

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Studio, Centre for Sport and Exercise, on Tuesday 11 September 2012.

- Present:**
- Rector (in chair)
 - The Principal
 - Mr A Johnston
 - Professor A M Smyth
 - Mrs M Tait
 - Professor J Ansell
 - Professor D Finnegan
 - Professor A Harmar
 - Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
 - Mr D Bentley
 - Dr R Black
 - Dr C Masters
 - Mr L Matheson
 - Mr D Brook
 - Mr J McAsh, President Students' Representative Council
 - Mr A Burnie, Vice-President Students' Representative Council
- In attendance:**
- Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor
 - Senior Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
 - Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
 - Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
 - Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
 - Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
 - Assistant Principal Dr T Harrison
 - Dr K Waldron, University Secretary
 - Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
 - Dr I Conn, Director Communications and Marketing
 - Dr A Cornish, Deputy University Secretary and Director of Planning
 - Mr A Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings
 - Ms S Gupta, Director of Human Resources
 - Mr P McNaull, Director of Finance
 - Ms F Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations and Senior Executive Officer
 - Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services
- Apologies:**
- Sheriff Principal E Bowen
 - Dr M Aliotta
 - The Rt Hon D Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
 - Mr P Budd
 - Mrs E Noad
 - Ms A Richards

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2012

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 2 July was approved as a correct record.

Court welcomed Mr David Bentley, Dr Robert Black who had been in attendance at the last meeting of Court and Mr Les Matheson to their first meeting as members of Court. It was further noted the Senior Vice-Principal Professor Mary Bownes was attending this meeting of Court in her new capacity and that this was the first meeting of Court that Mr Phil McNaull had attended.

2 MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE COURT SUB-GROUP HELD ON 20 JULY 2012 Paper A2

The Minute of the meeting of the Court Sub-Group held on 20 July 2012 was noted and approved as a correct record.

B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS Paper B1

Court noted the items within the Principal's report and the additional information on: continuing issues with UKBA and the actions being proposed to ensure compliance; student accommodation provision; the success of the new bursary scheme for RUK-domiciled students and admission figures; the excellent Freshers' week programme of events; the £250m record level of research grant awards secured in 2011/2012; the outstanding Olympic results achieved by sportsmen and sportswomen linked to the University; the opportunities being generated for young scientists by the Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics; the University's successful involvement in the various Edinburgh Festivals; and continuing strong links with China noting in particular the partnership with Peking University and the concerts events. The Principal further intimated that Dr Kim Waldron, University Secretary had tendered her resignation and that a recruitment process would commence shortly.

In respect of recent UKBA issues in England, assurances were provided on the warm welcome that international students received at this University and that consideration would be given to issues around fee levels over the course of study. The EUSA President intimated the intention to deliver a petition from the student body regarding support for international students.

Court welcomed the proposal to introduce a report from the EUSA President at future Court meetings similar in manner to the Principal's communications noting that this was current practice at other institutions. There was also further discussion on issues around accommodation provision for first year undergraduate students and the actions being taken by accommodation services to address the current difficulties being experienced by a small number of students.

2 DESIGNATION OF VICE-PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Paper B2

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

Mr Nigel Paul to be designated Vice-Principal with immediate effect.

Professor Susan Deacon to be appointed Assistant Principal, Corporate Engagement and Professorial Fellow with effect from 1 September 2012 both for an initial period of three years.

Vice-Principal Dr Sue Rigby's role as Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching to be extended from 0.5 FTE to 0.8 FTE.

Mr Alan MacKay to be appointed Deputy Vice-Principal, International with immediate effect.

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 20 June, 6 July and 22 August 2012 **Paper C1.1**

Court noted the actions being proposed in respect of IT Security issues and UKBA compliance. It was confirmed that monitoring arrangements would be put in place in respect of the internal approach being taken forward for UKBA compliance. Court further noted and welcomed the activities of the Space Management Group to improve space utilisation and the positive impact of the shared academic timetabling project.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

The University's strong position as demonstrated by the 12 month report on research and commercialisation activities was welcomed by Court and all those involved in achieving these results were congratulated; the record number and value of awards secured was commended. Court noted the report from the Investment Committee, welcomed the changes to the investment portfolio and asked that further consideration be given to the current short-term investment banking arrangements. The rapid progress with the Deaconess House development was also welcomed.

2 OUTCOME AGREEMENT WITH SFC FOR 2012-2013

Paper C2

Court noted that this document had been developed through negotiation with the Scottish Funding Council and where possible had been aligned with the University's new Strategy Plan; the SFC was content with the document. Consideration was currently being given to reporting arrangements to Court of the targets within this document and the Strategic Plan to dovetail the process. It was further noted that the SFC was currently reviewing its procedures to improve the development of future outcome agreements and it was anticipated that the process to prepare the 2013/2014 agreement would commence shortly. It was confirmed that there would be consultation with EUSA in taking this forward as had been the case in finalising the 2012-2013 Outcome Agreement. Court approved the Outcome Agreement 2012-2013 noting that the University required to have this document in place in order to secure funding from the SFC for 2012/2013.

3 RUK FEES SETTING 2013/2014

Paper C3

It was noted that in September 2011 Court had set a single fee level for RUK-domiciled applicants for 2012/2013 with an associated very generous bursary scheme based on the information available as a consequence of Scottish Government changes to funding arrangements. The University had closely monitored the level of applications and the paper confirmed that for 2012/2013 entry, RUK – domiciled applications were slightly higher than the previous year with the quality of applicants remaining very high; the uptake level of the RUK-domiciled student bursary to date was very encouraging with over two fifths of RUK bursary recipients receiving the highest level of award.

The Court considered various issues including possible improvements to the current bursary scheme and the desire to advance equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination taking full cognisance of the outcome of the equality impact assessment and the University's obligations to consider such matters in reaching decisions of this nature. Court reaffirmed its position that the University should set RUK fees of £9,000 for 2013-2014 and that new entrants and continuing students from 2012 – 2013 should be offered RUK bursaries as per the RUK bursary scheme set up in 2012-2013; the President and Vice-President of EUSA wished recorded their dissent to the setting of RUK fees at £9,000.

4 EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART, ANDREW GRANT SCHOLARSHIP FUND – UPDATE Paper C4

Court noted that the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) had approved the amendment of the constitution and of the name of the Edinburgh College of Art, Andrew Grant Scholarship Fund. Court fully confirmed its approval of: the change in the constitution and that going forward the constitution of the charity would be as set out, and in accordance with, article 8 of the Edinburgh College of Art (Transfer) (Scotland) Order 2011; that the name of the charity should be altered to the Andrew Grant Bequest; and that the amendment of the constitution and the name change should be with effect from 31 July 2012.

5 UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW STATEMENT TO THE SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL Paper C5

The Annual Institutional Statement of Internal Subject Review Activity 2011/2012 to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) was welcomed and fully endorsed by Court. Court noted and was assured by the satisfactory outcome of the reviews carried out in academic and student services areas and that the matters identified for improvement were all being addressed. The positive outcome of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies review visits to specific areas provided further assurances to Court.

Court further noted that the SFC had issued revised guidance for internal reviews carried out from August 2012 which included a new assurance statement to be endorsed by institution's governing bodies.

6 FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN ADDRESSING FEEDBACK SCORES IN NSS Paper C6

Court noted the analysis of the results of the National Student Survey over a five year period up to and including 2012 focussing on overall satisfaction and feedback and assessment which confirmed the results in both areas were static or nearly static although significant effort had been undertaken to enhance and improve feedback and assessment. Court was very supportive of the proposed actions for 2012/2013 including internal surveys to better understand students' requirements and a robust appropriate communications strategy.

7 INSTITUTE OF GENETICS AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE (IGMM), WESTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL Paper C7

Court noted that following the merger between the MRC Human Genetics Unit and the University with effect from 1 October 2011 there had been discussion to rationalise and develop the current estate to create an appropriate facility for the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine (IGMM) on the Western General site. Court approved the proposals as set out in the paper in respect of entering into a 60 year lease and authorised the University's lawyer in liaison with the Director of Estates and Buildings to conclude the missives prior to the lease being signed in accordance with current University practice and further approved the proposals in respect of the construction of the Systems Medicine Building.

8 ECA REVIEW – UPDATE

Court welcomed the progress to date in taking forward the review of the merger between the Edinburgh College of Art and the University. The working group established by Court had now held meetings with a wide-range of stakeholders and the report on the findings of the working group would be available shortly. Overall it

was noted that the merger process, which was still on-going, had been well managed, there were however lessons to be learnt and challenges still remained particularly around estate issues.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 DRAFT RESOLUTION

Paper D1

Court approved the following draft Resolution:

Draft Resolution No. 69/2012: Institution of new postgraduate Degree:
Doctor of Clinical Psychology by Research

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

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Paper D2

Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified, received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust between 25 June and 28 August 2012.

3 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.