

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SENATE

**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE FOCUSED AGENDA MEETING HELD 14:00, WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022
IN SPACES 5.01/02/03, 5th FLOOR FACULTY OF ARTS BUILDING**

Present	Professor Stuart Croft	Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
	Dr Freeha Azmat	Representative of the Assembly
	Will Brewer	President of the Students' Union
	Professor Matthew Clayton	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Professor David Davies	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Chris Ennew	Provost
	Professor Jon Forster	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Rebecca Freeman	Dean of Students
	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Chris Hughes	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
	Professor Sudhesh Kumar	Dean of Warwick Medical School
	Chih-Hsiang Lo	Students' Union Vice-President Education
	Professor Andrew Lockett	Dean of Warwick Business School (until item 010)
	Professor Tim Lockley	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Gabrielle Lynch	Representative of the Assembly
	Professor Rachel Moseley	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Hamza Rehman	Students' Union Vice-President Postgraduate
	Professor Sarah Richardson	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Michael Scott	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Mike Shipman	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)
	Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Dr Naomi Waltham-Smith	Representative of the Assembly
Professor Mike Ward	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)	
Professor Derrick Watson	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)	
Jenny Wheeler	Representative of the Assembly	
Attending	Sophie Black	Assistant Registrar (Governance) (minute taker)
	Dan Derricott	Director of Education Policy & Quality (Assistant Secretary)
	Rosie Drinkwater	Group Finance Director
	Helen Hotten	Clerical Officer (Academic Governance) (tech support)
	Rachel Sandby-Thomas	Registrar (Secretary)
	Dr Chris Twine	Secretary to Council
	Roberta Wooldridge Smith	Interim Academic Registrar

NOTE: Some items are noted as “Exempt information not included” as they contain information that would be withheld from release to the public because an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

Ref	Item
001	<p>Welcome and Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Katherine Astbury, Professor Daniel Branch, Professor Robin Clark, Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves, Professor Charlotte Heath-Kelly, Professor Ruth Hewston, Professor David Lambert, Professor Noortje Marres, Professor Caroline Meyer, Professor Mark Newton, Professor Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla, Professor James Robinson, Professor Simon Swain, Professor Pam Thomas, Professor Yulia Timofeeva, Professor David Towers, Professor Azrini Wahidin and Clare Watters.</p>
002	<p>Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II</p> <p>The Senate noted that the University had joined communities around the world in expressing deep sorrow at the death of Her Majesty The Queen on 8 September 2022.</p> <p>Like many universities in the UK, the University of Warwick was granted its Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1965 by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The university’s flags had been at half-mast to pay respects and honour</p>

	<p>the Queen's memory and a book of condolences had been made available for members of staff, students and alumni to pay tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.</p> <p>The condolences of the Senate were noted.</p>
003	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all, and the following newly appointed/elected members to their first meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Freeha Azmat (Representative of the Assembly, Warwick Manufacturing Group) • Professor Sarah Richardson (History) • Professor Michael Scott (Classics and Ancient History) <p>The Chair welcomed the new Students' Union members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Brewer, President of the Students' Union • Chih-Hsiang Lo, SU Vice-President Education • Hamza Rehman, SU Vice-President Postgraduate <p>The Chair also welcomed back:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chris Twine as Secretary to Council • Roberta Wooldridge Smith as Interim Academic Registrar. <p>The Senate noted its revised schedule of meetings with effect from the current academic year, starting with a face-to-face focussed agenda meeting and followed by four online meetings with standard agendas to consider items of Senate business.</p> <p>The Chair reported that the first meeting would provide time to regroup in-person, to hear the full range of Senate members contributing to Senate business, and to be more strategic in the business considered at Senate.</p>
004	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>
005	<p>a) Minutes of meeting held on 6 July 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 (005a-S210922, Protected) were approved subject to the revisions discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>b) Minutes of meeting held on 18 July 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 (005b-S210922, Protected) were approved.</p>
006	<p>Matters arising from meetings held on 6 and 18 July 2022</p> <p>a) Update on Residential Life System</p> <p>It was noted that the Secretary to Council had updated Senators by email on the discussion of the Senate report at Council on Wednesday 13 July, as follows:</p> <p><i>The Council acknowledged the concerns of some members of the community but, given the significant risks within the RLT provision and the clear benefits for students that can be gained from a new approach, they saw no reason for the University not to continue with the implementation. However, in light of the concerns raised, especially those relating to out of hours provision and the potential overlap with the Estates Evolve Review, the Council also agreed the following actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>To keep the implementation under review on a termly basis initially, through a joint Senate and UEB working group to report to the Council on progress with RLT implementation (Registrar)</i> 2. <i>Monitor the level of demand after 11pm and whether the support available is sufficient, as well as conducting a gap analysis of the current services across the demand side (including Estates, mental health and any others) and how they map on to the new structure (Registrar/Director of Wellbeing)</i>

	<p>3. Consider on-campus accommodation options for Post Graduate Researchers (Group Finance Director).</p> <p>Senate members will be updated on these actions in due course.</p> <p>The Vice-Provost and Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences provided a verbal update as Chair of the joint Senate and UEB working group on the implementation of changes to the RLT system. The group had been established and would meet on 30 September to review its draft terms of reference; receive a briefing on the changes being implemented with effect from the autumn term; and agree a method and schedule to establish measures of success. The group would also seek to address concerns raised by Senators at the meeting on 6 July (as part of discussion on the Report from the Assembly).</p> <p>It was highlighted that principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and student wellbeing should, and would, be factored in and hardwired into the work of the group.</p>
Governance	
007	<p>Membership of the Senate 2022-23</p> <p>The report (007-S210922, Public) setting out the Senate membership for 2022-23 was received and noted.</p> <p>Note: The terms of reference of the Senate were as set out in Statute 8 (Powers of the Senate) and Ordinance 5 (The Senate: Powers of the Senate).</p>
008	<p>Standing Orders of the Senate 2022-23</p> <p>The Standing Orders of the Senate (008-S210922, Public) were received, including proposed updates to agenda review process (following changes to the role of the Steering Committee) and some minor formatting amendments.</p> <p>The Director of Education Policy and Quality and Senate Assistant Secretary reported that as discussed at the March 2022 meeting of Senate, a refresh of academic governance effectiveness would commence in the current academic year, including a review of delegations from Senate and University Regulations. It was further noted that committee constitutions and diversity of membership would also be considered.</p> <p>DECISION: The Senate approved its Standing Orders for 2022-23.</p>
Chair's Update	
009	<p>Chair's Business</p> <p>There was no Chair's business.</p>
Strategic Items	
010	<p>External Regulatory Environment: Office for Students</p> <p>The Director of Education Policy and Quality and Senate Assistant Secretary presented the report (010-S210922, Protected) summarising the direction of travel across the range of policy areas subject to regulation by the Office for Students (OfS).</p> <p>Guided by the questions posed in the paper, Senators participated in a facilitated discussion on the overarching challenges and opportunities presented by the OfS' evolving approach to areas of policy in the Senate's remit, with contributions from colleagues working directly on the University's response, under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality of Opportunity • Student Outcomes: Baselines, Grade Inflation, OfS/QAA • Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom • Future flexible provision and the funding landscape <p>The following points were raised as part of discussion feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Exempt information not included].

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The complexities around the interplay of freedom of speech and increased community engagement were highlighted. It was acknowledged that early discussions and a robust code for Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression would help mitigate against any potential threats. While grade inflation was within the University's remit to control, a process could usefully be developed to monitor and track trends in mark and intake data, for example. Granularity of data would also be helpful. Robustness and visibility of data would also be essential in work on equality of opportunity. Looking at aggregate numbers, not ignoring the level of detail and avoiding meeting minimum thresholds were all highlighted as points of note. Consideration should be given to the format and length of reports and published information available for students, including that relating to support, to ensure transparency and ease of accessibility. <p>It was noted that the discussions would inform the decisions taken by the Senate through the coming year.</p>
011	<p>University Strategy Refresh</p> <p>The Registrar presented on progress with the Strategy Refresh, including updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current University position Rationale for a refresh (maintaining progress, changing political landscape and competition) The Warwick Story Refresh progress and next steps Sustainability and the rise of the enabling strategies Increased ambition within the core and supporting strategies New opportunities/ areas of focus. <p>The presentation was received and noted.</p>
Other	
012	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
Next meeting: 14:00, Wednesday 2 November 2022, Online Via MS Teams	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
2019-20			
034 – Report from the Education Committee	ACTION: A project plan would be developed which would include further consultation with the Faculty of Arts and presented to the Senate at a future meeting to assist the implementation of the Warwick Core Skills framework and an update on progress provided by the end of the academic year.	PTi, tbc	In progress
106b – Revisions to Reg 27 On-Campus Residential Accommodation and Reg 23 Student Disciplinary Offences	ACTION 2: A review to be undertaken of University policy and process relating to student drug use and possession.	Helen Knee, Jane Bryan, asap	Ongoing

2020-21			
045 – Report from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee	ACTION 2: Mitigating circumstances policy to be reviewed to ensure no adverse impacts on disabled students.	Director of Education Policy and Quality	Ongoing
116b – Senate Inclusivity, Membership and Elections	ACTION: Report on inclusivity and diversity of membership of academic governance committees to be brought to a future meeting of the Senate.	Director of Education Policy and Quality	Ongoing
2021-22			
06-10-2021			
013 - Office for Students' Expectations for Sexual Misconduct	ACTION: Consider offering a route to legal advice for students in certain circumstances.	Director of Student Discipline and Resolution	
015 - Report from Senate Working Group on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression	ACTION: President of the Students' Union to connect the Working Group to the SU's evolving development of their policy in this area.	Shingai Dzumbira	
26-01-2022			
036 - Shape of the Academic Year	ACTION: Further work to be carried out, as discussed, with a view to bringing back a range of proposals for discussion at Senate in March.	Provost, Academic Registrar, Senior Head of Strategic Change Planning	Superseded, to be rescheduled
06-07-2022			
127 - Report from the Assembly meeting on 17 June 2022	ACTION 2: Termly review of the new RLT system (first review point in October 2022) to be aligned with concerns raised by parts of the University community.	Registrar	Ongoing