

**MINUTE OF A MEETING** of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Raeburn Room, Old College on Monday, 24 May 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 L Yellowlees  
Mr P Budd  
Professor S Monro  
Mr M Murray  
Ms A Richards  
Ms G Stewart  
Mr D Brook  
Mr T Graham, President Students' Representative Council  
Mr E Beswick, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

**In attendance:** Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor  
Vice-Principal Professor N Brown  
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood  
Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon  
Vice-Principal Professor Miell  
Mr M D Cornish, University Secretary  
Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr I Conn, Director of Communications and Marketing  
Dr A Cornish, Deputy University Secretary and Director of Planning  
Mr A Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings  
Mr J Gorringe, Director of Finance  
Ms S Gupta, Director of HR  
Ms F Boyd, Principal's Policy and Executive Officer  
Ms L Rawlings, EUSA President elect  
Ms S Wise, EUSA VP President Academic Affairs elect  
Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services

**Apologies:** The Rector  
Professor D Finnegan  
The Rt Hon G Grubb, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh  
Professor J Barbour  
Mr D Workman

The Court received a presentation from Mr Hamish McKay, Chief Internal Auditor on the work of the Internal Audit Service.

**A FORMAL BUSINESS**

**1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2010**

**Paper A1**

The Minute of the meeting held on the 15 February 2010 was approved as a correct record.

Court welcomed Ms Liz Rawlings, EUSA President elect and Ms Stevie Wise, EUSA Vice-President Academic Affairs elect who were in attendance at this meeting. Court further welcomed Vice-Principal Professor Dorothy Miell, Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science to her first Court meeting.

Court noted that this would be the last meeting to be attended by Mr Thomas Graham and Mr Evan Beswick and Court warmly thanked them for their commitment and service to the University and wished them well for the future.

On behalf of Court, Dr Markland congratulated the Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea on receiving the 2009 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Europe Leadership Award at a ceremony held in London on the 26 May 2010.

**2 COURT SEMINAR – 22 MARCH 2010**

**Paper A2**

Court approved the informal notes of its seminar held on the 22 March 2010.

**B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS**

**1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Paper B1**

Court noted the items within the Principal's report and the additional information on: EUSA's teaching excellence awards; the current position in respect of discussions with eca; the recent media article on the research work being undertaken by Professor Sir Ian Wilmut and his team on stem cells as applied to treatment on MN disease; congratulations to Professor Stuart Monro on being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and to Mr David Somervell on being included in the Scottish Green List 2010 which names the top 20 individuals steering the country to greater sustainability; the visit by the new Chairmen of RBS to the Imaging Centre; the short listing for this year's James Tait Black book awards; the impact of the election of the new UK government; and Lord Browne's Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance.

Court further noted that although there was currently an agreed process to take forward proposals for naming buildings there was not a comparable process for the naming of Schools and Court agreed therefore that the Central Management Group should consider any such proposal and make recommendations to Court.

**2 UNIVERSITY SECRETARY**

**Paper B2**

The robust process undertaken to recruit a new University Secretary was noted and Court approved the proposal to appoint Dr Kim Waldron currently Secretary of Colgate University, New York to the position of University Secretary.

**3 HONORARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**Paper B3**

Court approved the proposal to designate Professor Dorothy Crawford Honorary Assistant Principal upon her retiral until the 30 September 2011.

## **C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

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

Dr Markland presented the papers previously circulated.

#### Report from Central Management Group meetings of 17 March and 21 April 2010

**Paper C1.1**

Court noted the position regarding the academic and financial planning issues for the School of Education and that although there had been substantial progress until all the required savings had been secured the Court appointed Redundancy Committee in respect of academic staff would require to remain in place. The School was now entering a period of restructuring with a number of issues being identified and the position in respect of support staff was such as to warrant the commencement of a new separate consultation period to seek to avoid the need for compulsory redundancy. The University was committed to an open transparent approach in providing information to staff and students on the position with the School of Education and would continue to work to achieve the required savings by voluntary means including redeployment.

The progress in taking forward the Internationalisation Strategy was welcomed and the support for international students particularly from the International Office was noted. Court further noted the Equality and Diversity Monitoring and Research Committee Report (EDMARC) and the work underway to further understand the background to the proportion of female academics in senior posts.

Court further approved the Computer Regulations as set out in appendix 4, the Climate Action Plan 2010 as set out in appendix 5, the Museum and Galleries Collections Policies Document 2010/2015 as set out in appendix 9 and the revisions to the Laigh Year Regulations.

#### Report on Other Items

**Paper C1.2**

The improving position in respect of the report on research and commercialisation was welcomed and the progress in taking forward the EUCLID project. Court noted the information regarding the Edinburgh College of Art and that further information would be available at the next Court meeting; it was noted that a further report from the Pensions' Working Party would also be presented to the next meeting. Court further fully supported the allocation of resources for 2010/2011 and commended the report and the executive summaries of the annual plans of Colleges and Support Groups.

Court approved: the revisions to the Treasury Management Policy; the granting of a standard security over the following four assets as set out in appendix 10 of the report: Medical School, Teviot Place; Appleton Tower, 11 Crichton Street; Patersons Land, Holyrood Road; and Robson Building, 15 George Square and that these be assigned to the SBS Trustees as contingent assets of the fund; the adoption of the Heads of Agreement document in respect of taking forward issues on the potential merger arrangements to form one governance structure for the Institute of Molecular Medicine; and the funding arrangements for the Business School.

### **2 DRAFT ESTATE STRATEGY 2010-2020**

**Paper C2**

Court noted that this current draft Strategy reflected discussions at the Court seminar held on 22 March 2010 and that there was further on-going revision to the chapter on financial issues. Any further comments would be welcomed and it was the intention to present the final Estate Strategy to the next meeting of Court for formal approval.

- 3 COMMISSIONERS' ORDINANCE** **Paper C3**
- It was noted that since this paper had been prepared there had been further discussion with the unions and a revised Ordinance No 210 was tabled.
- Court considered the process to date in respect of Ordinance 209 and tabled Ordinance 210. Court approved Ordinance 209 for onward consideration and approval by the Privy Council and agreed that it would be appropriate to consider Ordinance 210 at its next meeting following further discussion with the unions. Drafting suggestions were intimated in respect of Ordinance 210 which would be incorporated prior to further dissemination. Court also confirmed commitment to adopting, at a later stage, employment procedures and regulations including specific arrangements for appeals as set out in the paper following discussions with the unions.
- Post Meeting Note :The Privy Council has asked for the Ordinances to be renumbered, Ordinance 209 is now Ordinance 207 and Ordinance 210 is now Ordinance 208.*
- 4 INTERIM REPORT FROM COURT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW GROUP** **Paper C4**
- Court welcomed this brief paper on the process undertaken to date by the Group tasked by Court to review its effectiveness and that of its Committees. The proposed approach was approved by Court, noting that a final Report with recommendations would be presented for consideration at its next meeting. Court further approved the increase in the number of Court meeting from the present five to six to commence at the start of the academic year 2010/2011 and approved the dates of meetings, seminars and events as set out in the paper for 2010/2011.
- 5 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT: PROPOSAL** **Paper C5**
- The proposed introduction of a single report to monitor corporate performance, combining information on progress against targets in the Strategic Plan and Balanced Scorecard with reference to Scottish Government National Outcomes and items in the University's Risk Register was welcomed by Court. Court further supported the proposal to reduce the current 32 indicators in the Balanced Scorecard to 12 high level indicators.
- 6 REPORT OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE REVIEW OF SUPPORT ACTIVITIES** **Paper C6**
- Court noted that it had previous approved the principles for a review of support activities particularly those undertaken both centrally and at devolved levels within the University. The interim Report of the Steering Group including the appendices on current progress and the way forward in the eight identified areas was welcomed by Court. It was noted that the Report had been drafted within the context of the current financial position and the desire to reduce duplication of effort, increase efficiency and to consider issues of capacity. The approach proposed was approved noting that a further Report would be available in due course.
- 7 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE** **Paper C7**
- The current position in respect of taking forward the estate capital project programme was noted including the project approval process and the colour coding being adopted to signify project status. Court further approved all the recommendations as set out in the cover sheet.
- 8 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY BENEFACTORS** **Paper C8**
- 9 EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION** **Paper C9**

The revised EUSA Constitution was approved by Court, noting that it was the intention of EUSA to undertake a more rigorous revision and a further document would be presented to Court for approval in due course.

## **D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE**

- 1 ACADEMIC REPORT Paper D1**

Court noted the report from the Senatus Academicus of its meeting held on 17 February 2010 and electronic Senate conducted from 11-19 May 2010. Court further welcomed the re-election as Senate Assessors on Court of Professor David Finnegan and Professor Lesley Yellowlees both for a further four years until 31 July 2014.
- 2 URGENT RESOLUTION Paper D2**

Court unanimously approved the urgent Resolution:

Resolution No. 54/2010: Amendment of Examination and Assessment Regulations and Regulations for the Award of Degrees
- 3 RESOLUTIONS Paper D3**

Court approved the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 9/2010: Foundation of a Chair of Oncology  
Resolution No. 10/2010: Foundation of a Chair of Power Plant Engineering and Carbon Capture  
Resolution No. 11/2010: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Respiratory Medicine  
Resolution No. 12/2010: Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Cardiology  
Resolution No. 13/2010: Alteration of the Code of Student Discipline  
Resolution No. 14/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Social and Environmental Justice  
Resolution No. 15/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Modern German Studies  
Resolution No. 16/2010: Foundation of a Chair of Critical Care  
Resolution No. 17/2010: Alteration of the Chair of Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine
- 4 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS Paper D4**

Court approved the following draft Resolutions:

Draft Resolution No. 18/2010: Degree of Master of Mathematics  
Draft Resolution No. 51/2010: Degree of Doctor of Psychotherapy and Counselling  
Draft Resolution No. 52/2010: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations  
Draft Resolution No. 53/2010: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations

and requested their transmission to the General Council and Senatus Academicus for observations.
- 5 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE FOR LADY HARTWELL FUND Paper D5**

Court approved the proposed membership of a Sub-Committee for the Lady Hartwell Fund as set out in the paper including the Chairmanship of this Sub-Committee.
- 6 CONTRACT FOR WATER SERVICES Paper D6**

Court approved expenditure as set out in the paper and authorised the signing of the contract for water services.

**7 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

**Paper D7**

Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust between 1 February and 30 April 2010.

**8 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: PURCHASE OF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND** **Paper D8**

Court noted that the normal process would have been for such matters to have first been considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, however because of potential urgency this paper had been transmitted directly to Court. In the event, Court noted that the bid submitted by the University in respect of the identified property had been unsuccessful.

Court considered and approved the proposed changes to the remit of the Investment Committee within the Committee's terms of reference as set out in the paper.

**9 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.