

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Raeburn Room, Old College, on Monday 13 May 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 A Harmar
Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
Mr D Bentley
Dr R Black
Mr P Budd
Mr L Matheson
Mrs E Noad
Ms A Richards
Mr J McAsh, President Students' Representative Council
Mr A Burnie, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

In attendance: Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery
Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
Vice-Principal Professor J Seckl
Vice-Principal Professor L Yellowlees
University Secretary, Ms S Smith
Vice-Principal Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
Dr I Conn, Director Communications and Marketing
Mr A Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings
Ms S Gupta, Director of Human Resources
Mr P McNaull, Director of Finance
Mrs T Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning
Mr H Murdoch, President elect Students' Representative Council
Ms K Haigh, Vice-President elect Students' Representative Council
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
Dr C Masters
Mr D Brook
Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor

Court received a presentation from Vice-Principal Professor Jeff Haywood on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

A FORMAL BUSINESS

The Minute of the meeting held on 18 February 2013 was approved as a correct record.

Court noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by Mr James McAsh, President Students' Representative Council and Mr Andrew Burnie, Vice-President Students' Representative Council. Members thanked them warmly for their commitment to the University and wished them well for the future.

Court welcomed the new University Secretary Ms Sarah Smith and the new Deputy Secretary Mrs Tracey Slaven. Court further welcomed Mr Hugh Murdoch President elect Students' Representative Council and Ms Kirsty Haigh, Vice-President Services elect Students' Representative Council who were in attendance at this meeting.

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 benefits of MOOCs and future developments; the successful outcomes of the Principal's period of study leave in Latin America and at Stanford University; partnership working with the University of Delhi; progress in taking forward the Internationalisation Strategy with the three International Offices performing exceptionally well and the University attracting high calibre international students; and the excellent EUSA teaching awards initiative.

On behalf of Court, the Vice-Convener congratulated the Principal on being awarded an honorary degree from Saint-Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences.

2 DESIGNATION OF VICE-PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Paper B2

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

Dr Sue Rigby's role as Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching to be extended to fulltime from 1 August 2013.

Professor Mary Bownes's role as Senior Vice-Principal, External Engagement to be extended by one year until 30 September 2014.

Professor Lorraine Waterhouse's role as Vice-Principal, Equality and Diversity to be extended by six months until 31 December 2013.

Dr Tina Harrison's role as Assistant Principal, Academic Standards & Quality Assurance to be extended by two years until 31 July 2015.

Professor Ian Pirie's role as Assistant Principal, Learning Developments to be extended by two years until 31 July 2015.

Professor Andrew Calder's role as Honorary Assistant Principal, Reproductive Health to be extended by two years until 31 July 2015.

Professor John Smyth's role as Honorary Assistant Principal, Cancer Research Development to be extended by two years until 31 July 2015.

Professor Christine Bell to be appointed Assistant Principal, Global Justice 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 meetings of 6 March and 17 April 2013

Paper C1.1

The new Complaints Procedure was welcomed and the establishment of an Ethical Fundraising Advisory Group and an Equality Management Group; amendments were suggested to the membership of the Ethical Fundraising Group. Court approved the Equality Outcomes, noted the report from the Equality and Diversity Monitoring Research Committee (EDMARC), noted the various actions being taken and recognised the challenges in this area. There was also discussion on tuition fees and satisfactory information was provided and accepted by Court on the level of increases approved for certain programmes. Court further noted the outcome of a staff appeal against dismissal and the other items in the Staff Committee report and Court further endorsed the benefits of taking forward appraisal processes for all staff.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

Court noted the current satisfactory position in respect of research and commercialisation activities and approved the amendment to the 2013/2014 Outcome Agreement with the SFC subject to funding confirmation. The current financial position was also noted and the trend in the forecasted surplus. Court welcomed the Russell group comparative financial information and the progress on various matters as set out in the Finance Director's report particularly the six major projects forming the finance transformation programme.

2 EUSA PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS

Paper C2

Court noted the items within the EUSA President's report and the additional information on: the EUSA President and the EUSA Vice-President Services being the Students' Representative Council's nominations on Court for 2013/2014 onwards as the responsibilities of the Vice-President Services were considered more relevant to Court business than those of the Vice-President Academic Affairs; the recruitment arrangements for a new Chief Executive; engagement with the University Secretary, Director of Finance and other senior officers particularly in developing a sustainable financial position; external recognition for EUSA activities; and the excellent Teaching awards, therapets, TedX and other initiatives being led by EUSA.

3 PROPOSALS FOR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2013/2014

Paper C3

The new approach to the planning process was endorsed by Court with Colleges and Support Groups being asked to draft plans covering three years with the intention to undertake lighter touch annual reviews. Court noted the executive planning summaries 2013-2016 and welcomed the various activities being taken forward.

Court further noted that this planning approach was being mirrored in the allocation process with budgets set for 2013/2014 and indicative budgets for the following two academic years. Court welcomed the intention to move towards a budgeted surplus of 5% of turnover and that work was on-going to develop a new allocation model which would provide greater transparency, more confidence in forecasting based on a rolling three year planning process and negate the generation of underspent resources at year-end. It was noted that this would enable robust information to be produced to assist in identifying revenue and capital spend available for investment opportunities across the University.

Court approved the allocation of resources as set out in the paper for 2013/2014 and indicative levels for the following two academic years.

4 SCOTTISH CODE OF HE GOVERNANCE

Paper C4

Court noted the publication of the draft Scottish Code of Good HE Governance and that further changes were anticipated prior to the Code being finalised. The Steering Group charged with overseeing the preparation of the Code had undertaken an extensive consultation process and had ensured transparency in its approach: a helpful website provided detailed information. The Court noted that the draft Code was the subject of an eight week consultation with any new evidence to be submitted by 11 June 2013. In the light of anticipated revisions, Court agreed it would be helpful to iterate the evidence previously provided on the roles and operations of the Rector and Vice-Convener of Court: a statement would be circulated to members prior to submission.

The final Code would be with effect from 1 August 2013 and would be published after the Steering Group's last meeting in June 2013. Court approved the establishment of a Sub-Group to consider the implications of the final Code within the University's legal framework and how best to take forward its implementation on a comply or explain basis with the aspiration to continue to initiate improvements to the governance arrangements. Court agreed that Professor Monro, Ms Richards, Dr Black, Professor Smyth, Professor Ansell, Mr Murdoch and University Secretary should be members of this Group.

5 WIDENING PARTICIPATION - UPDATE

Paper C5

The actions being taken in respect of the widening participation agenda were welcomed and Court noted the applications received and offers made to individuals within the target areas for the academic year 2013/2014: Court noted the significant challenges around expanding the current engagement with Schools and Colleges outwith Edinburgh and the Lothians, and there were uncertainties around the conversion rates. It was noted that further information on the uptake position of the various University bursary schemes would be available early in the next academic year.

6 STUDENT EXPERIENCE - UPDATE

Paper C6

Court welcomed this very helpful paper which analysed the University's 2012 NSS scores against peer institutions and provided information on the internal student surveys undertaken by the University and of the interviews and focus groups conducted by the external consultant. As a result of the analysis of this data there were a number of themes emerging and five core challenges had been identified. Some of the remedial actions could be achieved in a short timescale while those requiring cultural change would take longer to fully implement.

There was detailed discussion on the core challenges and the proposed remedial actions were approved. Court was supportive of the way forward and of the new costs in 2013/2014 as set out in the main paper and the appendix to the paper in respect of feedback and assessment. It was noted that work would be initiated through Senate to take forward as quickly as possible the development of firm instructions on assessment and feedback timeframes and the implementation of any structural changes to enable commencement of the new practices in 2013/2014; programme approval would require confirmation of the ability to comply with the new instructions. The specific challenges around cultural change in relation to learning and teaching were also discussed and acknowledged by Court and that excellence in teaching should be recognised and rewarded. The need to ensure a sense of community was also noted including the impact of the physical environment in improving student and staff engagement.

7 REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE Paper C7

The draft Minute of the last meeting of the Audit Committee was noted in particular the discussions around IT security. Court welcomed the initiative to hold a second joint meeting with the Risk Management Committee and to invite the Court representatives on the Knowledge Strategy Committee as the focus of the event would be around IT assurance issues.

Court further noted the robust tendering exercise undertaken to identify the future provider of External Audit services. On the recommendation of the Audit Committee, Court approved the appointment of PwC as External Auditor from the 2013/2014 audit for a period of three years with the option to extend by a further two audit years: the fee rates were comparable to the current expenditure.

8 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE Paper C8

9 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Paper C9

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

Membership of Committees

Audit Committee

Mr Alan Trotter's term of office to be extended until 31 December 2016.

Committee on University Benefactors

Ms Doreen Davidson, General Council Assessor, to be appointed from 1 August 2013 until 31 July 2016.

Development Trust

Mr Malcolm Thoms's term of office to be extended until 31 July 2016.

Mrs Jann Brown to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 July 2016.

10 ETHICAL STANDARDS

There was discussion on media articles regarding a resuscitation project involving the Scottish Ambulance Service and the University's Resuscitation Research Group particularly around patient consent. Assurances were provided on the detailed and robust ethical considerations of the project prior to its approval via the appropriate clinical research procedures and on the safeguards in place regarding the data obtained from this audit of resuscitation practice.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS Paper D1

Court approved the following draft Resolutions:

Draft Resolution No. 26/2013: Institution of new postgraduate Degree: European Masters in Landscape Architecture (EMLA)

Draft Resolution No. 27/2013: Institution of new postgraduate Degree: Master

Draft Resolution No. 28/2013:	of Nursing (MN) Degree of Master of Surgery (Vascular and Endovascular)
Draft Resolution No. 33/2013:	Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
Draft Resolution No. 34/2013:	Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

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

2 RESOLUTIONS Paper D2

Court approved the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 17/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Regius Chair of Forensic Medicine
Resolution No. 18/2013:	Foundation of a Chair of Tomographic Imaging
Resolution No. 19/2013:	Foundation of a Chair of Synthetic Biology
Resolution No. 20/2013:	Foundation of a Chair of Design Informatics

3 UPDATE FROM SBS SUB-GROUP Paper D3

Court noted the activities of the Court Sub-Group established to assess the request of the SBS Trustees for a cash contribution to the Scheme by the University. The conclusion of the Sub-Group not to support this request was endorsed by Court noting the three main reasons for this decision. A formal response was awaited from the SBS Trustees.

4 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES Paper D4

Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified received by the University of Edinburgh, Development Trust between 1 February and 26 April 2013, in particular the £2m in support of access bursaries.

5 COURT MEETINGS 2013/2014 Paper D5

Court noted the venues for agreed Court meetings in 2013/2014.

6 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.