

## Key Messages from the Meeting of Senate on 18 September 2024

### Strategic Items

<b>Student Cost of Living</b>	Senate received an update from the Cost of Living Working Group. The Newcastle University Students' Union Cost of Living Survey in 2023 had found that 41 per cent of respondents had thought about leaving university due to financial pressures. The working group would continue to actively engage with students to map financial 'pain points' throughout their University journey, allowing University colleagues to proactively plan and tailor communications and interventions to address students' needs as they arise.
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### Monitoring of Academic Performance

<b>Student Outcomes</b>	The Office for Students (OfS) maintained a standard set of student outcome and experience data measures for use in informing their regulatory judgements on access and participation, student outcomes through registration condition B3, and assessments through the Teaching Excellence Framework. Newcastle University was above numerical threshold in relation to student continuation, completion and progression and was therefore in a position to meet Condition of Registration B3 but would continue to monitor and review performance.
<b>Teaching Excellence Framework – Halfway to TEF 2027</b>	Senate received a presentation on the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2027. Participation in TEF is a requirement of the Office for Students (OfS) Condition of Registration B6. It was expected TEF 2027 would continue to take a retrospective, evidence-based and metrics-based approach. Features of excellence across the sector included consistency across submissions, clear demonstration of impact, targeted interventions and student partnership in improvements, and these insights would be considered when preparing for TEF 2027.

### Reports

<b>Senate received updates from:</b>	Vice-Chancellor's Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access and Participation Plan</li> <li>▪ Turing Scheme</li> <li>▪ Colleague and Student Success</li> <li>▪ University Finances</li> <li>▪ Freedom of Speech Legislation</li> </ul>
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### Approvals

<b>Senior Appointments</b>	Senate was advised that an interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global had been appointed and Senate was invited to nominate members for an appointment panel for the substantive Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global role. Senate approved the recommendation to Council to appoint a replacement Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global.
<b>Appointment of a University Dean</b>	Senate approved the recommendation to Council to appoint a Dean of Students (pending confirmation of title) for a period of five years.
<b>Academic Distinctions</b>	Senate approved the conferment of the title of Emeritus/Emerita Professor on: <b><i>Professor Lorraine Agius with effect from 1 December 2024</i></b>

Heidi Shultz

19 September 2024