

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in held in Room 1.07 Main Library, George Square, on Monday 17 February 2014.

Present: Rector (in chair)
The Principal
Sheriff Principal E Bowen
Ms D Davidson
Professor A M Smyth
Dr M Aliotta
Professor J Ansell
Professor D Finnegan
Professor J Taylor
Professor S Monro, Vice-Convener
Mr D Bentley
Mr P Budd
Dr C Masters
Mrs E Noad
Ms A Lamb
Mr H Murdoch, President Students' Representative Council
Ms K Haigh, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

In attendance: Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor
Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery
Vice-Principal Professor D Miell
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 S Lewis, Deputy Director of Library and University Collections
Ms L Chalmers, Director of Legal Services
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
Mr A Johnston
Dr R Black
Mr L Matheson
Dr A Richards

Court received a presentation on 'Commercialisation Activities – The Future Vision' delivered by Vice-Principal, Mr Nigel Paul, Director of Corporate Services.

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD 9 DECEMBER 2013

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 9 December 2013 was approved as a correct record.

It was confirmed that the Sub-Group established to consider and bring forward recommendations to Court on the implementation of the Scottish Code of Good Higher

Education Governance was making good progress and that it was the intention to bring a detailed report to the next meeting of Court.

It was noted that this would be the last Court meeting attended by Mr Angus Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings. Court thanked Mr Currie for his significant contribution to the work of Court and the University and wished him well in his retirement.

2 MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF COURT SUB-GROUP HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2014 **Paper A2**

The Minute of the meeting of Court Sub-Group on 27 January 2014 was approved as a correct record and it was noted that the Consolidated Financial Statements, July 31 2013 (US GAAP Accounts) had been submitted along with associated documents to the US Department of Education for the 31 January 2014 deadline.

3 SCHOOL OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY – UPDATE **Paper A3**

Court noted the updated position and homologated the decision as set out in the paper.

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 recent successful Court Seminar on the Future Strategy of the University of Edinburgh; the various activities underway across the University as part of Innovative Learning Week including TEDx University of Edinburgh supported by EUSA; the inspirational Lanterns of the Terracotta Warriors exhibition in the Old Quad and the range of Chinese New Year celebrations; the Principal's meetings in Brussels and engagement with the EU; the successful General Council event on Saturday; the ongoing positive impact of the international offices and the global academies; and the continuing issues around the 2013/2014 pay negotiations and the University's support for national negotiations.

2 VICE-PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS **Paper B2**

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

Vice-Principal Professor Jeffery declared an interest and left the meeting while the matter below was being considered by Court.

Professor Charlie Jeffery to be designated Senior Vice-Principal with effect from 1 October 2014 for a period of two years; his current Vice-Principal Public Policy and Impact designation to be extended until 30 September 2014.

Professor Mary Bownes to be appointed Vice-Principal Community Development from 1 October 2014 until 30 September 2016 at 0.4 FTE.

Professor Dorothy Miell's appointment as Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science to be extended to 31 July 2017 with a commitment to consider a further extension beyond this point.

Professor Lesley Yellowlees's appointment as Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science and Engineering to be extended to 31 July 2016 with a commitment to consider a further extension beyond this point.

Professor Arthur Trew to be appointed Assistant Principal Computational Science with effect from 17 February 2014 for a period of three years.

Mr Collins to now be engaged as Assistant Principal, Industry Engagement, Industry Funding and Big Data at 0.4 FTE for two years from 1 January 2014.

It was confirmed that future Court papers requesting appointments to the designation of Vice-Principal and Assistant Principal should include a table setting out all those currently designated to these positions and their areas of responsibility.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Comments on the Report of the Central Management Group

Paper C1.1

Court endorsed the change of name of the Equality Management Group to Equality Management Committee and commended the work of the Staff Committee noting the assurances on the actions being taken around gender pay equality. There was discussion on the Report from the Health and Safety Committee and Court asked for a high level analysis of key trends to be included in future reports to Court. Court noted the other items and welcomed the information from Internal audit on emerging themes and the improving position on the implementation of recommendations arising from internal audit assignments.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

The additional text included in the final US GAAP Accounts was welcomed. The favourable position as recorded in the Q1 forecast and the further financial projections as set out in the 10-year forecast were noted and Court endorsed the work to determine future funding options around the capital programme. Court was satisfied with the information provided from each of the Colleges on the actions being taken to ensure that annual staff reviews were undertaken across the University. There was discussion on the update information on the various estates projects as set out in the report and Court approved the proposals for the Easter Bush Innovation Centre including the required funding of £15m and the approach to the treatment of the VAT issues. It was further welcomed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had appointed a Sub-Group to enable consideration of issues around the National Physical Laboratory Project which was progressing apace and that this Sub-Group would scrutinise any bid going forward particularly in respect of risks factors prior to seeking Court approval via electronic communications. The other items in the report were noted particularly the challenges around the sustainability agenda.

2 EUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Paper C2

Court noted the items within the EUSA President's Report and the additional information on: the EUSA elections in March; the application for Scottish Government funding to support student volunteering activities; the success of the peer support initiative; the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer; and the success of the Principal's Question time.

3 EUSA CONSTITUTION

Paper C3

Court approved the transfer of agreements currently between EUSA and the University that relate to property to the proposed newly constituted EUSA and approved in principle the revised EUSA constitution: delegating to the University Secretary final

approval of these constitutional documents following further consideration and discussion with EUSA on some technical matters.

4 WIDENING ACCESS - UPDATE

Paper C4

Court noted the satisfactory position in respect of the widening access agenda, noting the number of SIMD40 undergraduates recruited above the Outcome Agreement target for 2013/2014 and the high retention figure as at 1 December 2013: representing significant improvements from the position last year. The uptake of the Scotland Accommodation Bursary was welcomed as was the data on applications and offers to SIMD40 undergraduates in respect of entrants for 2014/2015. It was confirmed that the University continued to take a broad approach to the widening access agenda and that there were a number of related initiatives underway including the pathways to the professions.

5 STUDENT EXPERIENCE - UPDATE

Paper C5

The satisfactory update report was noted and Court was content with the actions being progressed to address the identified issues around improving the student experience under the six main themes and the NSS scores. The on-going discussions with Schools were noted and the proposals around providing information, sharing good practice and focussing resources on those Schools identified as having a disproportionate negative effect on NSS overall were supported. Court further welcomed the work of the Institute for Academic Development and the increase in the number of Principal Fellows.

6 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE

Paper C6

Court approved the recommendations as set out in the paper noting the significant projects underway on all the University's campuses and the forecast spend in 2013/2014. There was discussion on several of the on-going projects including Holyrood, the BioQuarter, Potterrow, the Monro project and the Higgs Centre: it was noted that the 2025 Estates study continued to progress satisfactorily. There was discussion on capacity issues within the estates and buildings department given the significant volume of projects now being taken forward and it was confirmed that this was being considered.

7 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Paper C7

On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Court approved the following:

Vice-Convener of Court

Dr Anne Richards to be appointed as the next Vice-Convener of Court from 1 August 2014 for a period of three years.

Co-opted Members

Lady Susan Rice and Ms Mandy Exley to be appointed as Co-opted members of Court from 1 August 2014 for a period of three years.

Court Skills' Register

The anonymised Court Skills' Register was approved and Court authorised its publication on the University's website.

Standard Letter of Appointment to Court

The Standard Letter of Appointment for members of Court was approved and Court authorised its publication on the University's website.

Investment Committee

Dr Masters's appointment to be extended by three years until 31 July 2017.
Ms Carolyn Aitchison and Mr Mark Connolly to be appointed from 1 August 2014 for a period of three years as external members of this Committee.

The number of members of the Investment Committee to be increased to nine with effect from 1 August 2014; the terms of reference of the Committee to be amended to reflect approval of this change.

Committee on University Benefactors

Sherriff Principal Bowen's term of office to be extended by one year until 31 July 2015.

Nominations Committee

Professor Ansell's term of office to be extended by two years until 31 July 2016.

Remuneration Committee

Dr Masters's appointment to be extended by three years until 31 July 2017.
Lady Rice to be appointed with effect from 1 August 2014 until 31 July 2017.

The terms of reference of the Committee to be amended as set out in the paper to comply with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance with effect from 1 August 2014.

Reporting Malpractice and Raising Concerns under the Public Interest Disclosure Legislation ('Whistleblowing')

Dr Masters's role as designated Court member in terms of the above Policy to be extended by another three years.

Employment Related Appeals Procedure

Ms Davidson to be appointed as a designated Court member in terms of the above procedure with effect from 1 August 2014 for as long as she remains a member of Court.

8 UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COLLECTIONS POLICY - KEY POLICY STATEMENTS Paper C8

Court approved the revised Key Policy Statements as set out in the paper.

9 SULSA INITIATIVE Paper C9

Court approved the proposed procurement plan as set out in the paper which would be taken forward if the University was awarded the anticipated funding for this initiative. Court further confirmed its approval for the Principal and another member of Court to sign the required documents to action the procurement plan.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 ACADEMIC REPORT Paper D1

Court noted the report from the Senate meeting on 5 February 2014 and on the business conducted by the electronic Senate of 14-22 January 2014.

2 RESOLUTIONS Paper D2

Court approved the following Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 1/2014: Foundation of a Chair of Infectious Disease Pathology
- Resolution No. 2/2014: Institution of new postgraduate Degree: Master of International Affairs
- Resolution No. 3/2014: Payment of Debts to the University
- Resolution No. 4/2014: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Education and Social Stratification
- Resolution No. 5/2014: Alteration of the title of the Second Chair of Pathology

3 REPORT FROM EXPEDITIONS COMMITTEE Paper D3

Court noted with interest the report from the Expeditions Committee.

4 UNIVERSITY REGENTS Paper D4

Court noted the current list of Regents and approved the appointment of Dr Katherine Grainger and Mr John McAslan as new Regents.

5 SCHOOL OF CLINICAL SCIENCES - EQUIPMENT Paper D5

Court approved the placing of a contract as set out in the paper in order to purchase flow cytometry equipment and delegated authority to the University Secretary and Vice-Principal Professor Seckl to sign the required documentation to action the purchase.

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 21 November 2013 and 29 January 2014.

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.