

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in held in, the Basement Seminar Room, Roslin Institute on Monday 12 May 2014.

- Present:**
- Rector (in chair)
 - The Principal
 - Sheriff Principal E Bowen
 - 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 A Richards
 - Ms A Lamb
 - Ms K Haigh, Vice-President Students' Representative Council
- In attendance:**
- Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor
 - Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
 - Vice-Principal Professor C Jeffery
 - Vice-Principal Dr S Rigby
 - Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill
 - Vice-Principal Professor J Seckl
 - University Secretary, Ms S Smith
 - Vice-Principal Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
 - Dr I Conn, Director Communications and Marketing
 - Mr H Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services elect
 - Mr G Douglas, Deputy Secretary, Student Experience
 - Ms S Gupta, Director of Human Resources
 - Mr G Jebb, Director of Estates and Buildings
 - Mr P McNaull, Director of Finance
 - Mrs T Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning
 - 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
 - Professor J Taylor
 - Mr P Budd
 - Dr C Masters
 - Mrs E Noad
 - Mr H Murdoch, President Students' Representative Council

Court received a presentation on the Future Strategy of the University of Edinburgh - The Next 10 Years delivered by the Principal, and discussed strategic priorities and contingency planning.

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2014

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 17 February 2014 was approved as a correct record.

Court noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by Ms Kirsty Haigh, Vice - President Students' Representative Council and would have been the last meeting to be attended by Mr Hugh Murdoch, President Students' Representative Council. Members recorded their thanks for their commitment to the University and wished them well for the future.

Court welcomed the new Director of Estates and Buildings Mr Gary Jebb and Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services elect. Court further noted that Ms Briana Pegado President elect Students' Representative Council and Ms Tasha Boardman, Vice-President Services elect Students' Representative Council had been unable to attend this meeting of Court.

Court observed a minute silence in memory of Professor Tony Harmar a former Court Senate Assessor who had died on 10 April 2014.

2 NOTE OF SEMINAR HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2014

Paper A2

The Note of the Seminar held on 10 February 2014 was approved.

B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS

Paper B1

Court noted the items in the Principal's report and the additional information on: the inaugural conference of the Edinburgh India Institute on 14-16 May 2014, showcasing the University's longstanding engagement with India; the current position in taking forward the planning and budget setting for 2014/2015; the stance the University had adopted in respect of the CBI; the success of the Chancellor's Fellowship Scheme and the intention to present further information to the next meeting of Court: and the EUSA Teaching Awards 2014.

2 DESIGNATION OF VICE-PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Paper B2

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

Professor Andrew Morris to be designated Vice-Principal Data Science with effect from 18 August 2014 until 17 August 2017.

Court further noted information on those designated as Vice-Principals and Assistant Principals.

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 noted the items in particular the new robust visiting student and non-graduation

student policies and the Equality and Diversity Monitoring and Research Committee (EDMARC) report. Court expressed concern on gender imbalances in higher staff grades highlighted in the EDMARC report noting the continuing focus on this area to ensure transparency in recruitment and promotion processes.

Report on Other Items

Paper C1.2

There was discussion on a number of the matters in the report including the summary research and commercialisation report, the TRAC teaching return and the success of the various undergraduate bursary schemes in supporting the widening access agenda. Court further noted and discussed the various financial information presented particularly around the 10-year forecast and future financial requirements of the University.

2 EUSA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Paper C2

Court noted the items within the EUSA President’s Report and the additional information provided by the Vice-President, Services on: progress in developing a strategic plan for EUSA and improvement to the EUSA’s financial position; the continuing success of the School Councils project; appointments to the NUS; the election of the new EUSA sabbatical officers; and the outcome of the sexual harassment survey. There was discussion on the sexual harassment survey and it was agreed to share further details on the outcome with Court: assurance was provided that the University would work with EUSA to address issues raised.

3 NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY (NPL) - UPDATE

Paper C3

Court noted the process to date in taking forward the NPL bid and that the formal bid had been submitted ahead of the deadline at 8.30 pm on 21 April 2014. Court welcomed confirmation that the University had now been invited to attend an interview on 19 May 2014 to expand and provide further information on its proposals as part of the competitive bidding process: it was anticipated that the BIS would confirm to the Minister its preferred bidding group proposal in the week commencing 26 May 2014. Court would be kept informed on the developing position.

4 SRUC – UPDATE

Paper C4

Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill delivered a presentation on the academic vision around the possible strategic alignment of SRUC with the University of Edinburgh including the opportunities around articulation and details on the SRUC teaching and learning, research and estate profile. There was debate on the proposals, the opportunities arising from alignment of SRUC and the University, the revised outline timetable as circulated at the meeting, and proposed governance arrangements including the approach to the various activities currently undertaken within SRUC. The opportunities in respect of teaching and research across all the University’s Colleges were also noted in particular around the global academies and food and environmental security.

Following detailed consideration, Court approved further exploration of alignment of SRUC within the University and the proposed work plan as set out in the paper to take this forward. Court was assured that cognisance would be taken of the lessons learned from ECA and that concerns around capacity issues, given the other significant issues currently being progressed, would be managed with an integrated planning approach adopted. Court would be kept informed of progress with the Court Sub-Group (Professor Monro, Dr Richards, Professor Ansell, Dr Black, Mr Johnston, the Principal

and the University Secretary) continuing to be actively engaged in the details of the project.

5 SCOTTISH CODE OF GOOD HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

Paper C5

It had been previously intimated that the University was largely compliant with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and that it wished to take the opportunity to be 'compliant plus'. The Sub-Group appointed by Court had progressed work around three main strands resulting in a number of documents being presented for approval. In particular the Sub-Group had taken the opportunity to review the Court Committee structure to improve clarity particularly around the decision making process and to enhance the flow of information to Court recommending the designation of a limited number of Standing Committees reporting directly to Court supported by Thematic Committees responsible for key areas.

There was discussion on some of the Committee reporting arrangements particularly around health and safety and IT/IM issues. It was intimated that during 2014/2015 further refinements of the structure and the terms of reference of the Committees may be required to ensure arrangements were operating effectively. It was agreed to include within the Standing Orders reference to the process to elect General Council Assessors. Court also noted the intention to develop further the proposals to hold an annual meeting in respect of enhancing community engagement.

Court welcomed and approved the new Committee structure which would be implemented with effect from 1 August 2014 and the other documents and proposed approaches as set out in the paper.

6 STUDENT EXPERIENCE – UPDATE

Paper C6

Court welcomed the analysis of the outcomes on the Edinburgh Student Experience survey and of the focus groups which had identified positive trends and validated the approach being taken forward by the various student experience work strands. The key learning points were noted and the intention to focus on consistency of experience for students, working closely with colleagues in Schools to provide assistance in this area and continuing to improve communications with students.

7 REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE

Paper C7

Court noted the draft minute of the last meeting of the Audit Committee and in particular that the new External Auditors were now in place and the retiral of the Chief Internal Auditor. Court further noted the potential areas of risk identified by the Audit Committee in discussion on the University Risk Register and the continuing need to ensure that recommendations arising from internal audit reports were timeously addressed.

8 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE

Paper C8

The recommendations contained within the paper were approved by Court. There was discussion on the following specific estate projects: ECA maintenance, estates strategy and the opportunities for a performance venue around Potterrow; the refurbishment of the Hugh Robson Building; the extension of the Confucius Institute facilities; St Cecilia's Hall redevelopment; and various initiatives in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. The Court also noted and approved that the KB Modular Building be called the Marion Ross Building and further noted and approved the potential legal actions which may be required in respect of the telecoms mast removals.

9 REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY BENEFACTORS Paper C9

Court approved the recommendations of the Committee on University Benefactors and agreed to bestow the Distinction of University Benefactor on The Darwin Trust of Edinburgh and Santander.

10 RECTORIAL ELECTION Paper C10

The current Rector's term of office would cease at the end of February 2015 and Court approved the proposed approach for the 2015 election including that on-line voting take place over 10 and 11 February 2015 subject to consultation with Senate. Court also approved the appointment of Sherriff Principal Edward Bowen as Returning Officer and Ms Tracey Slaven as Deputy Returning Officer. A paper setting out the detailed arrangements including the Regulations for the conduct of the election would be drafted for consideration at the September 2014 meeting of Court.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

1 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS Paper D1

Court approved the following draft Resolutions:

Draft Resolution No. 9/2014:	Degree of Doctor of Arts
Draft Resolution No. 10/2014:	Degree of Doctor of Philosophy with Integrated Study
Draft Resolution No. 11/2014:	Degree of Master of Surgery (Clinical Ophthalmology)
Draft Resolution No. 12/2014:	Degree of Master of Family Medicine
Draft Resolution No. 13/2014:	Degree of Master of Earth Physics
Draft Resolution No. 14/2014:	Degree of Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Draft Resolution No. 44/2014:	Boards of Studies
Draft Resolution No. 45/2014:	Code of Student Conduct
Draft Resolution No. 46/2014:	Higher Degree Regulations
Draft Resolution No. 47/2014:	Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations
Draft Resolution No. 48/2014:	Undergraduate 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. 6/2014:	Alteration of the title of Chair of Clinical Reproductive Science
Resolution No. 7/2014:	Alteration of the title of Arup Personal Chair of Structure and Fire

3 DR MARGARET STEWART BEQUEST Paper D3

Court approved the appointment of Dr Alison Sheridan as temporary Trustee of the Dr Margaret Stewart Bequest with immediate effect until 31 July 2014.

- 4 SBS DEED** **Paper D4**
- Court approved the proposed amendment to the SBS Trustee Deed: deletion of clause 5(a). Court further noted that the SBS Trust Deed was in the process of being amended to reflect the previous decision of Court in respect of Court appointing the Chair of SBS Trustees in its capacity of principal employer.
- 5 DEVELOPMENT TRUST** **Paper D5**
- Court approved the appointment of Mr Michael Millar, Miss Julia Collins and Mr Steven Thomson as nominated Trustees of the University Development Trust all with immediate effect until 31 July 2018.
- 6 SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS – PURCHASE REQUEST** **Paper D6**
- Court approved the purchase of a Valkyrie Robot in accordance with the information set out in the paper and authorised that the final contract be signed by either the Principal or Vice-Principal Professor Yellowlees and witnessed to give effect to this approval.
- 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 30 January and 18 April 2014.
- 8 COURT MEETINGS 2014/2015 AND 2015/2016** **Paper D8**
- The dates for meetings of Court and Court Seminars for the years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 were noted.
- 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.