



SENATE

MINUTES AND ACTIONS- DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

19 JUNE 2024- 14:00-17:00 - MICROSOFT TEAMS

NB text in BLACK is for publication; text in BLUE will be redacted for publication.

CONTENTS

1. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
2. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 13 MARCH 2024 (SEN/57/23-24), DEEP DIVE 20 MARCH (SEN/58/23-24), DEEP DIVE 27 MARCH (SEN/59/23-24) AND SENATE ACTION LOG (SEN/60/23- 24)
3. MATTERS ARISING
 - 3.1. UPDATE ON ENABLING STRATEGY 2030
 - 3.2. SENATE ELECTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES UPDATE
 - 3.3. APPOINTMENT OF DEAN FOR TAUGHT STUDENTS AND DEAN FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
4. PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT (SEN/61/23-24)
5. EDUCATION AND POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH BOARD REPORTS
6. STUDENT SABBATICAL OFFICERS UPDATES (SEN/62/23-24 & SEN/63/23-24)
7. WELLBEING AND WELFARE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT (SEN/64/23-24)
8. DOCTORAL STRATEGY 2030 – OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS (SEN/65/23-24)
9. BUSINESS ENAGEMENT AND INNOVATION 2030 STRATEGY: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE UPDATE (SEN/66/23-24 AND SEN/66A/23-24)
10. HONRARY GRADUATE APPROVAL FOR 2025 GRADUATION CEREMONIES (SEN/67/23-24)
11. SENATE EXTERNAL EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW: ANNUAL UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS (SEN/68/23-24 AND SEN/68A/23-24)
12. SENATE SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS (SEN/69/23-24)
13. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PART II (SEN/70/23-24)
14. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

ATTENDEES *(listed according to the membership as detailed in [Ordinance 20](#))*

- a) **Chair: Professor Lisa Roberts, President & Vice-Chancellor**
- b) Professor Dan Charman, Senior Vice-President & Provost
- c) Professor Tim Quine, Vice-President & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience
Professor Richard Follett, Vice-President & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement
Professor Martin Siegert, Vice-President & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Cornwall
Professor Rajani Naidoo, Vice-President & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, People and Culture
Stuart Brocklehurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Business Engagement and Innovation
- d) Professor Rob Freathy, Dean for Taught Students
Professor Stacey Hynd, Dean for Postgraduate Research and the Doctoral College
- e) Professor Alex Gerbasi (ESE)
Professor Sallie Lamb (HLS)
- f) Professor Jo Bowtell (HLS)
Professor Anni Vanhatalo (HLS)
Professor Li Li (HASS)

Professor Adam Watt (HASS)

- g) Professor Dave Hosken (ESE)
James Hutchinson, Director of Education Services and Student Experience
- h) Professor Claire Hulme (HLS)
Professor Karen Knapp (HLS)
Professor James Wakefield (HLS)
Professor Mark Wilson (HLS)
Professor Fiona Cox (HASS)
Professor Rebecca Langlands (HASS)
Professor Jane Milling (HASS)
Professor Tina Phillips (HASS)
Professor Naomi Sykes (HASS)
Professor Mat Collins (ESE)
Professor Tim Harries (ESE)
Professor Enrico Onali (ESE)
Professor Ion Sucala (ESE)
Professor Nicola Thomas (ESE)
- i) Dr Safi Darden (HLS)
Dr Andrew Griffiths (HLS)
Professor Ruth Garside (HLS)
Dr Ioanna Kapantai (HLS)
Dr Samuel Pollard (HLS)
Dr Maisha Reza (HLS)
Professor Daniel Fountain (HASS)
Professor David Jones (HASS)
Dr Anna Kiernan (HASS)
Professor Fabrizio Nevola (HASS)
Professor Sue Prince (HASS)
Professor Clare Saunders (HASS)
Professor Linda Williams (HASS)
Professor Clare Saunders (HASS)
Professor Barrie Cooper (ESE)
Professor Adam Feldman (ESE)
Dr Sarah Hodge (ESE)
Professor Ilke Inceoglu (ESE)
Professor Tim Naylor (ESE)
Professor Christine Parkin Hughes (ESE)
Dr Sharon Strawbridge (ESE)
Professor Ben Zissimos (ESE)
- k) Karen Glide, Academic Director, INTO
- l) Alex Stanley, Education Officer, Students' Guild
Pip Shaw, Student Living Officer, Students' Guild
Rhys Wallis, Societies and Employability Officer, Students' Guild
- m) Connie Chilcott, SU President Exeter

IN ATTENDANCE:

Totty Brobyn Jeremy	Committee Secretariat Administrator (Minutes)
Diaper Imelda	Assistant Director, Governance
Rogers Alison	Executive Divisional Director of Human Resources
Chambers Michael	CEO, Students' Guild
Wykes	Divisional Director of University Corporate Services
Dr Astrid Wissenburg	Director of Research (<i>for item 8</i>)
Chris Evans	Director of Innovation, Impact and Business (<i>for item 9</i>)

APOLOGIES:

- Emma de Saram (President, Students’ Guild)
- Professor Clair Gammage (HASS)
- Professor William Gaze (HLS)
- Professor Dave Hodgson (ESE)
- Professor Jon Mill (HLS)
- Professor Anna Mountford-Zimdars (HASS)
- Dr Abby Russell (HLS)
- Mike Shore-Nye (Vice President and Registrar and Secretary)
- Professor Joanne Smith (HLS)
- Professor Gareth Stansfield (HASS)
- Professor Nick Stone (ESE)
- Professor Krasi Tsaneva-Atanasova (Vice-President & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Impact)
- Rhys Wallis (SABB, Students’ Guild)

ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

MINUTE	ACTION	LEAD
7.11	The Director of Education Services and Student Experience to work with Head of Wellbeing to investigate the data around the drop in numbers in Health, Wellbeing and Support for Study (HWSS) compared to 2022/23.	Director of Education Services and Student Experience
8.4	that an annual report on progress against implementation of the Doctoral College Strategy would be scheduled for Senate.	Dean of Postgraduate Research and the Doctoral College
11.5	To investigate and resolve the individual issues raised in relation to contacting Senate buddies and accessing certain committee documentation.	Secretariat
13.5	To revise and refresh the format of the Senate Appeals Report to ensure more streamlined and focused reports were produced in future, including a clearer overview of specific trends, lessons learned, continued process improvement and removal of redacted case reports.	Secretariat, General Counsel
13.5	To consider the potential benefits of scheduling a Senate deep dive on the Senate Appeals Process to provide assurance on processes and procedures and areas of focus for continuous enhancement.	Secretariat, General Counsel
13.8	Schedule an assurance report for Senate consideration on the new OfS Condition of Registration (E6) in relation to Sexual Misconduct and Harassment.	Secretariat

1. Chair's introduction and Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Senators to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair noted that the minutes from the most recent Education Board and Postgraduate Research Board meetings were unable to be included within the materials circulated to Senate due to the close proximity of these meetings to Senate. The minutes would therefore be issued for information after the Senate meeting once they became available.
- 1.3 The order of the agenda would be amended slightly to allow Chris Evans (Director of Innovation, Impact and Business) to attend agenda item 9 (Business Engagement and Innovation 2030 Strategy: Knowledge Exchange Update).
- 1.4 Following feedback received before the meeting, the Senate Appeals Report (SEN/78/23-24) would be brought forward to part I for consideration.
- 1.5 There were no new declarations of interest in relation to the agenda items.

2. Minutes from the meeting of 13 March 2024 (SEN/57/23-24), Deep Dive of 20 March 2024 (SEN/58/23-24) and Deep Dive of 27 March 2024 (SEN/59/23-24) and Action Log (SEN/60/23-24)

- 2.1 The committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2024 and of the deep dives held on 20 and 27 March 2024 and noted that the outstanding actions from the March meeting of Senate were in progress.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Chair gave an update on the key timeframes for the Voluntary Severance Scheme, 'The Exeter Release Scheme' (TERS).
- 3.2 The Chair gave an update on Enabling Strategy 2030 including details of progress against the agreed actions from the deep dives on 20 and 27 March:

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential

- 3.3 The Senate Elections had concluded and four new members had been elected from each Faculty:

ESE	HASS	HLS
Edvard Glucksman	Alex Fairfax-Cholmley	Dominic Wiredu Boakye
Raphaëlle Haywood	Brian Rappert	Hope Gangata
Alison Truelove	Laura Salisbury	Katie Lunnon
Ben Zissimos	Birgul Yilmaz	Genevieve Williams

Requests for volunteers to sit on Senate sub-committees would be issued in the new academic year. The Chair highlighted that the call for nominations to become a Senate Representative on Council was open still open and that the nominations window would be closing soon.

- 3.4 Following a competitive selection process led by the Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Beverley Hawkins had been appointed as Dean for Taught Students and Professor Rachael Johnstone and Dr Stuart Robinson were appointed as Dean for Professional Education on a job share basis. Subject to approval from Council, all appointees would take up their roles on 1 August 2024 for a period of three years.

- 3.5 Heather Haseley and Dr Daryl Wilkerson had been jointly recruited to the position of Dean for Online and Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and would take up their positions on 1 August 2024 for a period of one year on an interim basis. Thanks were extended to Senate members Dr Maisha Reza and Professor William Gaze, who had been served on each of the recruitment panels.
- 3.6 Following the conclusion of the Council Assurance Review and approval of associated recommendations, it had been agreed that a series of new Council sub-committees would be established in the Academic Year 2024-25, including the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee and the Research and Innovation Committee. Senate would be provided with an opportunity to comment on papers scheduled to progress via both committees and Senate feedback would be included as an appendix to papers to enhance Council's oversight and understanding of key issues.
- 3.7 The Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee had been established in alignment with the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance to provide a mechanism for Council to provide independent scrutiny and test that academic assurance was adequate and effective. The Terms of Reference and membership were due to be approved at the July meeting of Council. The membership would include a Senate Representative on Council and two student representatives to provide a mechanism to test assurance that academic governance was adequate and effective.
- 3.8 A hybrid format would be trialed for the first meeting of Senate in the Academic Year 2024-25. Further consideration would be given to the format of subsequent Senate meetings following the first meeting in November 2024.

4. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (SEN/31/23-24)

- 4.1 The Chair presented the report from the President & Vice-Chancellor, the Senior Vice-President & Provost, and the Vice-Presidents & Deputy Vice-Chancellors and provided further updates from across the University and wider Higher Education sector.
- 4.2 The UK General Election had been announced and would take place on 4 July 2024. The published party manifestos included a series of key elements in relation to Higher Education;
- 4.3 In relation to the Labour party manifesto it was noted that they had:
- 4.3.1 pledged to support the aspiration of every person who wanted to go to university;
 - 4.3.2 emphasised the roles of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) providers in the post 16 skills strategy;
 - 4.3.3 planned to strengthen the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), and to establish a framework for joint working with skills bodies across the UK;
 - 4.3.4 signaled a reform of the apprenticeships levy;
 - 4.3.5 planned to introduce ten-year budgets for R&D (Research and Development) Institutions, which may or may not include HE.
- 4.4 In relation to the Conservative party manifesto it was noted that they had
- 4.3.6 planned to increase all immigration VISA fees and remove the student discount, and introduce a binding legal cap on working visas;
 - 4.3.7 stated a proposed increase in spending on Research and Development to £22 billion per annum (up from £20billion in 2023/24);
 - 4.3.8 signaled intent on apprenticeships, creating 100,000 more apprenticeship places;
 - 4.3.9 planned to prevent universities from recruiting students to courses with high drop-out rates;
 - 4.3.10 reaffirmed their commitment to deliver life-long learning entitlement.

- 4.4 The University of Exeter had ranked top 10 in the world in the THE World Impact Rankings. The rankings measure the impact of meeting the UN 17 sustainable development goals and Exeter had retained its rank at number 1 for its work on clean water and sanitation.
- 4.5 An update was given regarding the encampments on both the Streatham and Penryn campuses.

Closed Minute – Confidential

- 4.6 The Chair thanked all Senators for their engagement and contribution to Senate over the past academic year with particular thanks to retiring members of Senate. The Chair offered their best wishes and good luck to the student representatives for their future endeavours.

5 Education and PGR Board Reports (Verbal Updates)

- 5.1 The Dean for Taught Students and the Dean for Postgraduate Research and the Doctoral College provided verbal updates on the latest issues from their respective areas.
- 5.2 Professor Rob Freathy, the Dean for Taught Students, noted the following updates from the Education Board and shared a brief presentation with the committee. Recent business had included:
- The publication of the Degree Outcomes Statement had been postponed from June 2024 until the Autumn term due to a delay in availability of JISC/HESA data and had prompted a review of the business schedule for the next academic year;
 - The Student Outcomes Steering Group had broadened its remit from solely degree outcomes to focus on continuation, completion and progression data, and had undertaken several deep dives to outline key priorities and considerations around the quality of data in those domains.
 - Thanks were extended to the Principal External Examiner, Professor Billy Wong, who had agreed to continue for a further year.
 - The TQA Manual was due to be migrated to the new website format over the summer months and would be made available at the start of the new academic year with the current manual remaining live over the summer to support REF/DEFs. The current manual will be archived when the new manual was fully migrated.
 - Examination & Assessment Platform Project: after extensive planning, the data feed had successfully created all modules for the 2024/25 academic year and had been made available to colleagues. Requests were made, however, that colleagues did not populate the modules until further software had been released to allow for additional assistance;
 - Exeter Learning Environment 2 (ELE2): further enhancements had been planned over July and August with functionality issues addressed before the coming academic year. Thanks were extended to all colleagues for their patience, support and perseverance with the implementation of the new ELE2 system during the 2023-24 academic year;
 - The team was in the process of piloting new dedicated exam software.
- 5.3 The Chair and Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) passed on their thanks to Professor Freathy for all his hard work during his term as Dean for Taught Students and noted that he would be stepping down in July 2024 after six years;
- 5.4 Professor Stacey Hynd, the Dean for Postgraduate Research and Doctoral College, noted the following updates from the PGR Board:

Closed Minute – Confidential

- 5.4.1 The board had approved a new integrated model PhD in the Business School, combining Master of Research (MRes) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) into one programme which would make it more accessible to international postgraduate students.
- 5.4.2 As part of a GW4 bid in supervisor training, Exeter would be a practitioner partner as part of the

Research England funded UK Council for Graduate Education Next Generation Research Supervision Project, developing best practice around research supervision.

- 5.4.3 In response to PGR feedback, focus had continued on the development of training for researcher wellbeing on emotionally sensitive research and developing new resources for field work training to better prepare researchers for field work.
- 5.4.4 A recent light touch quality review focused on international students and international student support had garnered useful data which had fed into the Doctoral College strategy.
- 5.4.5 Research Culture funding from Research England had been devolved to the Faculties, however some funding had been retained for cross-faculty action including; focus on

academic writing training and online resource training; impact public engagement; thesis engagement; training for neurodivergent researchers; and training for supervisors to ensure support neurodivergent researchers.

- 5.4.6 The board had recently approved a new Deans commendation for Postgraduate Academic Citizenship which was scheduled to launch in the 2024-25 academic year, in order to recognize the work of PGRs in building research communities and enhancing department research culture.
- 5.5 Clarification was provided around the advertising and application process for the Deans commendation with applications welcomed from postgraduates, supervisors, departments and support teams in the next academic year.
 - 5.6 Following the recent approval of four combined MRes and PhD programmes by the Business School, recruitment teams were working closely with admissions and marketing to ensure enhanced internal and external communications to attract international students.

6 Student President Reports (SEN/62/23-24) and (SEN/63/23-24)

- 6.1 The Education Officer of the Students' Guild presented their report to Senate and highlighted the following points:
 - 6.1.1 Academic advisory boards had been formed to feed into the Curriculum for Change (C4C) strategy, and student sabbatical officers continued to work closely with the Task and Finish Groups to contribute to the conversations regarding curriculum redesign.
 - 6.1.2 Further work on cost of living included identifying necessary changes to the TQA manual to address hidden costs associated with reading lists and other course costs.
 - 6.1.3 The two Student Sabbatical Presidents had hosted the Teaching Awards in June 2024.
 - 6.1.4 The Access and Participation Plan (APP) had been submitted in May 2024 and included contributions from the Education Officer of the Students' Guild. A large amount of insights data collected during the course of the year had been integrated within the APP to ensuring the targets were suitably ambitious targets to account.
 - 6.1.5 The Streatham encampment had been a continued priority for the Guild, with a particular focus on ensuring the wellbeing of the student protestors and students across the university. Dialogue continued between the protestors and the University management team.
- 6.2 The Chair thanked the Education Officer of the Students' Guild for his outstanding leadership and wished him luck in his new role as the Vice-President of Higher Education at the National Union of Students.
- 6.3 The Exeter President of the Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union drew attention to the following points in their report:
 - 6.3.1 a series of focus groups would be held on academic representation and would feed into the development of a refined academic review strategy, which had been given an extended timeline to allow for buy-in from students and academics.
 - 6.3.2 The Access and Participation Plan had seen successful collaboration between the Guild, the Students' Union and the University.

- 6.3.3 Work around the Climate Crisis continued to empower students and aimed to relieve eco anxiety. Collaborative work with other Student Union's increased focus on intersectionality and climate justice, enabling students to facilitate and create change.
- 6.3.4 A soup kitchen and food pantry had been set up to support students during the cost of living crisis.

6.4 The Chair thanked Connie Chilcott, Exeter President, Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union, for their work in the academic year 2023-24.

7 Wellbeing and Welfare Services Annual Report (SEN/64/23-24)

- 7.1 The Chair invited the Director of Education Services and Student Experience to introduce the report The report highlighted the continuing trends in student demands, a summary of the key service developments and the priorities going forward, including:
 - 7.1.1 The University had seen an 8% increase in students accessing wellbeing services in Exeter which was attributed to heightened awareness and accessibility to services but also followed a national trend of increase of demand.
 - 7.1.2 a substantial increase in demand for drop-in appointments, the use of online chat services and an increase in mental health mentoring and accessibility support.
 - 7.1.3 a marked increase in students seeking mental health and welfare support in Cornwall. The availability of the expanded online service with continual cover had been a key development.
- 7.2 The new purpose-built Wellbeing Centre on Streatham Campus housing all wellbeing and welfare services, had created an effective, safe and confidential environment for support.
- 7.3 Following the 2023 Review of Wellbeing and Welfare Services, the team were on target for the implementation of the recommendations, including the recently launched comprehensive training programme for staff on mental health awareness and suicide prevention which had seen excellent engagement and feedback.
- 7.4 A key development not included in the report was the pastoral mentor pilot scheme and the partnership between wellbeing services and the education welfare team. This had been a positive development in relation to first level intervention as laid out in the step-care model.
- 7.5 The University continued to work with Devon Partnership Trust in relation to the University Community Mental Health Trust to establish a new contract and service level agreement to ensure strong transition from University wellbeing services through to secondary care services.
- 7.6 Cornwall colleagues continued to develop support services in partnership with NHS providers.
- 7.7 Exeter and Cornwall campuses were implementing new case management systems to improve service access and delivery and to ensure data and information could be used to make more proactive interventions.
- 7.8 A Senate member requested predictions for the future of demand in wellbeing. The Director of Education Services and Student Experience stated that nationally there was unlikely to be a decrease in demand as more complex cases work their way through the system. The review in 2023 highlighted the greater resource input into level two and three of the step care model, but work continued to ensure more resource went into level one.
- 7.9 A Senate member noted that the report had not included reflections on the integration between wellbeing teams and academic colleagues. A project on inclusive educational practice was ongoing.

- 7.10 A query was raised around the data on Health, Wellbeing and Support for Study (HWSS) numbers and the drop in numbers across the academic year 2022/23 compared to previous years and the difference in the drop in differing hubs across the campus. The Director of Education Services and Student Experience agreed to investigate the in consultation with the Head of Wellbeing and provide an update to a subsequent Senate meeting.
- 7.11 The Dean for Taught Students noted the work undertaken by Professor Vrinda Nayak (Associate Dean for Taught Students (Racial Equality and Inclusion)) and Rachel Griffiths (Senior Educator Developer) around inclusive education practice and the work in curriculum and assessment that could trigger wellbeing issues for students. The outcomes of that project and the importance of engagement and attendance data would be fed into the Curriculum for Change programme.

ACTION: That the Director of Education Services and Student Experience would work in consultation with the Head of Wellbeing to investigate the data around the drop in total numbers in HWSS across the 2022/23 academic year compared to previous years.

8 Doctoral Strategy 2030 – Our Postgraduate Researchers (SEN/65/23-24)

- 8.1 The Dean of Postgraduate Research and the Doctoral College (Professor Stacey Hynd) and the Director of Research (Dr Astrid Wissenburg) reported on the Doctoral College Strategy and highlighted the following key elements:
- 8.1.1 The three core principles included:
- High-quality student experience
 - Diverse and inclusive research culture
 - Effective and supportive training and professional development environment
- 8.1.2 The new Connected Doctoral College Strategy promoted postgraduate research as an integral element of the research strategy and student experience delivery and an annual report would be provided to Senate to ensure a continued update on its implementation.
- 8.1.3 Since November 2023, the strategy had been revised in consultation with Research and Impact Executive Committee (RIEC), Postgraduate Research (PGR) Board, Director of Postgraduate Research (DPGRs), Business Partners, Guild PGR Officers, SU Officers, and PGR Reps and Liaison Forums, PGR meeting and PGR feedback opportunities.
- 8.1.4 The strategy included five strategic objectives:
- Sustainable and diversified growth of PGR recruitment, aligned with research strengths and markets
 - High quality, supportive and inclusive student experience, responding to diverse needs
 - Enhanced research training and professional development, preparing PGRs for future employability in academia and beyond
 - Embedding PGRs in our vibrant and inclusive university research community and research cultures
 - Development of collaborative Connected Doctoral College to deliver PGR strategy and meet PGR needs
- 8.1.5 Immediate priorities included PGR student recruitment, actions to support EDI in the PGR community, and support for international students.
- 8.1.6 Mid-term priorities, included: mental health and wellbeing; training and development for PGRs; careers and employability support; supervisor training; research training; and development and enhancement of PGR alumni engagement.

- 8.2 A Senate member questioned the flexibility of working hours for researchers completing their PhD. The Dean for Postgraduate Research noted that all fractions from 0.5 to full time were available to researchers but that a recent review found that 0.4 was not practical in terms of accreditations. It was added that there was a lot of flexibility to move between the gradations but that the Doctoral

College could do more to raise awareness of this and emphasised the need to work more on communications within the research community and that this was a focus set out in the strategy.

- 8.3 Whilst the focus of EDI training on broad social and racial injustice was welcomed, it was also noted that the relationship between the student and the supervisor fed into the wider research culture. A Senate member asked whether EDI training could include giving students the tools to be able to hold difficult conversations with supervisors or more senior staff members. The Dean for Postgraduate Research noted that while this formed part of separate training, it would be beneficial to embed this into the EDI training to ensure a variety of students benefitted from this.
- 8.4 In response to a query around turning the vision into a more student-facing vision and attracting external students, the Dean of Postgraduate Research added that the Doctoral College was working with marketing and recruitment to find ways to simplify and clarify the Exeter PGR offer to make it more attractive. While Exeter was unable to compete with the space and infrastructure offered by larger metropolitan universities, it had excellent supervision and research and a focus on an inclusive and supportive PGR community.

Senate **ENDORSED** the Doctoral College Strategy.

ACTION: that an annual report on progress against implementation of the Doctoral College Strategy would be scheduled for Senate.

9 Business Engagement and Innovation 2030 Strategy: Knowledge Exchange Update (SEN/66/23-24 and SEN/66a/23-24)

- 9.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Business and Engagement) and the Director of Exeter Innovation presented an update on Knowledge Exchange.
- 9.2 The Corporate Strategy driver was to implement the 2030 Strategy through the partnerships with business and to develop a strong knowledge exchange culture where people were excited and inspired to work with partners outside academia.
- 9.3 Key targets included the development of a distinctive external reputation, building on the University's role as a leader in the region, and to double the income related to Business Engagement and Innovation activities by 2030/31.

Business Engagement and Innovation (BEI) activity supported Education targets through the delivery of Degree Apprenticeships and Continuing Professional Development. Research targets were also supported through the development of collaborative research with external partners and enhancement of research impact which would in turn enable continued improvements in REF performance.

- 9.4 The Director of Exeter Innovation highlighted the priorities for Knowledge Exchange (KE), including:
- 9.4.1 the creation of the KE Accelerator, Entrepreneurial Researcher Programmes and the Business Aware Academic Programme;
 - 9.4.2 Partnerships and the launch of the Green Solutions and Degree Partnership Brand;
 - 9.4.3 Regional Engagement and the Civic University Agreements, inclusion in the Devon Education Alliance and the new Innovation Hub in the city centre.

- 9.5 Results had shown that the University had exceeded its BEI income targets, degree apprenticeships income targets and learner numbers.
- 9.6 Work would continue on a strategic partnership review, KE culture change, regional impact and successful delivery of the Civic University Agreements.
- 9.7 A Senate member and chair of the Public Engagement Strategy Group raised concerns that the importance of continue to collaborate and engage with smaller enterprises may be diminished as a result of the current wording of the Strategy. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Business and Engagement) affirmed that University would be looking to engage with a wide range of business enterprises, from small local businesses to large conglomerates, and acknowledged that conveying the scale and scope of this activity within the Strategy was challenging.

The Chair extended their thanks to all those involved in the implementation of the Business Engagement strategy and for providing a helpful update on Knowledge Exchange activity.

10 Honorary Graduate Approval for 2025 Graduation Ceremonies (SEN/67/23-24)

- 10.1 The Chair introduced the report and asked for feedback.
- 10.2 The Chair noted the ongoing concerns around the lack of diversity among the nominations and pledged to work with the team to increase the diversity nominations in the next academic year.

Closed Minute – Confidential

11 Senate External Effectiveness Review: Annual Update on Implementation of Recommendations (SEN/68/23-24 and SEN/68A/23-24)

- 11.1 The Assistant Director (Governance) provided an update on the implementation of recommendations from the external review of Senate undertaken by Halpin in 2021.
- 11.2 All priority actions had now been completed, including: an enhanced Senate induction and onboarding process; a revised and refreshed Senate handbook; the introduction of a Senate buddying scheme, the inclusion of an academic assurance plan within the Senate schedule of business, and introduction of procedural guidelines for Senate elections. The majority of the suggested and recommended actions had either been completed or were ongoing.
- 11.3 A number of actions had been kept open to ensure a sustained focus on embedding enhancements over the forthcoming academic year 2024-25. Areas of key focus were the development of an election strategy, monitoring diversity, and improvements to papers and presentations.
- 11.4 A short meeting with a small group of Senators was scheduled to take place at the start of the next academic year to look at the recommendations in the context of the 2023-24 academic year. Senators interested in participating were invited to contact Assistant Director (Governance).
- 11.5 A Senate member highlighted that they had experienced some difficulties contacting their Senate buddy and challenges accessing Education Board reports.

ACTION: To investigate and resolve the individual issues raised in relation to contacting Senate buddies and accessing certain committee documentation.

12 Senate Schedule of Business (SEN/69/23-24)

- 12.1 The Assistant Director (Governance) summarized the report and the new and enhanced format of the Senate schedule of business.
- 12.2 The new schedule of business and the action log would be standing items of business from the 2024/25 academic year to provide Senate greater visibility of agreed actions and provisionally scheduled items. The format was based on the Council schedule of business and provided oversight of the items scheduled in the current academic year, signposted the deep dive sessions at Senate, and the academic assurance items that were aligned with the conditions of OfS Registration.

13 Items Brought Forward from Part II (SEN/70/23-24)

- 13.1 A Senate member brought forward from Part II the Senate Appeals Report stating that it would be useful to clarify the assurance Senate and Council were to take from the report and called for further discussion into the role of Senate in the review of these cases. It was affirmed that Senate would welcome a more streamlined and focused report which offered reflections on lessons learned and areas of continuous improvement. The purpose and usefulness of some of the redactions was also queried.
- 13.2 The Divisional Director (University Corporate Services) indicated that the Senate Appeals Report was designed to provide assurance to Senate and that it was appropriate for Senate to be provided with a more effective report to enable them to fulfil their powers as articulated in the statutes to oversee policies and procedures, including conduct and disciplinary matters.
- 13.3 The Assistant Director (Governance) noted that the format of the report at Exeter was atypical and across the sector these assurance reports tended to provide a high-level analysis of key trends and data, rather than the providing a redacted version of specific cases.
- 13.4 A Senator highlighted that based on the prior involvement in disciplinary procedures, it would be beneficial for panel members to be provided with enhanced training to support staff involved in the process, and ensure mental health and wellbeing.
- 13.5 It was affirmed that there were opportunities to refine our mechanisms for assurance in this area and to enhance this with a summary report on specific trends, lessons learned and continuous process improvement.

ACTION: To revise and refresh the format of the Senate Appeals Report to ensure more streamlined and focused reports were produced in future, including a clearer overview of specific trends, lessons learned, continued process improvement and removal of redacted case reports.

ACTION: To consider the potential benefits of scheduling a Senate deep dive on the Senate Appeals Process to provide assurance on processes and procedures and areas of focus for continuous enhancement.

- 13.6 In April 2021, the OfS published its Statement of Expectations setting out how Universities should prevent and respond to incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct. In February 2023, a set of proposals were produced which were presented as a consultation of 92 pages (including 6 Appendices), which proposed a new condition of registration in relation to harassment and sexual misconduct to which an institutional response was issued.
- 13.7 If this new general ongoing condition of registration (E6) is imposed on providers, it would introduce an additional formal regulatory obligation on universities and more prescriptive requirements. Further work is being undertaken to ensure the University is best placed to respond to any update. This work looks at both the handling of sexual misconduct cases but also preventative and awareness raising measures.

13.8 The Divisional Director of University Corporate Services proposed a detailed briefing was brought to Council in 2024-25 and deep-dive session was held with Senate to reflect on these issues and to outline requirements and expectations.

ACTION: Schedule an assurance report for Senate consideration on the new OfS Condition of Registration (E6) in relation to Sexual Misconduct and Harassment.

Part II - For Decision

Amendments to Regulations, Disciplinary and other Procedures **(SEN/79/23-24)**

- Academic Appeals Procedure **(SEN/80/23-24)**
- Sexual Misconduct Procedure **(SEN/81/23-24)**
- Student Disciplinary Procedure **(SEN/82/23-24)**
- General Regulations for Students **(SEN/83/23-24)**

14 Chair's Closing Remarks

14.1 The Chair thanked all Senate members for their input and engagement in both Senate meetings and deep dive sessions.

14.2 Thanks were extended to retiring student and elected members:

- Student members: Emma de Saram, Alex Stanley, Pip Shaw and Rhys Wallis. Connie Chilcott, the Exeter President from Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union was re-elected for a further one-year term.
- Elected members:
 - ESE – Adam Feldman, Ilke Inceoglu and Sharon Strawbridge. Ben Zissimos was re-elected for a further four-year term.
 - HASS – Anna Kiernan, Anna Mountford-Zimdars, Clare Saunders and Linda Williams
 - HLS – Safi Darden, William Gaze, Andrew Griffiths and Samuel Pollard.

Part II - Papers to Note

Wellbeing, Inclusion and Culture Board Update **(SEN/71/23-24)**

Annual Student Cases Report **(SEN/72/23-24)**

Council Minutes: 28 February 2024 **(SEN/73/23-24)**
 29 February 2024 **(SEN/74/23-24)**
 18 April 2024 **(SEN/75/23-24)**

Education Board Minutes **(SEN/76/23-24)**

Postgraduate Research Board Minutes **(SEN/77/23-24)**

Senate Appeals Report **(SEN/78/23-24)**

Awards of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates and Conferment of Degrees in Absentia: The award lists, approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate, since the last meeting may be inspected by contacting Student Records.

Dates of meetings for 2024/25

The provisional dates of Senate meetings and deep dives for the Academic Year 2024/25 were noted.