

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

MINUTE OF A MEETING *of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Informatics Forum on Monday 16 September 2013.*

Present: Rector (in chair)
The Principal
Ms D Davidson
Mr A Johnston
Professor A M Smyth
Professor J Ansell
Professor D Finnegan
Professor A Harmar
Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
Mr D Bentley
Mr P Budd
Mr L Matheson
Mrs E Noad
Ms A Richards
Ms A Lamb
Mr H Murdoch, President Students' Representative Council
Ms K Haigh, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

In attendance: Senior Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
University Secretary, Ms S Smith
Vice-Principal Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
Mr A Currie
Ms S Gupta, Director of Human Resources
Mr P McNaull
Mrs T Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning
Mr G Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student Experience
Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services

Apologies: The Rt Hon D Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Sheriff Principal E Bowen
Dr M Aliotta
Dr R Black
Dr C Masters
Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor

Court received a presentation on the University's involvement in The Edinburgh Festivals delivered by Vice-Principal Professor Dorothy Miell.

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2013

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 24 June 2013 was approved as a correct record.
Court noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by Professor Tony Harmar,

Senate Assessor and Members warmly thanked him for his commitment to the work of Court and the University.

Court welcomed Ms Doreen Davidson, General Council Assessor and Ms Angi Lamb, Non-Teaching Staff Assessor to this their first meeting as Members of Court: both had been in attendance at the Court meeting on 24 June 2013.

Court also welcomed Mr Gavin Douglas who had been appointed Deputy Secretary, Student Experience with effect from 16 September 2013.

2 NOTES OF MEETINGS HELD IN JULY 2013 Paper A2

Court noted and approved the notes of the two electronic meetings held in July 2013.

3 VACATION COURT Paper A3

Court homologated the decision of the Vacation Court and noted that the maternity cover arrangements in the International Office in India were considered robust and satisfactory. It was further noted that a review of the International Office in China was underway and information would be available in due course on the outcome of this review.

4 ELECTION OF NON-TEACHING STAFF ASSESSOR Paper A4

Court noted the outcome of the election of a Non-Teaching Staff Assessor and that Ms Angi Lamb had been duly elected from 1 August 2013 until 31 July 2017.

5 SENATE ASSESSOR Paper A5

Court noted the resignation of Professor Harmar with immediate effect and that a process to elect a successor had commenced.

B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS Paper B1

Court noted the items within the Principal's report and the additional information on: recent media coverage of NSS results; the University's achievement in being ranked 17th in the QS World Rankings; recent events to thank staff for their contributions at the graduation ceremonies and to welcome new members of staff; the success of Freshers' week and the varied activities being promoted; the engagement with the Edinburgh Festivals and the success of the new venue at Paterson's Land; the encouraging level of participation in the latest open day; the success of the bid to run ARCHER; and congratulations to Vice-Principal Professor Miell on becoming President elect of the British Psychological Society and to Professors Earnshaw, Sir John Savill and Sharp on being elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. Court further noted that Mr Angus Currie had intimated his intention to retire at the end of March 2014.

2 NAMING OF NEW BUILDINGS Paper B2

Court approved the proposal to name phase 2a and phase 2b of the new National Avian Research Facility at Easter Bush the Greenwood Building and the Bumstead Building respectively.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Comments on the Report of the Central Management Group meetings of 19 June and 21 August 2013 **Paper C1.1**

The satisfactory report on progress in taking forward the operational recommendations within the Court Review of the ECA merger was welcomed and it was noted that there were some areas of on-going work. Court further noted that the Scottish Funding Council required an evaluation report at the end of the first two years of the merger with ECA and that this report would in due course be circulated to Court. There was discussion on the issues that had arisen regarding completion of the agreed recommendations from internal audit assignments and Court fully endorsed the importance of the Central Management Group and of senior management in ensuring that these agreed recommendations were promptly actioned. Court noted the matter considered under socially responsible investment and endorsed the approach to disinvest from this company. The information on staff was also noted and it was suggested that it would be helpful to include information on the other protected characteristics in terms of equality and diversity legislation recognising that there may be issues around the completeness of the information available.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

Court approved the proposals in respect of the fee for RUK-domiciled undergraduate students for entry in 2014/2015. Court further approved the proposals for RUK bursaries and for Scotland Accommodation Bursaries for 2014/2015 as set out in the paper. In approving these matters Court took cognisance of the update of the equality impact statement.

The other items were noted particularly the update on the Holyrood development.

2 EUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Paper C2

Court noted the items within the EUSA President's report and the additional information on: the School Councils' project; the approach now being taken forward to recruit and appoint a new Chief Executive; and the successful involvement in the Edinburgh Festivals.

It was noted that EUSA had lunched an Impact Report which was the first stage in developing a Strategic Plan. Copies of the Report were tabled at the meeting and the EUSA President delivered a very informative presentation on the Report around the five sections on creating: safe spaces; community connections; vibrant campus; partnerships; and leaders. Court was supportive of the approach.

3 WIDENING PARTICIPATION

Paper C3

The summary information on the outturn position for the various undergraduate bursaries and scholar programmes for 2012/2013 was noted by Court in particular the success of the Edinburgh RUK Bursaries. The current position for 2013/2014 was encouraging and it was noted that the final position would not be known until well into this academic year. Court in particular noted the number of eligible students on the new Scotland Accommodation Bursary scheme which the University had introduced in 2013/2014 and that, based on current information, the University would meet its allocation of additional widening access places in respect of its bid to the Scottish

Funding Council.

Court was satisfied that the situation would continue to be monitored to ensure that the present schemes were appropriate to the needs of students. Court further noted the continuing success of the work of the Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS) and the increase in the number of students entering via this programme.

4 STUDENT EXPERIENCE Paper C4

Court noted the satisfactory update report on progress around the four focus areas and the individual initiatives and projects being taken forward within each of these areas. The establishment of a Student Enhancement Programme Board to have oversight of all these projects was endorsed. It was noted that a Court member would be appointed to this Board and that Mr Douglas the new Deputy Secretary, Student Experience would be secretary to the Board. The NSS 2013 results which were little changed from the previous year were also noted. There were a number of actions underway including the publication of a series of posters ‘On the same page as you’ (tabled at the meeting) which had been distributed throughout the University and visits to specific Schools.

Court welcomed a leaflet (tabled at the meeting) aimed at University staff to provide information on the five key areas of: community, engagement, support, feedback, and recognition around which the University sought to make significant improvements to the student experience. There was discussion on various challenges particularly the agreed assessment feedback targets and the work of Senate, Colleges and Schools in taking this forward and providing leadership and support.

5 UNIVERSITY’S PEOPLE STRATEGY Paper C5

Court approved the new People Strategy which was aligned to the University’s Strategic Plan and the separate plans of Colleges and Support Groups. It was noted that a detailed people plan would be developed in consultation with colleagues across the University including unions and EUSA to ensure delivery of the Strategy and this would include development of a set of KPIs. Court was assured of the monitoring proposals for the Strategy and the role of the Staff Committee in this process.

6 STAFF CONTRACTS Paper C6

The University was committed to promoting good practice across the people agenda and recent media interest on contractual arrangements within the sector was noted. Court was fully supportive of the review on the use of ‘hours to be notified’ (HTBN) contracts and that going forward staff would be offered guaranteed hours contracts. Consultation had commenced during this interim period particularly with current HTBN colleagues with the aim that the majority of these staff would have guaranteed hours by the end of this calendar year. Court welcomed this very positive approach.

7 SUMMARY OF THE UNIVERSITY'S EQUAL PAY AUDIT Paper C7

Court noted the findings of the equal pay audit and it was suggested that it might be helpful to initiate annual audits in areas of particular interest to establish more comprehensive comparative information. It was also suggested that it might be helpful to consider any effect of REF in this area.

8 REPORT FROM COURT SUB-GROUP Paper C8

The initial recommendations of the Court Sub-Group tasked with detailed consideration of the new Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance were

approved. This included the process to appoint the next Vice-Convenor being managed by the Nominations Committee to enable the individual to be in post by 1 August 2014.

9 REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Paper C9

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

Nominations Committee

Revised terms of reference (as attached to the paper) in line with the new Code and specifically to enable the Committee to take forward the appointment of the next Vice-Convenor.

SBS Trustees

Mr Alan Johnston to be appointed Trustee with immediate effect until 31 July 2015 with the recommendation that the SBS Trustees consider appointing Mr Johnston chairman of the Trustees.

Student Enhancement Project Board

Professor Monro to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 July 2014.

10 ANNUAL SUBJECT REVIEW STATEMENT TO THE SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL Paper C10

Court endorsed the University's Annual Report to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-led Review and Enhancement Activity 2012/13 and authorised the Vice-Convenor to sign off the Annual Report with the required statement of assurance on its behalf.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH BASELINE STATEMENT ON QUALITY ARRANGEMENTS Paper D1

Court approved the revised statement on quality arrangements.

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 14 June and 31 August 2013.

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.