Present: The Vice-Chancellor (Chair), Professors Barnes, Barr, Blom, Canagarajah, Carrington, Cini, Cristianini, Dermott, Flecker, Grierson, Hammond, Heslop, Ireland, Jarrold, Jordan, Marklof, Oliphant, Pancost, Pantazis, Payne, Piggins, Potter, Powell, Purdy, Raven, Ridley, Robbins, Robinson, Sandy, Scarpa, Squires, B Smith, Szczelkun, Tavare, E Wilson; Dr J Agarwal, Dr M Allinson, Dr M Barbour, Mr C Brasnett, Dr S Bullock, Dr P Coonerty, Dr S Fitzjohn, Dr S Fox, Fuller, Dr J Howarth, Dr A Howkins, Mr P Kent, Dr I Lazar, Dr K Lampe, Dr P Langton, Dr E Lithander, Dr E Love, Dr S McGuinness, Mr T Metcalfe, Dr F Mohammadi, Dr T O’Toole, Mrs L Parr, Dr S Proud, Dr S Quadflieg,

In attendance: Ms L Barling (Clerk), Mr J Boyer (Chair of the Board of Trustees), Mr B Mac Ruairi (Chief Property Officer), Ms Nicola Key (Head of Programme Delivery for TQEC).

1. Minutes of the previous meeting on 15 April 2019.
1.1 APPROVED: the minutes of the meeting of 15 April 2019.

1.2 The Matters arising raised some debate around the issues that online marking process was having during this year’s assessment cycle. There was also a recognition around the continuing challenge amongst staff in relation to workload and people were encouraged to report concrete examples where the system is not working to Ms Sarah Davies (sarah.j.davies@bristol.ac.uk), the Executive Director of BILT/Director of Education Innovation.

2. Chair’s Report
2.1 RECEIVED (SN/18-19/041).

2.2 The Chair expressed his thanks to the outgoing Deans for Health Sciences & Social Sciences & Law respectively, in particular for their valuable contributions to Senate and the wider University.

Augar
2.3 The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the impact of the recent publication of the Augar review, emphasizing that whilst the University was in a stronger place than many of its peers, the risk of the government implementing the reduction of tuition fees without any top up from government funding would represent a £25m challenge if implemented. Members noted that the University was involved extensively in lobbying in Westminster through the Russell Group and UUK to try to positively influence ministers. Senate would continue to be updated on all key developments in this area.

Immigration policy
2.4 Members noted that there was better news in terms of immigration with confirmation that the Withdrawal Bill was in the process of being amended to give a 2-year post study entitlement to all EEA and Swiss nationals.
Combined Research Awards

2.5 The Vice-Chancellor congratulated the PVC Research and colleagues in DARO, and RED and for the recent successful RPIF award. Members noted that the government would announce the results of the next round of funding from the Research Partnership Investment Fund (RPIF) in July. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that he was very optimistic that the University's bid would be successful.

Term dates 2019/20

2.6 Following the Governments’ recent announcement that next year’s early May bank holiday would be moved back four days to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE day:

2.7 Senate AGreed that Teaching Block 2 should now end on Thursday 7 May 2020, that Monday 4 May 2020 would become a standard teaching day and that the University should be closed for the bank holiday on Friday 8 May 2020.

2.8 Senate also noted that the key dates for 2020/21 had recently been agreed by UMT and the dates could be found at: www.bristol.ac.uk/university/dates.

Senate sub committees

2.9 APPROVED: a change in reporting mechanism for Ethics of Research Committee which mean that it would become a subcommittee of the University Research Committee, but with an annual report to the Board (and Senate) and exception reporting to the Audit Committee.

Pensions update

2.10 NOTED: an additional paper circulated electronically to Senate: the University’s draft submission to the Joint Expert Panel (SN/18-19/041/Annex).

3. Vice-Chancellor's question time

3.1 The following matters were raised:

- Members raised a concern about the risks associated with further international student growth, highlighting that the number of international students attending UK universities was increasing.

- The PVC GE emphasised that it was important to remain competitive particularly in such challenging market conditions, and to maintain the right balance of UG, PG, and Home and Overseas in order to withstand the financial risks associated with external challenges such as Augar.

4. Written questions

4.1 None received.

5. Faculty Board recommendations

5.1 None received.

6. Campus Heart & TQEC progress update

6.1 RECEIVED and NOTED (PRESENTATION, on file)

6.2 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost, and the Chief Property Officer gave a presentation on Campus Heart and the new Enterprise Campus at Temple quarter about how important both were to ensuring an outstanding student and colleague experience.
6.3 The following discussion points were raised after the presentation:
- that people sat at the heart of the success of all of the University’s plans, and it was important to keep monitoring student staff ratios and focus on staff wellbeing and workload as the University moved forward.
- Having an appropriate digital infrastructure was essential to delivering core University services, particularly the provision of a student digital strategy, and it was agreed that Senate would receive an update on the University’s digital innovation plans at a future meeting.

7.1 RECEIVED (SN/18-19/042)

7.2 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor presented the final version of the Academic Promotions Framework outlining how the framework had been developed and plans to calibrate its use over the coming months.

7.3 The framework was positively received. Members commented that as part of the planned implementation work it would be important to:
   a) explore the scope for staff movement between the different pathways;
   b) consider ways of recognising different levels of achievement in relation to the criteria and;
   c) ensure that the related conversations around staff development, workload and the promotions process were aligned to deliver the balance of priorities within individual Schools.


8. Education Committee Report
8.1 RECEIVED (SN/18-19/043)

8.2 APPROVED: minor amendments to the academic appeals procedure (in the Examination Regulations) and the Student Complaints Procedure to standardise the timescale for progressing from the Local Stage to the University Stage (see section 1 of the paper).

8.3 Members of Senate commented on the interim student attendance policy and agreed that there should be a commitment from the relevant teams to make sure that the right systems were in place across the University.

9. Research Committee Report
9.1 RECEIVED and NOTED (SN/18-19/044).

10. Annual Report: Appointed Emeritus Professors and Honorary Appointments
10.1 RECEIVED and NOTED (SN/18-19/045)

11. Future Agenda Items
11.1 Any proposed future items should be passed to the Secretary, or to the Governance Team (governance@bristol.ac.uk).

12. Equality of Opportunity, including consideration of Equality Related Risks
12.1 Senate considered EDI related risks as part of the promotions framework discussion.

13. Communication and Consultation
13.1 Members of Senate were invited to share what was discussed today with colleagues across the University.

14. Consideration of Sustainability matters
14.1 Matters of sustainability were discussed as part of the TQEC and Campus Heart presentations.

15. Quality Assurance
15.1 No specific issues or concerns were raised.

16. Date of next meeting
16.1 The date of the next meeting of Senate will be Monday 28 October 2019, in Room 4.10, 35 Berkeley Square.