

**Central Management Group**

**Wednesday, 10 October 2012**

**MINUTE**



Present: The Principal  
Senior Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes  
Vice-Principal Professor J Seckl  
Vice-Principal Professor C Breward  
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood  
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier  
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell  
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery  
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell  
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse  
Mr H Edmiston  
Vice-Principal Mr N A L Paul  
Dr K Waldron

In attendance: Dr I Conn  
Mr A Currie  
Ms S Gupta  
Mr P McNaull  
Mr D Waddell  
Assistant Principal Dr T Harrison  
Dr B Nelson, on behalf of Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees  
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies: Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway  
Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby  
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees  
Dr A R Cornish

**1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2012**

**Paper A**

The Minute of the meeting held on 22 August 2012 was approved as a correct record.

CMG welcomed Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl in his new capacity and welcomed Mr Phil McNaull the new Director of Finance.

**2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS**

**2.1 Principal's Communications**

The Principal reported on the following: the successful 2012/2013 undergraduate student recruitment particularly the position achieved with international students; the priority being given by the Scottish Government to widening participation, the Government resources being made available and the various actions in respect of bursary provision, admission processes and learning skills opportunities; recent media coverage on league table results; distance learning initiatives; continuing success in securing research

investment; UCU stress survey; and the successful team approaches to international developments and quality/student experience initiatives.

**2.2 Principal's Strategy Group Paper B**

CMG noted the report.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**3 FINANCIAL UPDATE (CLOSED) Paper C**

The position regarding student fee income was noted and progress to take forward the Holyrood development including the discussions with the funding partner. The intention to improve the transparency of utilisation planning around College and Support Group reserves was also noted and the importance of maximising opportunities to invest in staff given the coming REF and to take forward initiatives in respect of the student experience.

**4 UPDATE TO THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR 2012-13 (CLOSED) Paper D**

CMG noted and endorsed the revisions to the allocation of resources 2012/2013 and the now planned budget surplus of £7.467m. CMG further approved the proposals in respect of programmes to be included within NPRAS.

**5 FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN ADDRESSING FEEDBACK SCORES IN NSS (CLOSED) Paper E**

Following discussion and agreement at Court of the approach to address the issues raised by the recent NSS results, CMG noted and was supportive of the three proposed strands of work: understanding and identifying the issues through internal student surveys in every year of study; commissioning independent experts to analyse these results and to deliver a co-ordinated approach across the University; and to improve communications to students and staff. There was also discussion on: the need to consider benchmarking information from other institutions; the useful points raised at the last meeting of Senate particularly around students' desire to identify with degree cohorts; the current assessment and learning structures at under and postgraduate levels; training and support for those delivering feedback; and managing expectations by undertaking further surveys. CMG further noted the costs of this implementation plan.

**6 SCOTTISH EQUALITY REGULATIONS: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CLOSED) Paper F**

CMG noted the implications of the specific duties placed on the University by the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and endorsed the proposed approach in respect of equality impact assessments noting that the University had already found this approach helpful in its decision making processes. CMG endorsed the draft Equality Impact Assessment Policy Statement and recommended approval, in principle, to Court subject to consultation and finalisation and further approved the proposed amendment to the coversheet of papers for Court, Senate and Committees.

**7 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE (CLOSED) Paper G**

CMG endorsed the recommendations as set out in the paper in particular noting progress with the Deaconess House Development, the opportunities around the possible acquisition of Murchison House and the intention to establish a short term working group to look at an overall high level plan for the University's estate. The revisions to the plans for a Day Nursery facility at King's Buildings, the proposed acquisition of the RV Short building and the revised master plan for the BioQuarter were also noted and endorsed.

**FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL**

**8 EUSA VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT Paper H**

The continuing success of EUSA's volunteering activities as set out in the 2011/2012 Annual Report was welcomed and CMG further noted the inclusion of financial information as previously requested.

**9 EDINBURGH STUDENTS' CHARITIES APPEAL (ESCA) ANNUAL REPORT Paper I**

CMG noted the ESCA's annual report and confirmed the University's continued financial support for this group. It was suggested that it would be helpful to know more about the number of students actively involved.

**10 FEES STRATEGY GROUP: CONVENER'S ACTION (CLOSED) Paper J**

The proposal in respect of the scholarship agreement was approved and it was noted that a further paper would be brought to a future CMG on scholarship arrangements for all international partnerships.

**11 RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM BILL CONSULTATION (CLOSED) Paper K**

CMG noted the paper and that issues around the proposals were actively being taken forward by Universities Scotland on behalf of the sector.

**12 DRAFT SRS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2012-13 Paper L**

The progress being made on taking forward the sustainability agenda was welcomed. The 2012/2013 implementation plan which involved working with a number of groups across the University was endorsed by CMG.

**13 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL SENIOR RESEARCH CHAIR OF AUTOMATED REASON Paper M**

CMG approved the proposal to establish a Personal Senior Research Chair of Automated Reason.

**14 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT Paper N**

CMG approved the proposal to establish a Personal Chair of Government.

**15      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 12 November 2012 the Raeburn Room, Old College