

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in the Conference Room, School of Chemistry on Monday 4 November 2013.

Present: Rector (in chair)
The Principal
Ms D Davidson
Mr A Johnston
Professor A M Smyth
Dr M Aliotta
Professor J Ansell
Professor D Finnegan
Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
Mr D Bentley
Dr R Black
Mr L Matheson
Dr C Masters
Mrs E Noad
Ms A Richards
Ms A Lamb
Ms K Haigh, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

In attendance: Senior Vice-Principal Professor M Bownes
Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
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
Mr P McNaull, Director of Finance
Mrs T Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning
Ms E Fraser, Deputy Director of HR
Ms F Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations and Senior Executive Officer
Dr D Cook, Senior Strategic Planner
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
Mr P Budd
Mr H Murdoch, President Students' Representative Council
Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor

Court received a presentation on the Edinburgh Global Plus delivered by Vice-Principal Professor Steve Hillier.

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

Paper A1

The minute of the meeting held on 16 September 2013 was approved as a correct record.

2 NOTE OF SEMINAR HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2013 **Paper A2**

The note of the Seminar held on 16 September 2013 was approved as a correct record.

3 SENATE ASSESSORS **Paper A3**

Court welcomed the election of Professor Sarah Cooper and Dr Claire Phillips as Court Senate Assessors both with effect from 1 August 2014 until 31 July 2018. Court further noted that an election was being held from 12 November to 14 November 2013 to elect the short term vacancy for a Senate Assessor to be appointed with immediate effect until 31 July 2014 and that Court would be notified at its next meeting on the outcome of this election.

B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS **Paper B1**

Court noted the items within the Principal's report and the additional information on: funding to support the development of the Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics; the encouraging negotiations around the bids for ARCHER; the number of Schools now in receipt of an Athena Swan Award including the gold award for the School of Chemistry; the various successful events attended by the Chancellor over three days at the beginning of October; the hosting of the prestigious inaugural meeting of the Global Citizenship Commission during which Malala Yousafzai received an honorary Master of Arts degree from the University; various visits and meetings with international leaders including the President of Turkey and the USA ambassador and confirmation of agreement by the Russian Ambassador to be the visiting Montague Burton Professor; the encouraging position of current applications for the 2014/2015 academic year; the submission of the REF return on 22 November 2013; and the impact of the industrial action on 31 October 2013. Court further noted that Vice-Principal Mr Nigel Paul, Director of Corporate Services had intimated his intention to retire in the summer 2014.

2 VICE-PRINCIPALS UPDATE **Paper B2**

Court approved the revised remit of Vice-Principal Kenway's portfolio and the amendment of his designation to Vice-Principal High Performance Computing and Big Data with immediate effect. Court further approved the job description for the Vice-Principal Equality and Diversity which is for a 0.4 FTE position and has been advertised internally.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Comments on the Report of the Central Management Group meeting of 9 October 2013

Paper C1.1

The revised IP Policy was approved noting the reference to the arrangements to handle IP created by students which was similar to that in the previous policy. Court further noted and welcomed the proposals to take forward the required tasks in respect of the UNPRI and that this would be led by the recently appointed Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability.

Court noted the report and in particular the opportunity which had arisen in respect of the National Physical Laboratory. It was confirmed that a detailed due diligence exercise would be undertaken should the phase 1 bid be positively received.

2 EUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Paper C2

Court noted the items within the EUSA President's Report and the additional information delivered by the EUSA Vice-President Services on: the income received from the three venues involved in the Edinburgh Festivals; the campaigns to ensure that students were aware of their rights in respect of fees charged by letting agencies and private landlords; the success of the School Councils project; and the impact of the proposed Lobbying Bill. EUSA was commended for the events held around the Black History Month and congratulated on the successful appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer.

3 2012-13 OUTCOME AGREEMENT SELF EVALUATION

Paper C3

The self-evaluation Report was welcomed and approved by Court and it was noted that the document would be submitted to the Scottish Funding Council to enable the SFC to assess the University's progress against the 2012/2013 Outcome Agreement. In particular Court commended the case studies and it was noted that there were no areas of underachievement.

4 2014-17 DRAFT OUTCOME AGREEMENT

Paper C4

Court noted that a three year approach to preparing Outcome Agreements for the SFC had now been agreed and this draft was presented for initial comment prior to a finalised document being available at the next meeting of Court. Court approved the format and content of the document noting the emphasis on the first of the three years.

5 ECA POST MERGER SELF EVALUATION

Paper C5

Court approved the Self-Evaluation Report on the progress achieved two years after the merger with ECA which had been prepared at the request of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and would be followed up by a visit by the SFC on 23 January 2014: the detailed arrangements for the visit were still to be finalised. Court welcomed the confirmation of the success of the merger for both students and staff and noted that there were areas of on-going work particularly in respect of the estate.

6 DRAFT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Paper C6

The draft Corporate Governance Statement was endorsed by the Court subject to the addition of information on the recent joint meeting between the Audit and the Risk Management Committees.

7 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE

Paper C7

Court noted the report and endorsed the various recommendations as set out in the paper. The additional information provided on the increased costs of the new Nursery; the position with SCRM 2; the George Square redevelopment and the public realm master plan for the central area; the current proposals for the School of GeoSciences; progress on taking forward the 2025 estates study; and ECA and work around Potterrow. There was also discussion on the need to be prepared to take forward opportunities as these arose and to have so called 'shovel ready' projects available while taking cognisance of the need for caution on the resources allocated to such

projects. It was also confirmed that in relation to the GeoSciences proposal the demolition only applied to the Annex of Crew Building. Court asked if future reports could contain, or direct members to, maps and diagrams of the areas being discussed to enable better understanding and there was discussion on the options in respect of health and safety issues around the Crichton Street/Charles Street junction.

8 REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE

Paper C8

The draft minute of the Audit Committee meeting held on 23 September 2013 was noted in particular the comments around issues of monitoring IT security incidents and near misses and the continuing concerns around ensuring that agreed actions arising from internal audit assignments were actioned timeously. It was further noted that the Audit and Risk Management Committees had held a joint meeting on the 28 October 2013 which had been attended by Court members of the Knowledge Strategy Committee. The meeting had been very productive with discussion on the implications of the new Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance in respect of audit and risk oversight arrangements; audit assurance processes and assurance models; and future issues for the sector include taxation matters which would be further discussed by the Committee.

9 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Paper C9

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

Curators of Patronage

The term of office of Vice-Principal Professor Miell as a Curator of Patronage to be extended by a further three years until 31 July 2017.

Membership of Court

Dr Chris Masters' term of office as a member of Court to be extended by a further three years until 31 July 2017.

Staff Committee

Ms Doreen Davidson to be appointed a member of the Staff Committee with immediate effect until 31 July 2014.

Appointment of Co-opted Members of Court

Court approved the arrangements as set out in the paper including:

- the Skills' Register for Court;
- the job description for co-opted members subject to any changes required as a result of completion of the Skills' Register; and
- the recruitment process should seek to fill vacancies for co-opted members at the start of 2014/2015 and anticipated vacancies at the start of 2015/2016.

Court further approved the members of the interview and short-listing panel as follows:

University Secretary (to chair Panel)
Principal
Vice-Convener of Court
Professor Smyth
Professor Ansell
Mr Murdoch

The Rector and the Vice-Convener of Court declared an interest in the following item but remained in the room and took part in discussion

Appointment of next Vice-Convener of Court

Court approved the arrangements for the appointment of the next Vice-Convener of Court as set out in the paper including:

- the statement on the Roles of the Rector and Vice-Convener of Court subject to correction on the title of the statement and the substitution of 'similar' for 'equivalent' in describing the role of the Vice-Convener in relation to the chair of other intuitions (this revised wording to be reflected throughout the documents relating to the Vice-Convener);
- publication of the draft job description on the student and staff University news web pages for comment; and
- approval of the job description subject to cognisance of matters raised by staff and students with delegated authority being granted to the University Secretary to finalise the job description.

Court further approved the members of the interview and short-listing panel as follows:

University Secretary (to chair Panel)

Principal

Dr Robert Black

Professor Ansell

Mr Murdoch

Investment Committee

Court approved the arrangements to appoint an external member of the Investment Committee as set out in the paper including:

- the job description for an external member of the Investment Committee subject to the outcome of the self-assessment exercise underway on the Skills' Register for Investment Committee members with delegated authority being granted to the Director of Finance to finalise the job description; and
- the members of the short-listing and interview panel to be delegated to the Director of Finance with the suggestion that, the Convener or another external member of the Investment Committee, the Director of Finance and a Court member on the Investment Committee should be members of the panel.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Paper D1

Court noted the report from the Senate meeting on 2 October 2013 and on the business conducted by the electronic Senate of 10-18 September 2013. Court further approved the recommendations endorsed by Senate on the proposals regarding membership of Senate in respect of non-professorial representatives and University demonstrators and academic research staff representatives as set out in appendix 1 of the paper.

2 RESOLUTIONS

Paper D2

Court approved the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 73/2013:	Code of Student Conduct
Resolution No. 74/2013:	Foundation of a Chair of Epigenetics
Resolution No. 75/2013:	Foundation of a Chair of Medical and Social Anthropology
Resolution No. 76/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Robert Irvine Chair of Medical Microbiology
Resolution No. 77/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Accountancy and

	Finance
Resolution No. 78/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Regius Chair of Sanskrit Language, Literature, and Philosophy, and Comparative Philology
Resolution No. 79/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Drama and Performance Studies
Resolution No. 80/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of History of Art
Resolution No. 81/2013:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Strategy and Change
Resolution No. 82/2013:	Foundation of a Chair of Applied Hydrodynamics
Resolution No. 83/2013:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Reproductive Steroids

3 REQUEST FOR PARENT COMPANY GUARANTEE

Paper D3

Court noted that since its electronic meeting on 5 July 2013 there had been further developments regarding the ARCHER High Performance Computing Services. The Court considered a paper circulated to all members in connection with UoE HPCX Ltd's two bids to EPSRC to run ARCHER, the replacement service for HECToR (high performance computing services for UK academia). These bids relate to two separate contracts (descriptions of which were in the paper) entered into (or which are about to be entered into) by UoE HPCX Ltd with EPSRC. The Court approved the form of and authorised the execution on behalf of the University by any Court member (before a witness) of the two Performance Guarantees (each being Deeds) in favour of EPSRC in respect of UoE HPCX Ltd's obligations under the two ARCHER contracts subject to clarification and further information on three issues: clarification on the nature of the performance criteria embedded in the contractual terms and subject to the guarantee; whether there was any opportunity to remediate any breach of contract in a reasonable timescale or whether the clauses were "sudden death" in nature; concern around the unlimited nature of the guarantees and whether these also extended to third parties other than EPSRC.

Post meeting note: The required clarification has now been received from the Director of UoE HPCX and is attached as an appendix. That clarification fully addressed the concerns expressed by Court, above, and hence Court approved the execution of the two Performance Guarantees in the form required by EPSRC.

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 September and 18 October 2013.

5 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.