



Central Management Group

Wednesday, 25 May 2011

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 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:

Mr A Currie
Mr J Gorringer
Ms S Gupta
Mr D Waddell
Ms S Cannell (on behalf of Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood)
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies:

Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Dr I Conn
Dr A R Cornish

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2011

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 20 April 2011 was approved as a correct record.

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

It was with great sadness that CMG noted the death of Professor Noreen Murray and that the Principal would be attending her funeral today, representing the University.

The Principal reported on the following: reputational issues in the Scottish higher education sector; on-going challenges with respect to the UK Border Agency particularly around changes to English language requirements for students already in receipt of offered places; positive unsolicited advertising by one of the large financial institutions to the Hong Kong market; interactions with the new Scottish Government; discussions with the SFC; discussions with BBSRC re University's change in funding status; strategic relationship with the

Wellcome Trust; progress in respect of the recruitment process to appoint a Principal for ECA within the University; opening of the Biochar Research Centre; and election of Fellows to the RSE including Vice-Principal Professor Brown.

2.2 Principal's Strategy Group Paper B

CMG noted the report.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 FINANCE UPDATE (CLOSED) Paper C

The current position was noted in respect of the increasing uncertainties around Research Council funding and the possible requirement to prepare detailed asset registers to assist in sharing equipment purchased from these funds. CMG further noted: the position with USS pensions and the anticipated introduction in the autumn of changes to the scheme; the challenges of the new future requirements set by the pension regulator in respect of SBS; and related issues on retirement age. Anticipated future salary pressures given the current rate of inflation were also noted by CMG.

4 DRAFT UPDATE OF UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER (CLOSED) Paper D

CMG endorsed the proposed changes to the University Risk Register and noted and endorsed the additional changes discussed at the last meeting of the Risk Management Committee: Risk 5 - to include additional explanation on estate issues; and Risk 9 - lead to be amended to Director of Quality Assurance and the management processes to specify the work of the Senate's Quality Assurance Committee. CMG further suggested the addition of a new Risk 3 on possible legislative changes to University governance and proposed that there was merit in considering a pro-active approach to this matter perhaps hosting an event with appropriate external partners.

5 RECRUITMENT & ADMISSIONS STRATEGY GROUP Paper E

The proposal to form an overarching Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Group (RASG) was welcomed and approved. CMG further approved the proposed terms of reference and membership of the RASG subject to consideration of the inclusion of the Director of Accommodation Services and the suggestion that the College representatives should include operational 'front line' recruitment and admissions staff. RASG would report directly to CMG.

6 ETHICAL FUNDRAISING – FUNDRAISING ADVISORY GROUP Paper F

CMG approved the establishment of an Ethical Fundraising Advisory Group subject to final consultation with the Development Fund Trustees to oversee ethical issues related to fundraising.

7	EDINBURGH GLOBAL – THE NEXT PHASE	Paper G
	<p>Phase 2 of Edinburgh Global to be included as part of The University's Strategic Plan 2012/2016 was fully endorsed by CMG including the four interconnecting themes and the priorities within each. It was suggested that it was appropriate to state the intention to open the University's next office in Sao Paulo with other offices to follow and that the University should be considering moving towards a target of 50% of its students being international.</p>	
8	REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE (CLOSED)	Paper H
	<p>CMG endorsed the recommendations on the coversheet and noted that consideration had been given on the next projects to be taken forward in line with the priorities of the Colleges and Support Groups and in accordance with realistic funding assumptions. The funding scenario may be further amended depending on the outcome of the discussions at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the University's funding strategy and the possibility of loan arrangements being negotiated. CMG further noted that the University was now close to finalising the missives in respect of the sale of Summerhall and that the purchaser had requested anonymity. The need to address issues in respect of the Darwin Building was also noted by CMG.</p>	
9	REPORT FROM STAFF COMMITTEE	Paper I
	<p>The key matters being taken forward by the Staff Committee were noted by CMG: staff performance and development reviews; impact of changes in legislation (eg retirement age); and the impact of the approach to staff inclusion within REF. CMG welcomed that the Senior Vice-Principal would be taking forward the issues associated with staff inclusion in the REF expediently and that in respect of staff performance and development reviews a sub-group had been established with the intention to re-launch the policy and develop a simple robust recording mechanism.</p>	
	FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL	
10	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – NINE MONTHS TO 30 APRIL 2011 (CLOSED)	Paper J
	<p>The continuing satisfactory financial position was noted with Colleges and Support Groups recording favourable variances against budget.</p>	
11	QUARTER 3 FORECAST (CLOSED)	Paper K
	<p>CMG welcomed the Q3 forecast of a surplus at year end of £29.5m based on the March Management Accounts which continued to demonstrate the University's strong financial position; this was an increase in the surplus forecast in Q2. There was discussion on future pressures with space management issues and the impact on estate maintenance and utility costs considered particularly challenging: it was agreed that any actions to assist in these areas should be progressed expediently.</p>	

Paper L

13 EXPENSES POLICY (CLOSED)

Paper M

14 GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

Paper N

15 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY
2010-2020

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 15 June 2011 at 10.30 am in the Raeburn Room, Old College