

In attendance:

Rachel Alvey, Chris Dunbobbin, Sandra Kwok, Jennifer Nutkins, Sam McGinty (for item 24/43), Veronica Moore (for item 24/42.5), Alex Owen, James Simpson, Helen Taller (for item 24/43), Richard Taylor.

Senate

42.4 Sporting Excellence and Opportunity Core Plan

Senate recommended to Council for approval the Sporting Excellence and Opportunity Core Plan. The aim of the Core Plan was to support the University in achieving its institutional aims, by making a step-change in the pan-institutional coordination of sport to maximise the benefits to the whole University. In this context, Loughborough's expertise in sport would be used to advance its three institutional strategic themes through the plan's strategic priorities: nurturing the best higher education sporting ecosystem in the world; being a beacon for inclusivity in sport, with a sector-leading women's, para sport and disability sport offer; playing a lead role in reducing the carbon footprint of sport; and AI and digital developments related to sport.

A number of specific areas were mentioned in discussion, including issues around EDI, engagement with secondary schools, and research and other activity outside of the professional sport context in areas such as health and wellbeing. Reassurances were provided that these would be addressed in work associated with the Core Plan.

Thanks were offered to Jo Maher and all others involved in the development of the Core Plan.

42.5 Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Core Plan

Senate recommended

- (i) A new Ordinance XLVI on Freedom of Expression (Annex 3)
- (ii) Amendments to other Ordinances, policies and Codes of Practice as set out in Annexes 1 and 2), except where these relate to HR matters.

43.3 Senate noted that the further proposed amendments to Ordinances, policies and Codes of Practice relating to HR matters were subject to consultation and negotiation with the campus trades unions and recommended approval to Council in principle, subject to these discussions (noting that should any substantive changes be made, the relevant details would be brought back to Senate).

It was emphasised in discussion that the University would develop its training and support for staff in the context of the implications of the Act and the University's EDI ambitions; and that existing protections

Senate considered a report, including updates on student recruitment, student surveys, and DIGILabs.

As part of this item, Senate approved a proposal to change the academic year structure in a phased implementation over 2025-26 and 2026-27. Key changes included: Starting the academic year one week earlier; inserting a study week in week 7 of semester 1; slightly shortening the length of time that formal teaching was delivered to 10 weeks rather than 11 in Semesters 1 and 2; inserting an 'assessment support week' in week 12 of Semester 1; reducing the length of the Semester 1 and 2 examination periods; introducing an inter-semester week between Semesters 1 and 2; shortening the Easter break to 3 weeks; and adjusting the timeline of activities in the summer period (Semester 3).

Clarification was provided in discussion on: the selection of week 7 rather than week 6 as the study week in Semester 1 (on the basis of research around the time at which first year students became settled at University, and to accommodate 6 week teaching blocks); and the retention of a teaching week after the Christmas break (to allow students to re-engage with academic staff, and Professional Services staff to prepare, prior to the examination period). Further consideration would be given to the timing of the October start date for Doctoral Researchers.

Senate considered a report, including updates on ongoing activities around the roll-out and implementation of the R&I Core Plan; the completion of the round of QICR meetings with Schools; and the "reimagination" change project in the R&I Office. It was noted also that the final inaugural lecture of the 2023-24 academic year was on 12 June 2024, with over 300 registered to attend, closing off a hugely successful series of events. Thanks were offered to all who had been involved.

Senate received a report.

Senate received a report:

Pursuant Statute XVIII and with the advice of the University Honours Committee, Senate made a recommendation to Council regarding persons to be invited to receive Honorary Degrees and University Medals at future Degree Congregations.

- 55.5 Minor Amendments to Regulation XI - Diplomas in Industrial Studies, Professional Studies, International Studies and Professional Development
Senate approved minor amendments to remove references to assessment methods for the 2023/24 academic year.

56.1 Senate received minutes of the meeting of Human Resources Committee on 22 May 2024.

56.2 On the recommendation of Human Resource Committee, Senate approved an amendment to Ordinance XLIII (Policy and Procedure on the Use of Fixed Term Contracts).

57.1 Senate received minutes of the meeting of Research and Innovation Committee on 23 April 2024.

57.2 On the recommendation of Research and Innovation Committee, Senate approved new PhD Programme Specifications for 2024:

Offshore Wind Energy Sustainability and Resilience PhD
Dual PhD award with Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Dual PhD award with Institut Teknologi Bandung

57.3 On the recommendation of Research and Innovation Committee, Senate approved new PhD

- 61.1 Senate noted the appointment of Professor Rebecca Cain as Acting Dean of the School of Design and Creative Arts from 1 August 2024, until a full, external selection process was completed during the 2024-25 academic year.
- 61.2 Senate noted the appointment of Professor Lauren Sherar as Acting Dean of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences from 1 August 2024, until a full, external selection process was completed during the 2024-25 academic year.

Senate noted the following appointments/reappointments:

- *62.1 Louise Holt as Associate Dean (E&SE) for the School of SSH for a further year from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025.
- 62.2 David Sibley as Associate Dean (E&SE) for the School of Science until 31 July 2025 (no longer on an acting basis).

Senate noted appointments to the Academic Staff.

Senate received the Student Complaints Annual Report for 2022-23.

Senate noted the action of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), on behalf of Senate, in approving the following:

(i) New programmes

MSc Accounting and Finance (from October 2025)
MSc/PGDip/PGCert Engineering Hydrogen Net Zero - *Exit awards for Engineering Hydrogen Net Zero (EnerHy) PhD programme* (from Sept 2024)

(ii) Major changes

From September 2024

MSc Automotive Engineering (full-time only)
MSc Finance and Management
MSc International Business
MSc Management
MSc Marketing

From January 2025

All LU London programmes – Introduction of Grand Challenge Module

From October 2025

BSc Accounting and Financial Management (including title change to BSc Accounting and Finance)

BSc Business Analytics

Senate noted the membership of Senate for the 2024-25 academic year, thus far determined

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor had taken action under section 4 of Statute V to refuse to admit a person as a student on the basis of documented unacceptable behaviour.