

Report from the 79th Meeting of the Academic Council – 14th November 2024

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 14th November 2024

Part One: Areas of Consideration and Discussion

Membership and Terms of Reference of the Academic Council 2024/25 and Council's Sub-Committees

Council approved the updated membership and terms of reference, noting the value of further emphasis on OfS Conditions of Registration that had been included. Council also approved revisions elevating the Academic Regulations and Awards Committee and Programme Approval Scrutiny Panel to devolved sub-committees, subject to final updates to terms of reference.

University Academic Key Performance Indicators

The KPIs were presented and discussed, focusing on graduate outcomes, student satisfaction, and B3 performance. Council discussed representation of international metrics (e.g., BCA) and their enhanced incorporation.

Proposed School Name Change

Council approved the renaming of the School of Nursing to the School of Healthcare and Nursing, reflecting the broader scope of the School's work.

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.

Students' Association Constitution and Bye Laws

The revised Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Students' Association were approved, including clarification of the Student President role and alignment with legal and electoral frameworks.

Vice-Chancellor's Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update highlighting strong completion rates and performance against KPIs, the University's strong revenue position and positive growth trajectory, strength of international recruitment and agent network development, and the continued expansion of technology, healthcare, nursing, and law offerings.

Degree Outcomes Statement

Council approved the Degree Outcomes Statement for publication, noting the positive work in raising PG achievement bands.

Annual Learning, Teaching, Assessment, and Resources Report

The Annual LTAR Report was presented, with strong outcomes in teaching observations noted, continued focus on reducing ethnicity attainment gaps, and expansion of staff CPD via the PGCLT and HEA Fellowship routes.

Race Equality Charter

Council received an overview of current REC activity, KPIs, and ongoing action planning.

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