

St George's, University of London

Senate

Minutes (unreserved) of the meeting held on 6th June 2017

Professor Jenny Higham (Chair)

Dr Rachel Allen

Professor Iain Beith

Professor Dot Bennett

Professor Deborah Bowman

Corey Briffa

Rob Churm

Dr Val Collington

Professor Mark Fisher

Dr John Hammond

Dr Vanessa Ho

Dr Carwyn Hooper

Dr Marcus Jackson

Professor Jane Lindsay

Nick Lock

Dr David Lovell

Professor Iain MacPhee

Dr Nadia Mantovani

Gill Mein

Dr Francesc Miralles

Dr Janette Myers

Dr Aileen O'Brien

Dr Anne-Marie Reid

Karen Roberts

Professor Jane Saffell

Dr Elena Sviderskaya

Professor Michael Ussher

Professor Guy Whitley

In attendance:

Derek Baldwinson (minutes)

Derek Bannister

Caroline Davis

Jenny Laws

Dr Julie Leeming

Susan Trubshaw

Apologies for absence: Dr Julia Gale, Dr Taigang He, Professor Franklyn Howe, Dr Taigang HE, Professor Andy Kent, Professor Jayne Marshall, Dr Wilson Muleya, Dr Axel Nohturfft, Dr Suman Rice and Professor Peter Whincup.

1. Minutes of the previous Senate meeting

Received and approved:

The unreserved minutes of the Senate-SPARC meeting held on 28th February 2017.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/A

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the 28th February 2017

2.1. MSc Heart Failure (arising from 12) - the intention to offer an MSc in Heart Failure was referred to the Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG) to enable the CAG to provide curriculum development support to the staff leading on the development of the new MSc. The programme was discussed at the CAG meeting on 30th March 2017. The business case for the MSc will be scrutinised by the Education and Students Strategy Committee on 19th June 2017.

3. Strategic Plan – Operational Development

Received:

A report from Dr Julie Leeming, Director of Planning, on the development of the operational plans to underpin the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Reported:

- 3.1. Council had approved the Strategy Plan (2017-2022) on 14th March 2017. At the subsequent Council away day on 21st April 2017, Council members had received a series of presentations from senior SGUL staff explaining how the Operational Plan would be developed and implemented through the establishment of targets and KPIs. Operational plans, targets and KPIs would be discussed and agreed with the Chair of Council in due course.
- 3.2. A Task & Finish Group was now being convened to have formal oversight of the development of the Operational Plan. The process would be informed by a series of stakeholder meetings that would take place in June 2017.
- 3.3. Senate would receive a further report on the development of the Operational Plan at the joint SPARC-Senate meeting scheduled for the 11th July 2017.
- 3.4. Professor Mike Spyer had stood down as chair of Council and following an external selection process, Michael Draper had been appointed as Chair of Council. Mr Draper took up the role on 1st May 2017 and his appointment would run until 30th September 2017 in the first instance.

4. Athena SWAN

Received:

A report from Professor Deborah Bowman, Academic Lead for Quality and Partnerships, on SGUL's Silver Award application.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/B

Reported:

- 4.1. SGUL's initial Silver Award application from 2015 had been unsuccessful and SGUL's Bronze Award was also at risk. SGUL had originally been invited by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) to resubmit its application no later than April 2017. SGUL had requested a six month extension to the April deadline and this request had been agreed by the Equality Challenge Unit. The extended submission deadline was November 2017.
- 4.2. Significant progress in preparing the submission had been made. The Self-Assessment Team had been reconfigured under new leadership and the work of the SAT was supported by four theme groups. The SAT was using critical friends, including independent members of Council, to offer and advice and support and these contributions had been valuable.
- 4.3. Despite the progress that had been made, the application process presented a number of challenges. For its Silver Award application to be successful, SGUL would need to demonstrate impact of diversity and inclusion initiatives over a three year period and impact claims would need to be evidenced. SGUL's staff data set is not uniformly robust and reliable and this makes it difficult to provide evidence that changes in the data are the result of specific, targeted actions taken by SGUL.
- 4.4. In the light of the challenges faced by SGUL in securing a Silver Award, the SAT had considered a number of options including resubmission for a Bronze Award and the possibility of separate institute/ Department (rather than a single institutional) Silver Award applications. At this stage, the intention was to reapply for an SGUL Silver Award. A Silver Award made in November 2017 would be considered by the ECU under the "pre 2015" criteria and these criteria were less exacting. In May 2015 the scope of the Athena SWAN charter had been expanded to recognise work undertaken in professional and support roles and to address gender equality more broadly instead of focussing solely on barriers to progression that affect women in science.

Discussed:

- 4.5. The NIHR had previously made it clear that it would only expect to shortlist medical schools for biomedical research centre and unit funding if the school held a Silver Athena SWAN Award. This remained the position of the NIHR although at this stage a formal policy had not been implemented.
- 4.6. The membership of the SAT and the theme groups was cross-institutional and the commitment from all participants had been strong. An unsuccessful application would be a considerable setback in terms of staff morale and momentum.
- 4.7. Feedback from the ECU on the 2015 application had indicated that the position of the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education as a joint venture between SGUL and

Kingston University had not been clearly explained. Explaining the status of the Faculty would be a priority for the November application.

- 4.8. The intention to apply for a Silver Award would be reviewed in the light of the progress made in the months to November 2017.

5. International MBBS - INTO University Partnerships

Received:

A report from the Dean for International Education on international education.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/D

Reported:

- 5.1. Following the receipt of the Partnership Review conducted by Professor Bowman and the consideration of the issues raised in review report at Senate and elsewhere, SGUL had concluded that the challenges in providing high quality medical education at scale overseas where regulatory expectations differ were insurmountable. SGUL had therefore decided to dissolve the partnership with INTO.
- 5.2. Recruitment to INTO St George's, University of London programmes for 2017 entry had ceased with immediate effect. Applicants for 2017 entry to the International (INTO SGUL) MBBS programmes, who met the admissions standards, have been offered a place on the home MBBS programme.
- 5.3. The decision had been communicated to staff and students in May 2017. The decision had not been a significant cause of concern amongst students who were accepting of the rationale for the decision.
- 5.4. SGUL was committed to ensuring that all current students would have the opportunity to complete the programme and receive an academic award from St George's. When additional resources were needed, for example in relation to USMLE support, these would continue to be provided.
- 5.5. A detailed plan for supporting international MBBS students in the "teach out" phase was being developed. The implementation of the plan would be overseen at UMBEC and monitored by QAEC.

Discussed:

- 5.6. Notwithstanding the decision to dissolve the partnership, the shortfall of 46 clinical placements for students entering P year in 2018 remained a pressing issue. For subsequent years the cohort size aligned with the 24 available places. Individual meetings with students entering P year in 2018 had taken place so that alternative options (including remaining in the UK for P year) could be discussed. The majority of

students were content with their P year allocation although it was likely that some students would be disappointed.

5.7. Senate endorsed fully the decision to dissolve the partnership with INTO. It was clear that the partnership model had created a number of enduring problems that could not be resolved. Staff who had worked with international MBBS students reported that managing the disaffection of some international MBBS students had been particularly challenging.

6. MBBS (SGUL-UNic)

Received:

The unconfirmed report of the periodic review of the MBBS programme delivered by the University of Nicosia under a franchise arrangement.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/F

Reported:

- 6.1. The unconfirmed report had been signed off by the chair of the review panel and made available to the panel members for further comment. The University of Nicosia had also been invited to comment on matters of fact. The unconfirmed report was therefore liable to change.
- 6.2. The panel had found much to commend in the way in which the MBBS programme was delivered in Nicosia. The School in Nicosia was committed to providing a high quality programme and the placement experience for students was, in the view of the panel, exceptional. The panel identified a number of ways in which the programme might be improved and these improvements were reflected in the action points included in the report.
- 6.3. The period between reviews was usually five years. The panel had advised that reviews of the franchise arrangement should be more frequent to reflect the scale and complexity of the programme. The timing of the next review would be discussed by the Joint Steering Group, the joint SGUL-UNIC group that had oversight of the franchise arrangement.

Discussed:

- 6.4. It was noted that, from the perspective of students, a lack of familiarity with the Greek language was a barrier to learning. The programme had been initially validated in 2011 and it was surprising that effective solutions to the language issues had not been found.

7. University of Ulster – Curriculum Sale

Received:

A briefing paper from the Chief Operating Officer on the proposal to sell the MBBS4 Curriculum to the University of Ulster and a related proposal for SGUL to act as contingency partner.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/E

Reported:

- 7.1. SGUL had been approached by the University of Ulster regarding the sale of its MBBS curriculum. SGUL had also been invited by the University of Ulster to act as contingency partner to provide solutions if the GMC had concerns about the University of Ulster's capacity to deliver medical education and training to the GMC standards.
- 7.2. SGUL had carried out a full risk analysis. The curriculum sale was not a significant risk to SGUL because SGUL would not have ongoing or open-ended responsibility for the MBBS programme delivered by the University of Ulster and SGUL would not have a contractual relationship with the students. The arrangement was therefore entirely different from the arrangement with INTO.
- 7.3. SGUL had taken an entrepreneurial approach to the calculation of costs. Revenue raised would be used to provide dedicated support and backfill for colleagues working of the project.

Discussed:

- 7.4. If the GMC had concerns about the University of Ulster's capacity to deliver medical education and training to the GMC standards, the contingency partner might need to source alternative clinical placements for students. Experienced placement providers in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would be used. If SGUL was the contingency partner, SGUL would not be expected to use its existing placements to accommodate in the UK the University of Ulster's students.

8. Annual Programme Monitoring (2015-16)

Received:

The Summary Report from the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee on the outcomes from annual monitoring (session 2015-16).

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/G

9. Academic Forum

Received:

The notes of the Academic Forum meeting held on 9th May 2017.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/H

Noted:

9.1. Nick Lock had chaired Academic Forum for three years and was therefore ineligible to stand for election in 2017-18. A replacement chair would therefore be sought.

9.2. Changes to the way in which Academic Forum had been conducted had improved attendance and participation. It was hoped that these improvements would be sustained.

9.3. At the meeting of the 9th May 2017, the use of Panopto as a medium for streaming lectures was discussed. There was some resistance to the Panopto proposals amongst attendees and issues raised at the meeting would be reported back to the Technology Enhanced Learning project board.

10. Annual Provider Review: 2016-17 outcomes

Noted:

SGUL's had meet HEFCE's requirements for quality and standards.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/I

11. Teaching Excellence Framework

Noted:

Arrangements for disseminating TEF2 outcomes.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/J

12. MSc Global Health

Agreed:

To receive the report of the validation of the MSc Global Health programme and to approve the recommendations of the validation panel.

Paper Senate/2016-17/1/K

13. BSc Healthcare Science

Agreed:

To receive the report of the periodic review of the BSc Healthcare Science programme and to approve the recommendations of the periodic review panel.

Paper Senate/2016-17/3/L

14. Masters of Research in Clinical Research

Agreed:

To receive the report of the periodic review of the Masters of Research in Clinical Research (MResClin) programme and to approve the recommendations of the periodic review panel.

15. Report on Student Cases

Received and noted:

A report on student cases considered by hearing committees.

Paper Senate/2016-17/3/N

16. Actions taken by the Chair

Received and noted:

A report on actions taken on behalf of Senate by the chair since last meeting of Senate.

Paper Senate/2016-17/3/O

17. External Examiners

Approved:

The appointment of the following external examiners:

Nominee	Programme and Section of Course	Appointment to commence
Dr Patricia McClure Associate Head of School, School of Health Sciences, University of Ulster	BSc Occupational Therapy	2017/18
Pamela Kirkpatrick Academic Lead for Enterprise Robert Gordon University	BSc/MSc Healthcare Practice (Advanced Practice/ Community and Integrated Care pathways).	June 2017

18. Chair of the Board of Examiners

Approved:

The appointment of Dr Christina Baboonian as chair of the International Foundation in Medical, Biomedical and Health Sciences Board of Examiners.

19. Boards of Examiners

Approved:

The membership of the following Boards of Examiners: Intercolated BSc Degree/BSc Biomedical Science (yr3) and the BSc/MSc Physiotherapy.

Paper Senate/2016-17/3/P

20. Dates of meetings in 2016-2017

Tuesday 11 July 2017 (Joint meeting with SPARC H2.5 and H2.6)

CONFIRMED