

St George's, University of London

Senate

Minutes (unreserved) of the meeting held on 25th February 2015

Professor Peter Kopelman (Chair)

Dr Anthony Albert	Dr John Hammond	Graham Morgan
Dr Rachel Allen	Dr Vanessa Ho	Dheemal Patel
Jeshni Amblum	Dr Franklyn Howe	Dr Linda Perkins-Porras
Hollman Aya Bernal	Natasha Lee	Dr Suman Rice
Professor Deborah Bowman	Professor Juan Carlos Kaski	Professor David Strachan
Professor Adrian Clark	Nick Lock	Dr Matthew Szarko
Dr Fran Gibson	Dr David Lovell	Dr Chris Tye
Dr Steve Gillard	Dr Tristan McKay	Peter Woodford
	Dr Elizabeth Miles	

In attendance:

Derek Baldwinson (minutes)	Susan Trubshaw
Sophie Bowen	Dean Surtees
Andrew Dyer (for item 6)	John Taggart (for item 4)
Kate Shurety	Tim White
Miss Pippa Tostevin (for items 9 and 10)	

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Iain Beith, Dr Jo Brown, Professor Nigel Brown, Dr Judith Cartwright, Rob Churm, Dr Julia Gale, Professor Andy Kent, Dr Soo-Hyun Kim, Dr Iain MacPhee, Dr Jayne Marshall and Dr Ronnie Meecham.

2. Minutes

Received and approved:

The unreserved minutes of the Senate meeting held on 11th November 2014.

Paper Senate/14-15/1/A

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1. Stonewall Workplace equality index (arising from 2)

Noted:

That in the 2015 index, SGUL was ranked 47 out of the 397 organisations who had made submissions. SGUL was now ranked in the top five educational organisations. In 2014 SGUL had been ranked 213 out of 367 organisations. The improvement in rankings was an indication of SGUL's commitment to equality issues.

3.2. The Powers and Responsibilities of Senate and its Membership (arising from 3)

Noted:

That the Senate membership list on the portal had been updated.

3.3. National Student Survey (arising from 14)

Noted:

That the 2015 survey launched on 19 January 2015 and will close on 30 April 2015. In 2015, the NSS and internal Student Experience Surveys are running concurrently and have the same start and finish dates.

4. Annual report from the Counselling Service

Received:

A report from the Head of the Counselling Service on the operation of the Service in 2013-14.

Reported:

- a) That there had been a marginal decrease in the number of clients accessing the Counselling Service in 2014. 357 clients accessed the Service in 2014 in comparison with 365 in 2013.
- b) That the report now provided the year of study for each student accessing the service. This data was provided at the request of Senate.
- c) That students were able to book appointments on-line and this facility made the service more accessible to students. 257 students had already visited the Service in 2014-15. Data from the on-line booking system indicated that some students booked an on-line appointment which they subsequently cancelled. Although these students were not followed up, it was apparent that the way in which students engaged with the Service was evolving.

- d) That the Counselling Service had delivered a range of seminars to student groups in 2013-14. The purpose of these seminars was to make students aware of the support the Counselling Service was able to provide. Students often reported that they had made use of the Service because they had been prompted to do so having attended one of these seminars. The Head of Service was therefore of the view that seminars of this kind should be a compulsory element of the core curriculum for SGUL courses to ensure that all students were familiar with the work of the Counselling Service.
- e) The Service was mindful of the need to engage with international students and to address their specific concerns. Students were not asked to declare whether they were international students and so there was no data on the prevalence with which students accessed the Service. Anecdotally, international students often discussed homesickness and general dissatisfaction with the administration.

Discussed:

- f) That some students and staff had commented negatively on the location of the Service which was felt by some to be overly visible. There was no easy solution to this problem although an alternative site might be considered if the location of the Service was identified as a barrier to access by large numbers of staff and students.
- g) That although 12 PhD students were reported as having seen a Counsellor, this number was unlikely to be accurate because students from a variety of postgraduate programmes were included in this figure.

Agreed:

- h) That the work of the Counselling Service was to be commended.
- i) That it would be helpful if the data for the international MBBS and international biomedical science programmes could be presented separately.

5. Strategic Plan 2015-2020

Received:

From the Director of Strategic Planning, the draft Strategic Plan (2015-20).

Paper Senate/14-15/2/C

Reported:

- a) That the Strategic Plan in its refreshed form was an intentionally brief statement of SGUL's ambitions for the 5 year planning period to 2020. Growth in research and in education was central to those ambitions and this growth strategy had been endorsed by Council and reaffirmed by the Finance Committee. With regard to education, SGUL's intention was to continue with the planned growth in international student numbers and

to develop new courses as a way of reducing SGUL's reliance on commissioned programmes.

- b) The Strategic Plan had been informed by a wide consultation process and that process was continuing. Consultation feedback suggested that the FHSCE context had been underplayed and that learning and teaching issues could be made more prominent. Similarly, student perspectives could be enhanced.

Discussed:

- c) That the SGUL vision for 2020 as it was currently articulated (*to be the UK's leading provider of healthcare and medical education*) might be difficult to achieve. "*To be a leading provider...*" was a more realistic vision.
- d) That interprofessional learning (IPL) had been an SGUL strength and that students were very positive about IPL opportunities. A Strategic Plan commitment to extend IPL would have the potential to enhance the student experience on professional programmes.
- e) That in view of the emphasis on the integration of health and social care and to reflect the Faculty's expertise in social care education and training, the scope of the Plan might be broadened to encompass social care.
- f) That issues of inclusivity were threaded through the Strategic Plan and could usefully be made more visible. The student-related performance measures used to monitor the implementation and impact of the Plan should allow SGUL to evaluate whether the learning opportunities offered by SGUL in the period to 2020 are fully inclusive of all students.

Agreed:

- g) To endorse the Strategic Plan. The Plan will be considered for approval by Council in March 2015.

6. Business Planning

Received:

From the Financial Improvement Programme Manager an annual business planning process.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/D

Reported:

The Financial Planning and Performance Group (FPPG) was taking lead responsibility for the planning round in 2015. The Group will, working with the planning groups responsible for Education, Research and Professional Services co-ordinate the development of a three-year business and financial plan for the period to 2017-18. The Group will also work with SGUL's strategic partners in the development of collaborative projects.

7. Athena Swan

Received:

A report on SGUL's Athena SWAN application for a Silver Award.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/E

Reported:

- a) The deadline for submitting the Silver Award application was April 2015. Erica Shannon-Turner was no longer available to work on the application and an alternative would be sought.

Discussed:

- b) SGUL's Silver Award application will need to provide comprehensive evidence that progress had been made in embedding the Athena Swan principles across SGUL since the Bronze Award had been granted. The establishment and consolidation of the new Institute structure provided a firm starting point for providing evidence because it was possible to integrate the Athena Swan principles within the structures and processes of the Institutes. However it was likely that the progress between Institutes would be variable.
- c) Dame Sally Davies had indicated that the NIHR will no longer shortlist any NHS/University partnership for research funding unless the academic department holds at least a Silver Award. This was not the sole driver for a Silver Award application at this time; SGUL was committed to advancing the representation of women in science irrespective of the funding imperatives from the NIHR.

8. Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education (FHSCE)

Received:

A report from the Dean on current issues and priorities in FHSCE.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/F

Reported:

The Faculty's commissions for BSc in Paramedic Science for 2015 entry are 150. This was a significant increase on previous years and represented a recruitment challenge that was being addressed with additional targeted marketing activities. Funding had been secured to develop the simulation facilities needed to deliver the Paramedic Science course to a larger cohort of students and the building project will be delivered over the summer of 2015.

9. International Education report

Received:

A report from Dr MacPhee, Associate Dean for International Education, on international education presented by Miss Pippa Tostevin.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/G

Reported:

- a) The GMC quality assurance team reviewing the international MBBS programme had revisited SGUL in December 2014. The team's written report was awaited by the initial feedback from the team was positive and suggested that the team's earlier concerns were being addressed. The GMC team also observed the UMBEC meeting in February 2015.
- b) Recruitment to key posts was continuing. The role of Higher Education Academic Director for the INTO-SGUL joint venture was vacant. The Grade 6 registry-based administrative post to support international programmes was also vacant. The latter vacancy added to the burden on administrative colleagues supporting SGUL's international portfolio of programmes which were growing in size and complexity.

Agreed:

- c) That Senate would receive a further report on the international programmes delivered under the Joint Venture agreement with INTO when it meets in June 2015.

10. MBBS (4 year pathway)

Received:

A proposal to adjust the criteria used for considering applications to the MBBS (4 year pathway).

Paper Senate/14-15/2/H

Reported:

- a) That SGUL was the only medical school in the UK that accepted graduates offering a 2:2 degree. There had been a year on year increase in the number of UK graduates and the proportion of those graduates obtaining 2:1 or first class degree had also increased. 71% of UK graduates now achieved a 2:1 or first class degree. SGUL was therefore potentially recruiting from the lowest 29% of all graduates for an academically challenging programme.
- b) That with regard to the international programmes, a higher proportion of the intake offered a 2:2 degree and so to immediately disqualify applicants with this qualification would restrict the viability of the international programmes including the MBBS (SGUL-UNIC) programme. It was therefore proposed that SGUL adopted a model in which 5 points are added to the GAMSAT cut-off score for candidates with a 2:2 degree as an additional marker of academic ability.

- c) That the Students' Union understood the academic rationale for the proposal and the need to be consistent with other UK schools. The SGSU noted that if applicants with a 2:2 performed well in the GAMSAT and at interview, they would still be accepted onto the MBBS4 programme.

Agreed:

To approve the proposal.

11. Research Excellence Framework (2014)

Received:

A report from Dean of Research and Enterprise on the outcome of SGUL's REF submission.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/1

Reported:

- a) The REF results were published in December 2014. The results would have a long-term relevance because HEFCE will use the assessment outcomes to allocate the grant for research from 2015-16. The REF results were also widely used as an indicator of research excellence by RCUK and other sector bodies and so they will have an enduring impact on SGUL's reputation for research for the six year period to the next REF.
- b) Overall the REF outcomes were an endorsement of research at SGUL. A detailed analysis of the outcomes indicated that the impact of SGUL's research had been highly rated although the research environment had scored less well. A number of factors had contributed to low scoring for the research environment and these included relatively low levels of research grant income and a lack of research students.
- c) Despite the positive outcome, SGUL was expecting a reduction in its QR funding from HEFCE. Across the sector, mean scores had increased significantly and so the QR budget would be apportioned across more HEIs. As a consequence, the weighting given to 4* research in the HEFCE funding formula was to be increased with the relative quality weighting between 3* and 4* work changing from 3:1 to 4:1. HEFCE would confirm SGUL's QR funding for 2015-16 in the grant letter which is issued in March 2015. The reduction in QR had been factored into SGUL's financial projections.

Agreed:

- d) To thank Professor Clark for his oversight of the REF submission and for his contribution to the advancement of research at SGUL through the establishment of the research institutes.

12. Academic Forum

Received:

A report from the meeting of the Academic Forum that took place on 26th January 2015.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/J

Reported:

- a) Discussion at Academic Forum had focussed primarily on inter-professional learning. Academic Forum had noted that the current IPL strategy depended on the delivery of lectures to a cohort of 600 students and that the underpinning infrastructure needed to deliver the same lecture in several linked lecture theatres was not reliable. Academic Forum understood that responsibility for investment to improve the reliability of AV technologies was a matter for SPARC.
- b) Academic Forum was also informed that Professor Booton was establishing an Education Strategy Group in IMBE. Academic Forum agreed that it would be useful if Professor Booton's Strategy Group was encouraged to include IPL within its strategic thinking and work to work with FHSCE in advancing IPL.

13. External Examiner appointments

Approved:

The following external examiner appointments to SGUL programmes of study for academic year 2014/15:

Nominee	Programme and Section of Course	Appointment to commence
Professor Jaya Jayasinghe (University of Aberdeen)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Anatomy module	2014/15
Dr Darius Armstrong-James (Imperial College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Biochemistry module	2014/15
Professor Charles Kelly (Kings College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Biochemistry module	2014/15
Dr Maria Kett (University College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Global Health module	2014/15
The Reverend Bryan Vernon (Newcastle University)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Global Health module	2014/15
Mr David Reiss (Imperial College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Psychiatry module	2014/15
Dr Daniel Bennett (University of Aberdeen)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Psychiatry Research Project module	2014/15

Dr Kyle Dyer (Kings College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Psychology, Psychiatry & the Mind module	2014/15
Dr Graham Easton (Imperial College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Management & Leadership in Clinical Medicine module	2014/15
Dr Robert Leech (Imperial College London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Clinical Neuroscience modules including Research Project	2014/15
Dr Richard Roberts (University of Nottingham)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Pharmacology Research Project module	2014/15
Professor David Clayton (Queen Mary University of London)	BSc Intercalated & Biomedical Science Year 3 – Neuroscience module	2014/15

Paper Senate/14-15/2/K

14. Honorary appointments

Agreed:

To recommend to Council that Professor Adrian Clark is awarded the title of *emeritus* Professor of Endocrinology in the Institute of Infection and Immunology.

To recommend to Council that Professor Shlomo Noy and Professor Anat Achiron of Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel are awarded the title of Visiting Professor in the Institute of Medical and Biomedical Education. The appointments will be for two years in the first instance.

15. New course developments

Received and approved:

The recommendation of the validation panel for the BSc Paramedic Practice to approve the programme. The first intake would join the course in October 2015.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/L

Noted:

That SPARC had approved in principle the proposal to develop an MSc in Family Medicine (offered in partnership with the University of Nicosia) and an MSc in Sports Cardiology.

16. Report on Chair's action

Received and noted:

A report on actions taken by the Chair since the November 2014 meeting of Senate.

Paper Senate/14-15/2/M

17. Dates of meetings in 2014-2015

Wednesday 10 June 2015

Tuesday 14 July 2015 - Joint Meeting with SPARC

All meetings will take place at 2pm in H2.5 and H2.6

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CONFIRMED