

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Raeburn Room, Old College, on Monday 18 February 2013.

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 S Monro, Vice-Convener
Mr D Bentley
Dr R Black
Mr P Budd
Dr C Masters
Ms A Richards
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 C Jeffery
Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
Vice-Principal Professor J Seckl
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
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
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: The Rt Hon D Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Professor A Harmar
Mr L Matheson
Mrs E Noad

Court received a presentation from Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl on REF2014 readiness.

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2012

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 10 December 2012 was approved as a correct record.

Court noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by Dr Kim Waldron, University Secretary and Dr Alexis Cornish, Director of Planning and Deputy University Secretary. Members thanked them warmly for their commitment to the University and wished them well for the future.

In respect of item 11 of the Minute on equality and diversity issues and support for actions around gender equality, assurances were provided to Court on the actions being pursued which included continuing consideration by the Remuneration Committee. It was also confirmed that funding to take forward the research proposal was available from within existing resources; funding for initiatives in future years would be sought through the planning process.

2 MINUTE OF MEETING OF COURT SUB-GROUP HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2013 Paper A2

The Minute of the meeting of the Court Sub-Group held on 22 January 2013 was approved.

3 GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSOR Paper A3

Court noted the outcome of the process to elect a new General Council Assessor and welcomed the appointment of Ms Doreen Davidson from 1 August 2013 until 31 July 2017.

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 and the various events including the symposium around the Higgs boson; the level of student applications for 2013/2014; the Chancellor's visits to the University and hosting of dinner in support of scholarships and bursaries; the Principal's signatory to a letter from Russell Group Universities on EU research funding; the continuing success of the University's Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with to date over 300,000 enrolled on the six current courses; and the TEDx event on 'Global Challenges, Grounded Solutions' being hosted by EUSA and the University. There was discussion on other items particularly around the Post-16 Education Bill and the development of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance; the launch of the Office of the Americas in Sao Paulo and partnership opportunities in Central and South America and other countries such as South Korea; and interactions with UKBA.

2 DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Paper B2

Court approved the proposal that Professor Jeremy Bradshaw be designated Assistant Principal Research Development with immediate effect until 31 July 2016.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Report of the Central Management Group meeting of 23 January 2013

Paper C1.1

Court noted in particular the review of the Contribution Reward Policy and was supportive of the proposed changes to budget allocations. It was confirmed that the two year trial voucher scheme which had the endorsement of union colleagues was in addition to the current increment and lump sum rewards and was being introduced to

enable quick recognition for exceptional effort. Court further welcomed and endorsed the University Policy on Auto Enrolment in order to comply with legislation in respect of pension provision and endorsed the proposal to seek approval to amend the name of the Reguis Chair of Forensic Medicine. The Health and Safety report highlighted issues on the traffic and pedestrian interface next to the Informatics Forum and Court was assured of the University's active engagement with the City of Edinburgh Council to address this matter.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

Court approved the establishment of a Sub-Group to consider the request from the SBS pension scheme Trustees and appointed Sherriff Principal Bowen to act as Convener of the Sub-Group with the other two members being Mr Bentley and Dr Masters. The other items in the report were noted.

2 EUSA PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS

Paper C2

Court noted the items within the EUSA President's report and the additional information on: the staff changes at EUSA and the appointment of three new lay Trustees; progress in taking forward this year's Teaching Awards and the methods used to identify recipients; ethical investment issues and the rationale for the particular disinvestment areas proposed; the process to elect the Chancellor; concern regarding the costs associated with various degree programmes; quorate results for the various questions posed in the latest student referendum; and the guidance for societies holding events which was welcomed by Court.

There was particular discussion on the item on the election of the Chancellor: the accuracy of the statement in the report was robustly challenged by General Council representatives and there was disappointment on the breach of etiquette arising from EUSA's position on this matter. The commitment of the Chancellor to the work of the University and her assistance on various matters was most welcomed and appreciated by the University and by Court.

Post meeting note - The following revision was agreed to the item on the election of the Chancellor within the above report:

First paragraph, delete second sentence and replace with the following:

'Since then, I have met with General Council Officers who are very open to take into consideration some parts of the Policy Document which apply to the processes and procedures for future elections of a Chancellor; and any changes would not in any case apply to the current incumbent.'

3 2013-14 DRAFT OUTCOME AGREEMENT WITH SFC

Paper C3

Court welcomed the revised format of the Outcome Agreement which would assist in reviewing and preparation of future documents and thanked all those involved in taking forward the preparation of this Agreement and participating in meetings with the representatives of the Scottish Funding Council. It was noted that further changes were required to the appendices before the document was finalised. Court approved the document including the further amendments.

4 FINANCE STRATEGY

Paper C4

The update of the Finance Strategy to reflect the now approved Strategic Plan 2012-2016 was welcomed and the revised format. There was particular debate on the section on financial sustainability and the target surplus levels with the suggestion that it may be helpful to state a minimum level as well as a target depending on the risk appetite of

the institution. Court approved the Finance Strategy subject to further consideration of surplus levels following consideration of information on other peer institutions.

5 WIDENING PARTICIPATION - UPDATE Paper C5

It was noted that all applications for undergraduate entry in 2013/2014 had now been received and that effort was now being directed towards conversion rates. Court welcomed the broad approach to the widening participation agenda and noted the range of activities being undertaken including outreach events and the promotion of the various available bursaries.

6 STUDENT EXPERIENCE - UPDATE Paper C6

Court noted the update and in particular that analysis of the outcomes of the internal surveys and the external audit work currently underway would provide focussed information and enable further appropriate actions to be identified. The continuing work to share good practice across the University, activities around effect communications and the development of learning and teaching enhancement strategies were also noted. There were likely to be some cost implications going forward and Court noted that these would be appropriately managed.

7 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES Paper C7

Court warmly approved the proposals, noting the risk analysis and the opportunities to undertake remedial actions if required. Details of these proposals would be included in the information published for 2014/2015 international fee rates.

8 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE Paper C8

The various recommendations as set out in the paper were approved by Court including the revision to the terms of reference of the Committee and the request to proceed with a stage two proposal in respect of the Scottish Funding Council's University Carbon Reduction Programme. The planned expenditure associated with the revised Group Estate Development Programme, the list of next priority projects and the progress in taking forward the 2025 estates vision study were also noted.

9 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Paper C9

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

Membership of Committees

Risk Management Committee

Dr Robert Black to be appointed from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2015.

University Research Ethics Committee

Professor Stuart Monro's term of appointment to be extended until 31 July 2014.

SBS Trustees

Dr Robert Black to be appointed from 1 April 2013 until 31 July 2015.

Non-Teaching Staff Elections

Mrs Janet Philp, Vice-Principal Professor Jeff Haywood and Ms Sheila Gupta to be appointed members of the Scrutinising Committee.

Court further endorsed the view that there should be a cautious approach in taking forward amendments to the current governance arrangements pending the outcome of the development of a Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and the

passage of the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill.

10 DEACONESS HOUSE DEVELOPMENT Paper C10

Court noted the current position in respect of the Deaconess House development and as previously agreed noted the acquisition by the University of GDL to be renamed UoE Deaconess Ltd: a new subsidiary company of the University. Court further approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and UoE Deaconess Ltd.

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.

Post meeting note: Court subsequently approved on 29 March 2013, by correspondence, the final version of the University's year-on response on actions being taken to address the recommendations to the 2011 Enhancement-Led Institutional Review: reference to the initial draft of this report had been included in the Academic Report to Court. This final endorsed report has been submitted to the Quality Assurance Agency and the Scottish Funding Council.

2 GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND THE UNIVERSITY Paper D2

Court approved and welcomed this helpful document.

3 RESOLUTIONS Paper D3

Court approved the following Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 1/2013: Degree of Master of Divinity
- Resolution No. 2/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Accountancy and Popular Culture
- Resolution No. 3/2013: Foundation of a Personal Senior Research Chair of Automated Reason
- Resolution No. 4/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Government
- Resolution No. 5/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of RNA and Gene Expression
- Resolution No. 6/2013: Alteration of the title of the Anne Rowling Chair of Tissue Regeneration
- Resolution No. 7/2013: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Dental Primary Care
- Resolution No. 8/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of European Politics
- Resolution No. 9/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Clinical Pathology
- Resolution No. 10/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Genetic Endocrinology
- Resolution No. 11/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Gene Regulation and RNA Biology
- Resolution No. 12/2013: Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Electrical Generation Systems
- Resolution No. 13/2013: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Translational Imaging
- Resolution No. 14/2013: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Livestock Immunology
- Resolution No. 15/2013: Foundation of an Arup Personal Chair of Structure and

Fire
Resolution No. 16/2013: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Synthetic Biological
Engineering

4 REPORT FROM EXPEDITIONS COMMITTEE Paper D4

Court noted the report and asked that consideration be given to additional visual information being included in future reports.

5 ESTATE OF SYLVIA HYDE Paper D5

Court approved the proposals and authorised the Development Trust to take the required actions to execute the Deed of Variation.

6 UNIVERSITY REGENTS Paper D6

Court noted the on-going list of University Regents and approved the appointment of the following three new University Regents:

Mr Crawford W Beveridge CBE
Dr Alan Brown
Dr George Gunn

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 29 November 2012 and 31 January 2013.

8 COURT MEETINGS 2013/2014 Paper D8

Court noted the schedule of meeting dates for the academic year 2013/2014.

9 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.