

UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

Pendle College

SYNDICATE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 28th May, 2014
at 1.00 p.m. in the Errington Room

Present: Bob Brown, Christopher Brown, Alice Callaghan, Keith Calvert, Rebekah Christon, David Clucas, Jan France, Dale Cooper, Martin Colclough, James Gaffney, Roger Gould (Chair), Beth Hart, Jill Harpley, Josh Harvey, Lisa Maurin, Cameron Rafferty, Andy Smith, Aaron Spence, Michal Szulik, Katy Thomas, Lucy Williams, Nigel Watson, Jen Whitfield.

Apologies: Gavin Brown, Charles Calvert, Louisa Duff, Agnes Finley, Derek Gatherer, Mike Kosch, Lesley Loy, Nathan O'Connor, Heather Tomlinson, Charlotte Wright.

SM.14/1 The Minutes of the last Syndicate Meeting – Wednesday, 19th May, 2013
The meeting confirmed the Minutes of the last Syndicate meeting as a correct record.

SM.14/2 **Matters arising from the Minutes**
SM.13/3 d) Court Representation. The Principal recommended that Nigel Watson and Jill Harpley should be appointed as Class III Members of University Court. Syndicate approved these recommendations.

SM.14/3 **Principal's Report**

a) Appointment of University Chancellor – The Rt.Hon Alan Milburn

The Principal has already asked the Ceremonies Officer if the Chancellor can preside at Pendle's 2015 graduation ceremony. It is hoped that Alan Milburn will be able to attend Pendle's 40th Anniversary celebrations.

b) Roses 2014

Congratulations to Lancaster for winning Roses, the annual sports competition with York University; this year held in Lancaster. An excellent triumph for the University's 50th anniversary calendar.

c) Implementation of University Strategic Plan to 2020.

The University has for some time under-sold the Collegiate system at Lancaster but this is now set to change as the University wishes to develop a clear role for the Colleges as a key contribution to the student experience. There is to be a co-ordinated effort to promote better understanding of the role of the Colleges in student life. Colleges are invited to work with Recruitment, Admissions and International Development and use College related materials to support recruitment and admissions. There is to be a closer working relationship with Careers to support the employability agenda and graduate destination data collection. The continued close relationship with LUSU will encourage a greater number and wider diversity of students to get involved and attend events. LUSU's World@Lancaster in partnership with Colleges will enhance the internationalisation of UK students. Colleges will work with Alumni and Development Office to develop formal alumni activities, including fundraising.

d) University Senate

- i) The University is to create a contingency plan to deal with possibly disruption to examinations and assessments as a result of Industrial Action, specifically a marking boycott.
- ii) Innovation Campus ('Science Park'). The Proposal will be considered by Council at the start of next term and funding is expected June 2015.

e) Developing Pendle College Social Space

The Principal invited discussion about the Pendle Rooms. The Sitting Room with TV screen is popular and the Errington Room has plenty of use and is popular with international societies. The Running Club continue to use the space and the Rowing Club have indicated they would like to use Pendle as their base and keep their trophies in the Errington Room. Bar opening hours continue to be unpredictable, especially during Quiet Period but the JCR Exec have a good relationship with the Venue Manager, Louis Pierce, who is aware how hard the Exec have worked arranging events with little help or acknowledgment from the Centre.

f) Pendle Principalship to July 2016

Following last year's College Constitution redraft, difficulties have arisen with two Syndicate recommendations for College Principals (Bowland and Lonsdale). College Syndicates can send recommendations to University Council but University Council need not approve these recommendations. Deputy Pro-Chancellor, John Hadfield, can appoint any member of the University to sit on the Principal Search Committee and has stipulated that decisions to appoint must be unanimous.

SM.14/4 JCR Exec President's Report – Rebekah Christon

The JCR President began her report by thanking the JCR Exec who have been the most dynamic, passionate and extremely hard working group of people she had the privilege of working with.

It's been a busy year so far with proposed changes to the Bye-laws and involvement with the Library refurbish user group. Pendle's social scene is vibrant with Pendle Live setting the standard and attracting very good audiences. The recently purchased camera will be put to good use to record events throughout the year. A member of bar staff recently came along to a JCR meeting to gain a better understanding of the JCR predicament when the bar is not open.

Media and Comms Team, Lucy Williams and Dale Cooper have produced several copies of the Pendle Witch and have done much to advertise JCR events on Facebook and social media.

The Men's and Women's Sports Officers successfully recruit Pendle team players for both Carter Shield and Legends and have excellent take-up for both.

The Welfare Team continue to support Pendle students and events across campus such as Refreshers, Time to Talk, Go Green and mental health awareness. Fresher Rep applications are being processed and students will be interviewed later in the term.

AV Tech, Chris Brown, recently set up a meeting between a representative of Roche (the suppliers of the Sitting Room TV), the University's Teaching Space Technology Engineer, JCR Exec reps and Facilities to look into the possibility of supplying and installing a projector and screen in the bar. Hopefully, with the go-ahead from Charles Calvert, JCR Exec Treasurer, this will be a brilliant facility for Freshers Week and throughout the year.

There's lots of exciting planning/events coming up including World's End campus bar crawl, Extrav 2014, Freshers Rep interviews and Arrivals 2015 and the JCR Exec look forward to it all...including JCR Exec elections in December!

SM.14/5 Ratification of Assistant Dean Appointments for 2014/15

The Dean recommended to Syndicate that postgraduate students Becky Cook, Ruks Abrol and Colin Mang should be appointed as Pendle College Assistant Deans for 2014/15. Syndicate approved these recommendations. The Assistant Deans will work closely with the College Advisor Team and JCR Welfare.

SM.14/6 Residence Officers Report

- i) We have 260 continuing students so far signed up for accommodation next year. Non-EU students are not now guaranteed residence in their second and final year.
- ii) Thankfully the majority of Pendle students have paid their residence invoices and the College falls in the bottom third for rent arrears.
- iii) Forty-five students have applied for the Room Checker positions advertised earlier this term; quite a few Pendle students amongst them!
- iv) The Residence Officer wished to thank the current first years for keeping their flats so clean and organised...it's very much appreciated.

SM.14/7 Senior Advisor's Report

The College's Advisor Team pilot is in its second year now and continues to improve, working with The Base and the University's professional welfare and Counselling teams. Student Surveys have revealed that students are often confused about welfare delivery and how to access it. The aim over the next year is to organise welfare provision into a clear, comprehensive professional system offering students choice in their support provision.

SM.14/8 College Dean's Report

The Dean began his report by acknowledging the hard work of the current Assistant Deans; Nathan O'Connor, Aaron Spence and Charlotte Wright. The team have worked so efficiently along with the JCR Exec this year that many cases have been resolved before coming to the Dean's attention. The Dean will have Deanery statistics to hand for a summer meeting. Congratulations are in order to Becky Case who has been appointed as Assistant University Dean.

SM.14/9 There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.35 p.m. The date of the next meeting will be Summer Term 2015