

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Raeburn Room, Old College on Monday 21 February 2011.

Present: The Rector (in chair)
The Principal
Mr D A Connell
Professor A M Smyth
Mrs M Tait
Professor J Ansell
Professor D Finnegan
Professor L Yellowlees
Dr J Markland, Vice-Convenor
Professor J Barbour
Professor S Monro
Mr M Murray
Mr D Brook
Ms L Rawlings, 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 D Miell
Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill
Dr K Waldron, University Secretary
Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
Dr 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 Human Resources
Ms E Fraser, Deputy Director of Human Resources
Ms F Boyd, Principal's Policy and Executive Officer
Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services

Apologies: The Rt Hon G Grubb, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Dr M Aliotta
Mr P Budd
Ms A Richards
Ms G Stewart
Mr D Workman
Ms S Wise, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

The Court received a presentation from Assistant Principal Dr Sue Rigby on the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2010

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 20 December 2010 was approved as a correct record.

2 NOTE OF THE ELECTRONIC MEETING CONCLUDED ON 5 JANUARY 2011 Paper A2

The note of the electronic meeting concluded on 5 January 2011 was approved as a correct record.

3 GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSORS Paper A3

Court welcomed the re-appointment of Professor Ann Smyth to the position of General Council Assessor for a further term of office until 31 July 2015 and offered its congratulations to Mr Alan Johnston on his appointment as General Council Assessor with effect from 1 August 2011 until 31 July 2015.

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 successful visit to India, the launch of the University's India Office and the appointment of a very capable Head of India Liaison Office; the response to the Scottish Government's Green paper on higher education; consultation on immigration; the on-going achievements of the Carlyle Circle which now had more than 1,000 members; Professor Lesley Yellowlees' election as President of the Royal Society of Chemistry with effect from July 2012; and the successful Half-Yearly meeting of the General Council held on 12 February 2011.

2 VICE-PRINCIPAL DESIGNATIONS Paper B2

On the recommendation of the Principal, Court approved the following:

Vice-Principal Professor Nigel Brown to be appointed Vice-Principal with responsibility for Planning, Resources and Research Policy for a period of up to two years with effect from 1 August 2011: Professor Brown's current position as Head of the College of Science and Engineering to be advertised internally on the basis of a one, two or three year appointment with a start date of 1 August 2011.

Vice-Principal Professor Nigel Brown to be designated Senior Vice-Principal for an initial period of one year from a date to be mutually agreed.

Vice-Principal Professor Mary Bownes to work with Vice-Principal Mr Young Dawkins during a six month transitional period up to the 31 July 2011 and thereafter from the 1 August 2011 responsibility for Development to be added to Professor Bownes' current Vice-Principal portfolio.

Court further noted that following Vice-Principal Professor Ian Howard's announcement to retire from the Edinburgh College of Art with effect from 31 July 2011, a planning process had commenced to identify a new Head: this would be a joint recruitment process between the University and the Edinburgh College of Art.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Dr Markland presented the papers previously circulated.

Report from Central Management meeting of 26 January 2011

Paper C1.1

Court noted the report, welcoming the information on research funding support and strategy for the University and the work of the Staff Committee particularly the importance of continuing to take forward leadership development provision.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

Court noted the report, particularly the information on the actions being taken to enhance student feedback and confirmation of the satisfactory position of the subsidiary companies. The University's financial position after five months and the quarter 1 forecast were also commended by Court.

2 UNIVERSITY'S DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S GREEN PAPER **Paper C2**

Court noted and approved the proposed University response to the wide ranging Scottish Government Green paper on higher education and was content that the University's response focussed on chapter 6 of the Green paper which covered funding. It was anticipated that there would be further opportunities to comment on other areas within the Green paper. There was discussion on a range of matters arising including differential fee levels, the position with non-UK EU students, student support, graded contributions based on financial benefits attained and length of degree programmes and initial entry levels. Court further endorsed the tabled Universities Scotland's summary response to the Green paper.

3 THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART **Paper C3**

The current position in respect of the proposed merger with the Edinburgh College of Art was noted and that the Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI) had now been laid before the Scottish Parliament: the SSI would give effect to the merger following the Cabinet Secretary's support for the proposal. Court further noted the excellent work being taken forward in partnership by the two organisations while a final decision was awaited including events and communication announcements for various stakeholders and the identification of synergy and income generation/expansion opportunities.

4 CORPORATE HR RESTRUCTURING **Paper C4**

At its meeting on 20 December 2010, Court had approved proposals to restructure corporate HR and it was now content to accept and approve the recommendation of the Central Management Group on the requirement to establish a Redundancy Committee in terms of the University's current employment procedures. A number of successful actions had been taken and four out of the six potential redundancies had been avoided to date; efforts would continue to be undertaken including redeployment and retraining opportunities to identify alternative solutions to redundancy for the two remaining cases.

5 REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS – COURT COMMITTEES **Paper C5**

Court noted and welcomed the outcome of reviews undertaken to date by Court Committees. As a result of timing issues it had not been possible for all Court Committees to complete the review process and further reports would be presented to Court in due course.

6 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Paper C6

On the recommendations of the Nominations Committee the following appointments were approved:

Court

Dr Chris Masters and Mrs Elaine Noad to be appointed co-opted members of Court with effect from 1 September 2011 for three years.

Mr David Bentley, Dr Robert Black and Mr Les Matheson to be appointed co-opted members of Court with effect from 1 September 2012 for three years.

Audit Committee

Ms Anne Richards to be appointed Convener with effect from 1 September 2011 until 31 August 2013.

Mr Alan Trotter to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 December 2013.

Staff Committee

Mr Alan Gibson and Mr Alex Killick to be appointed with effect from 1 September 2011 until 31 August 2014.

Committee on University Benefactors

The Rt Hon Lord Provost George Grubb to be appointed with immediate effect until May 2012.

Nominations Committee

Professor Stuart Monro to be appointed with immediate effect.

The University Development Trust

Mr Richard Davidson to be appointed a member of The University Development Trust with effect from 1 June 2011 until 31 May 2014.

Court noted that the recruitment of external members of Court, Audit Committee and Staff Committee by means of an advertisement process had been very effective.

7 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE

Paper C7

The continuing progress in taking forward the agreed capital programme was noted and Court approved the various recommendations as set out in the coversheet including the revised terms of reference of the Estates Committee and approval of the main works contracts for the KB Library and Learning Resource Centre and the Main Library. It was further noted that the level of allowance on the action in respect of the Cramond Campus disposal had been increased to cover anticipated risk: the view on the strength of the University's position remained unchanged.

8 DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR THE ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR AND GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSORS

Paper C8

Court approved the commencement of the formal eight week consultation on the Draft Ordinance for the Election of Chancellor and General Council Assessors which had been prepared in accordance with the wishes of the General Council to allow electronic voting and improve the ability of the General Council to act expediently to develop election processes.

9 ORDINANCE FOR THE REGULATION OF FOUNDATIONS, MORTIFICATIONS, GIFTS, ENDOWMENTS AND BURSARIES, USE OF SURPLUS REVENUE AND ALTERATION OF ENDOWMENTS Paper C9

Court noted the outcome of the consultation process on the Ordinance for the Regulation of Foundations, Mortifications, Gifts, Endowments and Bursaries, Use of Surplus Revenue and Alteration of Endowments and approved the promulgation of the revised Ordinance to the Privy Council for formal approval.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 ACADEMIC REPORT Paper D1

Court noted the Senate report and the information on the very productive discussion at last meeting of Senate on academics for the 21st Century.

2 RESOLUTIONS Paper D2

Court approved the following Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 1/2011: Foundation of a Chair of Adult Respiratory Medicine
- Resolution No. 2/2011: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biological Physics
- Resolution No. 3/2011: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Mathematics of Information

Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill took no part in discussion on the item below.

3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST MANAGEMENT PLAN Paper D3

The plan to manage the potential conflict of interest between Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill's role as Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine and Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council was approved and welcomed by Court.

4 EXPEDITIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT Paper D4

Court noted and approved the report on expeditions undertaken during 2010.

5 INDIA LIAISON OFFICE BANK ACCOUNT Paper D5

Court approved the opening of a second account of the University of Edinburgh – India Liaison Office with the HDFC Bank Limited to be operated by the Director of the International Office and Mr S Sheth in accordance with the specific conditions on the mode of operation as set out in the paper.

6 CLYDESDALE BANK ACCOUNT Paper D6

Court approved the opening of a bank account with the Clydesdale Bank and authorised the Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Finance to take forward the necessary actions to implement this decision on behalf of Court.

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 December 2010 and 31 January

2011.

8 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.