



Central Management Group

Wednesday, 18 April 2012

MINUTE

Present: Senior Vice-Principal Professor N Brown (in the chair)
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
Professor J Seckl
Mr N A L Paul

In attendance: Dr I Conn
Dr A R Cornish
Mr A Currie
Mr J Gorringe
Mr D Waddell
Ms E Fraser (on behalf of Ms S Gupta)
Mr F Gribben (on behalf of Professor D Miell)
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies: The Principal
Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Professor C Breward
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse
Dr K Waldron
Ms S Gupta

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2012 Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 7 March was approved as a correct record.

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

In the Principal's absence the Senior Vice-Principal reported on the following: the receipt of the finalised funding allocation for 2012/2013 from the Scottish Funding Council; EPSRC and DECC investment of £13m to establish a UK Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre to be co-ordinated by the University; the success of this year's EUSA teaching awards; and the installation of the new Rector.

2.2 Principal's Strategy Group Paper B

CMG noted the report.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 PLANNING SUBMISSIONS 2012/2013 (CLOSED) Paper C

General points:

- Finalised plans further developed and comments from previous CMG incorporated
- Further improvements could be achieved in interdisciplinary collaboration between Colleges
- Breakdown of budgets to specific depts. within Support Groups was helpful and could be expanded into Colleges in future years to give a clearer understanding of areas of expenditure

3.1 CHSS Paper C1

It was noted that the summary set out the significant points of the 2012/2013 plan with the areas of improving the student experience and further investment in research through collaborative and partnership working particularly important. It was further noted that summary information on the management of risk had been omitted and that this would be rectified.

There was a general comment on the need for clearer evidence of the investment to be made in improving the student experience.

3.2 CMVM Paper C2

The support from colleagues particularly in planning to address some of the issues in finalising this submission was noted. The successes of the recent mergers were highlighted in the plan and the summary set out the main strategic objectives to be taken forward during 2012/2013.

A requirement to amend the reference indicating the location of further information on improving the student experience was noted.

3.3 CSE Paper C3

The plans to increase collaborative research across the University and with other institutes particularly in taking forward bids for the larger projects being funded through the Research Councils etc. were noted. Other major areas highlighted included estates issues around the School of Biology, work for the REF and improving the student experience.

3.4 CSG Paper C4

It was noted there was little change from the previous draft except in respect of the KPIs for carbon emission reductions which would be very challenging targets to meet in absolute terms given the increases in activity and size of estate.

3.5 ISG Paper C5

The current position in respect of investment in library materials was noted

and that discussions would be on-going with Colleges on how best to meet the increasing demands from undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes; it was proposed to provide additional central funding of £500k in 2012/2013.

3.6 SASG Paper C6

SASG would continually look to improve services, particularly the co-ordination of information sharing within the Group and outwith, focussing on external-facing services.

3.7 Student Unions Paper C7

EUSA

It was noted that the EUSA plan now helpfully included financial information on all EUSA activities as had previously been requested.

EUSU

The last year's achievements and the proposals for 2012/2013 were noted.

3.8 University Corporate Statement Paper C8

CMG welcomed the production of this statement which provided transparency on the corporate income and expenditure position.

4 STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016 (CLOSED) Paper D

CMG commended the engagement across the University in taking forward the preparation of this new Strategic Plan and the success of the utilisation of the wiki. There was debate on the first full draft prior to consideration at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Court meeting on 14 May 2012. It was the intention for Court to approve the final document at its meeting on 2 July 2012. It was noted that the targets/KPIs were still to be completed and work was on-going to confirm the measurability/attainability of the proposed targets/KPIs; CMG members input in to the targets/KPIs in particular would be most welcome.

There were comments on the strategic goal of knowledge exchange and the strategic theme of outstanding student experience which would be considered in finalising the document and also discussion on the link between the Strategic Plan and the allocation of resources via the annual planning process. It was also noted that the people enabler could perhaps be strengthened if it also included references to students as well as staff. There were suggestions on other areas including public policy and space utilisation which would also be considered in finalising the Plan; it was noted that opposing views had also been expressed on a number of areas.

5 PROPOSALS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR 2012/2013 (CLOSED) Paper E

CMG noted and endorsed the proposed allocation of resources for 2012/2013 as set out in the paper. It was proposed to increase core budgets by 3% with a further 0.5% uplift for Colleges to support the introduction of the Personal Tutor Scheme and a further uplift of 0.5% of total recurrent Support Group budgets to be allocated to ISG and SASG in proportion to

their recurrent budgets in recognition of the demands in these areas re the new Personal Tutor Scheme. It was further proposed that the up lift for both EUSA and EUSU be 3.5% with an additional £9k being awarded to EUSU.

The activity-related allocations which would build on the core uplifts to deliver a minimum 5% overall uplift to each College were welcomed as were additional strategic investments allocated to support the new Strategic Plan and those allocations which had previously been approved. CMG further noted the overall summary section and that the proposed allocation would result in a budgeted surplus of £9.7m.

6 FINANCE UPDATE (CLOSED) Paper F

The receipt of the SFC finalised funding allocations for 2012/2013 was noted and the current position on consultation on the proposed gift aid tax changes. CMG noted the other items including the anticipated requirements for an annual sustainability assessment report.

7 GUIDANCE FOR STARTING SALARIES (CLOSED) Paper G

CMG asked that further consideration be given to the section on appointment at the advertised grade and on whether there was room for flexibility for exceptional circumstances given the extremely competitive market in which the University was operating. A further document would be circulated taking account of the all the comments and suggestions for approval.

8 UPDATED GUIDANCE ON SEVERANCE ARRANGEMENTS (CLOSED) Paper H

CMG approved the guidance subject to clarification on designations in table 3: the Vice-Principal with responsibility for planning, resources and research policy was to approve those cases requiring the use of central funds.

FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL

9 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR 7 MONTHS TO 29 FEBRUARY 2012 (CLOSED) Paper I

The continuing very positive financial performance was noted.

10 Q2 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FORECAST 2011-12 (CLOSED) Paper J

CMG welcomed the forecast group surplus of £25.5m based on the January 2012 management accounts and the University's strong position at this stage in the financial year.

11 ANNUAL TRAC RETURN, FEC RESEARCH OVERHEAD RATES AND TRAC FOR TEACHING SUBMISSIONS 2010/11 (CLOSED) Paper K

The three submissions summarised within the report were noted by CMG particularly the interesting and useful information on teaching costs.

