

Central Management Group

Wednesday, 21 May 2014

MINUTE



Present: The Principal
Mr H Edmiston
Vice-Principal Professor S Hillier
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffrey
Vice-Principal Professor R Kenway
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
Vice-Principal Professor J Norman
Vice-Principal Mr N A L Paul
Vice-Principal Professor J Seckl

In attendance: Dr I Conn
Ms L Chalmers
Ms A Edgar (for Item 12)
Mr D Gorman (for Item 7)
Mr G Jebb
Mr P McNaull
Mrs T Slaven
Assistant Principal Professor A Trew on behalf of Vice-Principal Yellowlees
Mr D Waddell
Mr S Marsden on behalf of Vice-Principal Professor Haywood
Dr D Cook

Apologies: Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Professor C Breward
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
University Secretary Ms S Smith
Ms S Gupta

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2014

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 22 April 2014 was approved as a correct record.

2 PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

2.1 Principal's Communications

The Principal reported on the following: the successful launch of the Edinburgh India Institute opened by the former Indian President, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University; his visit to Donghua University for the inauguration ceremony of the 'Shanghai College of Fashion and Innovation', a

collaboration partner of Edinburgh of College of Art; progress on undergraduate recruitment – which had benefited from enhanced and earlier offer making; participation in the League of European Research Universities’ (LERU) Rectors’ Assembly in Helsinki; a successful visit with the Israeli Ambassador supported by colleagues in Corporate Services; and the Engage Invest Exploit event.

2.2 Principal’s Strategy Group Paper B

CMG noted this report.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 PROPOSALS FOR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2014/15 (CLOSED) Paper C

The allocation of resources proposals had been discussed at F&GPC on 28 April 2014, where it was identified that further work was required on forecasting of the planned surplus, so that the surplus is maintained.

It was identified that the original financial projections had been based on cautious figures, when the recruitment picture was less certain and the outcomes of investment spend, such as the Chancellor Fellows, was less clear. Increased certainty has meant that further refinement of the forecast surplus has been possible. CMG endorsed this collective work, agreed the level of surplus forecast, and that the delivery of the surplus should be managed through the quarterly review process.

The Group discussed lessons to improve the planning process including: providing earlier certainty to Colleges on future budgets; transparent forecasting and the need for continued clarity on future investments. The Group noted that the planning round process would be considered over the summer.

4 FINANCE DIRECTOR’S UPDATE (CLOSED) Paper D

The Group noted the contents of this paper including: financial forecasts; the development of a pro forma business plan for all major projects; changes to financial accounting; and training for staff on the financial year end.

5 UNIVERSITY’S RISK REGISTER (CLOSED) Paper E

The University Risk Register had been discussed by Risk Management Committee last week and CMG discussed the key comments from the Risk Management Committee and made suggestions for inclusion and on the scoring of risks.

6 REPORT FROM THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR REDUNDANCY AVOIDANCE (SCCRA) (CLOSED) Paper F

CMG noted the report and the successful work of this important committee. It was reported that the Talent Register is intended to be replaced in Summer 2014, as it will be incorporated into the e-recruitment system.

7 REVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN Paper G

The wider context to the Action Plan was outlined to the Group in terms of increasing carbon emissions, record temperatures and increasing University growth. The intention is to establish a Climate Action Plan Steering Group to broaden and deepen conversations across the University to inform the Action Plan, as well as to engage

with key academics. It is intended that the plan is produced by summer 2015.

CMG supported the approach to the plan and the creation of a Climate Change Action Plan Steering Group. CMG Members highlighted that the Action Plan should be informed by the University's future plans for growth. Targets, where possible, should be re-based and re-considered to ensure these are realistic. Suggestions were also made about enhancing the outward-focus of the plan and refocusing the Steering Group.

FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT (CLOSED) Paper H

The Group noted this report, as well as the support available to staff on Health and Safety Interventions and the potential resource implications as a result of Health and Safety Interventions.

9 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR 9 MONTHS TO 30 APRIL 2014 (CLOSED) Paper I

The excellent results in this report, against a backdrop of external change, were noted by the Group. The Principal thanked colleagues for their work in this area.

10 Q3 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FORECAST 2013-14 (CLOSED) Paper J

The Group noted this report which identified that the forecast operating surplus for 2013/14 is on track to achieve the Strategic Plan target of 3-5%.

11 FEE PROPOSALS (CLOSED) Paper K

The fee proposals were endorsed by CMG.

12 REMOVAL OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS (RESEARCH PROGRAMMES) UKVI ELIGIBILITY TO WORK CHECKS (CLOSED) Paper L

A number of wider changes were taking place on migration such as the publication of a draft Code of Practice regarding eligibility to work checks, which is currently being carefully considered – which were highlighted to the Group.

CMG approved proposals for external examiners (postgraduate research) to be considered as self-employed, following a discussion on the risks. Consequently there is no requirement to carry out permission to work immigration checks on these examiners.

13 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Managed Migration Group

CMG were briefed on the Managed Migration Group's initiation of two key policies necessary to retain the University's Tier 4 Sponsor licence for overseas students: 1) English Language Policy and 2) Student Engagement and Attendance Monitoring Policy. The policies are intended to be in place by 1 August 2014. A further update will follow at the June meeting.

Immigration Act 2014

On May 14th 2014, the Immigration Act was given Royal Assent. The Act is wide

ranging and contains a number of important changes to the immigration rules which will be introduced in various items of secondary legislation in the coming months. The Act introduces immigration checks for NHS, Landlord, DVLA and Bank Account services, which will create an increased demand on the University to produce letters for students.

National Physical Laboratory

The Group noted that interviews with bidders had been held and work was progressing.

SRUC

Further collaboration and engagement with SRUC is taking place.

Global University

The Group gave their congratulations to Mr Derek Waddell who featured 11th in Global University Venturing's inaugural global VIP list of Technology Transfer Officers and University-linked Managers. This list catalogues the movers and shakers in academic innovation and VIPs were selected on the impact of their offices and funds observed over the past year.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 2.30pm in the Cuillin Room, **Charles Stewart House.**