

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**  
**JOINT SENATE/COUNCIL SESSION**  
**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**

**10:00 TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026 IN CHANCELLORS SUITE, ROOTES BUILDING**

<b>Present</b>	Neil Sachdev	Chair of Council (Chair)
	Professor Stuart Croft	Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Senate
	Yewande Akinola	Independent member of Council
	Dr Navdeep Bains	Director of Research and Impact Services
	Junaid Bajwa	Independent member of Council
	Dr Elisabeth Blagrove	Assembly representative on Senate
	Stef Calcraft	Independent member of Council
	Michael Cavaliere	Faculty student representative (Science, Engineering and Medicine (SEM))
	Adam Child	Academic Registrar
	Professor Nikola Chmel	Head of Chemistry (SEM)
	Professor Matthew Clayton	Head of Politics and International Studies (Social Sciences)
	Professor Fiona Copland	Head of School of Education, Learning and Communication Sciences (Social Sciences)
	Professor Paulo De Sousa Aguiar de Medeiros	Head of English and Comparative Literary Studies (Arts)
	Professor Rosie Dias	Co-Head of School of Creative Arts, Performance and Visual Cultures (Arts)
	Professor David Fearn	Head of Classics and Ancient History (Arts)
	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
	James Furse	Independent member of Council
	Professor Miriam Gifford	Head of Life Sciences (SEM)
	Professor Teresa Grant	Head of Centre for the Study of the Renaissance (Arts)
	Alison Hatcher	Independent member of Council
	Professor James Hayton	Vice-Provost and Chair of Faculty of Social Sciences
	Professor Jonathan Hickman-Heron	Chair of the Senate Committee responsible for postgraduate research
	Kate Holden	Independent member of Council
	Dr Nicholas Hopcroft	Community member on Senate
	Dr Bo Kelestyn	Assembly representative on Senate
	Bernadette Kelly	Independent member of Council
	Professor Kerry Kirwan	Dean of Warwick Manufacturing Group (SEM)
	Professor Nina-Anne Lawrence	Head of Warwick Foundation Studies (Social Sciences)
	Professor David Leadley	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
	Dr David Lees	Dean of Students
	Professor Ulf Liebe	Head of Sociology (Social Sciences)
	Professor Tim Lockley	Head of History (Arts)
	Professor Guy Longworth	Head of Philosophy (Social Sciences)
	Professor Fiona MacCallum	Head of Psychology (SEM)
Dr Feng Mao	Community member on Senate	
Professor Caroline Meyer	Provost	
Professor Rachel Moseley	Vice-Provost and Chair of Faculty of Arts	
Professor Mark Newton	Head of Physics (SEM)	
Debbie Nickerson	Community member on Senate	
Anna O'Neill	Librarian	
Professor Gavin Perkins	Dean of Warwick Medical School (SEM)	
Professor Martyn Plummer	Head of Statistics (SEM)	
Maya Prabhu	Independent member of Council	

	Professor James Robinson	Head of Mathematics (SEM)
	Rachel Sandby-Thomas	Registrar
	Hannah Sargeant	Community member on Senate
	Dr Gavin Schwartz-Leeper	Chair of the Academic Freedom Review Committee (AFRC)
	Professor Michael Scott	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)
	Matteo Serafimovski	Faculty student representative (Social Sciences)
	Professor Jeremy Smith	Head of Economics (Social Sciences)
	Professor Olanrewaju Sorinola	Assembly representative on Senate
	Wayne Snow	Treasurer
	Ananya Sreekumar	Students' Union Vice-President Education
	Alijah Taha	President of the Students' Union
	Professor Yulia Timofeeva	Head of Computer Science (SEM)
	Professor David Towers	Head of Engineering (SEM)
	Professor Cagatay Turkey	Head of Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (Social Sciences)
	Fiona Wallace	Community member on Senate
	Professor Andrew Williams	Head of Law (Social Sciences)
	Nuo Xu	Assembly representative on Senate
<b>Attending</b>	Sophie Black	Governance Manager (Assistant Secretary to Council)
	Professor Andy Clark	Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education Policy)
	Professor Will Curtis	Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education Quality & Standards)
	Dan Derricott	Director of Education Policy and Quality (Secretary to Senate)
	Rosie Drinkwater	Group Finance Director
	Nia Fortune	Chief People Officer
	Professor Beccy Freeman	Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)
	Katharine Gray	Head of Governance Services
	Emma Jeavons	Governance Manager (Assistant Secretary to Senate)
	Professor Georgia Kremmyda	Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)
	Dr Chris Twine	University Secretary (Secretary to Council)
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Item</b>	
068	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Senate and Council members and attendees to the meeting, highlighting the roles of Senate (the University's principal academic authority) and Council (the University's governing body) in academic governance and assurance at Warwick. All participants were invited to note down one "Warwick success" during the session.</p>	
069	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Ali Collins, Professor Elisabeth Herrmann, Richard Hyde, Dr Joanne Lee, Dr Jake Locke, Professor Andy Lockett, Smiti Mota, Jayne Nickalls, Sam Parr, Maanya Raju, Professor Clare Rowan, Professor Mike Ward, Professor Chris Warhurst and Dr Jane Webb.</p>	
070	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No new declarations of interest were made.</p>	
<b>Strategic Topics</b>		
071	<p><b>Academic Quality and Standards</b></p> <p>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Director of Education Policy and Quality introduced the session, supported by a pre-read document (071-C100226, Confidential) and presentation.</p> <p>Members participated in facilitated group discussions on current oversight and assurance around education quality and student outcomes by Senate and Council, and potential ways to build and aggregate this assurance.</p>	

	<p>Elements that were noted as working well in giving assurance to Senate and/or Council were highlighted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear visibility of high-level excellence and outcomes.</li> <li>• The annual quality review process. A more discursive nature and an appropriate balance around departmental autonomy were welcomed by departments.</li> <li>• Improved clarity on structures and processes following the Academic Governance Review, including positive feedback on consultation during the review.</li> </ul> <p>Suggestions for additional/improved assurance provision were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better quality and granularity of data, allowing a “golden thread” to be followed through the student journey and enabling better department engagement.</li> <li>• The potential for additional qualitative data and information on the student experience within departments, at the Council level.</li> <li>• Highlighting and upward reporting on areas for improvement and how these are being managed.</li> <li>• Improved sharing and celebration of local good practice and excellence in departments.</li> </ul> <p>Members noted that feedback from the discussion would be used to tailor the items and nature of reports brought to Senate and Council in future.</p>
<p>072</p>	<p><b>Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Academic Freedom Committee introduced the session using slides.</p> <p>Members discussed Academic Freedom in the context of the current geopolitical landscape and the role of Senate and Council in maintaining and protecting Warwick values and the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech.</p>
<p><b>Next meeting: date to be confirmed</b></p>	