

Academic and Governance Services

Restricted Minutes

19/17 A meeting of the Senate was held in G06 Chancellor's Building, on Thursday 27 June 2019 at 2.15 pm. Professor Susan Ro

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Professor Matthew Almond ~~BYO~~ Professor Mark Fellowes

Dr David Field

Professor Richard Frazier

Professor Clare Furneaux

Professor Paul Glaister

Dr Rebecca Harris

Professor Chris Harty

Dr Lawrence Hill-Cawthorne

Professor Carmel Houston-Price

Dr Rebecca Jerrome

Professor Peter Kruschwitz

Dr Steve Langdon

Dr Tim Lees

Professor Elizabeth McCrum

Professor Gail Marshall

Professor Chuks Oker **Student Representatives:**

Dr Karen Poulter William Page

In attendance:

Ms Louise Sharman (Secretary)

Dr Richard Messer

Deepa Govindarajan Driver

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed members to the Senate, and in particular the new RUSU officers

- There had been leadership changes at UoRM, with enhanced scrutiny from the UK (weekly updates at University Executive Board).
- Cost efficiency measures were being driven locally and from the UK.
- Negotiations were in hand with the landlord.
- Student numbers had been reforecast.
- Staff numbers would be reduced.

The aim in the short to medium term that UoRM would become self-sustaining and would:

- focus on what the market in Malaysia wanted, namely programmes with strong graduate employment prospects.
- build compelling differentiators to attract students through additional certifications or industry opportunities
- carefully manage scale and cost delivery
- become teaching-centric rather than research-centric.

Members of the Senate asked a number of questions, as follows:

- The President of UCU asked for further information on the University's investment to be sent to her.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Senate that the Council had agreed a maximum cap for investment in UoRM of

. There were a number of variables in play, including ongoing discussions with the landlord, but work was in hand to ensure the investment stayed within the accepted plan.

- Had legal costs (internal and external) been factored into the new business plan?

Professor Brooks confirmed that they had.

- How UoRM was doing in comparison to other HEI branch campuses?

It was reported that all UK universities were finding recruiting students challenging at present.

It was noted that other branch campuses on EduCity were delivering specialist subjects and that there was no competition with UoRM in terms of subject mix.

- Concerns were expressed about the move to a teaching-centric campus and the cessation of research activities, and the impact that this would have on the recruitment of staff and staff morale. It was suggested that in selling

programmes, students were interested in being taught by staff from the UK who were at the forefront of their field. There was a danger that this could also impact student recruitment.

Professor Brooks informed the Senate that this was a difficult decision to take but pointed out that research didn't deliver the same level of overhead as teaching activity. He agreed to take the Senate's comments back to the RUMAL Board.

- Concerns were expressed about the inability to recruit sessional staff and the loss of specialist teaching, particularly at Part 3.

Professor Brooks assured the Senate that work was in hand with all Heads of Section to determine what was required in order to deliver the programmes so that no critical elements were lost.

- Could reporting structure to the UK be further improved to embed activities within home Schools?

Professor Brooks assured the Senate that this matter had been discussed in a lot of detail. It was important going forward that tight control was maintained on activities. In order to do this Mr Raimo, Professor Brooks and Ms s

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Professor Brooks assured the Senate that all students who relocated met the entry requirements a

- a) University Strategy – there had been a good level of engagement following the consultation. 579 colleagues had submitted individual responses and 39 School/Function level responses. Students had been given the opportunity to take part through an online survey and through focus groups. In addition, 77 responses had been received from external stakeholders. A discussion on the draft strategy would take place at Council on 8 July 2019.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked all those who had contributed to the survey.

- b) Voluntary Redundancy and Next Steps – the Voluntary Redundancy scheme closed in March and all resulting changes would be implemented by the end of July 2019. The scheme would generate a saving of over £5m. Whilst the figure was less than that targeted it was good to see colleagues engage positively with the scheme.

There were several factors that would determine the University's financial health, the most important of which was student recruitment. Work was in hand to support Schools with their recruitment activity and to identify areas for growth. In addition, support would be given to cross boundaries and develop new modules and shared programmes and explore whether there were any structural or organisational changes required.

Finances still needed to be brought on a sustainable footing, and this might result in compulsory redundancies in some areas. This was not a step that would be taken lightly, and we would do everything reasonably possible to avoid redundancies. However, the University's finances were affected by factors over which

19/23 Report of the University Board for Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (Item 7)

The Senate received the Report of the meetings of the University Board for Teaching, Learning and Student Experience

would

Items for note

19/27 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (Item 11)

The Senate received and noted a report from the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results summarising cases since the last Senate.

19/28 Report of the Student Appeals Committee (Item 12)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Student Appeals Committee held on 19 February and 9 May 2019 and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

19/29 Report of the Standing Committee of Academic Misconduct (Item 13)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Misconduct outlining 17 cases received to date.

19/30 Report of the Standing Committee on Academic Engagement and Fitness to Study (Item

Professor Margot Gosney (30 April 2019)

19/35 Appointments to Committees and other bodies (Item 18 b)

In respect of appointments -

Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees:

- a) Three vacancies for Senate representatives on the Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and the Council on Honorary Degrees to serve until 31 July 2022.

Research Ethics Committee:

- a) Appoint Dr A. Thies to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2022.
- b) Re-appoint Dr G. Botting to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2022.
- c) Re-appoint Dr T. Lincoln to the Research Ethics Committee to serve until 31 July 2022.
- d) One vacancy remains

Joint University/UCU Committee:

- a) One vacancy remains

Personal Titles

- a) Appoint Professor Richard Frazier to the Personal Titles Committee to serve until 31 July 2020.

The University Secretary asked any members of Senate interested in joining a Committee to contact him directly.

19/36 Retirement of Professors (Item 18 c)

The Senate approved under the provisions of Ordinance B7 the title of Professor Emeritus/Emerita be conferred upon the following with effect from the date indicated:

Professor Alison Black (31 July 2019)
 Professor Bradford Hooker (31 July 2019)
 Professor Lynne Murray (31 July 2019)
 Professor Jill Porter (31 July 2019)
 Professor Susan Rose (31 July 2019)
 Professor Kathleen Ryan (31 July 2019)
 Professor Hugo Tucker (31 July 2019)
 Professor Lindy Grant (30 September 2019)

19/37 Other Retirements (Item 18 d)

The Senate approved that that the following be accorded the title of Honorary Fellow for a period of five years with effect from the date indicated:

