

Academic and Governance Services

Restricted Minutes

19/01 A meeting of the Senate was held in G06 Chancellor's Building, on Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 2.15 pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Professor Maarten Ambaum
Dr Emma Aston
Professor Adrian Bell
Professor Helen Bilton
Professor Ingo Bojak
Dr Sarah Brewer
Dr David Carter
Dr Claire Collins
Dr John Creighton
Dr Giuseppe Di Fatta
Professor Mark Fellowes
Professor Richard Frazier
Professor Paul Glaister
Professor Andrew Godley
Professor Chris Harty
Professor Ellie Highwood
Professor Carmel Houston-Price
Professor Uma Kambhampati
b4aati

June 2019.

x By way of context:

- o The University had submitted to 23 UoAs in 2014, and would submit to in 2021 (although different UoAs to 2014).
- o In 2014 590 out of 700 FTE were eligible for submission, in 2021 approximately FTE would be eligible.

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accountability and inclusivity. Feedback from the Senate would be incorporated into REF planning.

19/04 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Item 5)

The Senate received the Vice-Chancellor's address to the Senate, noting in particular:

- a) University Strategy – The Council had asked the Vice-Chancellor, as a key priority, to progress and conclude the new University Strategy at the earliest opportunity. It also asked that the University be radical in the way it positioned itself in an increasingly challenging environment. This would require colleagues, students and external stakeholders to play a part in the discussions.

At present four broad key themes were emerging: Community; Excellence; Guardianship of the University's long-term future; the role of the University as a Civic University for Reading.

The Senate noted that its input in shaping the Strategy would be important and that it was intended to use the reserve meeting on 8 May for a broader discussion on the Strategy.

- b) Student Recruitment –

Across the sector, and closet competitor universities, undergraduate applications were down by a small percentage overall.

The Voluntary

Redundancy Scheme would play an important role in returning Schools and Functions to positions of financial sustainability. The Voluntary Redundancy Scheme had now closed; discussions would be held with Schools and Functions over the coming week in regard to the applications received.

- c) NIRD and Reading UCU vote of no confidence - Colleagues would have seen press coverage reviewing the details of the sale of land belonging to the National Institute for Research in Dairying trust, and the University's finances more generally. The Vice-Chancellor recognised the potential reputational damage that this could have for the University and had responded quickly and openly to the issues raised with both the Charity Commission and the Office for Students. The Vice-Chancellor also worked with the President of Council to ensure that the appropriate governance arrangements were put in place. It is important to note that this governance matter had no wider implications for the University group's ongoing financial position. The University responded the very same day to

informed the Senate that the post-project review process would consider in due course the MLES Review and make recommendations for future reviews and lessons learnt. In respect of this Review, it was his view that the management time was well spent and had created opportunity for discussion internally and externally, and had allowed the best ideas and considered outcomes

- x An amendment to the Guidelines on the structure of undergraduate and

