ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 25 June 2019

Overview

The agenda of matters considered at this meeting is available on the Academic Senate website. The resolutions and minutes of the meeting remain subject to change and will be published on the website following ratification at the next Academic Senate meeting, scheduled for 23 July 2019.

Key agenda items, outcomes and resolutions are highlighted in this brief and are not intended to replace the full minutes.

Matters resolved

This was an extraordinary meeting of Academic Senate, intended to be a forum for discussion of concerns and issues related to the Academic Senate project on developing a model for shared Academic Governance, prior to the submission of detailed recommendations to Senate’s following meeting on 23 July 2019. Information on outcomes of specific agenda items may be found in this report or within the minutes.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Developing a Shared Responsibility Model for Academic Governance (Res 19/62 and 19/63)

Academic Senate considered and discussed a draft set of authorisations, noting that the final version will be presented at the next Senate meeting on 23 July 2019. These authorisations, which outline which responsibilities will remain with Senate and which will be devolved to Faculty Boards, have been extensively analysed and amended to align Academic Senate’s original intentions from its in principle approval of November 2017 to the terms and concepts of the 2020 curriculum framework. The revised authorisations also take into account shifts in level of risk e.g. the issues of English language requirement, use of third party providers, etc. have received heightened attention and interest from the government and media and related authorities will remain with Academic Senate.

Members also considered the threshold standards for determining when a course change will require the submission of a new course proposal. In some cases any change will warrant a new proposal, e.g. a change to the AQF level of a course, while others will require more nuanced consideration and the provision of examples to assist Faculties (such as changes to Course Learning Outcomes). Members noted that the threshold standards will be further developed by the Academic Standards and Quality Committee with a final version to come to Senate’s meeting on 3 September 2019.

OTHER MATTERS

• The planned process and terms of reference for an external review of Academic Senate were discussed (Res 19/66);
• Academic Senate noted advice on the planned review and amendment of the Faculty Board terms of reference (Res 19/64) and the terms of reference of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (Res 19/65); and
• Members discussed the planned process for appointing a new Chair of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (Res 19/67).