



Central Management Group

Tuesday 23 November 2010

MINUTE

Present:

The Principal (in the chair)
Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon
Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Professor N Brown
Vice-Principal Professor D Fergusson
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse
Professor J Seckl
Mr N A L Paul
Dr K Waldron

In attendance:

Dr A R Cornish
Mr A Currie
Mr J Gorringe
Ms S Gupta
Mr D Waddell
Professor L Bondi (for item 9 only)
Mr M Ritchie (for item 9 only)
Ms S Graham (for item 16 only)
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies:

Vice-Principal Mr Y Dawkins
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier
Dr I Conn

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2010

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on the 13 October 2010 was approved as a correct record.

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

The Principal reported on the following: the announcement that the Chancellor would be standing down; the continuing issues around the UK Border Agency and recent announcements on the proposed limits on non-EU immigration; the continuing discussion around the Browne Report and a Scottish solution; the establishment of a technical short-life working Group supported by the Scottish Government and Scottish Universities to consider future funding models; the continuing success of the Global Academies and the launch of the new website; the excellent position on student recruitment; the commendable work of the estates department and the proposals to refurbish the undercroft of the McEwan

Hall; the continuing success of the team taking forward quality issues; and the work of ERI.

2.2 Principal's Strategy Group Paper B

CMG noted the report particularly the discussions on research pooling initiatives in sport, health and exercise science.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 FINANCE UPDATE (CLOSED) Paper C

The current position on future University funding following the recent announcements in the one year draft Scottish budget was noted, including the anticipated reductions in available capital funding. CMG further noted the consultation on the proposed changes to the USS and the impact of the revisions to the taxation of pensions to come into force in April 2011 which would affect a small number of staff; it was suggested that those affected should be notified as soon as possible. The work of the post review group and the small uptake to date on voluntary severance arrangements were also noted.

4 DRAFT REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2010 (CLOSED) Paper D

CMG endorsed the draft Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2010 noting in particular: the achievement of an £18.316m surplus, equivalent to 2.9% of turnover; the increase in income of 7.2% over the previous year; the robust control measures in place to contain staff costs demonstrated in the accounts; the significant expenditure in premises refurbishment and reduction in administrative costs; the satisfactory levels of fixed and current assets including the recovery of endowments; the improving position re pension liabilities; and the satisfactory cash flow statement. CMG commended the satisfactory financial position of the University and the actions taken in advance of the difficult financial years ahead.

5 REVIEW OF 2009/2010 OUTTURN VERSUS FORECAST (CLOSED) Paper E

The accuracy of the Q3 forecast compared to the outcome position was commended and CMG noted the significant areas of movement. Clarification was sought on the increased utility costs of bringing on-stream new buildings and it was agreed that the 10% figure would be checked.

6 2010/11 STUDENT INTAKE AND SFC HOME/EU UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION CONTROL (CLOSED) Paper F

The analysis of 2010/2011 student intake figures as at 20 October 2010 was very encouraging:

- The home/EU fee rate paying full time undergraduates figure had only marginally exceeded the forecast target demonstrating the significant achievement in managing recruitment in this category across the University;
- The current figure for overseas fee rate paying full time undergraduates had exceeded the agreed target by 16.1%;
- The current figure for home/EU fee rate paying full time taught postgraduates was 4.3% lower than the University's set target although

the number of entrants was above last year's intake at this point, while the overseas fee rate paying full time taught postgraduates figure had exceeded the University's set target by 22%;

- The target for home/EU full time research postgraduates had already been met and was likely to be exceeded as further matriculations could be anticipated throughout the rest of the year, while the figure for overseas full time research postgraduates was higher by 4.6% than the figure at the same point last year and was likely to increase throughout the year to meet the agreed target; and
- The current figures for part time and visiting undergraduates and taught and research postgraduates for home/EU and overseas all indicated that either targets had already been reached or would be met or exceeded with additional matriculations throughout the rest of the year.

CMG welcomed current indications that the University was unlikely to incur any Scottish Funding Council penalties for under enrolment or breach of consolidated limits. It was further noted that initial NPRAS adjustments would be made in December 2010. Further flexibility in the deployment of student scholarships, particularly cross institution arrangements should be explored to assist in improving future postgraduate research student recruitment figures.

7 2011-12 PLANNING ROUND ISSUES (CLOSED) Paper G

It was noted that this paper set out planning round issues rather than providing CMG with detailed assumptions and an indicative figure for budget changes in 2011/2012. Future funding was becoming clearer with the publication of the draft Scottish Government budget albeit the budget was, as anticipated, for one-year only and proposed that the Scottish Funding Council would receive a cash reduction of 6.38% in recurrent funding for Scottish higher education institutions in the financial year 2011/2012 (year ending March 2012). Clarification was being sought on a number of areas with the SFC.

CMG noted the content of the paper and the significant financial challenges in the following academic year. Further information would be included in the planning guidance to be issued at the beginning of December 2010. Draft and final planning submissions were required in accordance with the timetable set out in the paper; it should be assumed that there would be decreases in core budgets in 2011/2012.

8 STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2012 TARGETS - ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT Paper H

CMG noted the content of the second annual progress report on performance against the 33 targets within the University's approved Strategic Plan. There was discussion on the areas assessed as requiring further work and it was agreed that a six month review should be undertaken of these targets; College and Support Group annual plans for 2011/2012 should include information on the actions being taken to achieve these targets.

9	SHARED TIMETABLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – BUSINESS CASE	Paper I
	<p>There had been extensive consultation across the University at School and College levels as well as engagement with the student body resulting in constructive comments and broad support for the proposed approach. The many benefits included enhancing student experience through better flexibility of the curricula and improved curriculum planning as well as more efficient use of space. The KSC had considered and endorsed the proposals noting that cognisance had been taken of the lessons learned from other major change and IT projects.</p> <p>CMG endorsed the proposals.</p>	
10	REPORT FROM SPACE MANAGEMENT GROUP	Paper J
	<p>The revised NPRAS rates for space including utilities to be used as part of the 2011/2012 planning round were endorsed by CMG and the intention to initiate an extensive review of this NPRAS mechanism for space costs was welcomed. CMG further approved the proposed revisions to the remits and reporting lines of the Space Management Group (SMG) and the Learning and Teaching Spaces Advisory Group (LTSAG): SMG would now report to the Estates Committee and LTSAG to SMG.</p> <p>FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL</p>	
11	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – THREE MONTHS TO 31 OCTOBER 2010 (CLOSED)	Paper K
	<p>CMG noted the current satisfactory financial position after three months, in particular the continuing improving position in Colleges and Support Groups and in the collection of tuition fees. The intention to review the position in respect of cash and short term deposits was noted.</p>	
12	HEALTH AND SAFETY QUARTERLY REPORT FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2010	Paper L
	<p>The routine report from the Health and Safety Committee was noted and the actions taken in respect of the reportable incidents. CMG welcomed the discussion on international travel arrangements and congratulated the Health and Safety Department's achievement of gaining Investors in People accreditation.</p>	
13	FEES STRATEGY GROUP	Paper M
	<p>CMG approved the fees for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 in respect of: MSc Integrated Service Improvement: Health and Social Care; various Business School programmes; the Parliamentary Programme; MSc Applied Psychology (Healthcare) for Children and Young People; MSc in Geoscience for Subsurface Exploration Appraisal and Development; MSc in Financial Modelling and Optimization; MSc in Financial Mathematics; and the four and five year BVM&S programmes. CMG further approved: the initiation of a project to develop a strategic pricing policy; revised adjustments to NPRAS for 2010/2011 to ensure no double funding in respect of Marie Currie PhD funded</p>	

students; and amendments to the policy on fees for visiting postgraduate students.

14 SETTING STUDENT RENTS Paper N

CMG approved the proposals for student rents for 2011/2012 which included a base increase of 1.5% and additional increases related to catering costs at Pollock and noted indicative rent increases for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. CMG further approved a cross subsidy of £1.831m from commercial surplus to support student rents and that this value should continue at the same level for at least the next two years. CMG endorsed the three week increase to the lease length at Pollock and the associated rent increases.

15 DISTANCE EDUCATION INITIATIVE Paper O

The proposed distance education initiative was fully endorsed by CMG and the funding model. CMG further noted that increased PGT volume would not increase the SFC Main Teaching Grant.

16 DATA PROTECTION RISKS Paper P

CMG noted the change in the powers of the Information Commissioner, endorsed the proposals to raise awareness of data protection issues across the University and the actions to mitigate risk particularly in respect of sensitive and large volume data.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 26 January 2011 at 10.30 am in the Raeburn Room, Old College.