



Central Management Group

Wednesday 13 October 2010

MINUTE

Present: Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon (in the chair)
Vice-Principal Professor N Brown
Vice-Principal Professor D Fergusson
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse
Dr K Waldron

In attendance: Dr I Conn
Dr A R Cornish
Mr A Currie
Mr J Gorringe
Ms S Gupta
Mr D Waddell
Mr S Marsden (on behalf of Vice-Principal Professor Haywood)
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies: The Principal
Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Mr Y Dawkins
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Professor J Seckl
Mr N A L Paul

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2010

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 1 September 2010 was approved as a correct record.

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

In the absence of the Principal, Vice-principal Professor McMahon reported on the following: the progress in taking forward the proposed merger with the Edinburgh College of Art in particular that Court at its meeting on the 27 September had unanimously approved the proposal to merge with the Edinburgh College of Art with effect from 1 August 2011 subject to adequate funding from the SFC in respect of merger enabling and estates costs; and on the publication of the Report on Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education, (the Browne Report) in respect of funding of English Universities and its potential impacts on the Scottish position. It was noted that Court had held a seminar on 27 September 2010 to debate the future funding of higher education in Scotland with the view to the University having a public stance on this matter.

2.2 Principal's Strategy Group Paper B

CMG noted the report.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 EUCLID UPDATE Paper C

CMG welcomed the achievements of the EUCLID project in delivering the live systems for the start of this academic year although not with all the functionality originally envisaged. The project would finish at the end of this calendar year and it was suggested it would be helpful to initiate a 12 month period of stability before tackling remaining issues although plans to improve usability were being taken forward and any outstanding satellite projects would be completed. New governance arrangements had been agreed and transitional arrangements put in place with the University Secretary now taking on the lead role at the start of 2011.

It was noted that a number of legacy systems were still in operation across the University and assurance were given that appropriate actions would be taken to ensure sustainability. It was further noted that there would be a reflective report prepared at the end of the project outlining the lessons learned in addition to the report already produced which had mainly dealt with providing guidance on the management of large strategic projects.

CMG wished to record its thanks to the EUCLID team and all those across the University involved in delivering this project. In future CMG would only receive exception reports on EUCLID.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT Paper D

The routine Annual Report from the Risk Management Committee was noted and endorsed subject to a minor change in Appendix 1. The main emerging risks were noted including issues around the UK Border Agency, pressure to improve procurement practice, risks in respect of pension schemes and the impact of new tax legislation which affected higher earners.

FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL

5 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 1 MONTH TO 31 AUGUST 2010 (CLOSED) Paper E

CMG noted the financial position one month into the new financial year.

6 REPORT FROM SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP Paper F

The commitment of all those involved in driving forward the sustainability agenda across the University was commended including in particular the enthusiasm of the student body.

CMG noted the launch of the new sustainability website aimed at students developed with the assistance of Santander and of the Edinburgh Impact

Awards. It was suggested that it may be helpful to expand the title of the awards to avoid confusion with the meaning of 'impact' in connection with REF.

CMG further noted the establishment of the Task Group and endorsed the Transport and Travel Policy subject to inclusion of a statement on the University's duty of care regarding staff travelling on University business and an additional reference to health and safety issues at objective 6. There was some concern on the targets set and on their achievability but it was noted that they were in line with the Climate Action Plan which reflected current national guidance. The commencement of the consultation process on the business travel guidance was endorsed subject to a review of some of the figures and examples used. The Fair Trade Policy and the Climate Action Plan were both endorsed and CMG commended the Waste Management Annual Report noting that the University was being nominated for a national award. CMG did not support the proposed amendment to Committee paper coversheets as other more productive mechanisms could be used to raise awareness of social and sustainability issues.

7 ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAIR OF ADULT RESPIRATORY MEDICINE Paper G

CMG approved the proposal to found a new Chair of Adult Respiratory Medicine.

8 USS CONSULTATION UPDATE (closed) Paper H

CMG noted progress in respect of the proposed changes to USS and fully supported the consultation documentation noting that the consultation would commence on the 20 October 2010. The work of the national group developing the material was commended and in particular the involvement of Ms E Welch, Assistant Director of Finance. It was agreed that in order to take forward the University's response to the consultation it would be necessary to re-convene the Court's Pensions' Working Party to avoid conflict of interest issues.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 23 November 2010 at 10.30 am in the Raeburn Room, Old College