

Senate

21/43 A meeting of the Senate was held via Teams on Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 2.15pm.

Present:

The Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Dr Tabarak Ballal
Professor Adrian Bell
Professor Cindy Becker
Dr Rebecca Berkley
Dr Katrina Bicknell
Professor Helen Bilton
Professor John Board
Professor Ingo Bojak
Professor Phil Dash
Professor James Devenney

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the following who had died since the last meeting of the Senate:

Emeritus Professor Malcolm Stansfield In 1959, Malcolm completed his PhD in Agriculture in

- o Implement country focused student recruitment strategies and delivery plans. Become more strategic in these of scholarships and bursaries.
- o Further invest in a Global Partnerships Office bringing together a larger number of international education professionals utilising market intelligence to contribute to new partnership working in South Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe (probably Southern Europe).
- o Open up a number of offshore transnational education (TNE) partnership hubs to draw in students from the wider South and Southeast Asian regions including one to be established on the University of Reading campus in Malaysia.
- o Devise marketing, branding/identity campaigns to improve the international focus and appropriateness of our promotional texts. Using world-leading research reputation as the hook.
- o Review balance of UK staff and country staff in the University's Global Recruitment office with a view to opening offices in key regions, which would manage relationships with agents and maybe process applications.
- o Launch of a programme of Universitywide Global Engagement initiatives promoting the development of intercultural skills. e.g. Turing student mobility programme and a Global Citizen Award.
- o Develop a menu of distance/blended programmes build on the experiences of delivering le ()-5.-14.907 -. (f)4.4 (e)0.7 (ne-1.5 (eS5.2 (f)4.)Tj /4.1 (f .1 (t)0.61 (s)-5.2 (p)4/4.1 (mo l)-1.h(r)-1.8eUbenTj -0.01 Tc -On be

By way of a summary it was noted that the location of the HQ and the core science activities of the ECMWF to the University's Whiteknights Campus has been under discussion for almost 10 years between Government, ECMWF, and the University. Whilst a concrete proposal was on the table and under discussion by all parties three years ago, Brexit and the tender by ECMWF to host its EU-funded programmes (Copernicus@ECMWF) delayed a decision. Following the unsuccessful application of the UK to host Copernicus@ECMWF in December 2020, the then Science Minister reiterated the UK's offer to build a new HQ for ECMWF on campus. Since then, work had resumed, with Government (BEIS and the Government Property Agency) to develop a proposal (financial, architectural, and scientific) for approval by ECMWF Council in December 2021.

Bringing ECMWF onto the Whiteknights campus was a complex project offered very significant returns, but also involved significant investments. Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Zaum highlighted three key points to the date:

- x The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has agreed to provide a grant of £10m to the University to cover the costs of the project.

The covid dashboard was reporting around 20 new cases a week amongst staff and students. Whilst there might be some underreporting to the University (particularly of staff cases with rates so high in secondary schools), the University's rates were far lower than the 200 weekly cases this time last year. The NHS PCR testing centre at the Great Hall at London Road had now closed. The University had offered free space for a new NHS PCR testing station near the Pepper Lane entrance on Whiteknights campus.

The assumption for the Spring Term was that all students w

Science Park and the Hall Farm site

- Annual Statement from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator 2020
 - Review and Update of Student Rules and Procedures
 - Portfolio Review Pathway
 - Risk Registers
 - Periodic Review
 - NSS 2021
 - UKES 2021
 - PGT Taught Experience Survey
 - League Tables
 - Quality Assurance Review
 - Examiner Nominations
 - Extenuating Circumstances Review Project
 - Academic Tutor System Project
 - Student Attendance & Management Support
 - Curriculum Framework
 - Student Voice and Partnership
 - Student Academic Transitions
 - Sub-Group on Education for Sustainable Development
 - Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs)
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It was highlighted that the UCRI Way Day had looked at the research plan and research strategy post REF.

There was an increasing focus on research culture (research integrity, open research, collegiality, supporting career development, recognition and reward); consideration would need to be given as to how this fits within the University Strategy. Government had announced specific funding the QR allocation for research culture

21/53 Report of the Global Engagement Strategy Board (Item 12)

The Senate noted that there was no report on this occasion

21/54 Enrolment Analysis 2021 (Item 13)

The Senate received and noted an analysis of enrolment for 2021. Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Felowes highlighted to the Senate the following

- x The challenges faced in recruitment during the pandemic including the impact of grade inflation and the activity of competitors.
- x Across all levels of study, the University had seen a 6%/-337 decrease in Home enrolments

21/56 Report of the Student Appeals Committee (Item 15)

The Senate received the Report of the meeting of the Student Appeals Committee held since the last meeting and noted the outcomes of the Committee's decisions.

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RESERVED BUSINESS

20/61 The reserved minutes (21/41-21/42) of the meeting held on 24 June 2011 were approved.

21/62 Reports of Ex