
SENATE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2025 2PM IN THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM

Members	Professor Andrew Gower	Vice-Chancellor and CEO (Chair)
	Dr Nick Gee	Executive Dean of Faculty
	Professor Andrew Jackson	Executive Dean for Research & Knowledge Exchange
	Dr Claire Thomson	Executive Dean for Teaching, Learning & Student Success
	Dr Sacha Mason	Academic Staff Member of University Council and Head of Programmes: Education, Health and Lifelong Learning
	Professor Caroline Horton	Professoriate Representative (Professor of Sleep and Cognition)
	Kymerley Gill	Students' Union Vice President, Education 2025/26
	<u>Faculty Representation</u>	
	Dr Matt Dunn	Head of Programmes: Initial Teacher Education
	Dr Clare Wheat-Gooing	Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty
Minutes	Leanne Chancellor	Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office

The Chair thanked members for their attendance for the third and final Senate meeting of the academic year 2024/25.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from:

- Professor Jacks Cunningham, Professoriate Representative (Professor of Ecclesiastical History).
- Janet Atkinson, Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty.
- Stefan Fusenich, Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty.
- Stefan Bolton, Students' Union President 2025/26.
- MJ Sykes, Undergraduate Student Representative.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Senate – 19 March 2025

The minutes of the Senate meeting held on 19 March 2025 were CONFIRMED as a fair and accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Senate NOTED that there were no matters arising or actions outstanding from the meeting on 19 March 2025.

3.2 Any Other Matters

3.2.1 There were no other matters to discuss.

4. University Committees and the Role of Senate

4.1 The Chair PROPOSED that an initial discussion would be held to review the future format of Senate and think more about what Senate's purpose was and the active role it represents – rather than its 'power' as a committee.

4.2 The Chair NOTED that Senate ultimately is about academic governance and provides assurance updates to University Council, through the Academic Assurance Committee, that the University is compliant from a regulatory perspective; is maintaining academic standards; and is systematic and impactful in its approach to quality enhancement.

4.3 The Chair NOTED that he was reviewing the current committee structure and looking to reduce the number of committees for efficiency and to avoid duplication of business and information.

4.4 Members DISCUSSED and REFLECTED on the areas of academic governance that Senate should be focused on:

- With regards to strategy – University Council will look to Senate to seek assurance that what we are doing is in alignment with the strategy that Council has set.
- Reviewing the integrity of academic standards through:
 - The Academic Health of the Institution Report (AHIR).
 - The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process.
 - External Examiners Report.
 - Degree outcomes.
 - Research outcomes.
- Reviewing academic risks relating to partnership collaboration.
- Recruitment and retention.
- Data provision and quality assurance.
- Content of curriculum, the review of programmes and the conferment of academic titles.
- The requirement of validating and accrediting bodies, i.e. University of Leicester, Skills England for Apprenticeships and Ofsted.

4.5 The Chair NOTED that there would be a review of Senate's Terms of Reference to better reflect the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Code of Governance, the University's Articles of Association and the supporting committee structure.

4.6 The Chair NOTED that he would draft new revised Terms of Reference and would share with members to review before the next Senate meeting in November 2025.

4.7 The Chair NOTED that he would also be reviewing the divide between the Academic Enhancement Committee and Senate within the new revised committee structure.

Chair

Chair

5. To Note – Key Decisions from University Council

5.1 The Academic Staff Member of University Council, noted the following key items were received at the University Council meeting held on 2 July 2025:

- 5.1.1
- Council spent the morning in a **Strategy Development Session** where they discussed and reviewed:
 - Reflections as a University Council and University Executive on the core purpose, goals and objectives of the university through the draft Strategic Plan 2025-30.
 - Developments of the Academic Portfolio 2025-30.
 - Developments of the Research and Knowledge Exchange 2025-30.
 - The Financial Resilience Framework 2025.
 - The draft budget for Year 1 – 2025/2026.
 - Council were content with the direction of the Strategy Plan 2025-30 and the Financial Resilience Framework 2025-30 and approved for the Vice-Chancellor to move forward with these.
- 5.1.2
- At the **University Council meeting**, which was held after the Strategy Development Sessions, the following key items were presented:
 - Received an update from Connor Short, Safeguarding, Contentions & Project Officer on safeguarding and the Office for Students (OfS) E6 conditions of registration.
 - Approved the following policies:
 - Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct
 - Safeguarding Children and at-risk Adults Policy
 - Dignity Policy for Staff and Students
 - Received an update from the Students' Union President

6. To Note – Programme Suspensions and Closures (following UEG on 9 July 2025)

6.1 Programme Suspensions:

6.1.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED the proposal forms to suspend the full time only provisions for the following Master's (MA) programmes until Sept 2026 intake – the part-time provision route continues and will still be recruited to:

- MA Theology
- MA English Literature
- MA Children's Literature and Literacies

6.1.2 Senate APPROVED and SUPPORTED the SUSPENSIONS of the above three programmes for the full time only provision.

6.2 Programme Closure:

6.2.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED the proposal form to close the following apprenticeship programme:

- Archaeological Specialist Apprenticeship (L7)

6.2.2 Senate APPROVED and SUPPORTED the CLOSURE of the above apprenticeship programme.

7. To Note: Senate Chair's Actions Since the Last Meeting

7.1 Members NOTED and ACKNOWLEDGED the following Chair's Actions that had been taken outside of the meeting:

- Approval of the Suspension of Archaeological Specialist Apprenticeship (L7) (02.04.25) – *which has now been closed*.
- Approval of the Closure of MA Legacy Programmes (06.05.25).
- Approval of the Record of Decision (RoD) for Primary and Secondary Teacher Apprenticeships (QTS) (23.05.25).
- Approval of the RoD for Birmingham Academy Singapore (23.05.25).
- Approval of the RoD for the PGT Core to be delivered as a full time/in person, part-time/blended, and a part-time/distance learning mode of study (04.06.25).
- Approval of the RoD for delivery of the CertHE/DipHE Business Management programme by The Language Gallery (TLG) (03.07.25).
- Approval of the RoD for BA (Hons) Counselling Practitioner and BA (Hons) Counselling (Level 6 top up), to be delivered on a full-time basis of attendance and blended learning mode of study.
- Approval of the RoD for FdA Early Childhood Education/BA (Hons) Early Childhood Education (L6 top-up), FdA Teaching & Learning/BA (Hons) Teaching and Learning (L6 top-up), and FdA Childhood, Youth & Families in Practice/BA (Hons) Childhood, Youth & Families in Practice (L6 top-up), to be delivered on a full-time basis of attendance and blended learning mode of study (07.07.25).
- Approval of the RoD for Foundation Year, to be delivered on a full-time basis of attendance and in-person learning mode of study (07.07.25).

8. Minutes of Meetings of Subcommittees of Senate

8.1 Academic Enhancement Committees held on 21 May 2025

8.1.1 Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the Academic Enhancement Committee meetings held on 21 May 2025.

8.1.2 Noted were the Student Journey Timeline Plans.

- The Executive Dean for Teaching, Learning & Student Success (ExD:TLSS) noted that further work was required on the Lifelong Learning on what this may look like for the University.
- The ExD:TLSS noted that the various Student Journeys will now be monitored and tested throughout the year to ensure that there are no gaps or 'pinch points' that have not been addressed or missed.
- The Chair NOTED it might be interesting to review the Student Journey against the alignment of the university's deliberative committees.
- It was noted by one of the Professoriate Members that there was not a current oversight journey of the research offer, which if the institution considers in the future a Master or Research (MRes) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil) offer, this will need to be built in.

8.1.3 The Chair NOTED that work was currently commencing on submitting a revision of the Access and Participation Plan with regards to reducing our bursaries to the OfS – the bursaries will be means tested rather than age related.

8.2 People and Inclusion Committee held on 20 May 2025

Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the People and Inclusion Committee held on 20 May 2025.

ExD:TLSS

8.3 Access and Participation Committee

It was NOTED that the Access and Participation Committee had not met since the last meeting of Senate.

8.4 Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee held on 3 April 2025

Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee held on 3 April 2025.

8.5 Safeguarding and Prevent Committee held on 7 May 2025

Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the Safeguarding and Prevent Committee held on 7 May 2025.

9. **Any Other Business**

9.1 Validation Processes:

9.1.1 The Chair NOTED that he had discussed with the ExD:TLSS to see if there were ways in which we can enhance the efficiency with which we progress validations and also partnerships.

9.1.2 The Chair ASKED the ExD:TLSS to consider holding a Task and Finish Group of three meetings to consider:

- What needs to be done;
- Review what could be done; and
- Review what has been done.

Focusing on validation, changes to validations and partnerships.

10. **Dates of Next Meeting**

10.1 The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 2pm.

} ExD:TLSS

Signed by the Chair:



Professor Andrew Gower

____3 December 2025_____
Date