

University of Suffolk

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 October at 14:00 hours via Zoom

Chair: Professor Helen Langton (Vice-Chancellor)

Present: Dr Suha Al-Naimi (School of Engineering, Arts, Science and Technology, Vice-Chancellor nominee), Daniel Betts (Students' Union School Officer, Suffolk Business School), Professor Emma Bond (Director of Research), Dr Ellen Buck (Director of Learning and Teaching), Aaron Burrell

Minutes of previous meeting held on 8 July 2020

20/001 The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Matters Arising – Partnerships Management Review (from minute 19/126)

20/002 A verbal update was provided at the meeting, see minute 20/043.

Partnerships – LSC Egypt (from minute 19/173)

20/003 It was reported that LSC Egypt have clarified the outstanding issues and so can proceed to validation with a November 2020 start date.

Academic Calendar 2020/21 (from minute 19/184)

20/004 It was confirmed that the academic calendar 2020/21 was used as an internal document for staff members. Students were issued with their own personalised timetable.

20/005 All other matters arising were completed or due for completion at a future date.

Students' Union report

20/006 The Students' Union report was received, it was reported that the 'Good Night Out' campaign was being progressed with resource requirements shared with the University to ascertain viability. It was confirmed that the University wanted to support the initiative, where possible,

Agreed action: The Deputy Vice-Chancellor to submit the proposed change to membership to the December 2020 Quality Committee for discussion.

- 20/034 Members noted that while there should be collaboration between quality assurance and quality enhancement that should also be distinction between the Quality Committee and the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Committee (LTAC).

Appendix A – Covid-19 Lessons Learnt

Notes from group discussions on lessons learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic have been collated under broad headings.

Teaching/technology

- Noted that the volume of emails had increased dramatically, and this was challenging, leading to people feeling overwhelmed and missing key information. As a group we would be keen to further explore the tools we have within O365 (and beyond) – some good examples exist of moving communication from emails to chats, as well as ‘good old fashioned’ phone calls which can be done while walking/moving away from the desk and screen. Would a refresh or development session on the various communication tools available help staff/managers adapt their approach?
- Flexibility to change both teaching and assessment, technology has stepped into the breach, and will continue to play a key role in educating future generations. The impact on assessment was swift and profound. Consequently, considering the future of reflective questions on moving to online assessment.
- Gave us opportunity to use different teaching ways by blending technology, method of learning that combines face-to-face and online instruction.
- Timetables were redone on time
- Change in the student’s participation, students not participating by voice/ video but mainly via the chat system which can be bit challenging for the staff who is presenting the lectures remotely
- Technology

Student experience

- Student feedback on the increased accessibility of sessions has been welcomed by most. This extends from their course to meetings which they are now more easily able to take part in (SU Council intends to provide a room for the SU Council meeting in the new building from 2011/12).

Items to consider continuing beyond Covid

- Flexibility in delivery – condensed timetables, online options. Blend is here to stay.
- What do we want our university delivery to be like? What does online learning do to on campus stickiness?
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