



---

SENATE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022  
AT 2PM IN HARDY, SEMINAR ROOM 1

---

<b>Members</b>	Rev Canon Professor Peter Neil	Vice-Chancellor ( <b>Chair</b> )
	Professor Scott Fleming	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
	Dr Stephanie Gilluly	Registrar and University Secretary
	Dr Robert Boast	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)
	Dr Nick Gee	Dean of Faculty
	Dr Caroline Horton	Professoriate/Reader Representative
	Dr Jack Cunningham	Professoriate/Reader Representative
	Dr Andrew Jackson	Head of Research
	Connor Short	Students' Union President, 2022/23
	<u>Faculty Representation</u>	
	Dr Matt Dunn	Head of Programmes: Secondary, FE and TD
	Dr Clare Wheat-Gooing	Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty
	Janet Atkinson	Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty
<b>Minutes</b>	Leanne Chancellor	Secretariat, Graduation & Governance Manager

The Chair thanked members for their attendance at the first Senate meeting of the academic year 2022/23.

**1. Apologies**

**1.1** Apologies were received from:

- Dr Sacha Mason, Academic Staff Member of University Council and Head of Programmes: Education, Health and Lifelong Learning.
- Stefan Fusenich, Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty.
- Emily Allden, Students' Union Vice President, Education 2022/23.

The Chair welcomed the following new members to their first Senate meeting:

- Dr Caroline Horton, Professoriate/Readership Representative.
- Dr Jack Cunningham, Professoriate/Readership Representative.
- Dr Matt Dunn, Head of Programmes: Secondary, FE and TD.
- Janet Atkinson, Member of Academic Staff from the Faculty.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**2.1** Senate – 13 July 2022

The minutes of the Senate meeting held on 13 July 2022 were CONFIRMED as a fair and accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	<b>CS/EA</b>
3.1	<u>Action Table – 13 July 2022</u> Senate RECEIVED an updated action table from the meeting on 13 July 2022 and NOTED the following:	
3.1.1	<u>National Student Survey (NSS) Results (Refers to minute 10.2)</u> To be discussed under item 5 of the agenda.	
3.2	<u>Any Other Matters</u>	
3.2.1	There were no further matters to be raised.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Review Terms of Reference and Membership for 2022/23</b>	
4.1	Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Senate membership and Terms of Reference (ToR) for 2022/23.	
4.2	The Students' Union were requested to confirm their Undergraduate and Postgraduate/Masters Representation for the academic year for the next Senate meeting in December 2022.	<b>CS/EA</b>
4.3	The PVC noted that it would be wise to acknowledge in the scope of the ToR to include a mention to Apprenticeships. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Registrar &amp; University Secretary (R&amp;US) noted that it should be included in the 'Key Tasks of the Committee – item 1':  <i>"1. To maintain academic standards and the quality of, and procedures for, the award of qualifications (including all Apprenticeships) and conferment of academic titles, including the consideration of reports of the School Boards and Professional Support areas on the health of academic provision, noting and responding to any cross-University issues identified by annual monitoring".</i> </li> </ul>	
4.4	Members were content with the membership and ToR for 2022/23.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Presentation on the National Student Survey (NSS), BGU Student Satisfaction Survey (BGUSSS) and Graduate Outcomes Results</b>	
5.1	The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) (PVC) presented the results from the NSS, BGUSSS and Graduate Outcomes.	
5.2	<u>NSS:</u>	
5.2.1	The PVC highlighted the following from the NSS results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The survey ran from January to April 2022 for all undergraduate students in the final year of their degree, either Foundation Degree (Level 5) or Honours Degree (Level 6).</li> <li>346 out of the 437 eligible BGU students participated in the NSS. The final response rate of 79.2% was 2% points better than NSS2021 returning towards the pre-COVID high of 85.2% of NSS2019.</li> <li>The overall satisfaction (Q27) recovered from last year's 5 year low of 71.8%, back up to 80.7%. Whilst still 5.6% points below the 2020 5 year high of 85.3%, this 9.1% improvement for BGU was much greater than for the sector, which bounced back by only 1.3% to 76.6%.</li> <li>By being 4.1% better than the sector BGU is ranked 28th out of 146 HEI, up from 108th in 2021.</li> </ul>	<b>LC</b>

- In the Sunday Times Good University Guide, BGU moved up 52 places to 4th for 'satisfaction with teaching quality' and 77 places to 13th for 'satisfaction with the wider student experience'.
- For all 8 satisfaction scale themes, BGU improved both its percentage score and ranking within the 146 HEIs:
 

○ Teaching: 79.1% (78 <sup>th</sup> ) NSS21	to	83.4% (23 <sup>rd</sup> ) NSS22
○ Learning: 77.4% (101 <sup>st</sup> )	to	84.2% (10 <sup>th</sup> )
○ Assessment & Feedback: 74.6% (18 <sup>th</sup> )	to	81.0% (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
○ Academic Support: 70.9% (100 <sup>th</sup> )	to	80.9% (9 <sup>th</sup> )
○ Organisation & Management: 63.8% (113 <sup>th</sup> )	to	72.2% (42 <sup>nd</sup> )
○ Learning Resources: 68.3% (122 <sup>nd</sup> )	to	86.6% (6 <sup>th</sup> )
○ Learning Community: 67.9% (73 <sup>rd</sup> )	to	73.5% (21 <sup>st</sup> )
○ Student Voice: 66.2% (78 <sup>th</sup> )	to	73.5% (13 <sup>th</sup> )
- The results indicated that the things that the NSS21 cohort missed as they finished their degrees during a year of blended-learning (semester 1) and lock-down remote learning (semester 2) were the normal access to learning resources, academic support and in-person teaching and learning. When these were restored for 2021/22 with the return to on-campus in-person delivery, our students' satisfaction bounce-back was greater than most of the sector.

5.2.2 The PVC highlighted the areas to improve across the institution:

- **Response rates** to maintain above 80%.
- **Academic support** including the availability of tutors and ability to provide good advice which could be enhanced through Teams appointments.
- **Organisation and Management** focusing on better communications about changes to course delivery.
- **Student Voice**, specifically closing the feedback loop and letting students know directly how we have responded to their feedback.

5.2.3 NSS2023:

The PVC noted that the Office for Students (OfS) had announced that it would be revising the NSS for 2023. He noted that the exact changes were still be announced, but were likely to be:

- Removal of questions on overall satisfaction, timetabling and learning community, but more questions for learning as well as freedom of opinion and mental health support.
- Existing questions would be reworded to allow more specific responses for each question (rather than just levels of satisfaction) and to remove the neutral response.
- The survey period would be shortened with a start in mid-February.

5.2.4 The PVC noted that the Core Surveys Group would be monitoring and reviewing the changes for both the NSS and alignment of the BGUSSS.

5.2.5 The PVC also noted that the mini-surveys week would be returning this academic year to encourage students to fill in the NSS and BGUSSS.

5.2.6 The Chair NOTED that this academic year a panel consisting of himself, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC), the PVC, the Dean of Faculty and the respective Head of Programmes, had met with each Programme Leader and their team, to review recruitment, specifically the NSS areas for development and retention.

### 5.2.7 Members raised the following comments:

- The DVC noted that at Open Days he was keen to emphasise the return to in-person learning which has meant more collaborative learning for students and more face-to-face contact with staff. The message has been well received at Open Days and the rise of our NSS scores was a good selling point for us.
- With regards to mental health support, the Chair noted a recent internal audit had been completed which was extremely positive on the support that BGU students receive. The Chair also noted that BGU had come second in the 'WhatsUni Student Choice Awards for Student Support.'
  - The Students' Union President noted that he was currently working on a campaign to make sure students were aware of all the support that was available to them.
- Members discussed the Freedom of Speech theme and agreed this needed to be reviewed further to ensure students understand what is meant.
- Members agreed that the removal of the "neutral" option of the NSS was a positive move.
- The Dean of Faculty noted that there was a Faculty-Wide Action Plan in place, and subjects, with low NSS scores have their own specific Action Plans. He noted that teams will be promoting a "winter blues buster", where a modest amount of finance is made available to each of the academic teams to organise a feel-good event to remind students how fortunate they are to be studying at BGU and acknowledging all the support and services available to them.
- It was noted that the £5 voucher for the Refectory was continuing this academic year as a student incentive for filling out the surveys.

## 5.3 BGUSSS:

### 5.3.1 The PVC highlighted the following from the BGUSSS results:

- The BGUSSS ran in parallel with the NSS across all levels of study – from the foundation year to research degree students.
- The BGUSSS asks a greater number of questions across a broader range of academic course and student experience themes. The questions include the equivalent NSS questions to enable BGU to understand how satisfaction might be progressing with undergraduate cohorts prior to their final year.
- For BGUSSS22, a number of small changes were made to the survey questions:
  - A neutral response category was introduced to mirror the NSS
  - New questions included:
    - CELT – organisation / layout of the VLE and support provided by learning development
    - Personal tutoring – with frequency of meetings and usefulness of personal tutoring
    - Graduate skills – with the embedding of and development of graduate attributes and preparation for employment / further study after BGU.
- The overall response rate rose from 18.4% in 2021 to 32.3%, comparable to the 2020 rate of 33.2% (which had reached a plateau following lockdown in March 2020). However, this was still 16% points below the 2019 high of 48.6%.
- The undergraduate response rate was 35.9% with some variability across the levels – lowest at L0 (24.1%), highest at L5 (40.7%) and comparable to the overall rate at L4 and L6 (34.6% and 35.8% respectively).
- At postgraduate level, the overall rate was 24.7%, with Research Students at 17.1%, PGCE students at 23%, MA students at 24% and NA SENCO at 46%.

- Whilst the 772 responses provide a sound foundation for evaluation, there is an ambition to improve response rates to 40%+.
- Overall satisfaction had recovered from 83.0% in 2021 to 92.5% in 2022. This has seen a return to near pre-Covid levels of overall satisfaction (93.4% in 2020) reflecting a similar 'bounce back' in the NSS results.
- The most noticeable swing in overall satisfaction was at postgraduate level with a drop of 24.3% between 2020 and 2021 and a recovery of 20.1% between 2021 and 2022 to 91.5%.
- By comparison undergraduate satisfaction dropped 6.4% between 2020 and 2021 and recovered by 6.3% between 2021 and 2022 to 92.8%.
- Student satisfaction with their course and with the wider BGU experience had increased by 8.1% and 10.8% respectively to 92.6% and 92.3%.

5.3.2 The PVC noted the actions to be reviewed from the BGUSSS, which will be addressed through the Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs):

- Subjects, Student Advice and Access and Participation Committee to review how course experience for students with a known disability can be improved.
- The Foundation Year (LO) AMR needs to address the apparent lower course satisfaction of its students.
- PgT programmes (MAs, PGCEs, MA SENCOs and Apprenticeships) leaders to review specifically Assessment and Feedback satisfaction, and if needed address in their AMR action plans.
- The PgR Programme Leader to review and address specifically Learning Resources, Learning Community and Student Voice satisfaction in their AMR action plans.
- Consider looking at the Foundation Year students' experiences and whether the amount of time they are on-campus should be increased.
- Services to consider the satisfaction / engagement of Level 5 students and for subject teams to address personal tutoring and encourage greater engagement with learning and support services.
- The Students' Union may consider its service to PgT and PgR students.
- CELT, Library and Placement Service to consider the satisfaction / engagement of male students with their services and for subject teams to encourage male students to engage more with those learning and support services.
- Placement services work with Student Advice to understand why students with a known disability are less satisfied than those without a known disability and what might be done to improve this.

#### 5.4 Graduate Outcomes:

5.4.1 The PVC highlighted the following from the Graduate Outcomes results:

- The 2022 Graduate Outcomes results were published in April 2022 and record the activities of the 2019/20 graduating cohort during the census week 15 months after they completed their studies. This is the cohort that entered the career market during the pandemic.
- 87% of BGU graduates in 2019/20 were in employment or further study compared to the national average of 89%.
- In contrast, nationally 6% of graduates were unemployed whilst the BGU figure was lower at 5.8%. A greater proportion of BGU students have caring responsibilities, doing something else or volunteering.
- Of those BGU graduates employed, 69.6% were in high-skilled roles compared to the national average of 76%. For BGU this is the lowest in the last 3 years, down from 78.2% in 2018/19 and 72.4% in 2017/18.

- For those in work, 91% of our graduates felt the work to be meaningful (similar to the previous two cohorts), 81% saw it fitting into their career plans (down by about 4% on previous cohorts) and 79% considered that they were using their degree skills (down about 4-6%).
- For those studying, 94% felt their further study was meaningful (up 9%), 94% saw it fitting into their career plans (up 6%) and 88% considered it used their degree skills (the same as the year before).

5.4.2 The PVC noted the actions to be reviewed from the Graduate Outcome survey:

- Subject teams and BG Futures to understand the Graduate Outcomes for their specific cohorts and the proportion of graduates going into graduate / high-skilled jobs and how this might be enhanced.
- Student Advice to work with BG Futures to understand how students with a known disability might be given enhanced guidance and support on graduate attributes and careers preparation.

5.4.3 Members raised the following comments:

- Could Graduate Outcomes be enhanced by providing some incentives via fees to encourage students to stay on in study (e.g, to continue study with Masters)?

## 6. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) – Plan of Action

6.1 The PVC noted that the new TEF2023 will be a four-year cycle moving forwards, similar to the period nature of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and it is at institutional level, though variance across the institution's portfolio will be examined.

6.2 The PVC noted the following revised features of the TEF2023:

- The TEF will review all undergraduate provision including Partnership registered students and Apprenticeships – however, it was thought that BGU's Apprenticeships would not be included as they are too recent.
- The TEF will rate the excellence on "Overall Value" and for "Experience and Outcomes" based on:
  - Gold – excellence;
  - Silver – excellence;
  - Bronze – excellence; and
  - the new category, requires improvement.

It was noted that to be eligible for TEF rating, HEIs must satisfy baseline quality and standards requirements.

- The TEF takes a judgement on student experience and student outcomes:
  - An expert panel will, this time, take an holistic view.
  - Provider submission (25 pages max) and Student submission (10 pages max or via a podcast, video, audio presentation) documents will be considered first.
  - Benchmarked Data Dashboard will be used for cross-referencing submission claims for excellence.
  - There will be no initial hypotheses or algorithm.
- The TEF data indicators are:
  - Student experience:
    - NSS – teaching, assessment and feedback, academic support, learning resources, student voice.
  - Student Outcomes:
    - Continuation.

- Completion.
- Progression (professional and managerial/further study).
- Learning Gain.

6.3 The PVC noted that the deadline for the BGU TEF submission was 24 January 2023, and results would be received in July/August 2023.

6.4 The PVC noted that a TEF Oversight Working Group had been re-established and it had its first meeting on 19 October 2022. The Working Group has been split into two groups:

1. Support the preparation of the student submission with the Students' Union Vice President, Education.
2. Review the data and the OfS Dashboards, which have been made available to institutions.

The PVC noted that November would be the information gathering period, December would be the writing up period and January would be the proof-reading period leading up to submission.

## **7. Apprenticeship Ofsted Early Provision Monitoring Inspection Feedback**

7.1 The PVC noted that on 1 April 2021, Ofsted took over the inspections of the FE Apprenticeships. BGU received our inspection on the Apprenticeship Ofsted Early Provision Monitoring on 4 and 5 October 2022.

7.2 The Ofsted Early Provision Monitoring Inspection reviewed three areas:

1. Leadership and Management.
2. Quality of Education.
3. Safeguarding.

The inspectors were assessing us early in our development to see where we were on our journey and were we on track in terms of an Apprenticeship Provider.

7.3 The PVC noted that an Apprenticeship Oversight Group meeting was scheduled on 8 November 2022 and would be meeting regularly to drive through any development recommendations and determine what actions are required. It was noted that any endorsements from this group would be presented to the Academic Enhancement Committee and then to Senate.

7.4 The PVC noted that the full confirmed report from Ofsted should be received by the end of November 2022. It was noted that there were three Ofsted categories:

- Unsatisfactory progress;
- Reasonable progress;
- Significant progress.

7.5 The PVC noted that the inspectors gave a lot of positive feedback as well as some development recommendations.

The PVC highlighted some of the positive feedback:

- Acknowledgement of the quality of the learning environment;
- Recognition of the quality and safeguarding processes that were in place;
- Opportunities for research activity and updating of CPD;
- Strategy for incremental development in apprenticeships.

7.6 The DVC noted that when the Ofsted call was received, it was an admirable team effort to mobilise to get the job done. It was very successful.

7.7 The Chair GAVE THANKS to the PVC, the Partnerships, Apprenticeships and Skills Development Manager and team for all their work and support.

## **8. Minutes of Meetings of Subcommittees of Senate**

### **8.1 Academic Enhancement Committee held on 5 October 2022**

Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the Academic Enhancement Committee meeting held on 5 October 2022.

### **8.2 People and Inclusion Committee held on 4 May 2022**

Senate NOTED that a meeting of the People and Inclusion Committee had not been held since the last Senate meeting in July 2022.

### **8.3 Access and Participation Committee held on 8 June 2022**

Senate NOTED that a meeting of the Access & Participation Committee had not been held since the last Senate meeting in July 2022.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **9.1 ITT Accreditation Outcome**

The Chair was pleased to announce that on 29 September 2022, confirmation was received that BGU's application was successful and have been re-accredited by the Department of Education to continue to deliver high-quality ITE beyond 2024.

The Chair GAVE THANKS to the Head of Programme: Secondary, FE and TD and his team for all their work and support in putting the application together.

### **9.2 Update on the REF**

The DVC noted that since the last Senate meeting, we have received confidential institutional feedback – but was noted that this just confirmed feedback already received.

### **9.3 Access and Participation Plan (APP)**

The PVC noted that recently submitted to the OfS a variance report for 2023/24, which all institutions had to complete across the sector – the intention is that this report will run for one year and then they will bring forward the new four-year APP starting in 2024/25.

### **9.4 Call for Honorary Doctorate and Fellowship Awards for 2022/23**

The Chair INFORMED members the call for recommendations for Honorary Doctorates and Fellowships Awards for 2022/23 will be advertised mid-November 2022.

## **10. Dates of Future Meeting(s)**

- 10.1
- Wednesday 15 December 2022

The Chair gave thanks to Senate for their attendance.



Signed by the Chair:

Revd Canon Professor Peter Neil

1 March 2023  
Date