

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

MINUTE OF A MEETING *of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Raeburn Room, Old College, on Monday 20 February 2012.*

Present: Rector (in chair)
 The Principal
 Sheriff Principal E Bowen
 Mr A Johnston
 Professor A M Smyth
 Mrs M Tait
 Dr M Aliotta
 Professor J Ansell
 Professor D Finnegan
 Professor A Harmar
 Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
 Professor J Barbour
 Dr C Masters
 Mr M Murray
 Mrs E Noad
 Ms A Richards
 Mr D Workman
 Mr D Brook
 Mr M McPherson, President Students' Representative Council
 Mr M Williamson, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

In attendance: Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor
 Senior Vice-Principal Professor N Brown
 Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
 Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
 Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
 Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
 Vice-Principal Professor D Hounsell
 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 K Hood, Head of Widening Participation
 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
 Mr P Budd

Court received a presentation on widening participation from Vice-Principal Professor Mary Bownes and Ms Kathleen Hood, Head of Widening Participation.

A FORMAL BUSINESS**1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2011****Paper A1**

The Minute of the meeting held on 12 December 2011 was approved as a correct

record.

Court further noted that this would be the last meeting attended by Mr Iain Macwhirter as Rector and Court warmly thanked Mr Macwhirter for his commitment and service to the University and wished him well for the future.

2 MINUTE OF MEETING OF COURT SUB-GROUP HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2012 Paper A2

The Minute of the meeting of the Court Sub-Group held on 26 January 2012 was noted and approved as a correct record.

3 STUDENT AND STAFF SOCIAL PROVISION AT KING'S BUILDINGS Paper A3

The outcome of a feasibility study for a new nursery to be located at King's Buildings was noted and welcomed by Court. It was further noted that this would be considered at the next meeting of the Estates Committee and thereafter reported to Court with the new facility anticipated to be opened at the end of 2013.

Court further considered the position on catering facilities for students and staff at King's Buildings provided by EUSA and by Accommodation Services. The proposals by Accommodation Services to provide new facilities was noted and that there would be a short gap between the closure of some current facilities and the opening of new facilities; EUSA confirmed that it would be pleased to monitor the position on behalf of Court. Court further noted that EUSA would be submitting requests for support from the University as part of this year's planning round to enable it to take forward proposals for its catering outlets at King's Buildings.

4 RECTORIAL ELECTION 2012 Paper A4

Court noted the Mr Peter McColl had been declared Rector with effect from 1 March 2012 following an uncontested election.

5 RECTOR'S ASSESSOR Paper A5

Court welcomed the appointment of Ms Sarah Beattie-Smith for a further term of office as Rector's Assessor with effect from 1 March 2012.

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 very successful visit to India; student application figures; the report on the governance review undertaken on behalf of the Scottish Ministers; Mr Gorringer's decision to demit office and the arrangements to recruit a new Director of Finance; the decision with respect to the Bongo Club; the outcome of the recent Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR); and various visits by senior UK and Scottish politicians.

2 DESIGNATION OF VICE-PRINCIPALS Paper B2

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

Vice-Principal External Engagement Professor Mary Bownes to be appointed Senior Vice-Principal with effect from a date yet to be determined later this year.

To commence an internal recruitment process in late Spring for the position of Vice-Principal Planning, Resources and Research Policy (0.5 FTE).

To commence an internal recruitment process in late Spring for the position of Vice-Principal Academic Enhancement. Court further approved the proposal to designate Professor Hounsell as an Honorary Fellow (0.2FTE) on his retiral to enable Professor Hounsell to continue his sterling work in supporting the student experience.

To amend when appropriate the authorised deputies in the absence of the Principal schedule as set out in the paper.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Professor Monro presented the papers previously circulated.

Report of the Central Management Group meetings of 25 January 2012

Paper C1.1

Court approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Health and Safety Committee as set out in the paper and welcomed the update on the shared academic timetabling project noting the process undertaken to mitigate risks by developing a timetabling policy prior to the implementation of a new shared timetabling system.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

Court ratified the tuition fee for nursing undergraduate training for RUK-domiciled students for 2012/2013 only which had been requested by the Scottish Government and endorsed the approach being taken in respect of the potential insurance liability as set out in the paper. Assurances were provided on the systems now in place to appropriately retain documents. It was welcomed that the US GAAP Accounts had been submitted according to timetable and Court thanked all those involved in ensuring that this had been achieved. Court further welcomed the purchase of an upgrade to the BlueGene computer and the ability of the University to act expeditiously on such funding opportunities.

2 REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE IN SCOTLAND **Paper C2**

The Rector declared an interest as he had been a member of the Panel which had prepared the report.

It was noted that the report prepared by the panel tasked with the review of higher education governance had now been published and that it set out a number of recommendations which were to be taken forward in discussion and consultation with the sector. The Rector delivered a statement to Court on the principles which had informed the discussions of the panel and the preparation of the report.

There were diverse opinions expressed on the various recommendations set out in the report. It was noted that while Court was already complying with a number of these recommendations, in respect of others, it would be helpful to enter into a constructive dialogue to better understand the underlying issues to enable an appropriate response. Court approved the appointment of a Sub-Group of Court, chaired by the Vice-Convener with the other members being: Dr Masters, Professor Smyth, Professor

Ansell, the EUSA President and the University Secretary to take this forward and to formulate a University position particularly giving consideration to the recommendation on a code of good governance. Court further agreed that the Sub-Group may wish to seek legal opinion on certain matters and that it should take cognisance of the views of Senate in respect of the recommendations relevant to the operations of Senate and to academic freedom.

3 NEW STRATEGIC PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT Paper C3

Court noted progress to date and that the first consultation phase had now been completed with comments on the structure of the new Strategic Plan having been received from across the University including through staff focus groups which had been particularly well received. There was discussion on the key points arising in respect of the strategic goals, enablers and strategic themes and Court was supportive of the proposed structure with certain previous themes now being embedded within the Plan. It was suggested that the structure table could perhaps be better laid out and that it would be more appropriate for the title of the engagement strategic theme to be ‘engagement with our community’. The timeline to take forward the development of the Strategic Plan was endorsed.

4 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE Paper C4

The various recommendations as set out in the paper were approved by Court including the level of expenditure on utilities as set out in appendix 3. Court noted the position and challenges in respect of the maintenance programme and fully endorsed the recommendation to reallocate funds of £1.3m to the major maintenance programme which had previously been put aside to settle the Cramond disposal dispute. Court further approved the proposals regarding the disposal of the Chapel Street property.

5 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH REGENTS Paper C5

Court welcomed the proposals to take forward the new themed fundraising approach which would be managed through existing processes within Development and Alumni and with the assistance of key individuals to be appointed as Regents. Court further was content to ratify the list of Regents on an annual basis and that the current members of the University’s Campaign Board and the University’s USA Development Trust should be invited to be Regents if they so wished.

6 ENHANCING STUDENT SUPPORT PROJECT Paper C6

The establishment of this Project and its principal areas of focus were fully endorsed by Court. In particular Court welcomed the new Personal Tutor scheme and the range of structures and measures which would be put in place to improve student support, parts of which would be implemented during the 2012/2013 academic year. Assurances were provided on the effective management of HR issues in taking forward the Personal Tutor scheme including where appropriate the involvement of the Staff Committee.

7 ANDREW GRANT SCHOLARSHIP FUND – UPDATE REPORT Paper C7

Court noted the current position in respect of taking forward the split of ECA endowment funds currently pooled within the Andrew Grant Scholarship Fund and was content to delegate progression of this matter, including confirming the split and the lodging of the appropriate documentation with OSCR, to the Director of Finance. Court further noted that this delegation was subject to any adjustments required as a

result of the work of external audit and that in particular there was an historical anomaly which had recently come to light which could impact on the value of the funds. Court further noted the revised administration arrangements in respect of the Andrew Grant Bequest.

8 REF CODE OF PRACTICE Paper C8

The transparent approach to taking forward equality and diversity considerations in dealing with selection of staff for the REF submission was welcomed by Court. The approval process for the Code of Practice was noted and Court approved the current version as set out in the paper and delegated to Senior Vice-Principal Professor Brown and the Director of HR authority to amend the Code in light of feedback from Hefce with the final Code being presented for ratification to the Court meeting on 2 July 2012.

9 DEACONESS HOUSE PROPOSAL Paper C9

Professor Barbour declared an interest as Chief Executive of NHS Lothian.

Court considered the potential investment opportunity as set out in the paper, noted that the Investment Committee was considering taking this forward as a strategic investment and that in accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee it could invest up to 10% of the total value of the endowment fund in property. Court further noted the proposal to discuss this as a possible investment opportunity for SBS with the Trustees of SBS and dependent on the outcome of discussions at the Investment Committee and by SBS Trustees there may be an opportunity to invest University funds up to a value of £12.5m.

Various issues and concerns were raised in regards to the proposal and Court asked, given the time constraints, that a Sub-Group of Court be convened to review the outcome of all aspects of the due diligence exercise and to consider this proposal further on its behalf. It was agreed that the Vice-Convenor of Court should chair this Sub-Group and that Dr Masters and Mr Paul should be the other members.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 ACADEMIC REPORT Paper D1

Court noted the report from the Senate meeting on 8 February 2012 and on the business conducted by the electronic Senate of 17-25 January 2012.

2 RESOLUTIONS Paper D2

Court approved the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 1/2012: Foundation of a Personal Chair of International Health and Molecular Medicine

Resolution No. 2/2012: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Politics and International Relations

Resolution No. 3/2012: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biopolitics

3 NAMING OF BUILDING Paper D3

Court approved the proposal to name the new King's Buildings Library the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library.

