



Minutes

SEN26-M2

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2026.

Attendance

Nick Jennings

Moataz Attallah
Julia Bahnmüller
Sarah Barnard
Karen Blay
Roberta Bernabei
Rebecca Cain (ab)
Ash Casey
Vivien Chow
Malcolm Cook
Chris Cushion (ab)
Mahsa Derakhshani
Claudia Eberlein
Rachael Farayola
Jan Godsell
Sam Grogan
Simon Hogg
Peter Hortor

Michael Hoyler
Kemafasu Ifie (ab)
Mia Jackson
Will Johnson (ab)
Gyuchan Thomas Jun
Jamie Kenyon
Taimaz Larimian
Jo Maher (ab)
Oonagh Markey
Miguel Martinez Garcia (ab)
Aidan McGarry
Robert Mercas
Criag Morton
Sahar Mousavi
Tasha Murwira (ab)
Tanishka Nahar (ab)
Sarah Parker

Dan Parsons (ab)
Giulia Piccolino
Valerie Pinfield
Chetna Prajapati
Rahul Rahulamathavan
Aravind Reghunathan
Rajkumar Roy
Becca Schofield
Jason Semeraro
Lauren Sherar
Vadim Silberschmidt
Thomas Steffen
Rachel Thomson
Cheryl Travers
Emma Walton
Justin Waring
Darren Watts

In attendance:

Chris Dunbobbin, Emily Hall, James Henry, Veronica Moore, Jennifer Nutkins, Kieran Oliver, Richard Taylor.

Apologies received from:

Rebecca Cain, Chris Cushion, Kemafasu Ifie, Will Johnson, Jo Maher, Miguel Martinez Garcia, Tasha Murwira, Tanishka Nahar, Dan Parsons.

26/28 Minutes

Senate confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026 (**SEN26-M1**).

26/29 University Strategy

SEN26-P33

29.1 Financial Context

Senate noted an update on sector financial reports and the University's financial position. Developments highlighted included the publication in May 2026 of UUK's annual efficiency and transformation report, and of OfS's annual financial sustainability report. The UUK report had

revealed that alongside ongoing cost reduction, universities were seeking to unlock wider transformation and efficiency measures, albeit that progress to date had been largely concentrated on delivering non-structural changes rather than fundamental changes to business and operating models.

There was discussion around the detail of the University's budget and forecast for 2026-27 and beyond, particularly in relation to UK PGT and INT intake recovery; and around the progress of the tasking and incremental contribution work undertaken by the Financial Sustainability PMB and Service Directors. Briefings had been provided via General Assembly and Professional Service Town Halls and the formal consultations process was now in progress with affected individuals and the trades unions. The aim was to minimise impact on core operations and ensure the University was in a strong position for the future. The importance of continuous and ongoing engagement with academic colleagues and all other stakeholders around changes to professional services within the University was emphasised.

SEN26-P34

29.2 HE External Operating Environment

Senate noted an update on the HE external operating environment and specific implications for the University. The sector was undergoing a period of structural disruption, driven by financial pressure, policy intervention, and technological change. Within this context, Loughborough was relatively well-positioned due to its clear institutional identity and established strengths. Further reference was made to the UUK Efficiency and cost-cutting survey, which described a material reshaping of universities' academic operating environment. Emerging consolidation and merger activity; international students and market positioning; public perception of universities; and the increasing stratification of the sector in terms of research funding were also highlighted.

The following points were noted in discussion:

- i) At its meeting on 30 March 2026, SPaRC had noted that Transnational Education partnerships could be considered as a strategic route for future student recruitment pipelines. It was suggested that this might be a suitable topic for discussion at a future Senate Away Day.
- ii) There was some discussion of the PhD studentship allocation for 2026-27 entry. The process had been challenging for staff and for applicants, and future learning would be taken in relation to process and communications. A limited number of UK fee waivers and international fee discounts had been agreed for exceptional cases with Dean support. A Task and Finish Group would be established to explore options for managing the financial aspects of doctoral studentships in the future. Achieving an appropriate balance between funded and non-funded studentships would be a critical element of this work.

26/30 Senior Appointments

SEN26-P35

30.1 Reappointment of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

Senate engaged in the consultation process for the proposed reappointment of Professor Dan Parsons as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for a further 5 years from September 2027. Senate members supported the reappointment, and no objections were received (either in the room or afterwards via email).

SEN26-P36

30.2 Appointment of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)

Senate approved arrangements for the Joint Committee for the appointment of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), and engaged in the consultation process in relation to the updated job description and person specification.

SEN26-P37

30.3 Flagship Research Institute Leadership / Establishment of Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Roles

Senate approved the establishment of six Flagship Research Institute Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (APVC)/Director roles, and the disestablishment of the existing thematic APVC roles. Thanks were offered to the incumbents of the existing thematic APVC roles, noting that their terms were due to end in July 2026 and that they had the opportunity to apply for the new Director roles should they wish to do so. Clarification was provided that Senate ratification of the appointments to all the new roles would be sought together, after all the interviews had been conducted.

26/31 Senate Effectiveness Review

SEN26-P38

Senate endorsed a report from the Senate Effectiveness Review Working Group. Thanks were offered to the Chair, and other members of the Working Group, and to all Senate members and other stakeholders who engaged with the questionnaires, focus groups and interviews. It was noted in discussion that it would be helpful to consider the relationship between equitable decision-making and engagement in the context of all University committees. It was noted further, in relation to recommendation 4, that it would be helpful for an academic-member mentor/champion to support elected student members.

26/32 Health, Safety and Environment Committee

SEN26-P39

32.1 Senate received minutes of the meeting of Health, Safety and Environment Committee on 19 May 2026. Matters considered included: risks posed by construction and contractor activity on the East Midlands campus; the University's Student Suicide Prevention Strategy; plans for the rollout of SafeZone and of guidance in relation to the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025; progress in relation to the new Health and Safety Planning and Review process; and reviews of two significant incidents linked to the Big BUCS Wednesday event.

SEN26-P40

32.2 Senate considered Health and Safety Bulletins for March-May 2026.

26/33 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update

SEN26-P41

Senate considered an update on progress with the EDI Core Plan KPI's and priority actions. EDI Governance Committee had recommend upgrading the RAG ratings for the Data and Inclusion KPIs from amber to green, reflecting strong progress in data quality, disclosure rates and reporting capability; and a broadly positive position on inclusion activity and engagement. Elsewhere, updated benchmarking data confirmed positive diversity representation overall, but under representation persisted at senior academic and leadership levels; and there was mixed progress in relation to pay and awarding gaps (Reduction of Inequitable Outcomes). Future EDI activity would focus more on structural change with targeted intervention, and the EDI Core Plan was being revised accordingly.

26/34 Matters for Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)

SEN26-P42

Senate considered a report, including: Sector policy (recent policy updates and strategic shifts from OfS focussed heavily on strengthening consumer protection, updating regulatory strategy, and managing free speech compliance); NSS (thanks were offered to all who contributed to a 75.6% final response rate, and further details were provided on work to achieve greater consistency of practice in relation to assessment and feedback); ESEC portfolio development (an articulation of "Loughboroughness" - what makes the University's education and student experience distinctive and

differentiated - had been finalised, and it was agreed to circulate more details to Senate members. It was noted in this context that preserving the distinctiveness of individual halls, and providing students with developmental opportunities in the hall context was crucial); and successes (including Loughborough being named best for facilities for the fifth time at the Whatuni Student Choice Awards. It was noted, and would be borne in mind in future, that the number of student reviews appeared to be a key determinant of success).

26/35 Matters for Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

SEN26-P43

Senate considered a report, including REF 2029 Preparations (the Code of Practice approved by Senate by circulation had been submitted to the funding bodies in May 2026); Loughborough's role as the host institution and programme lead for the DSIT-funded Invest in UK R&D: Midlands campaign (including the inaugural UK Global R&D and Science Investment Summit, at the Royal Society on 8-9 June, aligned to London Tech Week); and the establishment of Loughborough University Research Staff Association (LURSA) as a formal University network with a presence on the University's EDI Networks website (thanks were offered to Ashley van Bruygom and all others involved).

26/36 Matters for Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sport)

SEN26-P44

Senate received a report. A typographical error in the spelling of Dr luean Phillips under section 1.1 was noted.

26/37 Matters for Report by the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

SEN26-P45

Senate considered a report including: QS 200 Project Management Board (thanks were offered to all colleagues who had contributed to the work of the PMB. The QS World University Rankings for 2027 were scheduled for release in June – *post meeting note: the University achieved its highest ever position, rising 23 places from 225 to 203*); Continuing work for the 'Long Term Maintenance Plus' project to upgrade facilities in the School of Creative Arts and Design; New teaching spaces (including the relocation of Architecture, freeing up two large spaces in DAV and the whole of Keith Green, which would be converted to additional teaching spaces to be named the Keith Green Teaching Hub); and Student Recruitment for Autumn 2026 entry.

26/38 Honorary Degrees and University Medals

SEN26-P46

38.1 Pursuant Statute XVIII and with the advice of the University Honours Committee, Senate made recommendations to Council regarding persons to be invited to receive Honorary Degrees and University Medals at future Degree Congregations.

SEN26-P47

38.2 Senate noted confirmed recipients of Honorary Degrees and University Medals at July 2026 Graduation Ceremonies.

26/39 Matters for report by the Vice-Chancellor

Senate received a verbal report on the following matters:

- i) Loughborough had entered its second decade as one of the UK's top 10 universities after being ranked eighth out of 130 institutions in the Complete University Guide 2027.
- ii) The Vice-Chancellor, together with several staff, and colleagues from University spin-outs, had attended the abovementioned inaugural UK Global R&D and Science Investment Summit, at the Royal Society on 8-9 June, aligned to London Tech Week.
- iii) The University's annual Degree Show, hosted by the School of Design and Creative Arts, had run successfully from 6–10 June, featuring work from final year students across

- disciplines including Industrial Design, Product Design and Technology, Graphic Design, Textile Design, Fine Art and Fashion. Loughborough University Architecture had also presented its annual End of Year Show on 9-10 June.
- iv) Thanks were offered to retiring members.

26/40 Education and Student Experience Committee

SEN26-P48

- 40.1 Senate received minutes of the meeting of Education and Student Experience Committee on 22 January, 26 February and 16 April 2026.

SEN26-P49

- 40.2 Senate approved amendments to Regulation VII (Conduct of Examinations and other Assessment) and Regulation XVII (Mitigating Circumstances).

SEN26-P50

- 40.3 Senate approved amendments to Regulation XVI (Tuition Fees and Payments for Other University Services)

SEN26-P51

- 40.4 Senate approved amendments to Regulation XXIII (Validated Undergraduate Awards)

SEN26-P52

- 40.5 Senate approved amendments to Regulation XVIII (Academic Misconduct) to add Unauthorised or unacknowledged use of Generative Artificial Intelligence as a specific academic misconduct offence.

26/41 Student Discipline Committee

SEN26-P53

- 41.1 Senate approved minutes of the meetings of Student Discipline Committee on 20 November 2025 and 5 March and 12 May 2026.

SEN26-P54

- 41.2 Senate recommended to Council for approval amendments to Ordinance XVII (Conduct and Discipline of Students) to establish a combined investigation process, and to amend the composition of Student Discipline Committee.

26/42 Amendment to Ordinance VIII (The Council)

SEN26-P55

Senate recommended to Council for approval an amendment to Ordinance VIII (The Council) to allow the appointment of an additional co-opted lay member to maintain the composition of Council at 24 whilst the role of Honorary Treasurer and Pro-Chancellor is held by the same individual (Andrea Davis from 1 August 2026).

26/43 REF Code of Practice

SEN26-P32

Senate noted Senate's approval by circulation of the REF Code of Practice.

26/44 Appointment of Pro-Vice Chancellor and Deans

Senate noted corrected appointment end dates for the following appointments:

- i) Professor Justin Waring as Dean of SSH from 1 November 2024 until 31 October 2029.

- ii) Professor Rebecca Cain as Dean of DCA from 1 August 2025 to 30 July 2030.
- iii) Professor Moataz Attallah as Dean of AACME, from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2030.

26/45 Appointment of Associate Deans

Senate noted the appointment of Professor Eva Selenko as Associate Dean (Research and Innovation) for LBS from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2029

26/46 Student Complaints Annual Report 2024-25

SEN26-P56

Senate noted the Student Complaints Annual Report for 2024-25.

26/47 Appointments to the Academic Staff

SEN26-P57

Senate noted appointments to the Academic Staff.

26/48 Programme Proposals

SEN26-P58

Senate noted the action of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (E&SE), on behalf of Senate, in approving Programme Proposals.

26/49 Reports from Committees

Senate received reports from the following Committees:

- 49.1 **SEN26-P59** Arts Committee on 12 May 2026.
- 49.2 **SEN26-P60** EDI Governance Committee on 16 February 2026.
- 49.3 **SEN26-P61** Estates Management and Sustainability Committee on 24 February 2026.
- 49.4 **SEN26-P62** Finance Committee on 20 March 2026.
- 49.5 **SEN26-P63** Information Technology and Governance Committee on 27 February and 6 May 2026.
- 49.6 **SEN26-P64** Research and Innovation Committee on 31 March 2026.
- 49.7 **SEN26-P65** SPaRC Part B: Resources on 10 February, 9 March, 30 March, and 5 May 2026.
- 49.8 **SEN26-P66** Sport Committee on 4 December 2025.

26/50 Waiver of Regulations

Senate noted that the Academic Registrar had approved waivers to Regulations in relation to individual students. (Further details are available from the Secretary).

26/51 Dates of Meetings in 2026-27

Wednesday, 4 November 2026 - 10:00 AM - University Stadium, Loughborough Campus
Wednesday, 20 January 2027 - 10:00 AM - University Stadium, Loughborough Campus (if required)
Wednesday, 10 March 2027 - 10:00 AM - Room tbc - Loughborough University London
Wednesday, 9 June 2027 - 10:00 AM - University Stadium, Loughborough Campus

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