-ups, incubator space, company referrals, outreach and schools engagement. It was noted that funding was also being sought for new Chairs in entrepreneurship who would further support the current cross-cutting work bringing together teaching, research and partnerships. In discussion Senate members noted the benefits for social enterprises, sustainable growth and the regional economy, with the possibility of leveraging proven and successful initiatives/networks in support of others that were still in development. Noting that Enterprise Works was already operating at maximum capacity in the Guildhall, it was reported that additional space was being sought across the city, including through ongoing engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership around the York Central development. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (P&E) and Hub Director also commented on support for international students and the importance of expanding knowledge exchange activity internationally with support from the University's global alumni network and existing partnerships such as CITY College in Greece.
- (f) The University Secretary reported verbally on the external regulatory environment including: withdrawal of the QAA as the designated sector quality body; current OfS investigation of 'grade inflation' at three providers; publication of TEF guidance; OfS confirmation of minimum threshold standards for student outcomes (as a new registration condition); and progress of the Higher Education [Freedom of Speech] Bill through the House of Lords (likely to gain Royal Assent early in 2023).
- (g) Senate received a progress report from the Working Group under the Deputy Vice-Chancellor which was currently reviewing the criteria for academic promotions in the light of EDI considerations and acknowledgement of the more diverse types of academic role which now existed. As the first workstream, the Group would bring recommendations regarding the architecture and terminology for new criteria to the next meeting for consideration.
- (h) Noting that the Privy Council had recently approved amendments to the University's Charter and Statutes, Senate received a report from the University Secretary on the related work which would now ensue to update and restructure the Ordinances and Regulations. It also approved proposed amendments to Regulation 9 (Election of Members to Senate and Council), delegating authority to the University Secretary to draft the specific textual changes which were required as a consequence of the 2021/22 effectiveness review.
- (i) Senate considered its updated Annual Schedule of Business which had been further developed as an action arising from 2021/22 effectiveness review and structured around its new Terms of Reference (ToR). In response to the invitation to suggest items for possible inclusion on the draft Schedule (as long as these were consistent with Senate's ToR and not better considered elsewhere within the governance/management framework), it was suggested that, in addition to consideration of student outcomes (see para [c] above), Senate might also want to have a clearer overview of student entry/admissions in the context of its ambitions for widening participation as expressed in the University's Access and Participation Plan.
- (j) Senate noted reports from the following sub-committee meetings: Planning Committee (6 July 2022), Teaching Committee (14 July and 29 September 2022, including approval for the establishment of an Interdisciplinary Board of Studies); Research Committee (29 September 2022); and HYMS Joint Senate Committee (30 June 2022).

OCTOBER 2022

University Senate meeting on 31 January 2023
Executive Summary for note by Council at its meeting on 1 March 2023

1. The Vice-Chancellor welcomed new elected and nominated members to their first meeting, noting that this represented finalisation of the new membership structure arising from the previous year's Senate Effectiveness Review.
2. Senate considered an overview report from the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor drew particular attention to: [REDACTED]; the challenging national economic picture and implications for the University; student concerns about private sector rents in York and the University's active response; the underlying drivers for the current industrial action on pay and pensions and the need for all parties to focus on addressing these in a collaborative manner. During discussion specific comments were noted on the need for collaboration with local partners to address the housing situation in York and its likely consequences as regards the number of commuting students and impact on student placements. [REDACTED].
3. Senate considered a presentation from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TLS) on the strategic insights gained from compiling the University's recent submission to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023, the outcome from which would be announced in June 2023. Particular attention was drawn to the successful partnership working with YUSU and the overall strength of the final submission. The drafting process had highlighted some areas for further development but generally there were many positive aspects including the University's Covid response and achievements in respect of equality of opportunity and employability. Given the broad strength of the submission it was generally agreed that more effort should be made to promote the University's T&L performance both internally and externally in a manner comparable to its promotion of research. Student representatives also commented on the importance of actively engaging students which could in part be achieved by demonstrating areas where the student voice had led to improvements. It was noted that accessing and responding to diverse student views was an imperative across the University including in Faculties, committees and dedicated T&L working groups. The PVC (TLS) also commented on the importance of sharing and analysing longitudinal data to drive continuous enhancement while also addressing departmental variability in areas like assessment/feedback.
4. Senate considered a presentation from the member of the Student Expert Panel nominated to serve on Senate (Sadiqa Ali) on the activities of the Panel, noting that these were all student-led and intended to improve the student experience at York. It was noted that the Panel had also contributed to staff recruitment in specific areas and to developments in areas such as University mental health strategies, College governance and York For Life. Particular attention was drawn to the 'Middle Ground' events which provided an open forum for views to be aired by a diverse range of students. Other upcoming projects would be seeking to identify and overcome barriers to improved integration between international and home students and to enhance support for 'belonging and settling' at the University for new students. Senate provided guidance on seeking professional academic support for survey design and integration of refugee students in its future projects.
5. Senate considered the 2020/21 Degree Outcomes Statement required by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assurance (UKSCQA), noting that it had been updated with additional data since the version previously approved (February 2022) and published on the University website before the end of 2022, as requested by UUK. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Assessment (Dr Patrick Gallimore) commented that the University's relatively stable position confirmed that the robustness of its assessment practices had been maintained during the Covid period despite the need at the time to introduce a 'safety net' and adjust assessment practices. Development of the Statement had also helped to identify attainment gaps for traditionally disadvantaged groups, which was the focus of several current University initiatives. The PVC (TLS) noted that in addition to the Statement, the University was also engaged in its own deeper statistical analysis in order to inform admissions criteria and work on inclusive assessment. Specific points were noted in respect of the following: attainment gaps which might occur earlier in the student journey rather than at final graduation; consideration of 'step marking' by individual departments in order to reward excellence appropriately; remaining mindful of the University's relative position in the Russell Group for the award upper classifications (1st/2:1) while continuing to respect the integrity of assessment practices; acknowledging different assessment methods might be appropriate to different disciplines; and responding to student feedback on the volume of assessment. **Senate endorsed the 2020/21 Degree Outcomes Statement for approval by Council.**
6. Senate considered a report on national developments in the Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP), the successor exercise to REF 2021. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) commented that the University would continue to monitor these evolving developments while also learning from the previous exercise. It was noted

that the top-level FRAP design framework was expected to be published in Spring/Summer 2023 and would include details in respect of eligibility, assessment of outputs, Open Access etc, with an expected increase in the importance of “research culture” (still to be closely defined but including aspects such as team diversity, role of technicians, working with industry etc) and a likely increase in the weighting of impact. It was agreed that many members of the University community could play an important role in considering research culture and environment, and that it would be important for colleagues to express their views across all relevant channels in order to shape the new process as it evolved.

7. Senate considered a report on the University’s performance in the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF2) assessment. The Director of RIKE (Dr Andrew Jackson) and Head of Enterprise Services (Amanda Selvaratnam) drew particular attention to the fact that although KEF was a benchmarking exercise it was acknowledged that there would be a range of outcomes for institutions with different profiles. Although changed criteria made comparison between KEF1 (2020/21) and KEF2 (2021/22) problematic, the University’s performance had either remained the same or improved across all seven ‘perspectives’. As regards the public engagement perspective, considerable work had been undertaken in this area which would generate a higher self-assessed scoring at the next KEF submission (March 2023). It was agreed that the University should not be led by the KEF metrics but rather should seek to improve in those areas which were consonant with its own strategic direction. Issues to be addressed for the next submission included a more holistic approach to the identification and inclusion of appropriate additional data and also the development of a more assertive narrative of public and community engagement reflecting recent work arising from the University Strategy and its central focus on the public good.
8. The University Secretary reported verbally on the external regulatory environment including: JISC taking on the role of HESA as Designated Data Body for the sector; the QAA stepping down for its role as Designated Quality Body from 31 March 2023; OfS confirmation of its three focus areas for 2023 as high-quality courses which deliver positive outcomes; school/university interaction; and ensuring universities secure free speech. The government’s HE (Freedom of Speech) Bill was close to Royal Assent and would then be translated into regulation for the sector by the OfS.
9. Senate noted the revised framework for University Ordinances presented by the University Secretary and **specifically endorsed for Council approval: (i) revised Ordinances 5 [Senate] and 15 [Boards of Studies] (ii) Senate elements of new Ordinance 9 [Standing Orders of Senior University Committees] and a new Ordinance on Honorary Degrees, Fellows and Academic Honorary Titles and (iii) repeal of existing Ordinances 8 [Exemption from part of a programme of study] and 9 [Visiting Students].**
10. Senate considered a progress report on the current review of academic and professorial promotion criteria, noting the matters being considered by the five different workstreams, in particular the architecture for promotion criteria. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported as Chair of the review group that, given the emerging complexity of certain aspects of the review and the need to undertake further consultation (including with trade unions), revised criteria would no longer be brought to the next meeting in May as originally planned. In discussion Senate members commented specifically on: the need to reduce and streamline the application form; the possibility of having different decision-making bodies and timeframes for different levels of promotion; inclusion of non-standard roots such as industrial practice and academic management/leadership; alignment of promotions criteria with role descriptors used for appointments; ensuring that application forms were in an accessible format.
11. Senate received a report on progress to implement the recommendations arising from the 2022 Effectiveness Review, noting that many actions were now complete (including in respect of the revised membership), with further work yet to be undertaken in respect of a Scheme of Delegation for Senate and light-touch review of its sub-committee structure.
12. Senate noted its revised Annual Schedule of Business structured around its new Terms of Reference and the University Secretary invited members to submit suggestions for possible discussion topics under the three core headings of Teaching, Learning & Students, Research, and Knowledge Exchange/Partnerships. **As regards the planned joint event with the University Council (28 February 2023), Senate endorsed the proposal that this be postponed until the Summer Term due to the current industrial action.**
13. Senate noted reports from the following sub-committee meetings: Teaching Committee (24 November 2022), Research Committee (24 November 2022), Partnerships, Enterprise and Engagement Committee (24 October and 7 December 2022), Planning Committee (26 October and 23 November 2022), International Committee (11 October 2022), Student Life Committee (3 November 2022) and HYMS Joint Senate Committee (3 November 2022).

University Senate meeting on 9 May 2023
Executive Summary for note by Council at its meeting on 18 May 2023

1. The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Professor Ken Badcock to his first meeting as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost Designate and also Professor Duncan Petrie in his new role as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Senate also welcomed the award of emeritus Deputy Vice-Chancellor status to Professor Saul Tendler with effect from his retirement in August 2023. Thanks were expressed to the outgoing elected student Faculty representatives as it was their last meeting.
2. It was reported as a Matter Arising that a case of alleged academic misconduct on which Senate had passed a Special Resolution in July 2021 had been satisfactorily concluded and the postgraduate award in question formally approved through the usual channels.
3. Senate considered an overview report from the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor drew particular attention to: student cost of living concerns (especially as these related to private sector rents in York and rising utility costs) and the associated hardship support being provided by the University in collaboration with YUSU; the challenging financial situation for the sector due to the underfunding of both research and teaching and the significant impact of inflation on operating costs; and the ongoing industrial action by UCU on pay in the form of a Marking and Assessment Boycott (MAB) in the context of the limitations imposed by national pay bargaining. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
4. Senate received a presentation from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TLS), Head of Access and Outreach and Director of OPPA on the current establishment of the Westfield Centre as a community-embedded outreach initiative which aimed to empower less advantaged people in areas of deprivation in York to reach their full ambition and achieve fulfilling careers. Particular attention was drawn to the partnership working with several collaborators, the associated fundraising through philanthropic donations and the project governance arrangements. Senate members strongly supported the aims of the project and suggested ways in which it could be aligned to academic activity in certain areas (e.g. entrepreneurialism).
5. Senate was one of several bodies and groups invited to consider the Provisional Research Strategy as presented by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), noting in particular the process by which it had been developed by a Task and Finish Group under oversight of University Research Committee (URC) and its linkage to the overarching University Strategy 2030. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) drew particular attention to the five Strategic Objectives of the Strategy and the planned engagement activities through a range of University groups, committees and other fora which would be used to further refine intended outcomes and success measures (KPIs). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The contribution of academic staff on T&S contracts who undertook research was also raised. Noting that the strategy was provisional, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor encouraged Senate members to express further views in their different institutional capacities through the various advertised engagement events.
6. The University Secretary reported verbally on the external regulatory environment including: the QAA having stepped down for its role as Designated Quality Body (DQB) from 31 March 2023; University input via UUK and the Russell Group to a government review of the OfS, and in particular evidence of how it created regulatory burden; and the recently closed OfS consultation on regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English higher education. Attention was also drawn to the forthcoming joint Senate/Council event at which legislative and local developments in respect of free speech and academic freedom would be discussed as a topic of mutual interest and relevance.

7. Senate received a presentation from the University Secretary on the Prevent Duty and the more explicit academic implications of the requirements for the University. Particular attention was drawn to perceptions of and, in some quarters, opposition to, Prevent; how the University met the Duty's legal requirements; the interconnection with other legislation such as that relating to academic freedom; and the implications for academic activity of the associated Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 and the need for protective controls and risk assessments around the accessing, creating, storing or sharing of extremist material in the course of academic research and teaching. Discussion by Senate members focused on the role of inter/multi-faith groups at the University, the linkage to student safeguarding policies/procedures and the importance of targeted training (e.g. for those providing apprenticeships).
8. Senate considered a progress report on the current review of academic promotions criteria. As Chair of the Working Group the Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that a Grade 8 ART profile had been developed which would be used as the basis for drafting the other profiles (Grade 7, Reader and Professor Band 1) across all contract types. The Criteria and Policy/Process Workstreams (led by Professors TT Arvind and Claire Hughes respectively) were making good progress and HR colleagues would continue to seek input from the Campus Trade Unions. Chairing of the Working Group would pass to the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost Designate who would progress the development of the Professorial Band 2 and 3 criteria before all profiles underwent collective review to ensure consistency of "voice".
9. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TLS) presented a summary of the Special Cases Committee Annual Report 2021/22 and an accompanying proposal for the disbandment of the Committee as a consequence of both changes to the Terms of Reference/operation of Teaching Committee and the ongoing rise in the number of individual student appeals (30% increase year on year for the last five years). Noting that an academic advisory group of previous SCC members would be maintained to consider particularly complex cases and that the increase in both volume and complexity of student appeals was a sector-wide issue, **Senate approved (a) the dissolution of the Committee and transfer of its delegated authority to Student Administration and Academic Affairs and (b) transfer of responsibility for policies related to student progress/appeals to Teaching Committee (including the Standing Committee on Assessment) and, where appropriate, to the Student Life Committee.**
10. Senate considered a report on implementation of two major recommendations arising from the 2022 Senate Effectiveness Review, namely development of a Scheme of Delegation and Approval (SODA) for Senate and a light-touch review of the Senate sub-committee structure. The University Secretary observed that both these recommendations supported the main thrust of the 2022 Review in that they sought to free up the Senate agenda for more strategic and horizon-scanning discussions of core teaching, research and knowledge exchange activity by means of greater delegation to sub-committees and individuals. It was also noted that the proposals sought to enhance the provision of academic assurance from Senate to Council, as required by the OfS regulatory framework. The University Secretary and Senate commended the work undertaken by the Senior Governance and Assurance Officers (Dr Philip Evans and Dr Alice Wakely) to produce the report **and approved the specific recommendations that (a) the proposed SODA be approved (b) the current sub-committee structure be formally endorsed and (c) a schedule be developed for annual assurance reports from the sub-committees to Senate.**
11. Senate noted its Annual Schedule of Business for 2022/23 and also the outline agenda for its joint session with the University Council on 17 May 2023. As regards the latter, this was noted as the implementation of another recommendation from the 2022 Senate Effectiveness Review which was intended to improve mutual understanding between Senate and Council of their respective academic and corporate governance roles.
12. Senate noted reports from the following sub-committee meetings: Teaching Committee (30 March 2023), Research Committee (1 February 2023), Partnerships, Enterprise and Engagement Committee (3 April 2023), Planning Committee (8 February and 29 March 2023), International Committee (15 February 2023), Student Life Committee (26 January and 13 April 2023) and HYMS Joint Senate Committee (26 January 2023). In response to a query about the process for exam scheduling, it was noted that greater centralisation was required as some departments continued to schedule their own exams, which could cause issues for some students, especially those on interdisciplinary programmes.

University of York University Senate

Matters for note by the University Council at its meeting on 24 July 2023 arising from the meeting of the University Senate held on 11 July 2023

1. The Vice-Chancellor thanked those members attending their last meeting, in particular Professor Saul Tendler, noting his significant contribution to the University as Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost since 2015.
2. The University Secretary provided a verbal update on two matters arising which related to work in train with RIKE to understand the ethical implications of current University research funding and commitments with regard to the fossil fuel industry and inter-faith dialogue in the context of the Prevent Duty.
3. Senate considered an overview report from the Vice-Chancellor who drew particular attention to the current external economic environment and associated financial challenges as well as the impact of the ongoing Marking & Assessment Boycott (MAB) by some UCU members. Specific points were noted in respect of international student recruitment and governmental immigration policy in the context of an inflationary environment, with an expectation that the challenges these presented would continue into the medium term (ie beyond the next general election, regardless of outcome). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] During discussion it was noted that despite the evident need to reverse the decline in staff pay, the University would continue to make capital investment in its estate as this was funded by existing borrowing. Although there was significant financial divergence between the pre- and post-92 sectors (eg varying levels of contribution to different staff pension schemes), which compounded national pay bargaining, the hope was expressed that going forward a multi-year framework could be established to bring greater stability and break a sector cycle of annual pay and pension disputes. In discussion of the launch of the School of Arts and Creative Technologies and associated relocation of the former Department of Music, it was generally agreed that the provision of catering/social facilities needed to be enhanced on Campus East, and that this matter should be picked up by the Capital, Enterprise Systems and Infrastructure Strategy (CESIS) Board.
4. The Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) presented a paper setting out details of the recently published high-level design framework for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2028, noting that many of the proposed elements would be subject to further consultation over the Summer. Particular attention was drawn to changes in the nature, nomenclature and weighting of the three main areas of assessment ('People, Culture and Environment', 'Contribution to Knowledge and Understanding' and 'Engagement and Impact'). Of particular significance was also the new decoupling of staff from outputs meaning that individuals would no longer be submitted but rather average unit sizes over the period 2025-27. It was expected that REF Unit of Assessment (UoA) panel recruitment would start in Winter 2023/24, with an encouragement that University academics seek to apply for panel membership for the benefits and insights this brings. Final guidance and criteria would be set in Winter 2024 and open access requirements published in Spring 2024. Senate discussion focused on the opening up of the REF process to technicians and PS support staff, which was welcomed, and also the implications for the contracts and promotion of staff on T&S contracts who wished to, or might be expected to contribute to research activity, including for REF 2028. In this context it was reported that UKRI was progressively relaxing the rules governing eligibility to apply for research council grants as a coordinated change with the new REF framework. As regards assessment of the adequacy of central or faculty research support capacity, this would be easier to evaluate when more details and guidance had been published. It was noted that there was also ongoing consultation around changes in the eligibility of PGR students and the possibility of sole authorship through submission of completed PhD theses.
5. The Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) presented the **Annual Statement on Research Integrity** required under the national Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Noting the summary of actions undertaken to support research integrity issues, the assurance provided on the processes in place for dealing with allegations

of misconduct and the high-level statement on formal investigations of research misconduct [REDACTED], **Senate endorsed the Statement for approval by Council.**

6. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TLS) presented an assurance report on the University's alignment with the OfS 'B' Conditions for the baseline regulatory expectations for learning, teaching and assessment (compliance with which was required in order to recruit students and charge at the higher fee limit of £9250). Particular attention was drawn to the details on Academic Experience (covering both programme design and resources/support), Student Outcomes, Assessments/Awards and Sector Recognised Standards. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. On the question of pre-arrival support for international students, it was noted that this was provided by a range of means including courses run by the International Pathway College and short open access online courses, which were flagged to students as part of the pre-arrival online application process. Improvements in this area were also expected as a consequence of a student-run project on international student integration, enhancements to initial programme design and implementation of modularisation and semesterisation from 2023/24.
7. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Strategy) presented a paper setting out further information, accomplishments, future plans and challenges in respect of CITY College, new partnerships in India and the York-Maastricht Partnership. The Principal of CITY College (Yannis Ververidis) also reported on achievements to date, noting that in three years the partnership had developed new programmes and expanded across Southern Europe, was developing Law provision with Cork, as well as launching a pan-European MBA, a joint PhD programme and opportunities for staff/student mobility. It had also played an important role in building on the University's partnership with Karazin Kharkiv National University in Ukraine. At University level, other reported international initiatives included work to develop the network of overseas recruitment agents; improved marketing and provision of scholarships; actions to raise the University's position in the QS World Rankings (currently 167th); and initial identification of key elements for a new International Strategy. Senate's discussion concentrated on improving staff awareness of international partnerships, the considerable opportunities for collaborations in India on cultural, creative and arts/humanities projects, and the need to protect staff time in order to drive forward new initiatives. Senate also noted the contribution which would be made by the three newly created posts of Associate Deans for Partnerships, Engagement and International in each Faculty.
8. The University Secretary reported verbally on the external regulatory environment including the appointment of Professor Arif Ahmed as the OfS' first Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom and the recent publication by the OfS of a statement on sector financial sustainability. It was also noted that feedback on the recent first-ever joint session of Council and Senate would be used to inform the following year's event in order to provide scope for mutual understanding of both bodies' roles and interfaces, as well as personal interaction between members. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TLS) also reported on the likely publication timescale for the University's NSS and TEF results in August 2023.
9. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Designate presented a progress report on the ongoing review of academic promotions criteria, noting that initial drafts of the ART criteria were currently being refined as the basis for profiles for Research and T&S roles. Senate approved the proposed timeline of activity through the next academic year, with further reporting back to Senate at its next meeting and the new process expected to go live by September 2024.
10. Senate noted its draft Schedule of Business for 2023/24 and members were invited to suggest potential items within its remit to the University Secretary for possible inclusion.
11. Senate noted reports from the following sub-committee meetings: Teaching Committee (8 June 2023), Research Committee (3 May and 21 June 2023), Partnerships, Enterprise and Engagement Committee (5 June 2023), Planning Committee (3 May and 7 June 2023), International Committee (7 June 2023), Student Life Committee (15 June 2023) and HYMS Joint Senate Committee (19 April and 29 June 2023). Senate also noted the Annual Assurance Report 2022/23 from the Student Life Committee as the first example of such a sub-committee assurance report, provided to bolster the academic assurance to Senate, and in turn to Council, to respond to OfS requirements.
