

Report from the 80th Meeting of the Academic Council – 10th July 2025

Introduction

Detailed below are the matters which the Chair of the Academic Council wishes to draw to the attention of the Board of Directors arising from the Academic Council meeting on the 10th July 2025

Part One: Areas of Consideration and Discussion

Updates to the General Academic Regulations and Schedules

Council received and approved a comprehensive update to the General Academic Regulations and Schedules. This included final implementation of OfS E6 requirements and Freedom of Speech legislative changes, alongside significant revisions to University policies and procedures in advance of 1 August 2025. Revisions to committee Terms of Reference were also approved to reflect focus realignment and enhanced effectiveness, including the streamlining of the International Higher Education Committee.

University Academic Key Performance Indicators

Council discussed the University's Academic KPIs. It was noted that ADP KPIs remained static pending the release of OfS B3 statistics, with future updates expected to include NSS and PTES results and associated KPIs.

Education and Standards Committee Report and Sub-Committee Reports

Council considered and discussed the presentation of the key business of Education and Standards Committee and its sub-committees. The progression of actions in relation to the Education and Standards Committee was provided and discussed by Council. The Council were also notified of the key areas of discussion, such as progress on University KPIs, updates from the key sub-committees of ESC (AQSC, IHEC, and SEC), and key annual reports received by Council in this session were also discussed and approved.

Due Diligence Reports

Council approved the due diligence reports for Nursing placements and were assured of the actions supporting student safety and wellbeing.

Academic Risk Report

Updates were provided to the Council on the Risk Register. All risks were being effectively managed and mitigated appropriately.

Vice-Chancellor's Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the University's continued stability and recruitment success. Council discussed recent NSS results and associated action planning. Discussion focused on the implications of Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) announcements. An overview of programme development and its strategic importance within was provided.

Annual Externality Report

Council received the Annual Externality Report and noted its revised approach, moving beyond a sole focus on external examiners to a broader consideration of externality across the institution. The quality of external engagement and the revised reporting approach were welcomed by Council.

Part Two: For noting

Sub-Committees

Members received the sub-committee minutes for overview and scrutiny from the Education and Standards Committee, Curriculum Review Group, Academic Regulations and Awards Committee, Academic Appeals Boards, and Apprenticeships Steering Committee. No issues were raised.

Part Three: Items Approved

In addition to the approval of items presented for discussion above, the following further items were formally approved/ratified by Council at this session:

- Ratification of all programmes as set down by the Programme Approval Scrutiny Committee
- Ratification of all awards as set down by the Academic Regulations and Awards Committee