

**MINUTE OF A MEETING** of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Main Library, George Square on Monday, 15 February 2010.

**Present:** Dr J Markland, Vice-Convener (in chair)  
The Principal  
The Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Lochbroom  
Mr D A Connell  
Professor A M Smyth  
Mrs M Tait  
Dr M Aliotta  
Professor J Ansell  
Professor D Finnegan  
Professor L Yellowlees  
Mr P Budd  
Professor J Barbour  
Professor S Monro  
Mr M Murray  
Ms G Stewart  
Mr D Brook  
Mr T Graham, President Students' Representative Council  
Mr E Beswick, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

**In attendance:** Vice-Principal Professor N Brown  
Acting Vice-Principal Professor D Fergusson  
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood  
Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon  
Mr M D Cornish, University Secretary  
Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr I Conn, Director of Communications and Marketing  
Mr A Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings  
Mr J Gorringe, Director of Finance  
Ms S Gupta, Director of HR  
Ms J McCloskey, Principal's Policy and Executive Officer  
Mr F Gribben, Registrar, CHSS (for item C1.2)  
Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services

**Apologies:** The Rector  
Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor  
The Rt Hon G Grubb, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh  
Ms A Richards  
Mr D Workman

The Court received a presentation from Ms Sheila Cannell, Director of Library and Collections entitled "Reconfiguring services in the redeveloped Main Library".

## **A FORMAL BUSINESS**

### **1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2009**

**Paper A1**

The Minute of the meeting held on the 14 December 2009 was approved as a correct record.

Court welcomed Professor Jake Ansell to this his first meeting in the capacity of Senate Assessor.

Court noted that this would be the last meeting attended by Professor David Fergusson in the capacity of Acting Vice-Principal and Acting Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science and warmly thanked him for his services to the University and College.

## **B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS**

### **1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Paper B1**

Court noted the items within the Principal's report and the additional information on: the General Council's successful statutory half-yearly meeting held on 13 February 2010; recent visits and discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the leader of the opposition; the support provided to and the activities of the University's Offices in India and China; and the management of the increased number of student applications.

### **2 EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART**

**Paper B2**

The formation of an Academic Federation between the University and the College of Art (eca), building on long standing collaboration, had previously been approved by Court. This very successful partnership had resulted in a number of joint initiatives, the appointment of the Principal of eca as an Honorary Vice-Principal of this University, and discussions on exploring closer formal arrangements.

The last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee had been informed of recent discussions between senior officers of the two institutions which had resulted in a unanimous joint decision that the Principals should raise with their governing bodies and also jointly approach the Chief Executive of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), consideration of a formal merger of the two institutions. The Finance and General Purposes Committee had fully endorsed the actions of the Principal and supported the approach noting that the eca Principal had been mandated to proceed with discussions following a meeting of the College Board held on 27 January 2010. Court fully supported the approach to date and welcomed the positive outcome of the meeting with SFC which had been held on 8 February 2010 including the offer of funding to assist in undertaking a due diligence exercise.

Court unanimously agreed to the Principal taking forward detailed discussions with the Edinburgh College of Art regarding a potential future merger and that this should be on the basis of the proposals set out in Annex A, including in particular that related to the establishment of a fourth College. It was noted that there would be significant work involved in taking this matter forward including the requirement to prepare a business case. Court therefore approved the designation of Professor David Fergusson as a Vice-Principal to assist the Principal in this matter, on a part time basis, until the end of this calendar year. It was anticipated that a business case would be available around November 2010.

### **3 VICE-PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**Paper B3**

Court approved the extension of Professor Mary Bownes' designation as Vice-Principal, Research Training and Community Relations until the end of the 2012/2013 academic year recognising the continuing importance of this role. Court further approved the designation of Professor Asif Ahmed as Assistant Principal, International Post-Doctoral Training with effect from 1 March 2010 for an initial period of two years.

## **C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

### **1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Dr Markland presented the papers previously circulated.

#### Report from the Central Management Group meeting of 20 January 2010

**Paper C1.1**

Court noted that since the last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee there had been further discussion regarding the allocation of the funds received from the SFC in respect of the excessive costs incurred to the University by the new Medical School being delivered through PFI arrangements. A further paper would be presented to the next meeting the Finance and General Purposes Committee suggesting that funds initially proposed to be utilised to support the EUCLID project now be used to support the Learning Resources Centre.

The Dignity and Respect Policy, the Disability Equality Scheme 2009, the Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy 2010 and supporting Implementation Plan 2010, and the Recycling and Waste Management Policy 2010 were approved by Court. In respect of the Dignity and Respect Policy this was subject to review of the phrase 'the rights of other persons'.

#### Report on Other Items

**Paper C1.2**

Court noted the report on EUCLID and that for each of the approaching critical milestones there would be a thorough review before progression. Court welcomed the paper on the lessons learned from EUCLID and other significant projects and the development of the toolkit which would be utilised in future projects; the complex project 'Shared Timetabling' would be the first to pilot this new approach with change management issues tackled prior to the development of new technical processes. The positive position reported on the subsidiary companies was noted and the purchase of student accommodation property at Blackwood Crescent and Causewayside was approved. It was further confirmed that a progress report on the activities of the Pensions' Working Group would be presented to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

At its last meeting, Court had endorsed the approach being taken to manage the implications of the Scottish Government's announcement on future funding of initial teacher training places in respect of students and staff. Confirmation had now been received of the scale of the reduction which equated to around a 25% decrease in the number of places: this implied a reduction to the budget in the School of Education of £1.8m in 2010/2011 compared to the current year. Court recognised the actions which had already been undertaken within the School to identify savings and noted that a significant shortfall remained. There had been open meetings with staff within the School on the financial issues and the approaches being taken to address the matter which included flexible voluntary severance arrangements. The Finance and General Purposes Committee had noted that other measures may be required and was transmitting to Court CMG's recommendation on the establishment of a Redundancy Committee, recognising the timescale for required internal procedures.

Court considered the information before it including letters from a member of staff in the School of Education and trade union representatives tabled at the meeting, and took cognisance of the continuing actions which would be initiated to identify saving by other means. Court agreed to approve the establishment of a Redundancy Committee in respect of academic staff in accordance with the Commissioners' Ordinance given the timescales and further agreed that Court would approve the membership of the Committee in this instance by correspondence; two members of Court and two members

nominated by the Senatus Academicus with a Vice-Principal to chair the Committee. It would be for the Redundancy Committee to confirm the final definition of the redundancy pool and the redundancy criteria. It was noted that a skills audit was currently underway within the School. It was further noted that the Central Management Group would require to consider the establishment of a similar Committee in respect of support staff.

**2 COMMISSIONERS' ORDINANCE** **Paper C2**

Progress since the December 2009 Court meeting was noted including the continuing dialogue with the Privy Council and the longer than anticipated consultation with the trade unions; Senate had also wished discussion on the draft Ordinance which would now take place at its meeting on the 17 February 2010.

Court endorsed the overall approach and in particular approved the proposed appeal arrangements as set out in 2.2 of the paper subject to the membership of the panel being agreed by Court and for the Panel being able to consult with a lay member of Court.

**3 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE** **Paper C3**

Court noted the report of the Estates Committee, approved the recommendations contained in the items as set out in the coversheet and noted the continuing progress to take forward the capital programme.

**4 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE** **Paper C4**

On the recommendations of the Nominations Committee, Court approved the following appointments:

Court Effectiveness Review

Dr Aliotta, Professor Barbour, Ms Stewart, and Professor Smyth to be appointed to this sub group of Court dependant on availability and Mrs Joy Travers to be appointed as external member.

Curators of Patronage

Dr Markland's term of appointment to be extended until the end of the 2010/2011 academic year and Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill to be reappointed for a further three years until the end of the 2012/2013 academic year.

Library Committee

Mr George Mackenzie's term of office to be extended until the 31 July 2012 and Vice-Principal Professor Hounsell to be appointed with immediate effect until the 31 July 2012.

**D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE**

**1 ACADEMIC REPORT** **Paper D1**

Court noted the report from the Senatus Academicus of its electronic Senate conducted from 26 January to 3 February 2010.

**2 RESOLUTIONS** **Paper D2**

Court approved the following Resolutions:

Resolution 1/2010: Amendments to Resolution No. 7/2003 (Structure of Academic Year)

Resolution 2/2010: Foundation of the Gustav Born Chair of Vascular Biology

- Resolution 3/2010: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Veterinary Clinical Immunology
- Resolution 4/2010: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Clinical Health Psychology
- Resolution 5/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Vertebrate Molecular Development
- Resolution 6/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Immunogenetics
- Resolution 7/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Social Psychology
- Resolution 8/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neuroanatomy

**3 DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**Paper D3**

Court approved the following draft Resolution:

Draft Resolution No. 13/2010: Alteration of the Code of Student Discipline

and requested its transmission to the General Council and Senatus Academicus for observations.

**4 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

**Paper D4**

Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust between 1 December 2009 and 31 January 2010.

**5 UPDATE ON SBS ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS AND TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**Paper D5**

Court noted the appointment of new providers of investment services and actuarial services to the SBS Trustees and further noted the appointment of Geoffrey Angell and Celia Rye as new SBS Trustees.

**6 UNIVERSITY EXPEDITION COMMITTEE**

**Paper D6**

Court noted with interest the Annual Report from the Expeditions Committee setting out information on student expeditions undertaken in the summer of 2009.

**7 USE OF THE SEAL**

A record was made available of all the documents executed on behalf of the Court since its last meeting and sealed with its common seal.