

Key Messages from the Meeting of Senate on 15 January 2025

Strategic Items

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Athena Swan Submission | Senate was invited to consider the draft application for an Athena Swan Charter award, due for submission by 31 March 2025. Following discussion at Executive Board it had been agreed to apply for a gold level award, and the draft application and action plan covered the five-year period from 1 April 2025 to 31st March 2030. |
|-------------------------------|--|

Monitoring of Academic Performance

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Degree Outcomes Statement | Senate received the 2023-24 Degree Outcomes Statement and noted that institutional-level degree awarding patterns in 2023-24 were similar to pre-Covid levels. An international degree awarding gap had been identified and further analysis would be required to understand and address any contributing factors. |
|----------------------------------|--|

Reports

| | |
|--|---|
| Newcastle Students' Union Impact Report | Senate received the 2023-24 Impact Report from the Newcastle University Students' Union. |
| Research Integrity Statement | Senate received the University's annual report on research integrity. |
| Senate received updates from: | <p>Vice-Chancellor's Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Year's Honours ▪ Sector Finances ▪ Universities for North East England (UNEE) ▪ North East England Doctoral Landscape in Biosciences ▪ Land Use and Net Zero Research ▪ North East Space Communications Accelerator ▪ Collaborative Newcastle Universities Agreement ▪ Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Medical Science ▪ Late News - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Opportunities Action Plan ▪ Late News - Coimbra Group |

Approvals

| | |
|--|--|
| Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards | Senate received a summary of the operation of the University's framework for the management of academic quality and standards to demonstrate that Newcastle was meeting national regulatory requirements in this area. Senate endorsed the report for onward submission to Council. |
| Research Publications and Copyright Policy | The policy which had undergone minor amendments was reviewed and approved by Senate. |
| Academic Distinctions | Senate approved the conferment of the title of Emeritus/Emerita Professor on: <i>Professor Ann Daly with effect from 1 February 2025</i> <i>Professor Stephen Graham with effect from 28 February 2025</i> <i>Professor Gill Rowlands with effect from 31 January 2025</i> |
| Honorary Degrees Committee | Senate approved the award of four honorary degrees to be conferred in July and December 2025. |

Heidi Shultz
16 January 2025

Key Messages from the Meeting of Senate on 19 February 2025

Strategic Items

| | |
|--|---|
| Newcastle University Centre of Research Excellence in Industrial Technology | Senate was invited to consider for approval a proposed Newcastle University Centre of Research Excellence in Industrial Biotechnology (led by the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering), which would join a portfolio of 18 NUCoREs, to enable the University to offer a coherent narrative of collective excellence in industrial biotechnology research. Senate approved the establishment of a NUCoRE Industrial Biotechnology. |
|--|---|

Monitoring of Academic Performance

| | |
|--|--|
| Trusted Research Evaluation Framework | Senate received the Trusted Research Evaluation Framework (TREF) which had been developed by The National Protective Security Authority and National Cyber security Centre in consultation with experts across the academic sector and relevant parts of government. The Framework served as a tool for academic institutions to assess the level of maturity of their Trusted Research processes and procedures. |
| Annual Student Casework Report | Senate received the annual report relating to Formal Student Procedure Casework from the 2023-24 academic year. There had been a significant and sustained increase in students pursuing their Complaints and Academic Appeals through all available levels of the procedure, and the number of student complaints in 2023-24 was significantly higher than in 2022-23, due in part to the Marking and Assessment Boycott and concerns relating to the student encampment. |
| White Space | Senators had submitted a motion for consideration, the objective of which was to establish a clear framework in line with Statute 52(2) for Senate to monitor and assess significant changes to the academic character, and mission of the university, ensuring Senate's active role in making representations to Council prior to any redundancies. Senate resolved to agree the recommendation to schedule an extraordinary meeting of Senate to receive and review any business plan for redundancies, at a time that information could be shared, as law and confidentiality allows. Senate resolved to agree that Executive Board would provide a schedule of information and reports for ensuring Senators were informed in relation to significant changes to education and research where academic oversight and expertise was required. |

Reports

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Senate received updates from: | <p>Vice-Chancellor's Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4th Generation University ▪ Unfunded Research ▪ India Partnerships and Transnational Education (TNE) ▪ Leadership Culture and Inclusion ▪ Acting Dean Appointments ▪ Institutionally-funded Research ▪ Industrial Action <p>Senate approved the recommendation to delegate authority to University Education Committee to review and implement the Additional Regulations.</p> |
|--------------------------------------|--|

Approvals

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Academic Distinctions | Senate approved the conferment of the title of Emeritus/Emerita Professor on: <i>Professor Said Boussakta with effect from 10 February 2025</i> <i>Professor John S. Fitzgerald with effect from 1 May 2025</i> <i>Professor Jarka Glassey with effect from 1 February 2025</i> <i>Professor Rob Henderson with effect from 1 October 2025</i> <i>Professor Maciej Koutny with effect from 1 March 2025</i> <i>Professor Gui Yun Tan with effect from 1 March 2025</i> |
|------------------------------|--|

Heidi Shultz

20 February 2025