

# The University of Manchester

## SENATE

Wednesday, 24 June 2009

*Present:*

Professor Rothwell (in the Chair)

Professor Addison, Dr Allan, Professor Bailey, Drs Birse, Brown, Professors Case, Coombs, Dr Derrick, Professors Fagan, Gaskell, Gunter, Humphries, Drs Kimber, Kitmitto, Lane-Serff, McBride, Miss Medforth, Dr Mellor, Professor O'Brien, Dr Schiessl, Professor Ulph, Dr Vallely, Professor Vincent and Dr Wakefield.

*For unreserved business:* Mr Hassan, Mr Jenkinson, Miss Little and Mr Mahalla (Students' Union)

Invited: Professor Clarke (School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)

*In attendance:* The Registrar and Secretary and the Head of the Student Services Centre

### 1. Minutes

**Confirmed:** the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2009, subject to the following amendment :

Agendum 4 Vice-President (Teaching and Learning)

In the final paragraph

*Delete:* to retain sufficient flexibility to allow the exercise of local traditions and practices.

*Insert:* to retain sufficient flexibility to allow the exercise of the traditions and practices of different disciplines.

### 2. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

### 3. Statement by the President and Vice-Chancellor

*The Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided an oral supplement to the written statement of the President and Vice-Chancellor as follows:*

- (a) Recently announced public funding cuts and contingency planning for longer term public funding stringency

In the form of statements from the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and from HEFCE, more detail had become available concerning the stringency measures to take effect over the two years 2009-11. Serious as these measures were, it was likely that the severity of cuts imposed after the General Election in 2010 will be

substantially greater. The University had, therefore, put in place a range of actions, set out in detail in the annexures to the written statement, to undertake scenario analysis and contingency planning for the longer-term period of 2009-15.

(b) Resignation of Professor John Perkins

**Noted:**

That the University intended to confer the title of Honorary Professor of The University of Manchester on John Perkins for the duration of his employment in the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi, and in the longer term to make him an Emeritus Professor of the University.

**Resolved:** that Professor Perkins be thanked for his service to The University of Manchester over the past five years, congratulated on his appointment to the Masdar Institute and to wish him well in his new responsibilities.

**4. Vice-President (Research)**

(a) Research Income

**Noted:**

(i) That following the report to the last meeting of Senate concerning the performance of the University in attracting research funding from the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust, discussions had been held between the Vice-President (Research) and the Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences. Whilst the University had some way to go until the share of available funding obtained from these sources was commensurate with its research profile, it was noted that the MRC income received by the Faculty had increased sharply (in excess of 30%) between 2006-07 and 2007-08. Similarly, substantial increases had been noted in the Faculty of Life Sciences. It was hoped that these positive trends would continue.

(ii) That the University Research Group took a close and ongoing interest in optimizing the University's representation on strategic and peer-review bodies of Research Councils and other major funders as a means of gaining greater insight into their processes and direction.

(b) Research Excellence Framework

**Noted:**

That members of the University had been involved recently in a number of national fora concerned with the developing plans for the replacement of the RAE with a new system of research assessment to be known as the Research Excellence Framework (REF). Although full proposals were expected to be issued for consultation by HEFCE in September 2009, it had become increasingly clear that previous plans for a substantial and direct reliance on metric indicators had been somewhat revised. It was now likely that metrics would have a secondary position, being used to inform the primary processes of peer review. A pilot process reviewing collection and analysis of bibliometric data concluded that that metrics of this kind were not as yet sufficiently mature to guide assessment outcomes or funding directly.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- (i) It appeared that HEFCE remained committed to reporting the outcome of research assessment in the form of a quality profile and to 'rewarding excellence wherever it is found'. This implied that the substantial dispersal of QR funding across submitting institutions resulting from RAE 2008 would continue.
- (ii) It was likely that the assessment of the social and economic impact of research would play a substantial role in the REF and it would be important for the University to be in a position to collect and prepare information on this aspect of its performance. It may be worth considering whether the demonstration of impact could be included as a KPI within the University's strategic planning processes.
- (iii) The current timetable for the REF indicated that assessment would be undertaken in 2013. This would necessitate University submissions being made during 2012 and that appointments to panel member and chair positions would be made during 2010. It would be important for the University to continue the extent of involvement with panels that it had during RAE 2008. It was likely that the number of Units of Assessment will be reduced substantially from the 67 UoAs established for RAE 2008, largely *via* the conjoining of smaller units in the arts and humanities.
- (iv) It would be important that the response of the Russell Group to the REF proposals did not focus solely on the scale of its member institutions, and associated arguments concerning 'critical mass' in research performance, and thereby neglect the importance of intellectual 'scope' or 'range' as a key positive attribute of large research-led institutions.
- (v) Whilst the recruitment of major figures in research had had a positive effect on the image of the University, it would continue to be necessary to ensure that media coverage accurately reflects their Manchester affiliation.

## 5. Advancing the Manchester 2015 Agenda

**Received:** an oral report from the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor introducing the penultimate draft of *Advancing the Manchester 2015 Agenda*, this being the final opportunity for Senate to comment on the draft document prior to its final submission to the Board of Governors.

**Noted:**

That the definition of 'collegiality' provided in the 'Our Values' section of the draft understood the term in a general sense relating to respect given to all staff for the roles they fulfill rather than the narrower sense relating to nature of institutional decision-making processes.

## 6. INTO Manchester Update

**Received:** a paper from the Vice-President (Innovation and Economic Development) relating to the decision of the newly-formed Manchester College (arising from a merger of City College Manchester (CCM) and MANCAT) to withdraw from the INTO Manchester joint venture with which the University had a contract for the provision of foundation year programmes for international students.

**Noted:**

- (a) That it was the University's understanding that INTO Ltd was in a position to buy out Manchester College's shares and that all current staff involved in the programme would move into the employment of INTO Manchester.
- (b) That the University's contract was with INTO Manchester and this continued to be the case despite the withdrawal of the FE College from INTO Manchester. The University was well protected by the contract with INTO Manchester which could be ended if they did not hit agreed targets of suitably qualified students progressing into the University or if they had a negative impact on the University brand. Full oversight and control of the quality and standards of INTO's International College Foundation Year programmes was managed by a University Steering Group with Associate Dean representation from all Faculties.
- (c) There were still some concerns in some academic schools about the partnership and the quality of the students who may progress. The Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning in Humanities and Engineering and Physical Sciences were addressing the concerns raised.
- (d) That although the University did not have the contractual right to require full details behind the decision of the Manchester College to withdraw from the partnership it was understood that the College's governors wished to narrow the extensive range of commitments inherited from the legacy colleges.
- (e) That although access to full support facilities and arrangements was not problematic for the current cohort of foundation programme students, it would be important to keep the availability of such support under review in coming years.

**7. The Manchester Beacon for Public Engagement**

**Received:** a paper from the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor reporting on the purpose and activity of the Manchester Beacon for Public Engagement.

**Noted:**

- (a) That the Manchester Beacon for Public Engagement was part of The *Beacons for Public Engagement* initiative, which was at the forefront of efforts to bring about a substantial change in the culture of universities by motivating, assisting and rewarding staff and students to reach out, listen to and engage with the public enthusiastically. The other beacons were in Newcastle/Durham, Norwich, London, Cardiff and Edinburgh. A UK-wide co-ordinating centre was based in Bristol, and worked across the initiative to promote best practice across the whole higher education sector.
- (b) That the Manchester Beacon was led by the University of Manchester in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Salford, the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) and Manchester: Knowledge Capital. It was funded as a pilot programme by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Research Councils UK, the Wellcome Trust and the North West Regional Development Agency. Arrangments for funding beyond the pilot programme were as yet unknown. The focus of the Beacon was to work in partnership to engage the University's nearest neighbours, which included residents from the most deprived areas of Manchester and Salford, in order to make the resources of the Manchester and Salford universities and their cultural assets accessible and beneficial to all.

- (c) That the University of Manchester provision spanned the spectrum from cultural engagement through cultural assets (Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, Jodrell Bank, John Ryland's Library) and demonstrations and events at city wide cultural venues and festivals (e.g., Manchester Science Festival, Manchester Histories Festival) to civic and community engagement (Corridor Manchester, Manchester Leadership Programme, In Touch) to public involvement in research and teaching to free public services (e.g., Legal Advice Centre, free informal learning provision).
- (d) That a focus of work as part of the Beacon was to seek to understand what local communities wanted from the University. Early discussions had emphasized the need to ensure that the University did not appear remote and closed, and made a greater effort to communicate its activities in more approachable terms.

## 8. Associate Vice-President (Graduate Education)

- (a) Postgraduate Research Degree Approval

**Received:** a paper setting out proposals for the introduction of the following research degrees under the management of the Manchester Doctoral College (MDC):

### **DTC in Nuclear Fission**

PhD Nuclear Fission (final award)  
 PG Diploma Nuclear Fission (exit award only)  
 PG Certificate Nuclear Fission (exit award only)  
 MRes Nuclear Fission (exit award only)  
 MPhil Nuclear Fission (exit award only)

### **DTC in Humanitarian and Conflict Response**

PhD Humanitarian and Conflict Response (final award)  
 MPhil Humanitarian and Conflict Response (exit award only)

### **IDC in Nuclear Engineering**

EngD Nuclear Engineering (final award)  
 PG Certificate Nuclear Engineering (exit award only)  
 PG Diploma in Enterprise Management (final award)  
 MPhil Nuclear Engineering (exit award only)

### **DTC in Advanced Metallic Systems**

PhD Advanced Metallic Systems (final award)  
 PG Certificate Advanced Metallic Systems (exit award only)  
 PG Diploma Advanced Metallic Systems (exit award only)  
 MSc Advanced Metallic Systems (exit award only)  
 MPhil Advanced Metallic Systems (exit award only)

### **DTC in NOW Nanoscience**

PhD NanoScience (final award)  
 PG Certificate Nanoscience (exit award only)  
 PG Diploma Nanoscience (exit award only)  
 MSc Nanoscience (exit award only)  
 MPhil Nano Science (exit award only)

### **DTC in Integrative Systems Biology**

PhD Integrative Systems Biology (final award)  
 PG Certificate Integrative Systems Biology (exit award only)

PG Diploma Integrative Systems Biology (exit award only)

MSc Integrative Systems Biology (exit award only)

MPhil Integrative Systems Biology (exit award only)

**Resolved:** that the above research degrees be approved with effect from September 2009.

(b) Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degrees

**Received:** a paper setting out proposed revisions to the regulations for postgraduate research degrees with effect from 24 June 2009.

**Noted:**

That further guidance was available elsewhere in the regulations which set out the circumstances and processes under which an independent chair may be appointed for oral examinations.

**Resolved:** that the proposed revisions to the regulations for postgraduate research degrees be approved subject to:

- (i) Clarification of the date of introduction for the requirement of electronic thesis submission (if later than the general date for introduction of the regulation amendments of 24 June 2009).
- (ii) Confirmation whether compensation might be applied to the taught components of the MSc by Research.
- (iii) Reconsideration of the requirement (under section 3c of the regulations) for MSc by Research students to complete all taught components of their programme before being permitted to proceed to the dissertation, noting that certain programmes currently offered by the University allow for the dissertation to be begun in parallel with advanced taught components.
- (iv) The replacement of the reference to the “[T]he School Board of Examiners” in section 3f with “[T]he relevant Board of Examiners”.

(c) Regulations for the Degree of Master, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate

**Received:** a paper setting out revisions to the regulations for the Degree of Master, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate.

**Resolved:** that the proposed revisions to the regulations for the Degree of Master, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate be approved, it being noted that the communication of arrangements whereby students may rescind an award in order to complete additional elements of another degree would be managed within programmes.

## 9. Research Conduct and Research Ethics

**Received:** an oral report from the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor introducing a paper on arrangements in the University for dealing with issues relating to research conduct and research ethics.

**Noted:**

- (a) That research conduct covers all aspects of research and graduate training across the University, and was of increasing importance to the funders of the University's research and graduate training (e.g., Research Councils working with the UK Office of Research Integrity). The new national code of conduct, issued for consultation in May 2009, suggested a broad remit for research "ethics" and included increased expectations for institutional quality of assurance, transparency and accountability. Some aspects of the University's research were covered by UK legislation, others by national guidelines, but further legislation was likely.
- (b) That the University of Manchester aimed to have the very highest standards of research conduct and to set its own standards of ethics which, at the very least, met and should, in many instances, exceed externally imposed requirements. These goals, which were entirely consistent with the University's broader institutional aspirations, had to be delivered in the most effective and efficient means possible.
- (c) That issues relating to research conduct may be categorized to some extent as either *good research practice*, which would add value to the University's research activity and help to deliver the 2015 objectives and beyond, or *adherence to ethical and legal standards*, with due cognisance of public opinion and external issues. Areas under the category of *good research practice* would be the responsibility of the Vice-President for Research.
- (d) That matters relating to adherence to ethical and legal standards included research on humans and animals, stem cell research, appropriateness of external sources of support and liaison, human health and safety, environmental impact, and investigations into claims of misconduct or inappropriate behaviour in research. These areas were under the overall responsibility of the Deputy President and Vice-Chancellor (who also retained specific responsibility for research on humans). The Registrar and Secretary (as the designated Certificate Holder) chaired the group which undertakes an ethical review process for research on animals. Responsibility for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct lay with the Vice-President for Research.
- (e) That arrangements within the University for ethical approval of research on human subjects had undergone review. Outcomes of review, including recommendations for further action, included:
  - (i) All applications for ethical approval were now required to be formally approved by the Head of School (or delegate). Further work was underway to improve the currently variable standard of applications.
  - (ii) An overarching committee, chaired by the Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, had been established to provide continual oversight of arrangements for ethical review within the University.
  - (iii) Work had commenced on streamlining applications using electronic processes.
  - (iv) The existing five committees with University authority to approve research on humans would be replaced with four committees, all independent of Schools and Faculties and reporting regularly to the overarching committee. Members would be drawn from across the University and beyond and would receive regular and relevant training.

- (v) Line managers would need to recognise formally the work load of staff involved in ethics approval (and balance other workloads accordingly) and raise awareness of the importance of this topic to all staff and students.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- (a) It would be important for the University to be vigilant that issues do not fall into any gaps between the defined areas of good research practice and adherence to ethical and legal standards.
- (b) The improvement of applications for ethical approval would be aided by the provision of additional guidance. It was noted that new guidance materials had recently been issued.
- (c) Consideration should be given to the extent of social science research that is required to be submitted for ethical approval.
- (d) The University would need to maintain effective operational relationships with NHS Trusts in order to ensure a co-ordinated and robust approach to issues relating to research conduct and ethics which overlap both organizations.

**Resolved:** to endorse the definitions and designations of responsibility for research conduct and research ethics as detailed in the paper.

#### **10. Nominations for the Award of an Honorary Degree**

**Agreed:** to endorse for onward transmission to the Board of Governors the recommendations for the award of honorary degrees that had been tabled for consideration at the meeting.

#### **11. Matters for report to Senate**

- (a) Report on exercise of delegations on behalf of Senate and the Board of Governors.

##### **Professorial change of title**

Acting on behalf of Senate and the Board of Governors, the President and Vice-Chancellor approved the establishment of the title of ‘The Sir John Hicks Professor of Economic Theory’ in the School of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Humanities and its inaugural award to Professor Nicholas Yannelis (formerly Professor of Economic Theory).

##### **Grant of the title of Professor Emeritus**

Acting on behalf of Senate and the Board of Governors, the President and Vice-Chancellor approved the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus on the following:

Professor Jonathan Harwood (Professor of History of Science and Technology (in the Faculty of Life Sciences) *from 1 September 2008*).

Professor Fred Nixon, Professor of Economics (in the School of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Humanities) *from 1 October 2008*.

##### **Grant of the title of Honorary Professor**

Acting on behalf of Senate and the Board of Governors, the President and Vice-Chancellor approved the conferment of the title of Honorary Professor on Professor John Perkins,



Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, on his departure from the University and in recognition of his continuing academic relationship with the University, from 1 June 2009.

#### **Award of an honorary degree**

Acting on behalf of Senate and the Board of Governors, the President and Vice-Chancellor approved the conferment, at a ceremony to be held during 2010 of the following honorary degree *honoris causa*:

Andrew Witty

DSocSci

- (b) Report on the election of members of Senate to serve on the Board of Governors from 1 September 2009

The following members of Senate were have been elected or re-elected to serve on the Board of Governors, in each case for a period of three years from 1 September 2009 unless otherwise stated:

Dr Stuart Allan  
 Dr Wiebke Brockhaus-Grand (31 August 2010)\*  
 Dr Peter Eccles (*re-elected*)  
 Professor Luke Georghiou (*re-elected*)  
 Professor Colette Fagan

\*As there were periods of varying duration the award of the places was determined by lot in accordance with Regulation V (4) (c).

- (c) New and amended undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes approved by Faculties on its behalf during the 2008-09 session (unless otherwise shown, the programmes will start in the 2009-10 session).

#### **New Programmes:**

##### **Faculty of Humanities**

###### ***Postgraduate***

MSc in Financial Economics  
 MSc in Global Urban Development & Planning

##### **Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences**

###### ***Undergraduate***

Foundation Year Pharmacy in partnership with Xaverian College

#### **Programme Amendments:**

##### **Faculty of Humanities**

###### ***Postgraduate***

**MSc in Economics** - Approval of pathway amendment. Additional pathway to the programme that substitutes 3 environmental economics modules for 2 (or 3) of the 5 core modules.

**MSc Analytics: Operational Research & Risk Analysis:-** a more coherent mention of risk analysis, including a minor change of content of 1 core unit; change of titles of all 4 core units and access to units from other programmes as electives.

**MSc Information Systems (Business IT, eBusiness technology, eGovernment, Organisations & Management):-** Research Methodology (from Semester 1) and Research and Professional Development (from Semester 2) have been combined into a new course unit to be offered in Semester 2:- Research Methods and Practice.

**Master of Public Administration:-** Major amendment which has resulted in the programme being re-developed into a 15 month FT programme (270 credits) and an exit award of PG Dip (180 credits).

**MBus Global Business Analysis:-** various changes to the course units available on this programme (full details are outlined in the programme amendment form)

### *Undergraduate*

**BA (Econ) -** Introduction of a non-specialised exit route for final year students who have not satisfied the programme regulations for their chosen specialism but have received a compensated pass for their 2nd year.

**BA European Studies & Modern Languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian & Portuguese):-** Creation of core course at level 1, 2nd Language in the 2nd year is now optional, 4th year dissertation is now optional and 2nd and 4th year students will now be able to select courses on the ES side of their degree from a menu of those available in Social Anthropology & Sociology as well as Politics, Economics & History.

## **11. Next meeting**

The next meeting of **Senate** will be held on **Wednesday, 22 July 2009 at 3.00pm.**

## **12. Dates of Meetings in 2009-2010**

**Noted:** that meetings of Senate in 2009-2010 would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 4 November 2009

Wednesday 3 February 2010

Wednesday 28 April 2010

Wednesday 23 June 2010

All meetings would be at 3.00pm and would be held in the Council Chamber on the first floor of the Whitworth Building (at the entrance to the University, Oxford Road).

## **13. Any other business**

There was no other business.