



**MEETING OF SENATE
MINUTES
Monday 2 February 2026
14.00, via Microsoft Teams**

Present:

Professors: Arpad Abraham, Melissa Allen, Jonathan Beaverstock, Alvin Birdi, Ian Bond, Matthew Brown, William Browne, Craig Butts, Edmund Cannon, Ryerson Christie, Ian Craddock, Esther Dermott, Mark Dillingham, Alison Donnell, Tim Edmunds, Natalie Edwards, Rachel Flecker, Mike Fraser, Sarah George, Tansy Jessop, Oliver Johnson, Catherine Kelly, Barry Main, Karim Malik, David Manley, Jennifer McManus, Anthony Mulholland, Stuart Mundell, Aydin Nassehi, Tim Parkin, Guy Poppy, Martyn Powell, Alison Rust, Michelle Spear, Brian Squire, Judith Squires, Tuomas Tahko, Jeremy Tavaré, Chrissie Thirlwell, Jaap Velthuis, Clea Warburton, Evelyn Welch (**Chair**), Karen West

Dr Peter Allen, Dr Faezah Arab Hassani, Yogadhveep Arora, Sarah Bain, Dr Emily Bell, Ahmad Bilal, Francesca Blackburn, Dr Manjola Caro, Dr Ruzanna Chitchyan, Dr Alex Clayton, Dr Jennifer Collins, Dr Suchandrima Das, Dr Amy Edwards, Ed Fay, Dr Jonathan Fellows, Michael Flay, Jordan Fung, Dr Maxine Gillway, Dr Lauren Goodhead, Teo Guez, Dr Joseph Hallett, Dr Suzanne Held, Rayna John, Dr Chris Kent, Antonia Lythgoe, Dr Alison McClean, Mary Millard, Dr James Palmer, Lucinda Parr, Lucy Pears, Dr Efi Psomopoulou, Dr Mark Schenk, Mia Stevens, Dr Matthew Tointon, Jo-Jo Vyvyan-Jones

Apologies: Professor Michele Acuto, Professor Michael Banissy, Professor Michele Barbour, Professor Sam Leary, Dr Emma Clark, Professor Tom Ellson, Dr Bassam Elsaied, Professor Charl Faul, Professor Ruth Glynn, Dr Gibran Hemani, Dr Michael Henehan, Professor Darryl Hill, Professor Jonathan Ives, Professor Sam Leary, Dr Zoe Leinhardt, Professor Nicholas Roberts, Professor Nigel Savery, Dr Meng Wang, Professor Chris Willis

In attendance: James Bigwood (Chief People Officer), Steve Hall (Executive Director for Students & Education), Victoria Jones Parry (Executive Director of Strategic Planning & Transformation), Hannah Quinn (Chief of Staff), David Stock (Interim Head of Governance and **minutes**), Peter Vermeulen (Chief Financial Officer); Dr Joanna McGarry (Deputy Director of Global Engagement) and Julia Hall (Director of External, Student Communications and Reputation) for item 4; Doug Jennings (Director of Student Journey), Simon Atkinson (Academic Director of Recruitment and Admissions), and Raeesah Ellis Haque (Head of Student Success (Diversity)) for item 6.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 8 December 2025** (*on file*)
 - 1.1 **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting on 8 December 2025.
2. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
 - 2.1 Senate **RECEIVED** and **DISCUSSED** paper reference **SN/25-26/017** (*on file*).
 - 2.2 The Chair expressed on behalf of Senate gratitude to all colleagues who had supported the visit to the University of the Prince of Wales on 22 January.
 - 2.3 At the invitation of the Chair, the Chief Financial Officer updated Senate on the sector-wide publication of Financial Statements. HESA would collate and report on trends in

due course, but a WonkHE article published on 2 February had highlighted that one-third of the sector was in deficit and of the two-thirds in surplus, many were operating with minimal surplus. The position of the University was relatively robust and stable but, having received £0 capital grant from the OfS in 2024-25, running costs would need to be covered from the surplus, which stood at £67.8m, as predicted. The CFO highlighted the importance of Faculties and Schools achieving the target of generating 50% operating surplus and recognised that the Integrated Planning Process would soon commence.

2.4 The Chair noted that the Government's International Education Strategy 2026 had been published on 20 January. The Strategy confirmed that the proposed international student fee levy would be charged to institutions as a flat fee and restated the Government's support for transnational education arrangements.

2.5 At the invitation of the Chair, the Executive Director for Education and Students presented an update to Senate on the QAA review into quality and standards at the University of Glasgow. The QAA report had highlighted four areas of concern:

- the complexity of student regulations;
- inconsistent practice and the application of localised systems;
- a lack of training;
- Issues with processes associated with, for example, mitigation.

The University of Bristol would continue to consider its assessment framework via the Academic Quality Committee, which would report into the University Education Committee.

2.6 Senate **NOTED** that on 22 January, the Vice-Chancellor as Chair of Senate had approved, on behalf of Senate under Chair's powers to take decisions between meetings, changes to the Senate delegation schedule in relation to the Academic Calendar. The changes are shown as tracked changes in Appendix 1 (*on file*.)

3. REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC TRUSTEES ON BOARD-RELATED BUSINESS

3.1 The academic Trustees updated Senate on the business which had been discussed at the meeting of the Board of Trustees which had been held on 30 January.

4. 150 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

4.1 Senate **RECEIVED** and **DISCUSSED** a presentation (*on file*) on the University's planned celebration of its 150th anniversary in late 2026.

4.2 Members of Senate were encouraged to consider ways in which they and their teams might be able to contribute to the celebrations and to contact the Deputy Director of Global Engagement to discuss any proposals.

5. TEMPLE QUARTER ENTERPRISE CAMPUS UPDATE

5.1 Senate **RECEIVED** and **DISCUSSED** paper reference **SN/25-26/018** (*on file*.)

5.2 In response to questions from members of Senate, the DVC & Provost and PVC for Education and Students confirmed that there would be a strong employability focus for students whose courses would be delivered at CM1 from September 2026. The location of CM1 near the legal and financial heart of the city, as well as near many start-ups, was an opportunity on which the University would seek to capitalise. The project remained on schedule and was expected to be delivered within budget, and student timetabling would ensure that tight turnarounds across the campus were

avoided. The Dean of the Business School confirmed that students on courses which were planned to move to CM1 had been advised, so that they could make informed choices about, for example, their accommodation.

6. WIDENING PARTICIPATION SNAPSHOT SUMMARY 2025

- 6.1 Senate RECEIVED and **DISCUSSED** paper reference **SN/25-26/019** (*on file.*)
- 6.2 The Director of Student Journey and the Academic Director of Recruitment and Admissions presented Senate with an update on Widening Participation activity ahead of the implementation of the new Access & Participation Plan later in 2026, highlighting the increased diversity of the 2025 Medical School intake in comparison to previous years. The increase was attributed to innovative student recruitment activities, including a 48-hour residential 'interview'.
- 6.3 In response to questions from Members of Senate, the presenters confirmed that monitoring of the retention and progression of students recruited via the new process would be conducted and the outcomes shared. There were challenges in tracking graduate destinations and outcomes in the context of the diversity of career options for Medical graduates but there had been indications that other institutions were interested in the University's new approach to student recruitment.

7. RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

- 7.1 Senate RECEIVED and **NOTED** paper reference **SN/25-26/020** (*on file.*)
- 7.2 In response to questions from Members of Senate on the Framework Agreement Proposal for a new Dual PhD Programme with Khalifa University, the PVC Research & Innovation confirmed that the Chair of the University Ethics of Research Committee had been asked to discuss with the Global Engagement Team concerns raised about the Dual PhD Programme.

8. EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

- 8.1 Senate RECEIVED and **NOTED** paper reference **SN/25-26/021** (*on file.*)
- 8.2 The PVC Education noted that the Annual Report on Quality & Standards would be brought to the meeting of Senate scheduled for 13 April.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 There was none.

MEETING CLOSED

Next meeting Monday 13 April 2026, 14.00