



**Central Management Group**

**Wednesday 1 September 2010**

**MINUTE**

Present: The Principal  
Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon  
Vice-Principal Professor D Fergusson  
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood  
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier  
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway  
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell  
Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill

In attendance: Professor J Seckl  
Dr I Conn  
Mr A Currie  
Ms S Gupta  
Mr D Waddell  
Dr K Waldron  
Mr D Montgomery (on behalf of Mr J Gorringe)  
Mr J Galbraith (for item 7 only)  
Mr A Mackay (for item 8 only)  
Ms L Welch (for item 6 only)  
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies: Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes  
Vice-Principal Professor N Brown  
Vice-Principal Mr Y Dawkins  
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell  
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse  
Mr M D Cornish  
Mr N A L Paul  
Dr A R Cornish  
Mr J Gorringe

**1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2010 AND MEETING HELD BY CORRESPONDENCE ON 10 AUGUST 2010** **Paper A**

The Minute of the meeting held on 16 June 2010 and the meeting held by correspondence on the 10 August 2010 was approved as a correct record.

**2 MATTERS ARISING**

**2.1 Update on Academic & Financial Planning Issues for the School of Education**

CMG noted that the threat of redundancy to support staff had now been lifted; those remaining at risk as at 16 June 2010 had been redeployed into vacant positions within the revised support staff structure. The Redundancy Committee established by CMG could now be stood down having not been

required to convene.

CMG thanked all those involved in achieving the changes in the School of Education through voluntary means.

### **3 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Principal's Communications**

The Principal reported on the following: the part-time appointment of Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill to the position of Chief Executive and Deputy Chair of the Medical Research Council with effect from 1 October 2010; archaeological discoveries in the Old Quad; formation of 40 new companies in the last academic year; the donation of £10m by author J K Rowling to found the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic to take forward research to improve outcomes of patients with multiple sclerosis and CMG congratulated all those involved particularly Vice-Principal Young Dawkins, Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill and Professors French-Constant and Chandran; recent media coverage on the proposed merger with eca; the current position with student fees; the financial position and the comprehensive spending review; the success of the University's involvement in this year's Edinburgh Fringe and proposed future initiatives; and the announcement of the winners of the James Tait Black book awards.

#### **3.2 Principal's Strategy Group**

**Paper B**

The intention to prepare a discussion paper on enhancing eLearning was noted and endorsed.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

### **4 FINANCE UPDATE (CLOSED)**

**Paper C**

The allocation of the SFC Knowledge Transfer funding in June was noted and the anticipated impact of government spending reductions on the SFC and on the Research Councils; sector funding in 2011/2012 was anticipated to be particularly tight. The work of the post review group and the year end position in respect of those accepting voluntary retirement centrally funded were noted; CMG further noted that in 2010/2011 the centre would reduce its contribution to the cost of voluntary severance packages to 50% from the current 100% as previously intimated. It was further confirmed that there would be an early indication of scenario planning assumptions as part of this year's planning round.

### **5 UPDATE ON ECA (CLOSED)**

**Paper D**

### **6 PENSIONS' UPDATE (CLOSED)**

**Paper E**

The proposed changes to the USS pension scheme were noted and that a consultation process would commence mid October 2010 with all active members; a national group was being established to prepare the consultation documentation to be used by universities. The possible impact on the SBS scheme of the proposed government legislative changes was also noted.

### **7 STUDENT ADMISSIONS – UPDATE POSITION (CLOSED)**

**Paper F**

CMG noted the current position in respect of applications, offers and acceptances for undergraduates as at 20 August 2010 for the coming academic session for home/EU and for full fee students; there was slight over-recruitment against target figures for home/EU and recruitment was well above target for full fee students. CMG further noted that there was likely to be further movement in postgraduate figures with current postgraduate taught figures encouraging and postgraduate research figures not as high as expected. The work of the International office was acknowledged in contributing to the increase in the recruitment of full fee students and CMG noted the need to continue to carefully monitor target levels of home/EU undergraduates to avoid over-recruitment.

**8 UK BORDER AGENCY – UPDATE POSITION Paper G**

The current process in respect of students obtaining visas including the significant costs was noted and the UK Government’s intention to review and tighten the process in light of its concerns on the increase in numbers entering the UK by this route and perceived possible abuse; it was anticipated that specific areas within the sector would be targeted for further scrutiny. The University had applied for a highly trusted sponsor (HTS) licence and CMG noted the importance of achieving this recognition to assist students obtain visas; the increased resources to ensure compliance with the UK Border Agency requirements and to obtain and maintain HTS status were noted.

In respect of staff visas, there were current two consultations underway, one on how to limit economic migration and one on what those limits should be; a small steering group had been established to agree the University’s evidence based responses to these consultations. The UK Border Agency had applied interim arrangements in advance of the outcomes on these consultations which had resulted in the number of certificates of sponsorship (for two categories of applicants) now being issued to the University being reduced. CMG noted the impact of this on the University in respect of extensions of current staff visas and the ability to sponsor new staff; action was being taken to more closely monitor the requirement for short term extensions.

**9 EUCLID REPORT Paper H**

CMG noted the significant progress since its last meeting and that contingency planning was well advanced for freshers’ week activities with alternative processes identified. There would be further refinements over the next 12 months to improve and address any remaining user issues with the new systems.

**10 2009/2010 VFM REPORT Paper I**

This now routine annual report on value for money activities within the University was welcomed and CMG endorsed its onward transmission to the Audit Committee.

**FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL**

**11 H&S QUARTERLY REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORT Paper J**

CMG noted the continuing downward trend in the number of reportable incidents and welcomed the actions taken in respect of improving safety around the University's fringe festival venues. The annual report of the Occupation Health Unit was noted and the University's achievements in respect of the Healthy Working Lives award scheme commended.

**12 SECURITY ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT Paper K**

CMG approved the Building Access Control Policy and asked that priority be given to areas where there were potential staff safety issues and sensitive research facilities. CMG further endorsed the wearing of ID badges. The increasing number of high profile visits and the resource implications were also noted. It was suggested that in addition to the current measure to control anti-social post examination behaviour that it might be appropriate to investigate alternative venues particularly for final exams.

**13 REPORT FROM STAFF COMMITTEE Paper L**

The work to enhance recognition and reward for staff engaged in teaching and learning was commended and the developments in drafting a formal Performance and Development review framework. The launching of the new website for international staff was welcomed and information on the assistance available; it was noted that such assistance would be of benefit to any new member of staff. Progress in respect of dignity and respect procedures and the Equality and Diversity Strategy were noted. It was also noted that the new Equality Act 2010 would become law in October 2010 replacing a number of current equality and diversity legislation.

**14 VP CONTINGENCY FUND (CLOSED) Paper M**

The year- end position and the commitments to date were noted.

**15 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A JEANNE MARCHIG CHAIR OF ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION Paper N**

CMG approved the proposal to establish a new Chair.

**16 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CHAIR OF PREGNANCY RESEARCH Paper O**

CMG approved the proposal to establish a new Chair.

**17 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CHAIR OF HEALTH IN SOCIAL SCIENCE Paper P**

CMG approved the proposal to establish a new Chair.

**18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 13 October 2010 at 10.30am in the Raeburn Room, Old College