

Central Management Group

Wednesday, 23 January 2013



MINUTE

Present: Senior Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes (in chair)
Vice-Principal Professor J Seckl
Vice-Principal Professor C Breward
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
Vice-Principal Professor L Waterhouse
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
Mr H Edmiston
Dr K Waldron

In attendance: Dr I Conn
Mr A Currie
Ms S Gupta
Mr P McNaull
Mr D Waddell
Dr K J Novosel

Apologies: The Principal
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Mr N A L Paul
Dr A R Cornish

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2012

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 12 November 2012 was approved subject to the following amendment:

Item 4 Planning Guidance 2013/2014
First paragraph, third sentence amend to read:

'This approach would eliminate in-year budgetary adjustments (adjustments being included in the following year's budget except in the event of a material shortfall in income where appropriate cost reduction would be required), promote more efficient resource allocation, and improve performance monitoring against a realistic set of KPIs and the University's major targets. '

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

In the absence of the Principal, Senior Vice-Principal Professor Bownes reported on the following: the success of the launch of the 6 Massive Open Online Courses

(MOOCs) which were going live next week with around 250,000 currently enrolled on the courses; the current position on student recruitment for 2013/2014 and the fierce competition from peer institutions; the Principal's attendance at the Scottish Parliament to deliver evidence on the Post-16 Education Bill; the successful visit by the Chancellor to Easter Bush and the special graduation ceremony titled 'A Celebration of Achievement' which is likely to become an annual event; the opening of the new office in Brazil; EUSA's actions in respect of the Chancellor; the planned Higgs-Boson conference in India in February; and the appointment of Ms Sarah Smith as the new University Secretary and the recruitment process to identify a new Director of Planning.

2.2 Principal's Strategy Group

Paper B

CMG noted the report.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 FINANCE UPDATE (CLOSED)

Paper C

It was noted that the US GAAP Accounts had been approved by a Sub-Group of Court on 22 January 2013. Work was underway to compare the financial performance of this University against others in the Russell Group in respect of the UK GAAP Accounts 2011/2012 and it was noted that detailed information would be available in due course. CMG further noted the continuing discussion with SBS Trustees around University support for the pension fund. The on-going work of the Universities Scotland Efficiency Taskforce looking at good practice and shared services across the sector was also welcomed.

4 2013-14 DRAFT OUTCOME AGREEMENT WITH SFC (CLOSED)

Paper D

CMG endorsed the draft Outcome Agreement for onward consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and approval by Court subject to further consideration around the information provided on widening participation. It was further noted that the document did not reflect activities around pooling arrangements or efficiency/shared services.

5 UNION FACILITY TIME

Paper E

It was noted that this statement had been prepared as a result of difficulties being experienced by some union colleagues when requiring time off from normal duties to undertake union work. The University greatly valued the work of union colleagues and CMG was very supportive and approved this statement subject to a minor amendment to paragraph 3.

6 CONTRIBUTION REWARD BUDGET PROPOSAL

Paper F

There was discussion on the background to the review of the Contribution Reward Policy and CMG approved the proposals subject to, in respect of the new trial voucher scheme, the ability of recommendations to be proposed between Colleges and Support Groups and for an equity and transparency of the budget allocations.

7 POLICY FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY STATUS

Paper G

CMG approved the new policy for the award of Honorary status by the University. It was suggested that consideration should be given to automatically enabling senior

colleagues to continue to have access to University facilities such as library access on retirement.

8 PENSIONS AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT – DRAFT POLICY Paper H

It was noted that a number of road shows had been held to inform staff of the changes being introduced as a result of the Pension Act 2008. CMG approved the University Policy on Auto Enrolment which will take effect from 1 March 2013. The various operational issues around the introduction of this Policy were noted and the cost to the University depending on the option taken forward by staff.

9 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE (CLOSED) Paper I

CMG endorsed the recommendations as set out in the paper. In particular, the revised Group Estate Development Programme, the approved Programme expenditure of £235.6m and the list of next priority projects were noted and that there may be some modifications to these following completion of the 2025 estates vision study. The progress on estates projects was welcomed including discussions around Murchison House, the requirements of the School of Biology, ECA estates issues and the various projects around the George Square area. CMG further welcomed funding of £100,000 being made available at the discretion of the Director of Estates and Buildings to enable progress on any early feasibility work required and that planning permission had been granted to take forward the building of a new nursery facility at King's Buildings. The issues around the development of the McEwan Hall were also noted.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT Paper J

It was noted that a draft of the Policy Statement had been previously approved in principle and that further consultation with a number of stakeholders had now been completed. CMG formally approved the final Equality Impact Assessment Policy Statement noting that the only substantial change was in respect of responsibility for recording and publishing submitted Equality Impact Assessments which now rested with HR rather than Records Management. CMG further noted the revision to coversheets of Court, Senate and Committee papers to be implemented with effect from 1 February 2013.

FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL

11 REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2012 Paper K

CMG noted the Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2012 which had been approved by Court at its meeting on 10 December 2012.

12 REVIEW OF 2011/2012 OUTTURN VERSUS FORECAST (CLOSED) Paper L

CMG noted the paper.

13 QUARTER 1 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FORECAST 2012-2013(CLOSED) Paper M

CMG noted the Q1 forecast based on the October 2012 management accounts of a University Group surplus of £12.8m. CMG welcomed the intention to provide forecast information more promptly.

14 FEES: CONVENER'S ACTION AND ROUTINE FEES (CLOSED) Paper N

The non-standard fees and routine fees for various programmes for 2013/2014 as set out in the paper were approved by CMG.

15 FIXED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES (CLOSED) Paper O

There had been previous discussion on setting fixed international fees for 2014/2015 undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes of greater than one year duration. CMG fully endorsed the proposal to set fixed fees based on the assumption of an annual sectoral inflation rate of 5.5%. This approach would commence from 2014/2015. It was further noted that proposals in respect of fixed international fees for postgraduate research programmes were currently being considered and would be presented in due course.

16 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT Paper P

CMG noted the report and in particular the safety issues around the area adjacent to the Informatics Forum which were being discussed to ascertain a suitable solution.

17 THE UNIVERSITY'S ATHENA SWAN BRONZE RENEWAL APPLICATION Paper Q

CMG noted the final version of the University's Athena SWAN Bronze award renewal application which had been submitted in November 2012; it was anticipated that the outcome of the application would be known in March or April 2013.

18 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW CHAIR OF TOMOGRAPHIC IMAGING Paper R

CMG approved the proposal to create a Chair of Tomographic Imaging.

19 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW CHAIR OF SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY Paper S

CMG approved the proposal to create a Chair of Synthetic Biology.

20 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW CHAIR OF DESIGN INFORMATICS Paper T

CMG approved the proposal to create a Chair of Design Informatics.

21 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE REGIUS CHAIR OF FORENSIC MEDICINE Paper U

CMG approved the proposal to seek consent to amend the name of the Regius Chair of Forensic Medicine to the Regius Chair of Medical Science.

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 6 March 2013 at 10.30 am, in the Raeburn Room, Old College.