

**MINUTE OF A MEETING** of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Lecture Theatre, Royal Observatory, Blackford Hill, Edinburgh on Monday 5 November 2012.

**Present:** Rector (in chair)  
The Principal  
Sheriff Principal E Bowen  
Mr A Johnston  
Mrs M Tait  
Dr M Aliotta  
Professor J Ansell  
Professor D Finnegan  
Professor A Harmar  
Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener  
Mr D Bentley  
Dr R Black  
Dr C Masters  
Mrs E Noad  
Ms A Richards  
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 D Hounsell  
Vice-Principal J Seckl  
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees  
Professor J Peacock  
Dr K Waldron, University Secretary  
Vice-Principal 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  
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:** Professor A M Smyth  
The Rt Hon D Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh  
Mr P Budd  
Mr L Matheson  
Mr D Brook

Court received a presentation from Professor John Peacock, Head of the Institute of Astronomy on 'The Royal Observatory and Astronomy in the University of Edinburgh'.

## **A FORMAL BUSINESS**

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|----------|---|-----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2012</b>                                | <b>Paper A1</b> |
|          | The Minute of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 was approved as a correct record. |                 |
| <b>2</b> | <b>NOTE OF THE SEMINAR HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2012</b>                                  | <b>Paper A2</b> |

The informal note of the Seminar held on 11 September 2012 was 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: the assistance provided by the International Office in supporting international students obtain visas to study at the University and the on-going process to ensure that the University meets UKBA requirements; the successful visit by the Principal and Director of Development & Alumni to New York, Washington and Toronto and the fundraising meeting with the US Development Trust; the encouraging registration of interest in attending open days for 2013/2014 entry and the student recruitment figures for 2012/2013; the actions being taken in respect of the widening participation agenda; the current position on pay negotiations and possible union action; the progress in taking forward the 2013/2014 outcome agreement with the SFC; and that information on the outcome of the ECA review would be presented to the next meeting of Court.

## **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 10 October 2012

**Paper C1.1**

Court approved, in principle, the Equality Impact Assessment Policy Statement subject to further consultation and finalisation and approved the amendments to coversheets of papers presented to Court, Senate and Committees in light of this Statement. Court further commended the excellent work of EUSA in taking forward volunteering opportunities and for participation in the Edinburgh Students' Charities Appeal.

#### Report on Other Items

**Paper C1.2**

The revised Investment Strategy was approved by Court and the proposals in respect of automatic pension enrolment were endorsed. There was discussion on the level of reserves being held by Colleges and Support Groups and Court welcomed the actions being taken to appropriately phase the utilisation of these funds through future planning rounds. The other items in the report were noted including the review of the remit of the post review group.

### **2 EUSA PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Paper C2**

Court welcomed this first Student President's Report and noted the items and the additional information on: recent EUSA referenda and by-election results; the well-received training offered to student class representatives; the extension of volunteering opportunities to staff; various current student campaign activities and national actions; and security issues raised as a result of a recent guest speaker. Court welcomed the actions being taken to work with the University Chaplaincy to create a mediation process to assist in preventing a reoccurrence of this type of incident and the intention of EUSA to develop protocol/ guidance in respect of guest speakers at student organised events. Court was assured of the appropriate actions taken by University security staff and on the agreed procedures for handling such incidents. It was further confirmed that the Fees Strategy Group was considering the level of fees paid by international undergraduate students during the course of their programme of study to provide students with more certainty on total tuition fee costs.

**3 STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP WITH HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY Paper C3**

As a result of approval of previous proposals further discussions had taken place between Senior Officers from Heriot-Watt University and this University and the attached Strategic Alliance had been drafted for consideration by the Court of both Institutions. Court welcomed and approved the proposed Strategic Alliance between Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh which formalised the already close relationship and working arrangements between the two institutions which included proposed joint submissions to REF2014. Going forward the Alliance would offer further liaison opportunities in a range of teaching, academic, student and support areas and promote dialogue between staff. The Court of Heriot-Watt University would be considering the proposal at its meeting on 12 November 2012 and if it also approved the Alliance a joint statement would then be issued. It was noted that the Alliance was for an initial period of three years with the intention of annual progress reports to be prepared for both institutions based on a set of agreed performance indicators.

**4 DRAFT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT Paper C4**

Court considered the draft Statement and noted the revisions from that approved for the 2010/2011 Accounts. It was further noted that the information in the Statement reflected the governance arrangements operating during 2011/2012 and it was agreed that it would be helpful for the Nominations Committee to consider future membership of Committees and other related issues in the context of the current review of governance within the sector being undertaken at the behest of the Scottish Government. It was suggested that further consideration should be given to the information on the General Council within the Statement and that the number of lay members of Court and a reference to the Rector's Assessor should also be included. Court noted that an amended Statement would be included in the Reports and Financial Statements 2011/2012 presented to the next meeting of Court.

**5 WIDENING PARTICIPATION - UPDATE Paper C5**

The additional funding being made available in 2013/2014 by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to recruit and retain students from the most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland was noted and the University's current approach to increase the number of students from under-represented groups as set out in the 2012/2013 Outcome Agreement with the SFC. Court was supportive of the proposals to further increase financial and academic support to Scottish students through access and accommodation bursaries and a range of other initiatives including support prior to arrival at the University. It was noted that further costed information would be presented to a future meeting.

**6 PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING FEEDBACK SCORES IN NSS Paper C6**

The work being progressed within the specifically identified areas/work strands as previously reported to Court was noted. There was particular discussion on the actions being taken to better understand students' views on feedback, on the University commissioning external assistance, on obtaining benchmarking information, and on sharing good practice across the University. Court welcomed the intention for update reports to be routinely provided at future meetings.

**7 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE Paper C7**

The various recommendations as set out in the paper were approved by Court. In particular the adjustments to the funding for the approved programme in respect of the Deaconess House development was noted and for the McEwan Hall. The consultation undertaken in respect of the proposed nursery provision at King's Buildings was also noted. Court welcomed progress on taking forward the 2025 estates study and the

opportunities around the potential acquisition of Murchison House.

**8 REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE Paper C8**

Court noted the draft Minute of the last meeting of the Audit Committee. In particular the tendering exercise underway to identify external audit provision for the 2013/2014 accounts onwards, and the discussions around IT security and the Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy were noted.

**9 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Paper C9**

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

Membership of Committees

*Audit Committee*

Ms Anne Richards' term of office and Convenership to be extended until 31 July 2014.

*Finance and General Purposes Committee*

Dr Marialuisa Aliotta's term of office to be extended by three years until 31 July 2016.

*Knowledge Strategy Committee*

Professor Stuart Monro's term of office to be extended by one year until 31 July 2014.

Professor Ann Smyth's term of office to be extended by two years until 31 July 2015.

*Nominations Committee*

Mr Alan Johnston to be appointed from 1 August 2013 for two years until 31 July 2015.

*Remuneration Committee*

Ms Anne Richards' term of office to be extended by one year until 31 July 2014.

*Library Committee*

Professor David Finnegan's term of office to be extended by one year until 31 July 2014.

Vice-Principal Dr Sue Rigby to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 July 2015.

*University Collections Advisory Committee*

Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen to be appointed from 1 August 2013 for two years until 31 July 2015.

Curators of Patronage

Vice-Principal Professor Seckl to be appointed a Curator of Patronage with effect from 1 September 2013 until 31 July 2016.

Dr Margaret Stewart Bequest

Dr Magdalena Midgley to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 July 2014.

Dr Robert Black to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 July 2015.

**10 ANNUAL ENHANCEMENT REPORT FOR COURT Paper C10**

This second Annual Enhancement Report was welcomed by Court and the detailed information it contained on the four areas of employability, assessment and feedback, student guidance and support, and enhancement infrastructure within the context of the University's approved Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Strategy. Court commended in particular the positive impact of the Institute of Academic Development and the initiatives to promote and recognise excellence in teaching.

**11 SUPPORT FOR COURT MEMBERS AND THE OPERATION OF COURT: OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH COURT MEMBERS OVER THE SUMMER Paper C11**

Court noted the paper and that several specific operational observations will be taken forward by the Court secretariat.

**D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE**

**1 ACADEMIC REPORT Paper D1**

Court noted the report from the Senate meeting and on the business conducted by the electronic Senate.

**2 DRAFT RESOLUTION Paper D2**

Court approved the following draft Resolution:

Draft Resolution No. 1/2013: Degree of Master of Divinity

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

**3 RESOLUTIONS Paper D3**

Court approved the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 59/2012:	Foundation of a Chair of History of Art
Resolution No. 60/2012:	Foundation of a Chair of Geochemistry
Resolution No. 61/2012:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Child Protection
Resolution No. 62/2012:	Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Children's Social Inclusion
Resolution No. 63/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Strategy
Resolution No. 64/2012:	Foundation of a NES Personal Chair of Clinical Ophthalmology
Resolution No. 65/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Chromatin Biology
Resolution No. 66/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Political Science
Resolution No. 67/2012:	Foundation of a Higgs Chair of Theoretical Physics
Resolution No. 68/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Health and Social Science
Resolution No. 70/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Theoretical Astrophysics
Resolution No. 71/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Sociology and Social Statistics
Resolution No. 72/2012:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Molecular Haematology

**4 REPORT FROM INVESTMENT COMMITTEE Paper D4**

Court approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Investment Committee with immediate effect.

**5 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND Paper D5**

Court approved the changes requested to the Deposit Account Authorisation for the

fund manager's approved banks and delegated authority to the Director of Finance to take forward the arrangements to implement these agreed changes.

**6 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

**Paper D6**

Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified received by the University of Edinburgh, Development Trust between 28 August and 19 October 2012.

**7 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.