

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
SENATE**

**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14:00, WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023,
ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS**

Present	Professor Stuart Croft	Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
	Professor Katherine Astbury	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Dr Freeha Azmat	Assembly Representative
	Professor Gary Bending	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Daniel Branch	Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies (from item 019)
	Dr Nikola Chmel	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Matthew Clayton	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Professor Gill Cooke	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Fiona Copland	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Professor David Davies	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM) (AFRC Chair)
	Professor David Fearn	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Emma Flynn	Provost
	Professor Jon Forster	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Rebecca Freeman	Dean of Students
	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
	Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Charlotte Heath-Kelly	Assembly representative
	Professor Ruth Hewston	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences) (from item 018)
	Professor Nina-Anne Lawrence	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Dr Joanne Lee	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Dr David Lees	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Ulf Liebe	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Professor Andrew Lockett	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Professor Tim Lockley	Representative of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor Guy Longworth	Representative of the Faculty Board (Social Sciences)
	Professor Gabrielle Lynch	Assembly representative
	Professor Rachel Moseley	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (Arts)
	Professor John Murphy	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Professor Mark Newton	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)
	Anna O'Neill	Librarian
	Professor Gavin Perkins	Dean of Warwick Medical School
	Vaishnavi Ravi	Students' Union Vice-President Postgraduate
	Holly Roffe	Students' Union Vice-President Education
Professor James Robinson	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)	
Professor Simon Swain	Vice-President (National and Regional Engagement)	
Anna Taylor	President of the Students' Union	
Professor Yulia Timofeeva	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM) (from item 016)	
Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences	
Professor Mike Ward	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (SEM)	
Professor Derrick Watson	Representative of the Faculty Board (SEM)	
Attending	Sophie Black	Assistant Registrar (Governance) (Senate Support)
	Adam Child	Academic Registrar
	Lyudmyla Demchuk	Operations Administrator, EPQ (Senate support)
	Dan Derricott	Director of Education Policy and Quality (Assistant Secretary to Senate)
	Rosie Drinkwater	Group Finance Director

	Professor Peter Fabienne	Academic Director (Research) (for item 017)
	Katharine Gray	Head of Governance Services
	Liz Hough	Assistant Director (Head of Admissions Services) (for item 021)
	Professor David Leadley	Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) (for item 017 and item 024)
	Vicky Marsh	Quality Review and Enhancement Manager, EPQ (for item 018)
	Lynn Robinson	Advance HE (observing)
	Rachel Sandby-Thomas	Registrar (Secretary to Senate)
	Dr Chris Twine	Secretary to Council
Ref	Item	
012	<p>Welcome and Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Robin Clark, Dr Bo Kelestyn, Professor David Lambert, Professor Noortje Marres, Professor Caroline Meyer, Professor Michael Scott, Professor Pam Thomas and Clare Watters.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all, and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn Robinson, Advance HE External Consultant, observing the meeting as part of the Academic Governance Review. Professor Fiona Copland, School of Education, Learning and Communication Sciences to their first meeting. Professor Ulf Liebe, Sociology to their first meeting. <p>The Senate Assistant Secretary reported a change in process around the restricted agenda: from now on a brief written update on Precautionary Actions would be provided below the line in the main pack, along with the Postgraduate Research Passlist. These items were strictly confidential and related to students, therefore they wouldn't be visible to student members, however the change in practice would mean that student members no longer had to leave the meeting for the restricted agenda.</p> <p>The Senate Assistant Secretary also reminded participants of several housekeeping requests for online meetings.</p>	
013	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>	
014	<p>a) Minutes of meeting held on 20 September 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 (014a-S011123, Protected) were approved.</p> <p>b) Restricted minutes of meeting held on 28 June 2023</p> <p>The restricted minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023 (014b-S011123, Restricted) were approved.</p>	
015	<p>Matters arising from meeting held on 20 September 2023</p> <p>a) Student Cost of Living Update (item 097/2022-23 refers)</p> <p>The Registrar provided a verbal update on the work led by the Director of Student Experience and the Students' Union. Work was underway and progressing the five workstreams endorsed by Council in July 2023, each with a respective lead. Proposals would come forward from each workstream for consideration by the University Executive Board in December 2023, and a further update to Senate in January 2024.</p> <p>b) Update on Industrial Action</p> <p>The Academic Registrar reported that marking continued and the backlog of unmarked work was clearing, with a view to students receiving marks and revised award decisions before Christmas 2023. Progress was on track towards this goal and ongoing progress was being monitored carefully. With more certainty now secured, communications to staff and students had been issued more widely on this commitment.</p> <p>c) Senate Assembly Representative</p> <p>The Chair reported that an online ballot was currently taking place to fill the vacancy for a Professional Services Staff member Assembly representative on Senate. The ballot would close on Monday 13 November 2023.</p>	

	<p>d) Senate Representative on Financial Plan Committee</p> <p>The Chair reported that Professor Gill Cooke had been appointed as the academic member of Senate on Financial Plan Committee, until 31 July 2026.</p>
Chair's Update	
016	<p>Chair's Business</p> <p>The Senate received and noted the report (016-S011123, Protected) providing updates from the Chair under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional News • Awards and Promotions • Sector News <p>a) Regulation 41</p> <p>The Chair reported that Regulation 41: Governing the Management of the Impact upon the University's Academic Business of Force Majeure remained in operation.</p> <p>b) Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Update</p> <p>The Group Finance Director reported that the Butterworth Hall, sections of the Science Block, Engineering Hall and the single storey section in Humanities were impacted and being managed.</p> <p>The affected areas in Humanities would not reopen and work to redevelop Riley Court on the Science Park was being brought forward to compensate for the lost learning space.</p>
Strategic Items	
017	<p>Interdisciplinary Research Structures Review Outcomes</p> <p>The Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Academic Director (Research) presented the report (017-S011123, Protected) on the outcomes and recommendations from the review of existing interdisciplinary research structures (namely the Global Research Priorities). The following key points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new formulation, centred on six broad interdisciplinary Spotlights (four interdisciplinary spotlight areas and two cross-cutting enabling spotlights), was being proposed for adoption by the Senate. • While it was anticipated the Spotlight themes would endure, the leadership groups for each Spotlight would be appointed on a time-limited basis, to allow periodic changes in leadership. This would both create opportunities for emerging leaders and ensure the focus remained fresh. <p>It was noted that while Sustainability was proposed as one of the interdisciplinary spotlight areas, it was anticipated that given its high priority it would function in a more cross cutting way, as steered by the relevant leadership team.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to colleagues who had contributed to development discussions leading to this point.</p> <p>DECISION: The Senate approved the proposed Interdisciplinary Research Structures.</p>
018	<p>Outcomes of the Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR)</p> <p>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Quality Review and Enhancement Manager, EPQ presented the report (018-S011123, Protected) on the outcomes of the ITLR.</p> <p>The outcomes demonstrated the strong and now well embedded foundations at Warwick which provided the opportunity to become a sector leader in education as the University continued to build further. Other key points were highlighted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reaching Quality Assurance outcomes, most departments were "commended" or "meet expectations", with just one academic department and two Professional Services clusters requiring action to meet expectations. • The next stages would focus on the learning being implemented, including through action plans to address Required Actions, and long-term Education Enhancement Plans to drive a more strategic approach.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions and learning for the University overall would be taken forward through existing programmes (e.g. Warwick Transformation), specific responses and the next/ refreshed Education and Student Experience Strategy. <p>Members noted the plan as part of next steps to share learning from ITLR wider across departments. This also echoed one of the Teaching Excellence Framework panel recommendations around more effective dissemination of best practice.</p> <p>Learning from the process itself would also be collated, noting that while all reviews were complete, two departments were responding to final comments. Process evaluation had been carried out throughout the project, with the aim of completing the first phase by December 2023 and a second phase to follow looking at impact. Interviews had been carried out and a survey would follow.</p> <p>Members acknowledged, as reflected by the review, that challenges remained in certain areas to the student experience, compounded by the complexity in the University’s curriculum. Discussions around topics such as the shape of the academic year and overcutting would need to be revisited in order to address the issues and move forward.</p>
Substantive Items	
019	<p>National Student Survey (NSS) 2023 Results</p> <p>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Quality Review and Enhancement Manager, EPQ presented the report (019-S011123, Protected) summarising student feedback received through NSS 2023 and sector comparison. Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick continued to perform strongly in most areas when compared to the sector average, exceeding in Organisation and Management, Student Voice and Academic Support and ranking first in the Russell Group (RG) for the first two of these themes. • The positive results were particularly encouraging considering the disruption faced by the student cohort, from Covid-19 at the start of their studies and industrial action more recently. • Changes in methodology had compromised the ability to provide year-on-year comparison, nevertheless the current year’s survey provided a robust standalone dataset as student engagement with the survey continued to return to pre-pandemic levels. • The areas needing attention had not come as a surprise, having recently been explored through the ITLR, with actions identified for long-term enhancement. • Learning from several years of NSS would be used to inform the next Education Strategy and further enhance the student learning experience for future cohorts. <p>The impact and role of employers with regards to the experience of apprentices was acknowledged, noting that any learning from similar issues in the past in other departments could useful be shared.</p> <p>Members highlighted the need to focus in particular on improving the student experience of assessment, with examples of excellent practice to be explored where they existed across the sector, not just within the RG.</p> <p>The opportunity, if grasped, for Warwick to be truly sector leading was highlighted.</p>
020	<p>Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression - Progress Update</p> <p>The Registrar presented the update report (020-S011123, Protected) with the following key points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and guidance on Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom, as well as proposed amendments to Regulation 29, were being progressed in draft by the Legal team. • Engagement with key colleagues was imminent and proposals would then be brought back to Senate. <p>Members were assured that this work complemented that already undertaken by the Senate Working Group on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression.</p> <p>[PTO]</p>

021	<p>Outcomes of the 2023 Admissions Cycle</p> <p>The Provost and Assistant Director (Head of Admissions Services) presented the report (021-S011123, Protected) summarising the outcomes of the 2023 admissions cycle. Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of national trends had been identified, including declining conversion in key markets at various stages of the process and enrolment rates. This was partly driven by applicant behaviours and partly by the continuing changes as a result of the grade boundary shift in returning from teacher assessed A-Level grades. • There had been growth in UG applications and increased competition for places on the University’s most popular courses. • There had been mixed outcomes for Widening Participation (WP) students, with an increased number progressing from the Warwick Scholars programme but fewer accepting places based on a Conditional Offer. • Postgraduate Taught Overseas numbers were down, likely to be impacted by students holding multiple offers until later in the cycle. • In terms of the 2024 cycle, early indications for UG were positive, although the quality of applicants was lower than in previous years at the current stage. <p>The strong performance overall was welcomed.</p> <p>Members noted that while trends (i.e. grade boundary shift and the international space) were being felt across the sector, Warwick would need to prepare now for further turbulence in this space.</p> <p>Specifically in relation to the shortfall in international student enrolments nationally, the Office for Students was indicating concern about potential imminent financial pressure on HE institutions.</p> <p>The development of the new Access and Participation Plan would prompt the University to redouble its efforts in the WP space.</p>
022	<p>Progress towards the Academic Governance Review</p> <p>The Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty Board (Arts) and Chair of the Senate Academic Governance Review Working Group and the Director of EPQ presented the report (022-S011123, Public) setting out progress being made in the Academic Governance Review ahead of Senate considering a Green Paper in January 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senate Working Group had met for the first time in recent weeks. There was confidence that the right group of members had been brought together, and that the right scheme of business and timeline were in place. • The following key points had emerged from the discussions so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There wasn’t demand for significant structural change, but rather to look at ways of working. ○ Delegation rather than repetition would be important, to more clearly manage expectations on who was doing what through policy development and decision making. ○ Following through on those expectations in practice would enable committee chairs, members and secretaries to be better supported in fulfilling their responsibilities. ○ A desire to better reflect the diversity of the Warwick community in Senate and committee memberships. ○ There was interest from the wider community to better understand and engage with what was happening in committee meetings, particularly in the early formulation of policy and strategy.
Committee Reports I	
023	<p>Report from the Education Committee</p> <p>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) presented the report (023-S011123, Protected) with updates under the following headings:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for the Academic Year • Students' Union Education Priorities for the Academic Year • Teaching Excellence Framework Outcome • National Student Survey Results (NSS) • Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) Results • Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) Results • Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR) Outcomes • Progress on PGR Strategy • Establishment of International Committee • Introduction of an Institutional Approach to Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence <p>As mentioned under other items, learning from ITLR, TEF, NSS etc. would be used to build on Warwick's strong foundations and inform the refreshed Education and Student Experience Strategy.</p>
024	<p>Report from the Research Committee</p> <p><i>Note: This item was taken after item 017: Interdisciplinary Research Structures Review Outcomes</i></p> <p>The Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) presented the report (024-S011123, Protected) with updates under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Impact Strategic Delivery Plan • Proposal following the recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Research Structures Review • REF2028 Update • KEF Update: Data and Performance • CoARA Implementation Approach • Research applications and awards 2022/23 • Research Culture Update
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
Governance	
025	<p>Chair's Action Report</p> <p>The report (025-S011123, Protected) was received and noted.</p>
026	<p>Constitution and Membership of Senate Committees 2023-24</p> <p>The Senate received and noted a report (026-S011123, Public) on the constitution and membership of Senate and Joint Senate and Council Committees for 2023-24.</p> <p>DECISIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Senate approved the membership and terms of reference of Senate and Joint Senate and Council Committees for 2023-24. 2) The Senate approved proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Research Governance and Ethics Committee.
027	<p>Precautionary Actions Update</p> <p>The report (027-S011123, Restricted) was received and noted.</p>

028	Recommendations for Postgraduate Research Awards DECISION: The Senate approved the award of University qualifications as set out on the pass list (028-S011123, Restricted).
Substantive Items II	
029	Residential Community Team Review Update Report to Council July 2023 The report (131-C130723, Protected) was received and noted.
030	Annual Report for Report and Support 2022-23 The Senate received and noted the report (030-S011123, Protected). DECISION: The Senate approved the data which would form the basis of the Report and Support Annual Report 2022/23.
Committee Reports II	
031	Report from the Research Governance and Ethics Committee The report (031-S011123, Protected) was received and noted.
032	Report from the University Executive Board The report (032-S011123, Protected) was received and noted.
Other	
033	Student and Alumni Deaths The report (033-S011123, Public) was received and noted.
034	Any other business There was no other business.
Next meeting: 14:00 Wednesday 24 January 2024, online via MS Teams	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
2019-20			
106b - Revisions to Reg 27 On-Campus Residential Accommodation and Reg 23 Student Disciplinary Offences	ACTION 2: A review to be undertaken of University policy and process relating to student drug use and possession.	Helen Knee, Jane Bryan, asap	Ongoing
2020-21			
116b - Senate Inclusivity, Membership and Elections	ACTION: Report on inclusivity and diversity of membership of academic governance committees to be brought to a future meeting of the Senate.	Director of Education Policy and Quality	Superseded (now part of Academic Governance Review)
2021-22			
127 - Report from the Assembly meeting on 17 June 2022	ACTION 2: Termly review of the new RLT system (first review point in October 2022) to be aligned with concerns raised by parts of the University community.	Registrar	Complete
2022-23			
02-11-2022			

022 - Report from the Research Committee	ACTION: Research Impact Strategy to be shared with departments.	Research Committee Secretariat	Ongoing
28-06-2023			
095a - Hardship Fund for international students with disabilities (see item 060a)	ACTION: Update on action taken with regards to the proposed introduction of a Hardship Fund for International Students with Disabilities and/or Chronic Health Conditions to be brought back to a future meeting.	UEB, via Senate Secretariat	To be scheduled
095b - Residential Community System Review Update	ACTION 2: Residential Community Team update report to be brought to Senate in June 2024.	Residential Community Team/ Wellbeing & Safeguarding Team	Scheduled
097 - Student Cost of Living	ACTION 2: Suitable governance route for regular student cost of living update reporting to be considered.	University Executive	Ongoing
2023-24			
02-11-2023			
017 - Interdisciplinary Research Structures Review Outcomes	DECISION: The Senate approved the proposed Interdisciplinary Research Structures.		
026 - Constitution and Membership of Senate Committees 2023-24	DECISIONS: 1) The Senate approved the membership and terms of reference of Senate and Joint Senate and Council Committees for 2023-24. 2) The Senate approved proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Research Governance and Ethics Committee.		
028 - Recommendations for Postgraduate Research Awards	DECISION: The Senate approved the award of University qualifications as set out on the pass list (028-S011123, Restricted).		
030 - Annual Report for Report and Support 2022-23	DECISION: The Senate approved the data which would form the basis of the Report and Support Annual Report 2022/23.		