

Central Management Group



Tuesday 26 January 2011

MINUTE

- Present:
- The Principal (in the chair)
 - Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon
 - Vice-Principal Professor D Fergusson
 - Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
 - Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier
 - Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
 - Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
 - Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
 - Professor J Seckl
 - Mr N A L Paul
 - Dr K Waldron
- In attendance:
- Mr A Currie
 - Mr J Gorringe
 - Ms S Gupta
 - Mr D Waddell
 - Ms L Elder (on behalf of Vice-Principal Mr Y Dawkins)
 - Ms K Bowman (for items 15 and 16 only)
 - Mr H McKay (for item 13 only)
 - Ms M Macpherson (for item 17 only)
 - Dr K J Novosel
- Apologies:
- Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
 - Vice-Principal Professor N Brown
 - Vice-Principal Mr Y Dawkins
 - Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse
 - Dr I Conn
 - Dr A R Cornish

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2010 Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 23 November 2010 was approved as a correct record. CMG congratulated Vice-Principal Professor McMahon on being appointed Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University with effect from 1 August 2011.

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

The Principal reported on the following: developments on the proposed merger with eca; the content of the SFC grant letter; the implications of the Green Paper re future funding; developments in respect of the Border Agency; the recent student occupation and need to raise security awareness and have in place appropriate continuity plans; and the Scottish political environment.

- 2.2 Principal's Strategy Group** **Paper B**
- CMG noted the report, particular the importance of maintaining home/EU student undergraduate recruitment within SFC funded place levels.
- FOR DISCUSSION**
- 3 EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART (CLOSED)** **Paper C**
- The current position in respect of taking forward the proposed merger with eca was noted.
- 4 RESTRUCTURING OF CORPORATE HR (CLOSED)** **Paper D**
- CMG endorsed the proposed approach and benefits of restructuring corporate HR as set out in the paper. Under the new structure six staff in professional officer and administrative roles had initially been identified as being at risk of potential redundancy. Following discussion on the options available with the individuals involved, satisfactory solutions have been identified for all but two professional officer roles. CMG noted that as these roles were no longer required it was satisfied that compulsory redundancies were necessary within corporate HR and recommended to Court the need to establish a Redundancy Committee noting that discussions would continue with the individuals involved and the University's recognised trade unions in order to avoid redundancy.
- 5 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE (CLOSED)** **Paper E**
- The various items as set out in the cover sheet were endorsed by CMG. In particular CMG recommended to Court the revisions to the terms of reference of the Committee. CMG fully supported the approach being progressed by the Estates Committee to take forward the projects within the capital programme.
- 6 EUCLID - END OF PROJECT REPORT** **Paper F**
- CMG noted the final end of project report of EUCLID.
- FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL**
- 7 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – FIVE MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2010 (CLOSED)** **Paper G**
- The favourable financial position after five months was noted and welcomed by CMG.
- 8 QUARTER 1 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FORECAST 2010-2011(CLOSED)** **Paper H**
- CMG noted the Q1 University outcome forecast of £17.7m based on the October management accounts and the indications of a continuing improving position. Of particular note was the favourable variance relating to an actuarial adjustment to pension costs and the forecast favourable variances in the Colleges.

15 UNIVERSITY PROCUREMENT CAPABILITY 2010 Paper O

CMG welcomed the continuing success and achievements of the Procurement Office noting that the University had gained a 'superior' capability in the areas assessed by APUC Ltd against the Scottish Government Procurement Capability Assessment (PCA); an improvement on the position in 2008/2009. The Scottish Government had a strong interest in the area of best practice in procurement and achieving value for money.

16 EU PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVES (CLOSED) Paper P

It was noted that this was the first time that the University had been offered the opportunity to comment on the proposed response of the Scottish Procurement Directorate/Cabinet Office on revisions to EU Procurement Directives. CMG approved the suggested comments as set out in the paper and noted the intention of APUC to co-ordinate a sector response.

17 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS Paper Q

The new PVG Scheme, anticipated to be implemented with effect from 28 February 2011 was very much welcomed by CMG. The new legislation reduced the number of University staff now defined as being in regulated work with only a small number of positions as set out in the table in the paper likely to fall within the scope of the PVG Scheme. Currently, the University had to undertake a number of Enhanced Disclosure Scotland checks on staff including Court Members which would no longer be required from the end of February 2011.

18 RESEARCH FUNDING SUPPORT AND STRATEGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (CLOSED) Paper R

CMG welcomed this important paper which provided a comprehensive review of the University's current position in respect of securing research funding as benchmarked against its peer UK institutions and proposals to maintain and improve the University's engagement with the main research funders. The proposed strategy was fully supported by CMG.

19 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The flexibility in the capital programme was discussed should there be an opportunity to secure additional funding.

CMG approved the suggestion in respect of the funding and naming of new chairs; funding for a period of five years would be sufficient to consider the establishment of a new chair in the name of the donor.

20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 9 March 2011 at 10.30 am in the Raeburn Room, Old College.