



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

UNIVERSITY COURT

20 June 2016

Minute

- Present:** Mr Steve Morrison, Rector (in chair)
The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Ms Anne Richards, Vice-Convener
Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen
Ms Doreen Davidson
Dr Alan Brown
Mr Ritchie Walker
Dr Marialuisa Aliotta
Professor Jake Ansell
Professor Sarah Cooper
Ms Angi Lamb
Mr David Bentley
Dr Robert Black
Mr Peter Budd
Mr Alan Johnston
Dr Chris Masters
Lady Susan Rice
Mr Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, President, Students' Association
Ms Jenna Kelly, 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 Dorothy Miell
Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl
Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services
Mr Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University
Professor Sandy Tudhope, Senate Assessor-elect
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
Dr Ian Conn, Director of Communications and Marketing
Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources
Mr Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary, Student Experience
Ms Fiona Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations
Ms Kirstie Graham, Deputy Head of Court Services
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
- Apologies:** The Rt Hon Donald Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Dr Claire Phillips
Ms Alison Grant

1 Minute

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 25 April 2016 was approved subject to a minor amendment.

Court welcomed Mr Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, Students' Association President, and Ms Jenna Kelly, Students' Association Vice-President Services, to their first meeting as members. Noting that this was the last meeting for Senate Assessors Professor Jake Ansell and Dr Marialuisa Aliotta prior to the completion of their terms of office, Court recorded its thanks for their service and wished them well for the future. Senate Assessor-elect Professor Sandy Tudhope was welcomed to his first meeting as an observer prior to joining Court on 1 August 2016.

Court congratulated Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery on the award of CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the Social Sciences. Court recorded its congratulations to four other staff members recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours: Professor David Ferguson, OBE for services to Education, the Arts and the Church of Scotland; Professor Pam Smith, MBE for services to Nursing and Nurse Education; Dr John Kitchen, MBE for services to Music; and Dr Sharon Hannah, BEM, for services to Medical Research.

2 Matters Arising

Verbal

The Vice-Convenor summarised discussions held at the working lunch, noting that the Principal has indicated that he will demit office in September 2017 and that the recruitment process approved by Court in May 2014 will be followed in order to appoint a successor. Updates on the recruitment process will be submitted to Court at regular intervals, with opportunities for Court members to thank the Principal for his service to the University at events in the coming year.

3 Principal's Communications

Paper B

Court noted the content of the Principal's report and the additional information on: the award of the 2016 Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine to Professor Adrian Bird; the recent meeting of the Coimbra Group, with the 2017 Annual Conference to be hosted by the University of Edinburgh; the Undergraduate Open Day held on 17 June, with approximately 10,000 attendees; the award of Finance Director of the Year to Mr Phil McNaul at the Business Insider Scottish Accountancy & Finance Awards 2016; preparations ahead of the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, with communications planned following the result and the Court Sub-Group prepared to meet as required. The Higher Education and Research Bill currently before the UK Parliament and the proposed Teaching Excellence Framework was discussed.

Court held a moment of silent reflection for Jo Cox, Member of Parliament for Batley & Spen.

4 Assistant Principal designation **Paper C**

On the recommendation of the Principal, Court approved the establishment of an Assistant Principal Agriculture and Food Security, with Professor Geoff Simm to be appointed for an initial period of three years with effect from 1 October 2016 to 31 July 2019.

5 Policy & Resources Committee Report **Paper D**

Key items considered by the Policy & Resources Committee were summarised, including the Business Planning Round 2016-19 and approval of the Students' Association Budget 2016-17.

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 reviewing policies and processes for enhancing teaching performance for the coming academic year and examining how to stimulate and manage innovation in learning and teaching. A staff workload survey conducted by the University & College Union (UCU) was discussed, with work underway to simplify procedures and save staff time where possible. Evidencing progress through the use of metrics was considered, with a uniform course evaluation system to be used across the University and the 2016 National Student Survey results to be submitted to the September meeting.

7 Business Planning Round 2016-19 **Paper F**

The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning, presented the final draft of the University's three year financial plan for 2016-19, synthesising business plans submitted by major budget owners. Income generating proposals and cost control mechanisms referenced in the paper were supported. Members discussed student recruitment in all categories (geographic, mode and level of study). The plans, investments and management actions were approved.

8 Strategic Plan **Paper G**

The final draft Strategic Plan was presented, following review of a high level draft at the February 2016 meeting. It was noted that performance measures and a published version of the Strategic Plan will be presented at the September meeting. The following points were raised in discussion:

- the inclusion of a 'What makes us Edinburgh' section in the final draft;
- endorsement by Policy & Resources Committee of the final draft;
- good use of the existing Strategic Plan by staff across the University to guide behaviour and decision-making – the current new Strategic Plan can continue in this vein with simple, clear language and aspirations of relevance to an academic community;

- incorporating comments made at various consultation events; and,
- the role of universities in an age of digital ‘disruptors’.

Court agreed to the arrangements for monitoring the performance of the University and agreed that the Strategic Plan can be published subject to any drafting comments to be submitted to the Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning.

9 Student Recruitment Strategy

Paper H

The Senior Vice-Principal presented a Student Recruitment Strategy with the intention to enable the University to achieve its objectives for student recruitment over the period of the new Strategic Plan and beyond. The use of broader measures going beyond those used in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation was supported. The strength of the University’s comprehensive degree offering, including degree courses with relatively small student numbers, was discussed. References to engagement with alumni were welcomed and some drafting suggestions made.

The Student Recruitment Strategy was approved.

10 Estates

The Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy presented:

- **Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine (IGMM)**

Paper I1

A business case for the refurbishment and expansion of the IGMM, including the creation of a Centre for Life-course Translation Genomics on the Western General Hospital campus was reviewed. It was noted that the project is dependent on a successful bid to the UK Government-funded Research Partnership Investment Fund (RPIF) – with a preliminary bid submitted and a full bid to be submitted by September 2016, if invited.

Court approved the Business Case set out in Appendix 1 of the paper and approved in principle, subject to a successful preliminary bid, to underwrite a capital funding commitment of up to £12M to complete the project funding – noting the intention to secure a substantial part of this funding from the Medical Research Council.

- **Holland House Refurbishment**

Paper I2

A proposal to refurbish Holland House – a 350 bed undergraduate catered residence constructed in 1965 located at the Pollock Halls of Residence site – was considered. The increase in anticipated expenditure from £9.4M to £10.798M owing to asbestos removal, increased water storage and distribution, improved shower facilities and furniture replacement costs, was noted. The intention to develop an over-arching student accommodation strategy for approval by Court was welcomed. Members discussed cost management and project management of estates projects.

Court approved the anticipated expenditure of £10.789M, noting that this will be wholly funded by Accommodation, Catering and Events via an internal loan.

11 Finance Director's Update

The Director of Finance presented the following items:

- **Finance Director's Report**

Paper J1

Updates on the Staff Benefits Scheme negotiations, the Quarter Three forecast, endowment and investment performance and a review of financial controls were noted.

- **Ten Year Forecast**

Paper J2

The latest iteration of the Ten Year Forecast was noted.

- **Scottish Funding Council Strategic Plan Forecast 2015-19**

Paper J3

Court approved the University's Strategic Plan Forecast 2015-19 and its submission to the Scottish Funding Council subject to some minor textual amendments.

12 City Deal Update

Paper K

The Director of Corporate Services provided an update on negotiations to finalise a City Deal for the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region. Opportunities for infrastructure, innovation hubs, housing and supporting programmes including skills training were discussed. Progress to date was noted, with Court to be kept informed of any significant developments over the summer period and the Sub-Group to meet if required.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

13 EUSA President's Report

Paper L

The EUSA President reported on activities since the last meeting including operational improvements to reduce the deficit expected in 2016-17, estates projects including the Pleasance, Teviot and King's Buildings House redevelopment and the Democracy Review – with a detailed paper to be submitted to Court in September. Members discussed the Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week, with further information on mental health services to be made available upon request.

14 Prevent duty

Paper M

A report on the University's implementation of the Prevent duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) was considered. The student representatives noted the formal opposition of EUSA to the Prevent duty

and thanked University officials for implementing the duty in consultation with student and staff groups.

15 Education Act 1994 – Code of Practice

Paper N

A summary of work undertaken by the University and EUSA to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Education Act (1994) and an associated Code of Practice relating to EUSA was reviewed. The Code of Practice was approved and Court assured of current compliance.

16 University Risk Register

Paper O

The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the University Risk Register and Risk Appetite Statement. No changes had been recommended by the Committee to the Risk Appetite Statement since its approval by Court in June 2015, with updates to the Risk Register since the previous version set out in the paper.

Court approved the Risk Appetite Statement and University Risk Register 2016/17.

17 Committee Reports

• Exception Committee

Paper P1

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

Sunergos Innovations – Investment Funding

The Committee approved:

- a cash investment facility for Sunergos of up to £3.5m, ensuring the University maintains a majority founding partner position of 51%; and,
- delegated authority to the Director of Corporate Services to approve the Equity Management Agreement and the IP Framework Agreement to ensure that these agreements can be fully concluded by mid-June and included in the Admissions document.

• Nominations Committee

Paper P2

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

- Exception Committee
Professor Sarah Cooper to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2018
- Policy and Resources Committee
Professor Sarah Cooper to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2018

- Nominations Committee
Professor Alexander Tudhope to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Audit and Risk Committee
Peter Budd's term of office to be extended to 31 July 2017
- Knowledge Strategy Committee
Ritchie Walker to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Committee on University Benefactors
Doreen Davidson's term of office to be extended to 31 July 2017
Dr Claire Phillips to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2018.

Court noted the following reappointments to Thematic Committees approved by Nominations Committee:

- Estates Committee
Peter Budd's term of office extended to 31 July 2017
David Bentley's term of office extended to 31 July 2018
- Investment Committee
Richard Davidson's term of office as Convener extended to 31 July 2018
- People Committee
Doreen Davidson's term of office extended to 31 July 2017

Court approved the reappointment of Robert Black to the Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme until 31 July 2017.

- **Joint Court and Senate Committee Conveners** **Paper P3**

Court noted the report.

- **Audit & Risk Committee** **Paper P4**

Court approved the External Audit Annual Plan 2015-16 and noted the report.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee** **Paper P5**

Court noted the report and discussed the Lecture Capture project, with a business case to be submitted to the following meeting of Knowledge Strategy Committee.

- **Senatus Academicus** **Paper P6**

Court noted the report.

• **Senatus Committees' Annual Report**

Paper P7

Court noted the report.

18 CMVM – Reorganisation of Endowments

Paper Q

Court exercised its power under Ordinance 209 and adopted the reform detailed in the paper with regard to the application of endowment funds held in excess of 10 years in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

19 Resolutions

Paper R

Senate Assessor Dr Aliotta declared a conflict of interest in relation to Resolution No. 17/2016 and withdrew from discussion and approval of the Resolution.

The following resolutions were approved:

- Resolution No. 9/2016: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No.10/2016: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No.11/2016: Higher Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No.12/2106: Degree of Batchelor of Arts in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Resolution No. 13/2016: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Clinical Psychology
- Resolution No. 14/2016: Foundation of an AXA Chair of Medical Bioinformatics and Epidemiology
- Resolution No. 15/2016: Foundation of a Chair of Applied Marine Biology
- Resolution No. 16/2016: Foundation of a Chair of Natural Hazards Science
- Resolution No. 17/2016: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Nuclear Astrophysics
- Resolution No. 18/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Software Safety and Security
- Resolution No. 19/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medieval Scottish History
- Resolution No. 20/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of German and Theatre
- Resolution No. 21/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Coastal and Maritime Hydromechanics
- Resolution No. 22/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Evolution
- Resolution No. 23/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Atmospheric Sciences
- Resolution No. 24/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Reproductive Medicine and Science
- Resolution No. 25/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Algorithms, Games, Logic and Complexity
- Resolution No. 26/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Visual Learning

- Resolution No. 27/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Cell Biology
- Resolution No. 28/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Observational Cosmology
- Resolution No. 29/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Interior Design
- Resolution No. 30/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biology of Reprogramming
- Resolution No. 31/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Quantum Computing
- Resolution No. 32/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Soft Materials and Surfaces
- Resolution No. 33/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Survey Astronomy
- Resolution No. 34/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Post-Soviet and Comparative Politics
- Resolution No. 35/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Twentieth-Century U.S. History
- Resolution No. 36/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Behavioural Neuroendocrinology
- Resolution No. 37/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Earth Surface Processes
- Resolution No. 38/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Contemporary Art Practice and Theory
- Resolution No. 39/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Islamic Studies and Persian
- Resolution No. 40/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of History of Philosophy
- Resolution No. 41/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Primary Care Respiratory Medicine
- Resolution No. 42/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Profiling Childhood Visual Impairment
- Resolution No. 43/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Molecular Thermodynamics
- Resolution No. 44/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Physical Education
- Resolution No. 45/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Evolutionary Genomics
- Resolution No. 46/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Quantitative Genetics
- Resolution No. 47/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medical Statistics and Clinical Trials
- Resolution No. 48/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neurology
- Resolution No. 49/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Human Genetics
- Resolution No. 50/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Economics
- Resolution No. 51/2016 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Latin Literature and Roman History

Court congratulated Dr Aliotta on the award of a Personal Chair in Experimental Nuclear Astrophysics.

20 Donations and Legacies

Paper S

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from 1 April 2016 to 25 May 2016 were noted.

21 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.

22 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

23 Dates of Meetings for 2016/17 and 2017/18

Paper T

The dates of meetings for 2016/17 and 2017/18 were confirmed.