Senate
Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2025 at 13:30
Oak Suite,
MINUTES

Members

Ex-officio:	Interim President & Vice-Chancellor	Prof Tim Dunne
	Provost and Senior Vice-President [Chair]	Vacant
	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education [Secretary]	Prof Eunice Ma
	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research & Innovation	Prof Lisa Collins
	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Executive Dean, FABSS	Prof Annika Bautz
	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Executive Dean, FEPS	Prof Bob Nichol
	Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Executive Dean, FHMS	Prof Roberto La Ragione
	Vice-President, Global	Patrick Degg
	Associate VP, External Engagement (International)	Prof Amelia Hadfield
	Associate Dean, Education, FABSS	Prof Mark Ashton[interim]
	Associate Dean, Education, FEPS	Prof Esat Alpay
	Associate Dean, Education, FHMS	Dr Dynatra Subasinghe
	Associate Dean, Research & Innovation, FABSS	Prof Glenn Parry*
	Associate Dean, Research & Innovation, FEPS	Prof Jin Xuan
	Associate Dean, Research & Innovation, FHMS	Prof Deborah Dunn-Walters
	Acting Chief Student Officer	Emma Rowsell
	Director of Academic Performance, Quality & Governance	Nick Moore
	Director of Research, Innovation & Impact	Gill Fairbairn
	Director, Institute for People-Centred AI	Prof Adrian Hilton
	Director, Institute for Sustainability	Prof Ravi Silva[interim]
	President of the Students' Union	Liam White
	VP Voice of the Students' Union	Luana Vasconcelos
Nominated (FABSS):	School of Law	Assoc Prof Dr Joshua Andresen
	School of Literature and Languages	Assoc Prof Dr Constance Bantman
	School of Music and Media	Dr Femi Adeyemi-Ejeye
	School of Law	Claire Lillywhite
	School of Economics	Prof Ricardo Praca Cavaco Nunes*
	Position vacant	
Nominated (FEPS):	Computer Science & Electrical Engineering	Dr Mariam Cirovic
	Sust, Civ and Env Eng	Dr Ana Andries*
	Computer Science & Electrical Engineering	Dr Rizwan Ashgar
	Sust, Civ and Env Eng	Dr Lirong Liu*
	Mechanical Engineering Sciences	Prof Mahmoud Shafiee*
	Chemistry and Chemical Engineering	Dr Michael Short
Nominated (FHMS):	School of Biosciences	Dr Mohammad Asim*
	School of Biosciences	Dr Terri Grassby
	School of Psychology	Dr Charo Hodgkins
	School of Psychology	Dr Eleanor Ratcliffe*
	School of Veterinary Medicine	Dr Giovanna Nalesso
	School of Veterinary Medicine	Dr Charlotte Maile

Nominated **(PGR Student)**	FEPS PGR Student	Chunlin Chen*

In attendance:	Governance Officer [minute taker]	Kelley Padley
	Senate Open Observer Seat	Laura Theurich
	President of the Students' Union Elect	Matt Aikin
	Founding Director, Surrey Space Institute [Head of School, Maths and Physics]	Prof. Adam Amara [24/066]
	Associate VP, International	Prof. Tao Chen [24/067]
	Associate Dean, International	Prof. Ferrante Neri [24/068]
	Head of OSCAR	Glenn Moulton [24/069]

* denotes absence
** denotes absence, but represented by an alternate

1   INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

24/062   Apologies for absence

.1   Apologies were received from Glenn Parry, Ricardo Praca Cavaco Nunes, Ana Andries, Lirong Liu, Mohammad Asim, Eleanor Ratcliffe and Chunlin Chen.

.2   The Chair welcomed the following to Senate:
- Laura Theurich (attending in the Open Senate Observer Seat).
- Matt Aikin (incoming President of the SU).

.3   The Chair thanked the following Senators for their contributions to Senate, noting this was their last meeting:
- Esat Alpay
- Josh Andresen
- Constance Bantman
- Chunlin Chen
- Mariam Cirovic
- Liam White

24/063   Minutes of the last meeting(s)

.1   The Board **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2025.

24/063   Interim Vice-Chancellor's Update and Performance Report

.1   The Chair advised Senate that the University was in the final stages of recruitment for its new VC and that an announcement would be forthcoming.

.2   The Chair provided a summary of his report, noting the following external factors:
- Impact of US politics on Surrey and the wider implications of the US Government's recent action against Harvard and other leading US universities.
- Continued concerns regarding the financial sustainability of the UK Higher Education Sector (with 29 reasonably sized providers reporting a deficit in 2023/24 according to Wonkhe).

- The politics of culture and identity continuing to impact on the HE sector (e.g. OfS finding against Sussex, UK Supreme Court ruling on transgender rights).

.3 Senate noted that Surrey is confident it will post a budget surplus in the region of £[redacted] for 2024/25. The Chair noted that whilst this was positive, especially given the financial performance of the sector as a whole, it would not provide the required financial headroom needed in order to invest in Surrey's future and secure long-term sustainability and success.

.4 The Chair provided a summary of his report, noting the internal context and key matters:
- Talent Attraction – work underway with the leadership of all three faculties and PUIs to identify where, should the opportunity arise, how the University would invest (the priority areas where investment can generate a high rate of return).
- NSS – good response rate achieved (77.3%) and we await results in July.
- QS World University Rankings – significant improvement (moved up 23 places from 285th in 2025 to 262 in 2026).

.5 Senate noted the work undertaken to prioritise performance in, and reporting of, the metrics that contribute to the QS World University Rankings had paid dividends: furthermore it was noted that if the University had not undertaken this work Surrey would have dropped to a ranking of 400 – 500. Senate discussed whether a similar focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and Surrey's sustainability rankings should be considered.

24/064   SU Update

.1 Liam White, the USSU President, provided a verbal update to Senate noting he was in the process of finalising the end-of-year Annual Report that would confirm the progress made against the five 2024/25 USSU priorities.

.2 A summary of achievement against the following three themes was highlighted to Senate:

- Visibility – Surrey's SU had engaged on a national scale this year with respect to student issues (including the Renters Reform Bill and Academic Freedom of Speech)
- Financial Resilience – the SU had worked closely with the University to monitor/address any decreases in student satisfaction. LW noted that informed and detailed conversations had been held at committees in response to analysis of the data findings.
- Employability (Professional Training Year) – the introduction of the Employability Forum had been successful in upskilling students (and staff). Whilst little progress had been made to realise the ambition of credit-bearing Placements, the proposal had been socialised and is an initiative that could be built on with the articulation of formal proposals for submission to the University.

.3 Updates of work in train against two of the Student Union Strategy objectives was noted:
- Streamlining of how the various elections work (introduction of a common system).
- Development of student-facing staff awards recognising excellence in teaching and research.

.4 The Chair thanked the SU President and the supporting Sabbatical Officers for their work and considerable contribution to Senate and the University over the academic year.

24/065   Chair's Action/Business

.1   The Chair confirmed that no Chair's Action had been taken since the last meeting.

2	ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

24/066   Pan University Institute – Surrey Space Institute (SSI)

.1   Bob Nichol (PVC, Executive Dean, FEPS) and Adam Amara (Founding Director, Surrey Space Institute, and substantively Head of School, Maths and Physics) presented to Senate.

.2   Senate noted the optimal timing, both globally and nationally, for launching the Surrey Space Institute (SSI) now. The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy 2025, published on 23 June 2025, explicitly identifies the space sector as a key area for growth and innovation: the two key priorities, and therefore areas where funding will be directed, being economic growth and national security.

.3   Adam Amara provided an overview to Senate covering:
- Business case delivery team and wide consultation (3 workshops involving 9 participants).
- Phase 1 of UK Government Spending Review (cuts in a number of areas, Space was one of two identified areas that would see investment).
- Spring grants March-April 2026 (deadline by which Surrey needs to be in a position to convince funders that Surrey is the right place to invest the money).
- SSI Vision – explicitly references both the benefit to the economy and the benefit to people.

.4   The presentation outlined 3 themes (Water on Earth; Resilient Space Infrastructure; Deep Space Exploration), supported by 5 themes and goals underpinned by 6 key capabilities required to deliver:
- Space Engineering
- Satellite Communication
- Space AI & Data Analysis
- Space Policy and Law
- Space Enterprise
- Space and Humanity

.5   Each of the identified key capabilities would need to be supported by a number of academics, either through core or 50:50 split, and Senate queried whether the intention was to recruit internally. Adam Amara confirmed the plan was to recruit internally / redeploy existing staff where applicable and, where a capability gap was identified that the University could not fill, to look externally. It was also noted that in redeploying staff the University would need to ensure the business needs of Schools were taken into consideration.

.6   Senate noted the importance of encouraging early career researchers (ECRs) to engage: the importance of building teams with succession management in mind to ensure the sustainability of those key capabilities was acknowledged.

.7   Senate discussed where Cyber Security sits within the themes presented, noting it was integral to the Resilient Space Infrastructure theme and a critical element of the communication network (Satellite Communication).

.8   Senate moved to a vote. Senators unanimously endorsed the Surrey Space Institute Business Case to Council for final approval.

24/067   CAU-UOS Joint Institute [China Agricultural University – University of Surrey]

.1   Patrick Degg (VP Global) and Tao Chen (Associate VP, International) presented to Senate.

.2   Tao Chen provided an overview to Senate:
- 3 dual undergraduate programmes of a 4 year duration;
- Students either study all 4 years at the Joint Institute in Beijing or 2 years at Joint Institute followed by 2 years at Surrey;
- Surrey has a decade long partnership with CAU (student progression arrangement, 15+ joint PhD students, consortium grant)
- CAU is a prestigious university in Beijing with experience of international collaborative degrees (UK and UK partners);
- The Joint Institute model is a well-established structure regulated by the Ministry of Education (MOE) China (Surrey already has experience of MOE requirements through SII-DUFE);
- The delivery and governance model used will be the same as that for SII-DUFE which has been longstanding and successful over 18 years.

.3   Senate noted the proposal dual degrees:
- BSc Computer Science
- BEng Electronic Engineering
- BEng Electronic Engineering with AI*
*This was a new programme and Adrian Hilton advised the title for the new proposed programme at Surrey was 'Computer Science with AI'. Tao Chen to check title.
Action: Tao Chen

.4   Given the student intake of 100 students per programme per year, Senate queried whether Surrey would need to build-in extra capacity for the home programmes (as students may opt to undertake the final 2 years at Surrey). Tao Chen advised that Surrey would be able to set a threshold for the number of students able to undertake the 2+2 option in the agreement.

.5   Senate acknowledged the level of study provided was undergraduate but advised that the syllabi should be checked from a trusted research perspective, noting this was especially pertinent given one of the programmes included AI.

.6   The requirement to ensure academic freedom and freedom of expression is adequately incorporated when contracts are agreed was also flagged.

.7   Senate noted it's support of the proposed Joint Institute and of the selection of programmes the University intended to deliver at CAU-UOS, subject to due approval via the University's quality assurance framework. Senate confirmed support for the proposed selection of programmes subject to overall approval by Executive Board and Council.

24/068   Plan for Surrey Campus in GIFT City: India

.1   Patrick Degg (VP Global) and Ferrante Neri (Associate Dean, International and Professor of Machine Learning and AI) outlined the joint venture proposal for a Surrey International Branch Campus (IBC) in GIFT City.

.2   The proposed campus was not an academic partnership with an international partner (it was not a proposal for a Joint Institute/Campus). The proposed campus would be a University of Surrey

Campus located in GIFT City and supported operationally by GAS (Global University Systems Ancillary Services India Private Limited). GAS is a part of the GUS (Global University Systems) network. Therefore, the proposal represented a type of TNE provision that Surrey had not undertaken before.

.3   A summary of GIFT City was provided, noting:
- GIFT City is a global hub for financial and IT services (and therefore programmes offered within GIFT City must align with these specific themes).
- Deakin University and University of Wollongong (Australia) operating already.
- Queens University Belfast and Coventry University are set for a 2026 start .
- GIFT City incentives (favourable tax regime, easy profit repatriation, light touch regulation).
- GIFT City has its own regulator, IFSCA (the International Financial Services Centre Authority).
- A requirement of IFSCA is that all programmes deliver an experience equivalent to that of the home campus (for instance, replication of the teaching materials).
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.4   Some of the key points for Surrey's proposal were noted:
- External market research coupled with internal analytics used to identify the proposed programmes that Surrey plans to offer.
- A staff-student ratio of 15-1 to be delivered for the first two years, moving to a ratio of 20-1.
- The programme rollout (13 programmes) to be undertaken in stages. Initially, each programme as introduced, would be offered in a lean format.
- The consolidation phase of the rollout (2029-32) would look to add optional modules and strengthen links with local industries for placements / co-creation.

.5   Senate noted the proposed programmes:
- BSc Computer Science
- BSc Mathematics with Data Science
- BSc Computing with Business Analytics
- BSc Business Management with Business Analytics
- BSc Business Management/IBM
- MSc Data Science
- MSc Artificial Intelligence
- MSc Financial Data Science
- MSc Cybersecurity
- MSc Business Analytics
- MSc Accounting and Finance
- MSc Fintech and Policy

.6   Senate queried whether those staff recruited to teach in India at Surrey's campus in GIFT City would be on the teaching-only pathway or whether they would be able to undertake teaching and research. It was confirmed that the model was based upon teaching but it was noted that once a full complement of staff is reached and the campus matures the goal is for staff and the campus to deliver teaching and research.

.7   Senate discussed the IFSCA requirement that all programmes deliver an experience equivalent to that of the home campus noting that the implications of this were wider than the academic delivery of the programmes / course content: student experience, student satisfaction, course

representative system, student support, MEQs etc. Students studying at GIFT City would be Surrey students and Senate discussed the importance of ensuring that all aspects were considered: what would, or should, an 'Indian Surrey' student experience be and how best can that be delivered.

.8 Senate noted the selection of programmes the University intended to deliver at an International Branch Campus in GIFT City, subject to due approval via the University's quality assurance framework. Senate confirmed support for the proposed selection of programmes which aligned to the themes of GIFT City.

.9 Senate noted that this initiative represented a new direction / venture for Surrey and, consequently, presented more risks than the CAU-UOS Joint Institute proposal. Senate acknowledged the proposal supported the University's Vision 2041 (overall aim of being a leading global university) and agreed the University would need to take some managed risks to realise the ambition laid out in the vision. Senate supported the plan for a Surrey Campus in Gift City.

24/069   University Regulatory Response to new OfS E6 condition of registration

.1 Glenn Moulton, Head of OSCAR, attended to present. He provided an overview of the work explaining that compliance with E6, which comes into force on 1 August 2025, is not negotiable. Senate noted that E6 requires:
   - Single source of information ('one-stop-shop' website)
   - Content principle (articulate relevant info in a clear, consistent way)
   - Prominence principle (all relevant info easily accessible and visible)
   - Freedom of Speech principle (note – this is a duty for HEIs)

.2 A mapping of all existing policies, procedures, codes and regulations had been undertaken in readiness for E6 resulting in major re-writes to 4 key procedures and the introduction of one new Code of Practice on Intimate Personal Relationships.

.3 The new Code of Practice on Intimate Personal Relationships was approved at UEC. the University's position on student staff relationships is that these will be strongly discouraged in all circumstances. The code stipulates that:
   - some relationships are prohibited by the code (including between PhD students and their supervisors, between staff and students under 18).
   - some relationships will require the staff member to report the relationship so that appropriate safeguards can be implemented and to avoid potential conflicts of interest (for instance between an undergraduate student and member of teaching staff).
   - Some relationships, which do not pose a conflict, will not require reporting (for instance between a student 18+yrs and a member of catering staff).

.4 Senate **agreed** there were some other types of relationships that should potentially be added to the prohibited list noting, in particular, that assessment teams often include academics that are not a part of the teaching / supervisor team and also noting the role played by some technical staff in assisting / directing students with their work. Glenn Moulton would liaise with the PVC Executive Deans.
   Action: Glenn Moulton to action

.5 The key changes to the Student Disciplinary Regulations, which reside within the Quality Framework and are subject to the approval of Senate, were noted. Senate were advised that any reference in the presented draft Student Disciplinary Regulations to withholding/rescinding

awards should be disregarded as this proposal has been withdrawn. Senate **approved** the Student Disciplinary Regulations.

24/070 Amendments to University Regulations 2025/26 & Exception to Reg.61 of A1 Regulations

.1 Senate **approved** the minor amendments and clarifications to the *A1 Regulations for taught programmes* and A2 Regulations for research *degrees* for 2025/26 articulated in the paper and endorsed by UEC and URIC.

.2 Senate **approved** the exception to Reg.61 of A1 Regulations for BSc Medical Sciences Top-up noting the accelerated, L6 only programme (120 credits in six months) is structured to run outside of the common 2 semester (15 weeks each) model for undergraduate programmes.

24/071 Student Protection Plan 2025/26

.1 Senate **endorsed** the annual update to the Student Protection Plan for onward approval by Council, noting it had been updated to include University Branch Campuses.

24/072 Nominated Faculty Academic Representatives for Senate

.1 Senate **approved** the adoption of the following two member positions on Senate, which had been piloted during academic year 2024/25:
  - Nominated Postgraduate Research Student member
  - Observer Open Seat member

.2 Senate **approved** the 7 nominations endorsed by Senate Nominations Committee for appointment from 2025/26 academic session.

3	**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

24/073 New C6 Student Procedure for Attendance and Engagement [Quality Framework]

.1 Emma Rowsell, Interim Chief Student Officer, presented the proposed new C6 Student Procedure for Attendance and Engagement.

.2 Senate acknowledged the impact that poor, inconsistent student attendance has on both the non-attending individual student(s) and on the attending peers of those students. The new procedure sets out the University's approach to monitoring and supporting academic engagement and attendance across all taught and research programmes. Its introduction is a strategic step, alongside the current use of MSE and a plan to refine the use of MSA to enhance student success, retention, and regulatory compliance.

.3 Liam White, SU President, advised Senate that whilst there had been some hesitancy towards the procedure students' appreciated the positive benefits of identifying students in need of support: the Students' Union were positive with respect to the procedure but the support was not unqualified. The decision as to what the percentage attendance threshold should be was one of the key areas for consideration from the student perspective (the procedure placed this at 80%).

.4 Senate **agreed** with the proposal put forward by the CSO and SU President that the PVC Education undertake Chairs' Action to approve the Procedure for implementation with a review period of one year. This would enable further consultation and enable the SU to monitor student response. If

required, appropriate amends could be considered and enacted as part of the review of the procedure next summer.

.5 Senate noted the intention to undertake a pragmatic roll out of the procedure with the incoming level 4 student cohort. Senate also noted the need, in implementing the procedure, to be mindful of individual student(s) circumstances: ensure academics / support staff manage these conversations and are empathetic towards the student.

.6 Members of Senate advised that further to the roll out of the procedure it would be useful to consider whether a threshold for attendance could be implemented at individual module level too.

4	ITEMS TO NOTE

24/074 Research Procedures
.1   Senate noted the following procedures that had been approved by Executive Board as part of the POPP framework:
- IP Code Procedure
- Export Control Procedure

24/075 Our Students Migration Plan
.1   Senate noted the plan.

24/076 Our Research & Innovation Migration Plan
.1   Senate noted the plan.

24/077 Student Satisfaction Survey Results (MEQ Sem 2 and Student Pulse)
.1   The survey results were noted.

24/078 Research and Innovation Report.
.1   Senate noted the report.

24/079 Senate Sub-Committee Minutes
University Education Committee, 25th March
University Research & Innovation Committee, 4th June
Access & Participation Governance Panel, 2nd June
Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression sub-group 23rd May

.1   The unconfirmed minutes were noted.

24/080 Items for future meetings
.1   The paper was noted.

5	CLOSING ITEMS

24/081 AOB
.1   None.

24/082 Dates of next Senate meetings 2024/252025/26
22 October 2025
21 January 2026
22 April 2026

24 June 2026