



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2016

Minute

Present: Mr Steve Morrison, Rector (in chair)
The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Ms Anne Richards, Vice-Convener
Ms Doreen Davidson
Dr Alan Brown
Mr Ritchie Walker
Dr Marialuisa Aliotta
Professor Jake Ansell
Professor Sarah Cooper
Dr Claire Phillips
Ms Angi Lamb
Dr Robert Black
Ms Alison Grant
Mr Alan Johnston
Dr Chris Masters
Lady Susan Rice
Mr Jonny Ross-Tatam, President, Students' Association
Ms Urte Macikene, Vice-President, Students' Association

In attendance: Mr Sandy Ross, Rector's Assessor
University Secretary, Ms Sarah Smith
Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery
Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl
Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services
Mr Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University
Ms Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
Mr Phil McNaull, Director of Finance
Ms Leigh Chalmers, Director of Legal Services
Mr Gary Jebb, Director of Estates & Buildings
Dr Ian Conn, Director of Communications and Marketing
Ms Fiona Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations
Ms Kirstie Graham, Deputy Head of Court Services
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

Apologies: Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen
The Rt Hon Donald Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Mr David Bentley
Mr Peter Budd

Court noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by Mr Jonny Ross-Tatam (EUSA President) and Ms Urte Macikene (EUSA Vice-President Services). Members recorded their thanks for their commitment to the University and wished them well for the future.

2 Matters Arising

Verbal

There were no matters arising.

3 Principal's Communications

Paper B

Court noted the content of the Principal's report and the additional information on: highly encouraging levels of student applications and acceptances for the coming academic year; funding awarded by the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program to support at least 200 African students to complete undergraduate and postgraduate study at the University; the announcement in the UK Budget Statement that Edinburgh will be one of five areas of the UK to undertake a Science and Innovation Audit; and two international Informatics conferences hosted in Edinburgh.

Court welcomed the funding award by the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program and thanked all those involved in its delivery. The EU referendum, the University's involvement and the best interests of the University as a charity was discussed. The decision made at the 22 June 2015 meeting that the University will support Universities UK and other higher education sector organisations anticipated to take a pro EU membership stance and will also take an individual pro EU membership public stance, was noted. There was agreement that an EU Referendum Court Sub-Group be established, that the University will not join any organisations created to campaign on the wider benefits of remaining in the EU that go beyond higher education-related matters, that a joint statement from the Principal and Student President should be released encouraging students to register to vote and participate in the referendum and that the University will continue to allow space and time for views to be expressed on all sides of the debate. Follow-up to the occupation in Charles Stewart House relating to fossil fuel divestment was also discussed.

Post-meeting note: the membership of the EU Referendum Sub-Group has been agreed as: Vice-Convenor, Convenor of the Audit & Risk Committee, Lady Susan Rice, EUSA President, Principal, University Secretary, Senior Vice-Principal and Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy.

4 Vice/Assistant Principals

- New

Paper C1

On the recommendation of the Principal, Court approved the establishment of an Assistant Principal Data Technology and the appointment of Professor Jon Oberlander to that post for an initial period of three years, with immediate effect until 31 July 2019.

On the recommendation of the Principal, Court approved the establishment of an Assistant Principal Digital Education and an Assistant Principal Online Learning, both for an initial period of two years from 1 September 2016 to 31 July 2018 on a 0.5 FTE basis and the appointment of Professor Siân Bayne and Ms Melissa Highton to these posts respectively.

- Renewals

Paper C2

The Senior Vice-Principal vacated the meeting for the duration of the item below.

On the recommendation of the Principal, Court approved the extension of the terms of office for:

- Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery until 31 July 2018;
- Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science Professor Dorothy Miell until 31 July 2018;
- Assistant Principal Professor Jeremy Bradshaw for a further three years with effect from 1 August 2016 until 31 July 2019.

5 Policy & Resources Committee Report

Paper D

Key items considered by Policy & Resources Committee were summarised, including the Planning Round, Service Excellence Programme and the Staff Benefits Scheme.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

6 Student Experience Update

Paper E

The Senior Vice-Principal presented an update on work to embed the unambiguous priority of learning and teaching at the University, including reporting on an on-going schedule of open meetings with staff in all twenty schools, a review of support for disabled students and a consultation on possible changes to the academic year dates from 2018/19 onwards. The content of the paper was noted and discussed.

7 City Deal Update

Verbal

Court received an update on the City Deal following the UK Chancellor's announcement of an intention to negotiate an Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region deal with the Scottish Government and six local authorities. Court noted the potential for the University to make a significant contribution to the City Deal linked to Innovation Hubs such as the Quartermile development, Data Technology Institute and Easter Bush campus and the successful model of four-way partnership involved in the BioQuarter site.

8 Finance Director's Update

Paper F

The Director of Finance updated Court on the:

- Successful conclusion of the project to raise external funding in support of the University's Strategic Plan and in particular the Estates Strategy;

- The latest iteration of the Ten Year Forecast including projected cash movements over the next ten years and the scale of capital investment implied by the emerging Estate Strategy;
- University Management Accounts to March 2016.

Members discussed on-going Staff Benefits Scheme negotiations, welcomed the encouraging figures in the Management Accounts and congratulated the Finance Directorate on the award for 'Finance Team of the Year – Public and Voluntary Sector' at the UK Business Finance Awards for the second consecutive year.

9 Quatermile Development

Paper G

The Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy provided an update on progress with the Quatermile development, an initial executive summary of the academic vision for the development and a request for approval for enabling works, following the acquisition of the site in December 2015.

Noting that the outline business case followed by the detailed business case and a further developed academic vision statement will be submitted to Court in September, Court approved £10.3M funding from University Corporate Resources to allow the investigative and detailed surveys to be progressed, enabling and strip out works, asbestos and demolition packages, for professional fees up to Stage D and for other costs incurred by the project in progressing the work packages.

10 Final Outcome Agreement 2016-17

Paper H

Court agreed the content of the 2016-17 single year update to the existing 2014-17 Outcome Agreement and delegated authority to the Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning for submission to the Scottish Funding Council following the announcement of final funding allocations. Members discussed communicating the benefits of student societies to those from widening participation backgrounds – with initial research presented by EUSA showing proportionally fewer widening participation students holding committee positions in student societies, flexible options for students from widening participation backgrounds, including short online courses to develop skills prior to formal entry and widening and deepening understanding of schemes such as study abroad.

11 Higher Education Governance Bill: Briefing Note

Paper I

Court received a briefing note from the University Secretary on the key provisions in the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill, passed on 8 March 2016. The expected four year transition period to enable existing terms of office to be completed, links with the forthcoming review of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and the intention for Nominations Committee to hold an initial discussion on implications were noted.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

12 EUSA President's Report

Paper J

The EUSA President reported on activities since the last meeting including improvements in the expected budget surplus for the 2015-16 financial year and plans to run a deficit budget in 2016-17 given increases in the National Living Wage, USS pension contribution and National Insurance contributions. Members supported the appointment of a Festival Manager, suggested the development of a recovery plan for reducing the planned deficit budget and congratulated the Student President on his achievements in the context of a challenging year.

13 Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR) Report

Paper K

The publication by the Quality Assurance Agency of the report on the University's Enhancement-Led Institutional Review and actions underway to address areas for development identified were noted. Court thanked Assistant Principal Professor Tina Harrison and all those involved in the successful review process.

14 Committee Reports

- **Exception Committee**

Paper L1

The following matter approved by the Exception Committee on behalf of Court was noted:

Agri-EPI Centre building, Roslin Institute

Approval of the University becoming a member of Agri-EPI, approval of the proposed principles for development and lease in relation to the facility and delegation of authority to the Director of Corporate Services (in consultation with Directors of Finance, Estates and Legal Services) to approve final arrangements for membership and governance of Agri-EPI and for the development and lease agreements for the facility once the final membership terms and final development proposal from Innovate UK and Agri-EPI are available.

- **Nominations Committee**

Paper L2

On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Court approved the following appointments to the Curators of Patronage for a term of office from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2019:

- Honorary Assistant Principal Professor Eve Cordelia Johnstone
- Professor Stephen Hillier

The appointment of Mr Ron Inwood as an external member of People Committee for a three year term was noted.

- **Audit & Risk Committee**

Paper L3

The key points from the meeting were noted, including the new Chief Internal Auditor joining the University earlier in the month.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper L4

The key points from the meeting were noted.

- **Senatus Academicus**

Paper L5

The key points from the meeting were noted, including the election of Professor Elizabeth Bomberg (School of Social and Political Science) and Professor Alexander Tudhope (School of GeoSciences) as Senate Assessors to Court with effect from 1 August 2016 for a period of four years.

15 Resolutions

Paper M

The following draft Resolutions were referred to the General Council and to Senate for observations:

Draft Resolution No. 9/2016: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations

Draft Resolution No.10/2016: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

Draft Resolution No.11/2016: Higher Degree Programme Regulations

Draft Resolution No.12/2106: Degree of Batchelor of Arts in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

The following Resolutions were approved:

Resolution No. 5/2016: Foundation of a Chair of Cultural Relations

Resolution No. 6/2016: Foundation of a Chair of Medical Bioinformatics

Resolution No. 7/2016: Foundation of a Chair of Statistics

Resolution No. 8/2016: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Translational Medicine

16 Donations and Legacies

Paper N

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from 22 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 were noted.

17 Uses 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.

18 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

19 Date of next meeting

Monday, 20 June 2016 at 2pm in the Business School