

SENATE

Minutes of the additional meeting held on 11 July 2024

Members:	Professor Shirley Congdon (Chair)	Professor Udy Archibong	Nasreen Akhtar
	Professor Felician Campean	Alison Hartley	Mozalfa Ilyas
	Professor Robert James	Lenka Kaur	Dr Jing Li
	Bryan Lightowler	Professor Fiona Macaulay	Johnathan Marsden
	Dr William Martin	Dr Anne Miller	Amit Rana
In attendance:	Steve Gilley	Director of Infrastructure	
	Professor Sankar Sivarajah	Dean, School of Management	
	Professor Alastair Goldman	Director of Local Activity Partnerships	
	Katherine Wass	Committee Secretary	
Apologies:	Professor Marina Bloj	Dr Emma Brown	Martin Conway
	Professor Sherif El-Khamisy	Professor Engobo Emeseh	Professor Maryann Hardy
	David Harris	Zak Hughes	Faiz Ilyas
	Professor Zahir Irani	Dr Benjamin Jennings	Yakubu John
	Dr Rhys Kelly	Immar Khan	Andrew Lang
	Iqbal Mutjaba	Colin Pickles	Professor Martin Priest
	Professor Amir Sharif	Tim Squire-Watt	Dr Pete Twigg
	Paul Watson	Louise Wem	Elaine Wilkinson
	Professor Andrew Wilson	Professor Alastair Wood	

148.23-24 **Welcome and Apologies (Oral report)**

- 148.1 The Vice-Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the apologies that had been received.
- 148.2 Those in attendance were thanked for doing so at short notice. It was noted that the meeting was not quorate and agreed by those present that if appropriate, the outcome would be ratified via a Chairs action that would be reported to the next meeting of Senate.
- 148.3 The Senate was advised that the meeting was to consider the Access and Participation Plan (APP) and that Professor Goldman would lead the discussion.

149.23-24 **Access and Participation Plan (SEN148/23-24)**

- 149.1 The Pro-Vice Chancellor EDI provided Senate with an overview of the journey that had taken place to develop the new APP as required by the Office for Students. The existing APP had been praised by the Director of APP from the Office for Students and the revised plan aimed to build on this foundation.

- 149.2 The Senate was advised that the approach taken was one that embedded an intersectional strategy which had co-produced interventions delivered in the context of EDI. It was noted that the structural approach was an important element of understanding why some students were not progressing and the systems and structures that may involved in this.
- 149.3 Professor Goldman presented an overview of the APP 2024 to 2029-30 noting the deadline for submission was the end of July which allowed for some changes to still be made.
- 149.4 The Senate was advised that the approach taken had been designed to draw students towards success with a focus on using systems and approaches that enabled this, recognising the value of different environments. This was not about any reduction in academic standards, rather creating an environment where everyone we invite to study could succeed.
- 149.5 Professor Goldman provided an overview of the twelve risks to equality of opportunity that had been identified by the Office for Students and the Bradford approach to addressing these using a contextual approach. It was highlighted that:
- The life cycle outlined started at primary school stage and building long term relationships
 - The life cycle went beyond university and into employment or further study
 - The approach had taken account of cost pressures and capacity issues, including student accommodation.
 - Consultation had been undertaken with staff and students resulting in a co-produced plan.
 - Objectives and targets had been designed to be realistic and related to a reduction in attainment gaps and enrolment targets over time.
 - Evaluation had been built in from the beginning of the process of the design and delivery of interventions.
 - The Office for Students would expect institutions to share lessons learned with each other.
 - The plan linked to the existing university strategy and the EDI strategy removing potential barriers to success.
- 149.6 The Senate was provided with an overview of the data included in Annex A of the submission noting this had driven the development of objectives that would be used to drive the interventions.
- 149.7 The Senate was provided with an overview of the access objectives and the objectives relating to continuation, completion, award and progression. It was noted these all had demonstrable links to targets.
- 149.8 The four intervention strategies were shared, noting their connection to the overall objectives.
1. Equality of opportunity for access.

2. Understanding our students to improve continuation, completion and award.
3. Student wellbeing to improve continuation, completion, and award.
4. Positive progression.

- 149.9 The Senate was advised that the plan aimed to be pragmatic and use plans that were already in place and budgeted for, to ensure to minimise any additional resource need. The picture was a complex one, but the solutions did not need to be.
- 149.10 The Senate discussed the report and presentation acknowledging the amount of work that had gone into its development.
- 149.11 It was noted that, taking on board feedback from students, there was a clear challenge to be more explicit on mental health within the curriculum. This link was implied in the plan but needed to be made more explicit.
- 149.12 The Vice-Chancellor highlighted that the plan committed the university to delivery for some years and that there would be annual reporting to the Office for Students that reflected on and evaluated the areas we believed were important to APP. It was important to understand the direct link to our vision and the importance of created an opportunity for student to succeed and achieve their potential. This was part of a whole system approach that would also link back to NSS feedback and results.
- 149.13 The Pro-Vice Chancellor EDI confirmed that the plan was about being an institution that makes, and lives up to, its promises. It was important to do what we said we would do and provide the positive experience we promise to students. It was noted that taking full advantage of communication opportunities around events and activities that happened through the year formed a part of this.
- 149.14 The Senate discussed the opportunity to further highlight links to the Bradford Literature Festival and entrepreneurship opportunities that could also be used to develop cross institutional knowledge.
- 149.15 The Senate was asked to approve the APP noting the feedback received would be used to further enhance the plan of submission.
- 149.16 Those present agreed that a Chairs action would be the appropriate next step to progress approval subject to the amendments needed and the Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion.
- 149.17 **ACTION: Chairs action to recommend approval of the new access and Participation Plan by Council for submission to the Office for Students. Committee Secretary**

Secretary: Katherine Wass, Governance and Projects Officer
Date: August 2024