



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

**WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2016
2PM IN THE JOHN TOMLINSON ROOM**

Present:

Rev Canon Professor Peter Neil	Vice Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Jayne Mitchell	Deputy Vice Chancellor
Mr Steve Deville	Director of Resources
Dr Ruth Sayers	Executive Dean: Learning, Teaching & International
Professor David Rae	Executive Dean: Research & Knowledge Exchange
Dr Graham Basten	Head of School of Social Sciences
Dr Andrew Jackson	Head of School of Humanities
Mr Andrew Tofts	Regulatory Compliance and Teacher Development Support Manager
Mr Graham Meeson	Academic Staff University Council Member elected by teaching staff
Dr Kate Adams	Head of Research
Professor Chris Atkin	Professor of Higher Education

School of Humanities

Dr Craig Spence	Academic member of staff
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School of TD

Dr Pat Beckley	Academic member of staff
Mr Shaun Thompson	Academic member of staff

Student members

Mr Gareth Hughes	Students' Union Vice President Academic Affairs
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Officer:

Dr Anne Craven, Registrar and Secretary

Minuting Secretary:

Ms Michele Upcott, Student Administration Manager

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from the following members:

Dr Nick Gee, Head of School of Teacher Development
Dr Olivia Sagan, School of Social Science, Academic member of staff
Dr Anne Craven, Registrar and Secretary
Miss Becca Smith, Students' Union President
Mr Adam Selby, Students' Union Officer (UG)
Mr Lewis Smith, Students' Union Officer (PG)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held 2 March 2016

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the following amendments:

- Amended Dr Kate Adams title to read ***“Head of Research”*** under those present.
- Second bullet point under Minute 4 should read ***“.....BIS Green paper Consultation had been shared within the Cathedrals Group”***
- Minute 13.4 should read as ***“....The remaining Minerva queries are currently being managed by the Events and Alumni team.***

3. Matters arising

3.1 Higher Education Review (refers Item 5)
See Minute 5.

3.2 Ofsted – Final Report and Action Plan (refers Item 6.4)
See Minute 9.

3.3 Policies and Procedures: Open Access Publications Policy (refers Item 8.1)
The Minuting Secretary confirmed that the Open Access Publication Policy had been uploaded to the relevant area of the University website.

3.3 IT Services response to the Periodic Enhanced Review (PER) (refers Item 10)
The Director of Resources confirmed that IT had updated the action plan with a lead person for each action within the plan.

3.4 University Institutional Returns: NSS (Item 13.1)
See Minute 8.1

4. Minutes Academic Enhancement Committee held on 17 February 2016

Members received and noted the unconfirmed minutes of Academic Enhancement Committee held on 18 May 2016 noting the following:

- Members noted that AEC received information from the SU regarding a referendum to decide whether they remain affiliated to the NUS. It was noted that there were insufficient numbers of votes to hold a referendum. There is still a possibility that students will vote to disaffiliate in their next AGM meeting scheduled for November 2016.
- Members noted that the QASA Team have been asked to provide an action plan in preparation to meet the HEFCE 2016/3 Revised Operating Model for Quality Assessment which will be presented to AEC in July 2016.
- Members noted that AEC had discussed the draft QAA HER Action Plan and asked for comments which will be actioned by the QAA HER Steering Group prior to publication on the University Website on 23 June 2016. The final draft will be considered by SLT and circulated to University Council.

5. QAA HER Final Report

5.1 Members received and noted the QAA HER Final Report.

Members noted the excellent report and the fact that BGU had met all judgements in the four key areas (academic standards; quality of students' learning opportunities; public information and enhancement) with one Recommendation, two Affirmations and four examples of Good Practice recognised by the QAA. It was noted that the QAA HER Steering Group has responsibility for the monitoring of the Action Plan. The Deputy Vice Chancellor informed members that BGU was now able to quote from the QAA HER Final Report within its marketing material. It was noted that the Communications Oversight Group (COG) would support the communication of the results of the Review.

RAS/AKC

The Chair congratulated all staff involved in the QAA HER Review for a successful outcome.

6. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

6.1 Members noted that the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy sets out the rationale for the Stakeholder Strategy Engagement Committee, which has met four times. The strategy has five main objectives, which are outlined on Page 2.

Members noted that the Stakeholder Strategy Engagement Committee was in the process of developing a stakeholder mapping tool which would collate information on external stakeholders that are routinely in contact with the University.

The Executive Dean: Research & Knowledge Exchange informed members that he had received excellent support from Barry Clarkson, Director of IT & Systems Development, IT Services, to ascertain all the different data sources within BGU that currently hold information relating to our external stakeholders.

Members noted that the next stage would be to involve all academic and professional services/departments in developing a stakeholder mapping knowledge for ascertaining clear responsibilities and gaps, and for taking decisions on where to invest or withdraw investment. The Head of School of Humanities felt that the strategy would allow for clarity about who BGU allowed to use its resources.

The Executive Dean: Research & Knowledge Exchange informed members that the strategy should inform decision making. It was noted that there was no student representatives on the group. The Executive Dean was keen to involve Alumni and students in the group. The Executive Dean will discuss student representation on the groups with SU.

DR→SU

Senate received and approved the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

7. HE Sector Policy updates:

7.1 HE White Paper

Members noted the HE White Paper and the TEF Technical Consultation published on 16 May 2016. It was noted that the White Paper contained much of what was outlined within the Green paper, highlighting the following key proposals:

- Creation of an Office for Students, merging the Office for Fair Access with the learning and teaching functions of HEFCE;

- Creation of a single research body, UK Research & Innovations, merging the current seven research councils, Innovate UK, and the research and knowledge exchange functions of HEFCE;
- Retaining the proposed link between the Teaching Excellent Framework and tuition fees;
- Inflationary increase in tuition fees from 2017-2018 for institutions who meet the baseline standards and 2018-2019 ahead of the introduction of a differentiated cap in 2019-2020;
- Piloting of subject-level TEF assessment in the third year of the scheme with full introduction in the fourth year;
- Allowing new providers to offer their own degrees from the day they are approved on a probationary basis, subject to on-going monitoring and annual review;
- New providers will have the ability to charge tuition fees of up to £9,000;
- New providers can apply for degree awarding powers after 3 years and university title after a further 3 years;
- Reduction in the number of students required for a provider's application for university title;
- All providers will be required to have a protection plan setting out how students would be supported in the event of institutional or course closure;
- Launch of a call for evidence on whether students should be able to switch university/course more easily;
- Possible accelerated two-year degree courses and credit transfer between institutions;
- Institutions will be required to publish admission data in relation to gender and ethnicity.

Members noted that a new HE Bill will be debated in the Autumn.

Members noted that as part of the Queen's Speech, the Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill was launched, setting out the policy more strongly. A full discussion has yet to take place. The Bill has been disseminated to CLT, SLT, AEC and Council members.

Members noted that the White Paper would require a broader forum for discussion including:

- Discussions within schools
- TEF Working Group
- Portfolio Management Group (PMG)
- TEF workshop discussions about the changing environment

Members noted that discussion had already begun at University Council and SLT.

7.2 TEF Technical Consultation

Members noted and discussed the TEF Technical Consultation Paper which was released on 16 May 2016. The key areas for noting from the consultation paper were:

- Link to tuition fees was retained
- Transition arrangement for assessing the expectations related to Universities' audit process will take place during 2016-2017
- Universities will be able to adjust their fee to add an inflationary increase.

It was noted that the University could apply to be part of the trial for the new Year 2 TEF in 2016-2017 process.

The paper states that any institution taking part in the trial during 2016-2017 would be guaranteed an outcome of “Met Expectations” which would last for 3 years. The minimum data requirements would be for the last 3 years these would include common metrics in year 2 for:

- NSS
- Retention data
- Graduate employment data

CMA compliance will be a prerequisite in future years

Members noted the DLHE survey was being reviewed and might be replaced with a longitudinal survey relating to graduate earnings, linked to the HRMC.

The Self Evaluation Document will be replaced by a 15 page provider submission which would cover the following areas:

- Teaching Quality
- Learning Environment
- Student outcomes
- Learning Gain

Members noted that the TEF Working Group would look at the paper on 16 June 2016 to formulate a response to the consultation which would be submitted to University Council on 28 June 2016. AEC’s response would be received on 6 July 2016 and SLT on 8 July 2016 to meet the deadline for submission on 12 July 2016.

Members noted that the “Call for Evidence” was also published for Accelerated Courses and Switching Universities or Degrees. The deadline for a response was 19 July 2016. Student and institutional views were being asked for.

7.3 DfE (2016): Educational Excellence Everywhere

Members received and noted the paper on points arising from the White Paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere (March 2016).

The Professor for Higher Education gave members an overview of the paper noting the following key points:

- Replacing QTS with accreditation
- 2 year probationary period
- Creating Centres for Excellence
- Increasing School Led system
- Increase in SCITT provision
- College of Teaching to support teaching
- Greater collaboration
- Developing partnerships

Members noted that the paper was an organic document aligned to the White Paper and BGU which would evolve over time.

The Head of School of Social Sciences informed members that they were reviewing the non-QTS provision to support the School of Teacher Development in light of the White Paper.

7.4 GPA National Implementation Group

Members noted that the GPA National Implementation Group was Chaired by Sir Bob Burgess and the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Jayne Mitchell, was also a member of the group.

The group met for the first time in April and they would be considering the following areas:

- The outcome of the implementation programme
- The current algorithms used to calculate GPA and degree classifications

BGU would need to decide if it wanted to adopt GPA. If BGU decides to adopt GPA it will need to consider the following:

- Impact on engagement and success
- How we construct our regulations

Members noted that some institutions such as Oxford Brookes and Nottingham University were already applying the GPA to student profiles alongside the usual degree classification.

7.5 Learning Gain pilot projects and HEA PVC/DVC Working Group

Members noted that HEFCE were co-ordinating 13 pilots across the sector.

The group DVC/DVC Working Group had met twice and were considering the following areas:

- Developing a shared and common understanding of "Learning Gain"
- Developing a framework for measuring Learning Gain
- Framework to be used to consider issues and outputs & inform the TEF developments.

Members noted that BGU was well placed and well informed. BGU did make an application to be part of the Learning Gain pilot but was unsuccessful. It was noted that there might be other opportunities to be part of the Learning Gain trial which could help inform the TEF.

8. University Institutional Returns

8.1 NSS

The NSS survey runs from February to April, asking 22 questions relating to teaching and learning and one about the Students' Union.

BGU had a response rate of 78%, the same as last year, which was 8% above the sector average.

BGU had 16 programmes which were eligible for consideration as part of the NSS statistics as they had to receive 10 or more responses to the survey.

The Chair thanked members of the SU, Heads of School and Academic Co-ordinators for their help in ensuring that BGU received an excellent response to the survey.

8.2 DLHE

Members noted that BGU had had 80% of the eligible student population respond to the survey and 78% of its part-timer students.

It was noted that the response rate was good. The data was currently being checked by HESA. The results were being embargoed until July. BGU's position was broadly in line with the last two years results.

A review of the DLHE was currently being considered. The survey might in future be linked to HMRC data with a focus on professional/managerial data.

8.3 BGUSS

The BGUSS survey was conducted between March and May 2016. The survey consisted of 50 questions and contained the academic questions asked as part of the NSS survey alongside wider questions.

It was noted that there had been 426 responses to the survey, which was higher than previous years. The qualitative data would be shared at Staff Council in mid-June, and this data would be used to inform AMRs.

It was noted that there would be a review in 2017 of the questions and the timing of the survey.

9. Ofsted Re-Inspection of FE ITE

The Regulatory Compliance and Teacher Development Support Manager gave members an overview of the recent Ofsted Re-Inspection of FE ITE provision, noting the following key points:

- Inspectors attended BGU from 23-26 May 2016
- Two Inspectors were based at New College Stamford and Lincoln College
- One additional Inspector had checked QA processes

During the four day inspection process the team looked at the whole provision of FE. The provisional results were as follows:

- Outcome – Grade 2
- Partnership – Grade 2
- Leadership and Management – Grade 2

There were two areas for development:

- Increase diversity of learners – limited opportunity available across the sector
- Bring together reflection and learners through PDP – currently trialling the one used by BGU PGCE Primary/Secondary trainees.

BGU will receive the provisional report on 17 June 2016 and has five days to check for accuracy. The final report will be published five days after this.

The Chair thanked the Colleges for aiding the inspection and the 13 trainees involved in the process.

10. Key Issues from University Council

The Academic Staff University Council Member elected by teaching staff gave members an overview of the key points from the last University Council:

- Alan Stacey had been elected as the non-academic representative
- The Vice Chancellor's report outlined the TEF
- University Council members considered the detailed feedback on the QAA HER and on the Ofsted Inspection
- University Council Members were interested in the University's data. It was noted that HEFCE have confidence in BGU's data management
- University Council Members considered the Prevent Strategy
- University Council was currently undergoing an Effectiveness Review.

11. Criteria for Honorary Graduates

Members noted that University Council had concerns regarding the criteria for selection of Honorary Graduates and asked Senate to re-look at the criteria and selection process. The new criteria were approved by Governance and Nominations Committee and University Council.

Nominations previously submitted were not approved but might be resubmitted under the new criteria, if suitable.

Members noted and received the Honorary Award Proposal Process approved by University Council.

The Minuting Secretary would be circulating the paper asking for nominations which would be considered by Senate and recommended to Governance and Nominations Committee for approval.

MU

12. HEFCE 2016/13: Revised Operating Model for Quality Assessment

Members noted and received the HEFCE 2016/3: Revised Operating Model for Quality Assessment.

13. BPS Accreditation Report and Action Plan

Members received and noted the BPS Accreditation Report and Action Plan.

14. Senate to note the following Records of Decision approved by AEC:

BGU

14.1 MA Education

Members received and approved the Record of Decision for the programme as recommended by AEC on 18 May 2016.

14.2 MA Education with TESOL

Members received and approved the Record of Decision for the programme as recommended by AEC on 18 May 2016.

Lincoln College

14.3 BSc (Hons) Sport Coaching Development & Pedagogy (Level 6 – top-up)

Members received and approved the Record of Decision for the programme as recommended by AEC on 18 May 2016.

14.4 BSc (Hons) Sports Therapy (Level 6 – top-up)

Members received and approved the Record of Decision for the programme as recommended by AEC on 18 May 2016.

15. Senate to note the following institutional re-approval:

New College Stamford

Members received and approved the decision for re-approval of New College Stamford as recommended by AEC on 18 May 2016.

16. Any other business

No matters raised.

17. Dates of meetings in 2015-2016

Wednesday 27 July 2016 at 2pm in John Tomlinson Room, Skinner Building

Signed by the Chair:

Rev Canon Professor Peter Neil

Date:
