PUBLIC

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
SENATE
MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING HELD 14:00, WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026,
FACULTY OF ARTS BUILDING, SPACES FAB5.01/02/03

Present	Professor Caroline Meyer	Provost (Chair)
	Claire Algar	Assembly Representative
	Professor Gary Bending	Head of Life Sciences (SEM)
	Dr Elisabeth Blagrove	Assembly Representative
	Michael Cavaliere	Faculty of SEM Student Representative
	Ollie Chapman	President of the Students' Union
	Adam Child	Academic Registrar
	Professor Fiona Copland	Head of SELCS
	Professor James Covington	Head of Engineering Department (SEM)
	Professor Thomas Crowther	Head of Philosophy (Social Sciences)
	Professor Juanita Elias	Head of PAIS (Social Sciences)
	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
	Professor Nathan Griffiths	Head of Computer Science Department (SEM)
	Raj Hacker	SU Vice-President Education
	Professor James Hayton	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences
	Professor Jonathan Hickman-Heron	Chair of the Senate Committee responsible for postgraduate research
	Dr Nicholas Hopcroft	Community Member
	Dr Rebecca Johnson	Assembly Representative
	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)
	Professor Ulf Liebe	Head of Sociology (Social Sciences)
	Dr Jake Locke	Community Member
	Professor Fiona MacCallum	Head of Psychology (SEM)
	Dr Feng Mao	Community Member
	Riann Mehta	Faculty of Social Sciences Student Representative
	Professor Rachel Moseley	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Arts
	Anna O'Neill	Librarian
	Professor Gavin Perkins	Dean of Warwick Medical School
	Professor Martyn Plummer	Head of Statistics (SEM)
	Dr Mark Pulsford	Dean of Students
	Professor James Robinson	Head of Mathematics Department (SEM)
	Professor Clare Rowan	Assembly representative
	Rachel Sandby-Thomas	Registrar
	Hannah Sargeant	Community Member
	Professor Gavin Schwartz-Leeper	Chair of AFRC
	Professor Olanrewaju Sorinola	Assembly representative
	Professor Cagatay Turkay	Head of Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (Social Sciences)
	Fiona Wallace	Community Member
	Professor Mike Ward	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Chris Warhurst	Head of Institute for Employment Research (Social Sciences)
	Ronny Whetton	SU Vice-President Postgraduate
	Professor Neil Wilson	Head of Physics (SEM)
Attending	Iona Cameron	Academic Policy and Governance Administrator

	Professor Andy Clark	Co-Chair of Sub-Group 1 & Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Policy) (item 009)
	Jackie Clarke	Chief Operating Officer (Faculty of Social Sciences) (item 009)
	Dan Derricott	Director of Education Operations (Secretary)
	Nia Fortune	Chief People Officer
	Katharine Gray	Head of Governance
	Emily Hargreaves	Co-Chair of Sub-Group 1 & Head of Administration (Research, Teaching and Learning) (item 009)
	Damien Homer	Chair of Sub-Group 2 & Head of Disability Services (item 009)
	Emma Jeavons	Governance Manager (Assistant Secretary)
	Jackie Lowe	Delivery Manager, Education (item 009)
	Kim Robinson	Deputy Director of Education Operations
	Samuel Roseveare	Director of National and Regional Policy
	Dr Katherine Stone	Chair of Sub-Group 2 & Associate Professor, Modern Languages (item 009)
	Dr Chris Twine	Chief Operating Officer & University Secretary (briefly absent during 009)
	Professor Derrick Watson	Chair of Calendar Reform Working Group & Professor, Psychology (item 009)

Ref	Item
001	**Welcome and apologies for absence** The Chair welcomed all including the Director of National and Regional Policy and Deputy Director of Education Operations, both observing the meeting. Apologies were noted from Sarah Addison, Navdeep Bains, Professor Paul Botley, Professor Nikola Chmel, Professor Stuart Croft, Professor Rosie Dias, Rosie Drinkwater, Professor David Fearn, Professor Teresa Grant, Professor Nadine Holdsworth, Dr Joanne Lee, Professor Andy Lockett, Debbie Nickerson, Professor Pierre Purseigle, Professor Michael Scott, Professor Jeremy Smith, Dr Jane Webb, Nuo Xu, and Professor Andrew Williams.
002	**Introductions** The Chair welcomed the following new members to their first meeting: • Claire Algar – Elected Assembly Representative • Professor Gary Bending – Life Sciences • Professor James Covington – Engineering • Professor Thomas Crowther – Philosophy • Professor Juanita Elias – Politics and International Studies • Professor Nathan Griffiths – Computer Science • Dr Rebecca Johnson – Elected Assembly Representative • Dr Mark Pulsford – Dean of Students • Professor Neil Wilson – Physics The Chair invited the new Students' Union (SU) President to introduce themselves as well as other new SU members, as follows: • President – Ollie Chapman • Vice-President Education – Raj Hacker • Vice-President Postgraduate – Ronny Whetton The SU President also welcomed the new Faculty student representatives: • Sarah Addison – Faculty of Arts (absent) • Riann Mehta – Faculty of Social Sciences

	Finally, the Chair congratulated Professor Gavin Schwartz-Leeper on their promotion to Professor. The Chair encouraged everyone to actively engage in the conversation, noting that hearing a wide range of voices was essential to the Senate effectively fulfilling its function. Senators were reminded that, if they wished to discuss any changing needs that would support their access and participation in meetings, to speak with the either them or the Senate Secretariat.
003	**Declarations of Interest** No new declarations were made.
004	**Minutes of meeting held on 24 June 2026** The minutes of the Senate meeting held on 24 June 2026 (004-S230926, Confidential) were approved**.**
005	**Matters arising from meetings held on 24 June 2026** There were no matters arising.
	Chair's Update
006	**Chair's Business** **a) Chair's Actions Report** The Chair presented the report (006a-S230926, Public), which was noted without discussion.
007	**The Year Ahead** The Chair provided a verbal update including: • An outline of student numbers and the general financial outlook, as well as thanks to teams across the University for their hard work across the summer, and beyond, and willingness to be flexible to support ongoing requirements. • That Undergraduate recruitment numbers [exempt information not included], and that future academic planning would take a different, more strategic approach to invest and seek growth in appropriate areas. The Director of National and Regional Policy provided a brief verbal update regarding the sector as a whole, including the impact of government and other external bodies' strategies and priorities on Warwick, where the Senate was assured that work was underway in several areas to align with these. The Chair reminded the Senate of the University's three priorities, as follows: • Excellence in education and research, • Financial sustainability, and • Reputation and rankings.
	Substantive Items
008	**Senate Effectiveness and Academic Assurance** The Secretary presented the report (008-S230926, General) and a brief presentation and highlighted that: • The annual effectiveness review had taken place following the commitment to do so in the 2024 Academic Governance Review. • While Senate was found to be broadly effective and increasingly strategic, a development priority had emerged around ensuring assurance from the Senate's committees was more visible and, importantly, useful to the Senate and ultimately the Council. • In line with the above findings, several actions were proposed, including: o Practical changes in Senate and its committees to ensure papers were clear, where reporting up to Senate that they contained explicit committee judgments, and feedback was provided in both directions.

	o The development of an academic assurance cycle at the Senate and the introduction of an "assurance theme" for each of the four main meetings of the Senate during an academic year, as follows: 1) Academic Values, Staffing and Governance 2) Education Quality, Standards and Outcomes 3) Research, PGR and Academic Strategy 4) Student Experience, Inclusion and Belonging The Senate was supportive of the proposals, with some minor tweaks suggested to which theme was assigned to which meeting, and acknowledging that time sensitive items would always be presented to the Senate when required. The topic of consideration of staff wellbeing, which had been referred to at a previous meeting, was raised, and while it was confirmed that staff wellbeing was not within the remit of the Senate's responsibilities, it was agreed that consideration would be given as to how this could be appropriately discussed by the body. **DECISION**: the Senate **approved** the development of the Senate Academic Assurance Cycle for 2026–27.
009	**Academic Calendar** The Academic Registrar and the Chair of Calendar Reform Working Group (Professor, Psychology) provided a report (009-S230926, Confidential) as well as a brief presentation. The Co-Chair of Sub-Group 1 & Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Policy), Chief Operating Officer (Faculty of Social Sciences), Co-Chair of Sub-Group 1 & Head of Administration (Research, Teaching and Learning), Chair of Sub-Group 2 & Head of Disability Services, Delivery Manager, Education, Chair of Sub-Group 2 & Associate Professor, Modern Languages were also in attendance for the item. The following were highlighted: • The strategic alignment, change motivations, and benefits of the ongoing calendar reform project. • Strong and sustained progress, including governance through a working group and several sub-groups, which contained members from varied backgrounds to ensure a mixture of viewpoints were considered. • That proposals were data-driven, using feedback related to exams and resits, assessments and modules, financial change impacts, and sector insight, ensuring a robust, evidence-led approach. • Next steps and timelines, with implementation likely from 2028 at the earliest. The Senate broke into table discussions, facilitated by the colleagues listed above, with the following focuses: 1. Future strategy and institutional direction 2. Implementation planning 3. Communication and engagement 4. Student and staff experience Feedback from the Senate as a whole included: • That while radical change may be beneficial, the University was not well positioned for this immediately, and so considered and sustainable change may be best. • The need to ensure any changes were future-proofed. • Reference to the benefits of a two-semester system. • Extended exam periods or assessment blocks outside of term time.

	• What value for money for students really looked like. • Ensuring that communication related to any agreed changes, to both students and staff, was positive in its tone, timely, and concise. • Learning from models that already work would be useful. • That consideration should be given as to how to support students who may start under the current model and move to the new one in later years of study. • Ensuring that the consideration of financial impacts of changes was undertaken by relevant forums. • The possibility of a "reading week" each term. • The potential implications of joint degrees needed to be kept in mind. • Considering change to practice and process before deciding on wholesale structural change. The Senate noted that it would receive draft proposals at its February 2027 meeting, before being invited to consider final proposals for approval in April 2027.
Governance	
010	**Membership of the Senate 2026-27** The Secretary presented the Membership of the Senate 2026-27 (010-S230926, Public), for information.
011	**Standing Orders of the Senate 2026-27** The Secretary presented the Standing Orders of the Senate 2026-27 (011-S230926, Public). **DECISION**: The Senate **approved** its Standing Orders for 2026-27.
012	**Senate Schedule of Business 2026-27** The Secretary presented the Senate Schedule of Business 2026-27 (012-S230926, General), for information.
Other	
013	**Any other business** There was no other business.
Next Meeting: 14:00, Wednesday, 18 November 2026, Panorama, Rootes Building	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	**DECISION/ACTION**	**LEAD AND DUE DATE**	**STATUS**
2025-26			
022 – Initial Proposals Regarding Academic Freedom at Warwick	**ACTION 1**: Ensure the necessary policy and/or process changes are discussed with the Chief People Officer, People team, and are presented to People Committee.	Chair of AFRC, CPO, ASAP Ongoing.	Ongoing
2026-27			
23-09-26			
008 – Senate Effectiveness	**DECISION**: the Senate **approved** the development of the Senate Academic Assurance Cycle for 2026–27.		
011 – Standing Orders 26-27	**DECISION**: The Senate **approved** its Standing Orders for 2026-27.		