

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in Room G.01, Veterinary Teaching Building, Easter Bush, on Monday 14 May 2012.

Present: Rector (in chair)
Mr A Johnston
Professor A M Smyth
Mrs M Tait
Dr M Aliotta
Professor J Ansell
Professor D Finnegan
Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
Mr P Budd
Mr M Murray
Ms A Richards
Mr D Workman
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
Professor D Argyle
Dr K Waldron, University Secretary
Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
Mr J Gorringe, Director of Finance
Ms S Gupta, Director of Human Resources
Mr J McAsh, President elect Students' Representative Council
Mr A Burnie, Vice-President elect, Students' Representative Council
Mr G Bell, Depute Director of Estates and Buildings
Ms R Smith, Senior Strategic Planner
Ms F Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations and Senior Executive Officer
Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services

Apologies: The Principal
Sheriff Principal E Bowen
Professor A Harmar
Professor J Barbour
Dr C Masters
Mrs E Noad
Mr D Brook
Mr M McPherson, President Students' Representative Council

Court received a presentation on the activities of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies from Professor David Argyle, Head of School.

A FORMAL BUSINESS**1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2012****Paper A1**

The Minute of the meeting held on 20 February 2012 was approved as a correct record.

The Vice-Convener of Court welcomed the Rector, Mr Peter McColl to this his first meeting of Court. Court noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by

Mr Mike Williamson EUSA Vice-President Academic Affairs and would have been the last meeting for Mr Matt McPherson, EUSA President. Court recorded its warmest thanks for their contributions to the work of Court and wished them good luck for the future.

Court further welcomed Mr James McAsh EUSA President elect and Mr Andrew Burnie EUSA Vice-President Academic Affairs elect who were in attendance at this meeting.

2 COURT SEMINAR – 26 MARCH 2012 Paper A2

Court approved the informal notes.

B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS Paper B1

Court noted the items in the report and in the Principal's absence the additional information from Senior Vice-Principal Professor Brown on: the appointment of a Director to take forward the new Office of the Americas situated in Sao Paulo; the developments with Peking University; the successful outcome of the UK-BA compliance visit; the current position on admission figures and media interest; assurances on the process undertaken by the University in respect of the Bongo Club and that further information would be circulated to members on this matter; and the EUSA Teaching Award event.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Comments on the Report of the Central Management Group

Paper C1.1

Court approved the Climate Action Plan 2012 and the Biodiversity Policy, noting the challenges in taking forward reductions in carbon emissions. Court further noted the position in respect of nursery provision and that information would be provided to the next meeting of Court on discussions at the Estates Committee on a new build on the King's Buildings site. The importance of effective communications with all those affected by these nursery provision developments was noted.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

The proposed changes to the SBS pension scheme to bring this into line with the provision within the USS pension scheme were approved by Court. Court further noted the current position in respect of the Holyrood development and approved the establishment of a Court Sub-Group as set out in the paper with delegated authority to approve a preferred bidder over the summer period. Court further approved the following membership of this Sub-Group: the Principal, Professor Monro, Professor Smyth and Mr Budd to be advised by the Director of Corporate Services and the Directors of Estates and Buildings and Finance. Court welcomed the details of the allocation of resources in 2012/2013, in particular the investment to take forward the Personal Tutor Scheme and support for the student experience. It was confirmed that the insurance claim had now been satisfactorily settled and Court homologated the tender acceptances to take forward the Flowave project.

2 STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016 Paper C2

Court considered in detail the current draft of the Strategic Plan 2012-2016 and noted

that there would be further discussion prior to the final Plan being presented to Court for approval at its meeting on 2 July 2012. It was noted that since this paper had been prepared the third strategic goal had now been amended to excellence in innovation and knowledge exchange.

There were a number of comments and suggestions on the content of the current draft in particular the need to be clearer on the actions and strategies which would be initiated to ensure that the aspirations within the Plan were achieved and also on confirmation that the University would continue to act in accordance with the existing ethical investment policy. It was noted that there would be a strategy to cover issues within the enabler on people, taken forward by the Staff Committee and setting out how the objectives within this section would be achieved. It was further noted that it was important the Plan remained relevant over the four year period and that challenges currently exercising the University were not all included as these were time limited in nature and would be taken forward within the annual planning processes. Also, issues and topics had been placed in the most appropriate part of the Plan in an effort to avoid duplication. The KPIs, as previously agreed confined to twelve, and the targets were still being carefully evaluated to ensure they were measurable and to test feasibility; further comments would be welcomed. It was further confirmed that this helpful discussion would be very informative in finalising the Strategic Plan.

3 REPORT FROM THE ESTATES COMMITTEE

Paper C3

Court approved the recommendations as set out in the paper and homologated the decision taken in respect of the tender for 50 George Square. Court in particular noted the movements between the approved capital project plan and the speculative priority plan and the resultant review underway of new priority projects. The progress on the final phase of the Library was welcomed as was progress on student and staff social provision at King's Buildings. There was discussion on the Edinburgh College of Art estate and on the information on the refurbishment of Paterson's Land for the Office of Life Long Learning and the issuing of a formal notice to quit to the Bongo Club. It was confirmed that the notice had been issued within the terms of the lease arrangement with the Bongo Club and that ten months' notice had been given rather than the required six months. Court noted the continuing assistance being provided to the Bongo Club to identify new premises.

4 REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Paper C4

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

Court

Ms Anne Richards' period of appointment to be extended to 31 July 2014.

Investment Committee

The current terms of office of Ms Maxine Cuffe, Mr Bill Hughes and Mr Alan McFarlane to be extended until 31 December 2015.

Library Committee

Mr George MacKenzie's period of appointment to be extended to 31 July 2013.

Curator of Patronage

Vice-Principal Professor Mary Bownes to be appointed with effect from the start of the 2012/2013 academic year until 31 July 2015.

Court further noted the views of the Nominations Committee on the remuneration of

Trustees of the SBS pension scheme and members of Court.

5 REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE Paper C5

Court noted the draft Minute of the Audit Committee meeting held on 1 March 2012 and welcomed the support for the External Audit Highlights Memorandum being in future also circulated to Court. Court further noted the impact on the work of the Audit Committee of the increase in the volume and the complexity of University activities.

6 REPORT FROM KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE Paper C6

Court noted the report, in particular the outcome of the effectiveness review and the position on meeting the funding requirements as a result of the increased demand for library materials.

7 GOVERNANCE REVIEW – REPORT OF SUB-GROUP Paper C7

It had previously been agreed to establish a representative Sub-Group of Court to consider in detail the report on the Review of Higher Education Governance in Scotland. Court discussed the outcome of the deliberations of this Sub-Group noting that Senate at its meeting on 6 June 2012 would also be considering the report of the Review in particular those recommendations regarding Senate membership and academic freedom.

There was specific discussion on a number of the recommendations in the report on the Review and on the position on these as stated in the Sub-Group paper. In particular: remuneration of Court members; union representatives on Court; student representatives on Court; gender balance; and the appointment process and remuneration of the Principal. In respect of the discussion on remuneration of Court members, Court wished to actively ensure that there were no barriers to individuals wishing to be considered for membership of Court and asked that the Sub-Group paper be amended to reflect this position. Court further asked that the Sub-Group paper be amended to make reference to the University's continuing support of there being alumni representatives on Court. While recognising the current arrangements for engagement with union colleagues there was a minority view that there should be designated union representatives on Court.

Subject to the above two amendments, Court was content to approve the Sub-Group paper. Court further confirmed its support of implementing those recommendations within the report on the Review as set out in the summary of the Sub-Group paper.

8 EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART - UPDATE Paper C8

Court welcomed the report of the SFC on its monitoring visit to the University to discuss progress on the merger and noted, as agreed, that the University would be undertaking its own review in September 2012. There was discussion on the University's review and it was agreed that it would be helpful to seek comments from the outgoing ECA Student President and to ensure that a wide body of students and staff were involved in the process. The proposals in respect of the ECA Awards and Bequests Committee were approved subject to the inclusion of an external member on the Committee.

9 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Paper C9

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Paper D1

Court approved the following draft Resolutions:

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| Draft Resolution No. 16/2012: | Degree of Master of Surgery (Urology) |
| Draft Resolution No. 17/2012: | Degree of Master of Surgery (Trauma and Orthopaedics) |
| Draft Resolution No. 18/2012: | Master of Veterinary Sciences |
| Draft Resolution No. 19/2012: | Postgraduate Studies and Research |
| Draft Resolution No. 20/2012: | Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations |
| Draft Resolution No. 21/2012: | Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations |
| Draft Resolution No. 22/2012: | Higher Degree Regulations |

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

2 RESOLUTIONS

Paper D2

Court approved the following Resolutions:

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|------------------------|--|
| Resolution No. 4/2012: | Foundation of a Personal Chair of e-Science |
| Resolution No. 5/2012: | Foundation of a Personal Chair of Database Systems |
| Resolution No. 6/2012: | Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computation Theory |
| Resolution No. 7/2012: | Foundation of a Chair of Economics |

3 QUALITY REPORT: REPORT OF THE 2011 ENHANCEMENT-LED INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW; SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL UPDATE ON QUALITY ARRANGEMENTS

Paper D3

Court welcomed the 2011 Enhancement-Led Institutional Review Report and congratulated Assistant Principal Dr Harrison on the successful outcome. Court further noted the revised SFC requirements in respect of the Court's statement of assurance on the University's arrangements and management of the quality of learning provision.

4 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Paper D4

Court approved the following banking matters:

Royal Bank of Scotland

After due consideration of all the circumstances and on being satisfied that it is for the benefit of the University and in the interests of the University for the purpose of carrying on its business to enter into a supplemental agreement (the 'Supplemental Agreement') in the form now produced in respect of the loan of up to a maximum principal amount of £16,600,000 made available to the University Court by The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (the 'Bank') in terms of the Agreement between the University Court and the Bank dated 20 and 25 July 2005 as amended.

Svenska Handelsbanken

The opening of a call account in the name of the University of Edinburgh.

Barclays

The opening of a call account in the name of the University of Edinburgh.

Court further authorised the University Secretary and the Director of Finance to sign all the required paperwork to action the approval of all the above banking arrangements.

5 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES Paper C6

Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified, received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust between 11 February and 13 April 2012.

6 PURCHASE OF RESEARCH CONSUMABLES Paper C7

Court approved the purchase of research consumables as set out in the paper.

7 COURT MEETINGS 2012/2013 Paper C8

The dates and venues of Court meetings, seminars and the Court induction event in 2012/2013 were noted.

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.