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SENATE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2019  
AT 2PM IN CSH 15

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<b>Members</b>	Rev Canon Professor Peter Neil Professor Scott Fleming Steve Deville Dr Robert Boast Kelly Fisher Rachel Harvey Josh Blanchard Dr Andrew Jackson Graham Meeson Viv Kerridge Dr Graham Basten Jennifer Hamilton Dr Julia Lindley-Baker Dr Nick Gee Professor Chris Atkin Aimee Quickfall	Vice-Chancellor ( <b>Chair</b> ) Deputy Vice-Chancellor Chief Operating Officer Executive Dean: Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement Head of Quality and Regulatory Compliance Director of Strategy and Planning Students' Union Vice President, Education 2018/19 Head of Research Acting Head of School: Humanities Member of Academic Staff, School of Humanities Head of School: Social Sciences Member of Academic Staff; School of Social Sciences Member of Academic Staff; School of Social Sciences Head of School: Teacher Development Member of Academic Staff, School of Teacher Development Member of Academic Staff, School of Teacher Development
<b>Invited</b>	Simon Callery	Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer
<b>Officer</b>	Stephanie Gilluly	Interim Registrar
<b>Minutes</b>	Leanne Chancellor	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Chair thanked members for their attendance at the fourth Senate meeting of the academic year 2018/19.

**1. Apologies**

**1.1** Apologies were RECEIVED from the following members:

- Dr Sacha Mason, Academic Staff Member of University Council;
- Dr Craig Spence, Member of Academic Staff; School of Humanities;
- Craig Ferguson, Students' Union President 2018/19;
- Ryan Eccles, Undergraduate Student Representative;
- Arran Hart, Postgraduate Student Representative.

The Chair noted the newly elected Students' Union Executive Team, which will join the Senate membership:

- Alan Foster, Students' Union President 2019/20;
- Jordan Fane, Students' Union Vice President, Education 2019/20.

The Chair thanked the Students' Union President 2018/19 and the Students' Union Vice President, Education 2018/19 for their work and support this academic year and wished them well for the future.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

### **2.1 6 March 2019**

The minutes of the Senate meeting held on 6 March 2019 were CONFIRMED as a fair and accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **3.1 Action Table**

Senate RECEIVED an updated action table from the meeting on 6 March 2019 and NOTED that:

#### **3.1.1 Update on Strategy Discussions (minute 6.1 refers)**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) noted that a series of meetings had been held as part of the consultation about the new strategy:

- Open Meetings for all BGU staff on 13 February, 18 February and 27 February 2019;
- Business meetings with collaborative partners/FE providers in Lincolnshire including discussion of emerging strategy on 21 January, 4 February, 12 February, 21 February, 26 February, 12 March, 1 April and 30 May 2019;
- External stakeholder meetings on 14, 22 and 29 May 2019;
- University Council on 30 January 2019;
- Student Council on 4 March 2019;
- Agenda item on meetings of the University's deliberative committee structure on:
  - Internationalisation Committee on 1 May 2019;
  - Learning and Teaching Committee on 1 May 2019;
  - Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee on 24 April 2019;
  - Stakeholder Engagement Committee on 14 May 2019;
  - Staff Forum on 7 June 2019;
  - Senior Management Group on 10 June 2019.

3.1.2 Senate NOTED that all other actions either were covered under substantive agenda items or had been actioned and closed.

### **3.2 Any Other Matters**

3.2.1 There were no further matters raised.

## **4. Augar Review Presentation**

4.1 The Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer provided Senate with a presentation on the Augar Review, which was published on 30 May 2019. He noted the key recommendations being raised, which would have implications to the BGU as an institution.

Some of these key recommendations were:

- Cutting Fees to £7,500 per year (undergraduates);
- Extending loan repayment period from 30 years to 40 years;
- Reintroducing maintenance grants for socio-economically disadvantaged students;
- Lowering post-study repayment threshold for the 'median non-graduate earnings';
- Removing funding for Foundation years;
- Introducing 'Lifelong Learning Allowance';
- Reinstating funding for Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications;
- Giving more control to the Office for Students (OfS) to cap numbers – These capping powers will target institutions that are offering poor value for money to students by marketing courses which have *"poor retention, poor graduate employability and poor long-term earnings benefits"*.

4.2 Members raised the following comments and concerns:

- Whether the Augar Review's recommendations would be implemented in total, in part or not at all;
- It was noted that at a recent NHS Conference that Jeremy Hunt, MP, raised concerns about the Health and Social Care aspect, as they do not appear in the Augar Review. It was noted that the Department for Education (DfE) may be in conversation about this;
- It was noted that at the recent Open Day on 8 June 2019, there were many enquiries about the Foundation Year programme, which the Augar Review proposes to stop funding. The question was raised whether it would be beneficial for BGU to continue to offer the programme if no funding is available.

4.3 Senate NOTED and ACKNOWLEDGED the updates from the Augar Review.

5. **Update on the Access and Participation Plan**

5.1 The Executive Dean: Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement (ExD:LTSE) reminded members that the approved Access and Participation Plan (APP) was the first condition of the OfS registration for HEIs to charge a higher fee, and without it, there might be an implication for recruitment of students to programmes (undergraduate and PGCE). It was noted that the submission date for the APP was 1 July 2019 to allow it to be considered and approved by mid-September 2019, ready for advertising for student applications for 2020-21.

It was noted that a huge amount of work had gone into the APP and the draft document had been reviewed regularly at various committees and working groups.

The ExD:LTSE noted the new expectations:

- A Five-Year Strategic Plan, which was reported on and monitored annually;
- The real and consistent reduction in differential gaps between different under represented learners (mature, POLAR Q1+2, BAME, Disability, Care leavers; all cross referenced with gender) for all stages of the student journey:
  - Access – applications, offers and enrolments;
  - Success – continuation and attainment in upper degrees; and
  - Progression – employability;
- Informed and approved by BGU students;
- Working collaboratively with target groups, such as, schools, FE Colleges, other HEI and employers, with and through LiNCHigher.



The ExD:LTSE went through examples of the strategic measures included in the APP. It was noted that the APP required a holistic/whole institution approach, so that there are clear opportunities to integrate with the University's new strategy, which has been extended to 2025 to align with the APP. To deliver successfully the APP aims, it will require strong monitoring, analysis of data/evidence and ownership at all levels across the University.

The ExD:LTSE noted that if the APP is sent back after the submission date with amendments to be made, there must be sufficient staff on campus with the authority to make these changes to the document. It was also noted that the OfS would require University Council to have officially endorsed the APP.

- 5.2 The Chair acknowledged the huge amount of work that had been undertaken in the APP and thanked the ExD:LTSE and the staff involved for their work on it.

## **6. Approval of the REF2021 Code of Practice**

- 6.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED the proposed document for the BGU Code of Practice for REF2021, which provided information and advice to the University's staff on the eligibility of staff members and the selection of outputs for REF2021.

The Head of Research noted that the REF2021 Code of Practice had been submitted to Research England ahead of the deadline of 7 June 2019, with an appendix noting that the Code would be approved following the University's Senate meeting on 12 Jun 2019.

It was noted that the Code had been produced with reference to the REF2021 final *Guidance on codes of practice, Guidance on submissions, and Panel criteria and working methods*; and other guidance provided by AdvanceHE (Equality Challenge Unit) and GuildHE Research.

The Head of Research made reference to the various external and internal consultation events and to the approval process and communications plan being followed. It was noted that he had scheduled five Open Consultation Staff *fora* within May 2019 to incorporate interaction with staff members and additional correspondence with any staff currently absent from the institution. It was noted that the Equality Impact Assessments (EIA), which embody the expectations and requirements of the 2010 Equality Act, the 2011 Public Sector Equality Duty and the 2000-2 Part-time Workers and Fixed-term Employees regulations, had been discussed with the Director of Human Resources.

It was noted that the first round of feedback from Research England would be received in August 2019.

- 6.2 Senate was CONTENT to APPROVE BGU's Code of Practice for REF2021.

## **7. Academic Freedom Statement**

- 7.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED BGU's statement pertaining to Academic Freedom, which is meant to be a clear statement of the University's approach.

The DVC noted that under Section 202 (2) (a) of the Education Reform Act 1988, it makes explicit the obligation on Universities:

*"to ensure that academic staff have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without*

*placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges they may have at their institutions...”*

It was noted that Academic Freedom could be understood in (at least) three ways:

1. Individual scholars have freedom to determine how they do their work, i.e. free from direction, especially how they teach and conduct their research;
2. Institutional claims to Academic Freedom can be made by universities and higher education institutions;
3. Individual academics have the freedom to participate in organisational governance of the universities and higher education institutions that employ them.

These interpretations provide the basis for a consideration of Academic Freedom insofar as it affects BGU.

- 7.2 The Interim Registrar noted that the principle of the Academic Freedom is enshrined in BGU’s Articles of Governance, (Section 21.2).
- 7.3 Senate was CONTENT to RECOMMEND the Academic Freedom Statement to go forward to University Council for approval.

SG

## **8. Student Protection Plan**

- 8.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED the revised draft Student Protection Plan.

The Interim Registrar noted that the Student Protection Plan had been revised following the recent news that Boston College were terminating their partnership with BGU. It was noted that September 2019 would be the last year that Boston College recruits to awards validated by BGU.

It was noted that BGU will be working with Boston College to enter into a “teach out” phase, which will draw to a close in 2021, subject to all quality assurance processes within BGU for the three Foundation Degrees, Professional Studies (Early Childhood), Professional Studies (Education) and Professional Practice in Special Educational Needs and Disability, and the 2020 BA (Hons) Business Top-up.

- 8.2 The DVC noted that Boston College was withdrawing its partnership with BGU as its strategic growth plans were focussing around growth in STEM subjects.
- 8.3 Senate was CONTENT to recommend the revised Student Protection Plan to go forward to University Council for approval.

SG

## **9. Academic Enhancement Committee (AEC) Approved Policies, Regulations and Codes of Practice**

Senate RECEIVED, ENDORSED and APPROVED the following policies and reports, presented by the Interim Registrar and the Head of Quality and Regulatory Compliance:

- 9.1 • Code of Practice for Flexible Learning and Distributed Learning;
- 9.2 • Code of Practice for Work-Based Learning;
- 9.3 • Supplement to the Regulations for Undergraduate Awards for Programmes with a Foundation Year.

## **10. Records of Decisions**

### **10.1 BA (Hons) Theology, Philosophy and Ethics**

Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the Record of Decision for the BA (Hons) Theology, Philosophy and Ethics programme under the School of Humanities.

The Interim Registrar noted that all the conditions had been met and had been discussed at QAC in April 2019 and noted at AEC in May 2019.

## **11. Other Policy Updates**

11.1 This item was covered in the item 4 of the agenda within the Augar Review presentation.

## **12. Minutes of Meetings of Subcommittees of Senate**

### **12.1 Academic Enhancement Committee held on 22 May 2019**

12.1.1 Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the Academic Enhancement Committee held on 22 May 2019.

### **12.2 Stakeholder Engagement Committee held on 3 April 2019**

12.2.1 Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the Stakeholder Engagement Committee held on 3 April 2019.

### **12.3 People and Inclusion Committee**

12.3.1 Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the minutes from the People and Inclusion Committee held on 13 March 2019.

## **13. To Note Schedule of Delegation 2019 for University Council**

13.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED BGU's Schedule of Delegation, which has been aligned to the revised Articles of Association of the Company, incorporating the Instrument and Articles of Government of the University.

The Interim Registrar noted that the Schedule of Delegation takes into account the actions arising from the Governance Effectiveness Review, which was completed for University Council. It was also noted that the Schedule also confirms the location of specific powers for certain key decisions.

13.2 The Chair thanked the Interim Registrar for her work on the Schedule of Delegation and noted that it was a very comprehensive document.

## **14. To Note Chair's Actions**

14.1 Senate RECEIVED and NOTED the following Chair's Actions which had been signed off by the Chairs of AEC and Senate:

- Record of Decision: BSc Sports Coaching, Development & Pedagogy;
- Record of Decision: BSc Sports Therapy;
- Record of Decision: BA (Hons) History;
- Record of Decision: BA (Hons) Military History;



- Record of Decision: BA (Hons) Professional Practice in Special Educational Needs & Disability;
- Record of Decision: MSc Mental Health, Wellbeing & Resilience.

**15. Key Items from University Council**

15.1 The Interim Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Staff Member of University Council, noted the following key items from the University Council meeting on 20 March 2019:

- Council had a presentation on the current position and direction of travel of the draft University Strategy 2019-25;
- Council re-appointed the Chair, Mr Bob Walder, for a further term;
- Council received an update on student recruitment;
- Council received an update on the University's Company Status and noted that the Privy Council had approved the Articles of Government;
- Feedback was given on the meetings of the Academic Advisory Group in December 2018 and March 2019.

**16. Any Other Business**

16.1 Confirmed Honorary Awards for this Graduation 2019.

The Chair noted the following confirmed and accepted Honorary Awards for the 2019 Graduation services:

- *Honorary Doctorate:*
  - Mr Ross Edgley
- *Honorary Fellowships:*
  - Mrs Barbara Murphy.
  - Revd Canon Alex Whitehead (will be presented his fellowship at Matriculation 2019).
- *Distinguished Honorary Fellowship:*
  - Ms Lizzie Jordan

16.2 Graduation 2019:

The Chair noted the forthcoming Graduation dates of 24 and 25 July 2019.

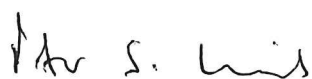
16.3 National Student Survey (NSS)

The ExD:LTSE noted that the NSS results would be published on 3 July 2019.

**17. Dates of Future Meeting(s)**

- 17.1
- Monday 22 July 2019 at 2pm.

Signed by the Chair:

  
 Revd Canon Professor Peter Neil

22/7/19  
 Date