

Central Management Group



Wednesday, 20 April 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 Miell
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse
Professor J Seckl
Mr N A L Paul
Dr K Waldron

In attendance:
Dr I Conn
Dr A R Cornish
Mr J Gorringe
Ms S Gupta
Professor A Murray (to represent the College of Science and Engineering)
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies:
Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Professor N Brown
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Mr A Currie
Mr D Waddell

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2011 Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 9 March 2011 was approved as a correct record.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Revised Core Employment Policies Paper B

The Group welcomed the development and approval of the revised core Employment Policies and noted the transitional arrangements in place; the new Policies were effective from 1 April 2011 and those matters initiated under the previous policies including the Commissioners' Ordinance would progress under those previous policies on a case by case basis in partnership with Union colleagues. Unions would be informing their members towards end of April on the new Policies and thereafter HR would initiate written communications to staff on the changes.

The Group further agreed that it was now no longer necessary to recommend to Court either the establishment of a Standing Redundancy Committee (External

Funding Cuts) or the establishment of a specific Redundancy Committee to consider the position with eScience and that a CMG Redundancy Committee in respect of the position in the Scottish Sensory Centre was also no longer required; these matters had been considered at the last meeting of CMG and the decisions taken then had now been superseded following the implementation of the new Policies. There was one outstanding redundancy case currently being progressed through the Commissioners' Ordinance procedures.

It was further noted that the Standing Consultative Committee on Redundancy Avoidance (SCCRA) would continue to provide monitoring information to CMG and Court.

3 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

3.1 Principal's Communications

The Principal reported on the following: progress on taking forward the merger with the Edinburgh College of Art following the granting of the SSI and appreciation of the work of Vice-Principal Professor Fergusson and Mr Ward in this process; the high regard for the manner in which the University's security service operated; the successful event hosted by the Motor Neurone Disease Association to visit the Euan MacDonald Centre attended by the new Chancellor; the Gifford Lecture delivered by Mr Gordon Brown on 11 April; the on going debate on fees and the Scottish Parliamentary elections; the visit by the Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the strengthening relations with India including the funding for a new Chair and increased support for scholarships from Santander.

3.2 Principal's Strategy Group

Paper C

CMG noted the report.

FOR DISCUSSION

4 PLANNING SUBMISSIONS 2011/2012 (CLOSED)

Paper D

CMG welcomed and endorsed the final planning submissions.

4.1 CHSS

Paper D1

The final plan now incorporated comments from the last CMG.

4.2 CMVM

Paper D2

Information on internationalisation activities had been expanded and the recent funding for the new MRC Reproductive Health Centre incorporated.

4.3 CSE

Paper D3

Emphasis on growing income and limited savings by reducing duplication and rationalising facilities.

4.4 CSG

Paper D4

KPIs now completed including sustainability targets, continuing challenges re utility costs for new facilities.

4.5 ISG Paper D5

Concentrating on maintaining current services efficiently, expenditure on library material to be reviewed during 2011/2012.

4.6 SASG Paper D6

Continuing to work with colleagues across the University in developing services and communicating changes.

4.7 Student Unions Paper D7

Welcome flat cash allocations.

5 PROPOSALS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR 2011/12 (CLOSED) Paper E

CMG noted and endorsed the paper which set out: the SFC funding settlement and University's projected fees income in 2011/2012; strategic investment allocations carried forward or already approved during 2010/2011; new proposed high priority investments for 2011/2012; and a summary of the overall proposed allocations for Colleges and Support Groups which would result in an appropriate budgeted surplus of £7.1 million. The level of requested drawdown of reserves was noted and the resultant impact on the accounts. CMG further noted the financial pressures in 2011/2012 particularly around capital funding as well new challenges in respect of the merger with eca and preparation for REF.

CMG further approved the programmes outwith the NPRAS fee income incentive scheme as set out in appendix 2.

6 FINANCIAL UPDATE (CLOSED) Paper F

CMG noted the current position particularly information on funding outcomes for competitor English Universities and the impact of announcements on Research Council funding including the proposed approach within the University. The success of the claim to recover VAT was welcomed and the focus of the post review group to look favourably on proposals to improve REF performance. It was further confirmed and welcomed that there was some flexibility around voluntary severance arrangements in respect of the timing of staff leaving the University and replacement of posts.

7 STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS: MID-YEAR ACTIONS REPORT Paper G

The actions taken to date to improve delivery of the particular targets previously identified were noted and in respect of the target 10.2 it was suggested that improving the recruitment phase, particularly the number of women on interview panels may be of assistance in increase the number of women in higher posts within the University.

FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL

- 8 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – EIGHT MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2011 (CLOSED) Paper H**
- The continuing satisfactory financial position was noted with all Colleges and Support Groups recording favourable variances against budget.
- 9 Q2 FORECAST (CLOSED) Paper I**
- CMG noted the forecast of a University surplus of £26.3m at year end based on the January 2011 Management Accounts. This was an improved position from the Q1 forecast and the various favourable variances were noted particularly the increased under spends being forecast in CHSS and CSE.
- 10 STRATEGIC PLAN FORECAST: REVISED FINANCIAL FORECASTS 2010-11 AND 2011-12 (CLOSED) Paper J**
- The updated Strategic Plan Forecast which took account of the contents of the SFC Grant Letter issued in December 2010 was noted: SFC had requested this updated Forecast.
- 11 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE (CLOSED) Paper K**
- CMG endorsed the various recommendations as set out in the coversheet. It was noted that the plans were in line with the current funding levels and should additional funding become available the plans would be revised accordingly. CMG further welcomed the establishment of a Central Area Strategic Group to consider general planning matters for the central area.
- 12 QUARTERLY HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT Paper L**
- The Health and Safety Report for the period January to March 2011 was noted. CMG further noted that the successful CHASTE project (Coordinating Health and Safety in Tertiary Education) would be ending on the 30 April 2011; the project had been very beneficial for the sector and had greatly enhanced the reputation of the University's Health and Safety department.
- 13 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY MONITORING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE SECOND REPORT Paper M**
- This second annual report was welcomed by CMG particularly the spotlight report on promotions and regradings of academic and professional support staff; the information on gender balance was of particular interest.
- 14 FEES STRATEGY GROUP (CLOSED) Paper N**
- CMG approved the proposed fee rate for 2011 for home/EU and overseas students on the Summer School in Economics.
- 15 RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY Paper O**
- The Policy was fully supported and approved by CMG and it was noted that there had been extensive consultation and that implementation of the Policy would be achieved over a number of years.

- 16 FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE Paper P**
- The outcome of the review of the current website was noted and the areas identified where improvements were required particularly to enable more interaction with users of the site and to enable academic, research and corporate content to be accommodated within one framework. CMG approved the outline plan including the move to a new managed system and the proposed funding; 2011/2012 allocation proposals included funding to take forward this outline plan.
- 17 INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EDINBURGH Paper Q**
- CMG endorsed the proposals to create Edinburgh Infectious Diseases as an umbrella organisation to promote multidisciplinary research of infectious diseases within the University.
- 18 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE HANDA CHAIR OF JAPANESE-CHINESE RELATIONS Paper R**
- CMG approved the proposal to found the Handa Chair of Japanese-Chinese relations.
- 19 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CHAIR OF VETERINARY IMMUNOLOGY Paper S**
- CMG approved the proposal to found a new Chair of Veterinary Immunology.
- 20 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE ANNE ROWLING CHAIR OF TISSUE REGENERATION Paper T**
- CMG approved the proposal to found the Anne Rowling Chair of Tissue Regeneration.
- 21 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CHAIR OF RESILIENCE BIOLOGY Paper U**
- CMG approved the proposal to establish a new Chair of Resilience Biology.
- 22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- Wednesday, 25 May at 10.30 am in the Raeburn Room, Old College