



SENATE MINUTES

**The 287th meeting of Senate held on Wednesday 11 March 2026
at 13:00-16:00 in The Terrace, Bramber House**

Members present (in person): Professor Sasha Roseneil, Professor Michael Luck, Professor Kate O’Riordan, Professor Maria Fasli, Professor David Ruebain, Professor Robin Banerjee, Professor Ingrid Woolard, Professor Cornel Sandvoss, Professor Rosie Cox, Professor Luc Moreau, Jacinda Humphry, Jane Harvell, Matt Scott, Dr. Claire Potter, Jayne Aldridge, Dr. Alessandro Bianchi, Dr. Lily Asquith, Professor Andy Philippides, Dr. Kathryn Lester, Professor Kristine Langhoff, Paul Eden, Dr. Birgul Kutan, Professor Paul Nightingale, Professor Sambit Bhattacharyya, Mark Fisher, Professor Sara Crangle, Dr. Daniel Molto, Benoit Guilbaud, Dr. Gerhard Wolf, Professor Pollyanna Ruiz, Helen Basterra, Maani Safdarzadeh Haghighi, Dr Mei Truba, Dr Rene Moolenaar, Dr Graeme Pedlingham, Tom Harwood, Hannah Ward, Karabo Etonam Asala. In attendance: Amy Rogerson (Secretary), Jim Andrews, Dr. Peter West-Oram (Union Observer) By invitation: Mark Chee (item 16), Dr Demet Dinler, Daniel Millum (item 17), Bethany Logan (item 18)	
No.	Item
1.	Welcome and Housekeeping
1.1	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted a minor change to the agenda: the update on the Sussex Community Plan would be taken later in the meeting due to a prior commitment.
2.	Apologies for absence
2.1	Apologies were noted for REDACTED: GDPR and DATA PROTECTION
3.	Minutes of the meeting of Senate on 12 November 2025
3.1	Senate APPROVED the minutes of Senate’s meeting on 12 November 2025 with one minor correction to the spelling Daniel Molto’s name (previously recorded as Molton).
4.	Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise provided for the agenda
4.1	Senate RECEIVED an update on actions arising from previous meetings. The following was noted: • Minute 268/10.1.2 remains outstanding. The Deputy University Secretary is working with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost to arrange an updated briefing reflecting current requirements. This will be brought forward in the Summer term. • Minute 285/18.5 is in progress. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) is working with the University Secretary to determine next steps, aligned with the agreed workplan for research-related governance items. • Minutes 285/27.3 and 285/27.5 were confirmed as closed. • Minute 286/10.3 is scheduled for consideration at a Summer term meeting of Senate.

5	Chair's actions
5.1	Senate NOTED that the Chair had taken action on one occasion since the previous meeting to approve the temporary delegation of authority to Professor Maria Fasli, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), for the sign-off of research degree awards and exceptional intermission and extension requests during the absence of the Dean of the Sussex Researcher School. Decisions taken under this delegation will be reported to the PGR Sub-Committee.
6.	Vice-Chancellor's Report
6.1	Senate CONSIDERED the report from the Vice-Chancellor
6.2	In response to a question, the Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the student experience measure referenced in the report derives from the National Student Survey (NSS). Senate welcomed news that the UK will rejoin the Erasmus Scheme; it was confirmed that the University will have sufficient capacity to submit an initial application and that work is underway to consider longer term resourcing.
6.3	In response to a further question, it was confirmed that the 0.6 FTE Director role proposed for ResearchPlus would be co-funded by its ten members.
6.4	REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
7	Student Recruitment: UCAS Equal Consideration Deadline Application Update
7.1	Senate NOTED an update on student recruitment in the context of the UCAS Equal Consideration Deadline (ECD). REDACTED: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE
7.2	REDACTED: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE
7.3	In response to a question regarding application completion, it was confirmed that a change to the admissions system now allows conditional offers to be issued before all supporting documents have been uploaded.
8.	Faculty Senate Reports
8.1	Senate NOTED the Faculty Senate Reports from the Executive Deans
8.2	REDACTED: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE
8.3	In response to a question, it was confirmed that the PGT internships are unpaid (up to 100 hours).
9.	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students) Report
9.1	Senate CONSIDERED the report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students).
9.2	Senate noted updates on regulatory developments, student experience, and major programme activity, including the new Student Information System (SIS), timetabling, and online distance learning.

9.3	REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
10.	Office for Students Compliance Report: Quality and Standards (B) – Restricted
10.1	Senate APPROVED that it is content to provide assurance to Audit and Risk Committee and to Council that the University remains compliant with the Office for Students (OFS) B conditions of registration.
10.2	REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
10.3	REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
10.4	REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
11.	Degree Outcomes Statement
11.1	Senate APPROVED the University of Sussex Degree Outcomes Statement for 2025.
11.2	Senate noted the sustained improvement in degree outcomes as set out in the paper. In response to a question, it was confirmed that more detailed analysis is available internally, and that the published statement reflects sector expectations.
12.	Access and Participation Plan update
12.1	Senate CONSIDERED an update on the Access and Participation Plan (APP).
12.2	It was noted that the current plan period is concluding, with metrics being finalised, and that work is underway on the next phase, including consideration of a potential variations in light of current student numbers.
13.	Precautionary Action Report
13.1	Senate NOTED the confidential Precautionary Action Report.
13.2	REDACTED: SENSITIVE
14.	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Report
14.1	Senate CONSIDERED a report from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation).
14.2	Senate noted updates on the development of the Research and Innovation Strategy, including enabling priorities focused on research income, research excellence, and innovation.
14.3	Senate also noted the University’s participation in the Research England transparency pilot, and updates on the evolving UKRI funding landscape, including a continued emphasis on curiosity driven research, innovation, and alignment with government Industrial Strategy priorities.
15.	Research Performance Report
15.1	Senate CONSIDERED the Research Performance Report, including performance against sector

	benchmarks and key research drivers.
15.2	Senate discussed research income performance REDACTED: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE
15.3	Senate discussed preparations for REF 2029, including the development of institutional and unit level strategies and identification of gaps in advance of further guidance.
15.4	REDACTED: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE
16.	REF Code of Practice
16.1	Senate RECOMMENDED the REF2029 Code of Practice for approval by the Vice-Chancellor, noting that the document remains iterative pending further external guidance.
16.2	Senate discussed the approach to consultation and how the Code of Practice is presented, including clarity of language and the role of Unit of Assessment leads. Senate supported further engagement as the document is refined.
16.3	Senate approved the recommendation, subject to further engagement following final drafting.
16.4	Action: Deputy University Secretary to liaise with PVC (Research and Innovation) regarding Senate engagement session for REF 2029 Code of Practice.
17.	Sussex Community Plan
17.1	Senate NOTED a verbal briefing on the Sussex Community Plan from representatives of the Sussex Community Forum.
17.2	An overview was provided of the Forum's work as a grassroots initiative and its development of an 11-point plan REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
17.3	Senate noted that the proposals are intended to inform ongoing institutional discussions, and that further consideration will be given to how these may be taken forward.
18.	Open Research Policy
18.1	Senate APPROVED the implementation of the Open Research Policy.
18.1.1	The policy addressed comments received at the last meeting of Senate.
18.2	Decommissioning of policies (Library) – Restricted Senate APPROVED the decommissioning of the following policies: - Open Access Publications policy - Research Data Management Policy - Sussex Research Online policy - Sussex Research Online Takedown Policy
19.	Report from Honorary Degrees Committee - Confidential
19.1	Senate APPROVED the following nominations for Honorary Awards as recommended by the

19.1.1 19.1.2 19.1.3 19.1.4	Honorary Degrees Committee: REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED: CONFIDENTIAL
20. 20.1 20.2 20.3	Revisions to Regulation 4: Senate – proposal Senate RECOMMENDED the proposed changes to University Regulation 4 for approval by Council. The revisions would allow Faculties to protect specific Senate seats for candidates with defined characteristics, responding particularly to the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine’s desire to retain School representation. Senate noted the background work undertaken, including previous structural changes affecting membership, and briefly discussed decision-making mechanisms, including questions about majority voting, consensus, and the representativeness of the small committee involved.
21. 21.1	Any other business There was no other business raised.