



**UNIVERSITY COURT**

**24 April 2017**

**Minute**

- Present:** Mr Steve Morrison, Rector (in chair)  
The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea  
Ms Anne Richards, Vice-Convener  
Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen  
Dr Alan Brown  
Ms Doreen Davidson  
Professor Elizabeth Bomberg  
Professor Sarah Cooper  
Dr Claire Phillips  
Professor Alexander Tudhope  
Mr David Bentley  
Dr Robert Black  
Ms Alison Grant  
Mr Alan Johnston  
Dr Chris Masters  
Lady Susan Rice  
Ms Angi Lamb  
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  
Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl  
Mr Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University  
Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr Phil McNaull, Director of Finance  
Ms Leigh Chalmers, Director of Legal Services  
Mr Gary Jebb, Director of Estates  
Ms Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning  
Mr Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary, Student Experience  
Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources  
Ms Fiona Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations  
Mr Patrick Kilduff, President-elect, Students' Association  
Ms Esther Dominy, Vice-President-elect, Welfare, Students' Association  
Ms Kirstie Graham, Deputy Head of Court Services  
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
- Apologies:** Mr Peter Budd  
The Rt Hon Donald Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh  
Mr Ritchie Walker

## ***Pre-Court Presentation – Edinburgh College of Art***

Court received a presentation covering recent highlights and planned developments at the Edinburgh College of Art from Professor Chris Breward, Principal of Edinburgh College of Art and Vice-Principal Creative Industries and Performing Arts.

### **1 Minute**

**Paper A**

The minute of the meeting held on 6 February 2017 was approved.

Court welcomed Patrick Kilduff and Esther Dominy, EUSA President-elect and EUSA Vice-President-elect respectively, attending as observers prior to taking office on 12 June.

### **2 Matters Arising**

**Verbal**

The Vice-Convener noted that:

- i) the Principal's contract will be extended by four months to 31 January 2018, as approved by Court by correspondence, with the Principal-designate expected to take by office by February 2018;
- ii) the process to recruit two new co-opted Court members from 1 August 2017 is continuing as planned, with the submission of recommended candidates expected at the 19 June meeting.

### **3 Principal's Communications**

**Paper B**

Court noted the content of the Principal's report and the additional information on: the UK general election called for 8 June and its likely effect on the passage of the UK Higher Education and Research Bill; progress with the University's business planning round, to be submitted to the June Court meeting, with the appropriate Court committees to consider the University's risk appetite given opportunities for investment; and continuing engagement with Ministers regarding post-study work visas.

### **4 Vice-Principal and Assistant Principal Appointment/Extensions**

**Paper C**

Court formally approved the appointment of Professor David Robertson as Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science and Engineering from 1 August 2017 for an initial period of five years.

Court approved the extension of terms of office until 31 July 2018 of:

- Vice-Principal High Performance Computing, Professor Richard Kenway;
- Vice-Principal People and Culture, Professor Jane Norman;
- Vice-Principal International, Professor James Smith;
- Vice-Principal Data Science, Professor Andrew Morris;
- Assistant Principal Religion and Society, Professor Mona Siddiqui;
- Assistant Principal External Relations, Professor Susan Deacon;
- Assistant Principal Global Justice, Professor Christine Bell;
- Assistant Principal Global Health, Dr Elizabeth Grant;

- Assistant Principal Research-led Learning, Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley;
- Honorary Assistant Principal Mental Health Research Development and Public Understanding of Medicine, Professor Eve Johnston;
- Honorary Assistant Principal Cancer Research Development, Professor John Smyth.

## **5 Policy & Resources Committee Report**

**Paper D**

The Vice-Convener noted the update on collaborative activities with Hua Xia Healthcare, the purchase of 7-8 Chambers Street and congratulated the Principal on the naming of the student accommodation in the Holyrood Development as the O'Shea Hall in honour of Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea's service as Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

### **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

## **6 Student Experience Update**

**Paper E**

The Deputy Secretary, Student Experience, presented the University's Learning & Teaching Strategy, approved by the Senatus Learning & Teaching Committee and following discussion at the December Court seminar. The strategy was welcomed, with a greater focus on the student experience in estates projects and progress with improving student communications noted. Including best practice examples in the online version of the strategy was suggested.

## **7 Edinburgh Futures Institute – Quatermile**

**Paper F**

The full business case and academic vision for the Edinburgh Futures Institute, Quatermile development, was reviewed. The following points were considered in discussion:

- Developing new courses for the Edinburgh Futures Institute with two undergraduate courses and a matrix of postgraduate courses planned;
- High internal rates of return and short payback periods for recent large estates projects in the central area given the need for teaching space in this location;
- Strong support of Policy & Resources Committee and Estates Committee following detailed scrutiny;
- Significant potential for philanthropic funding and government funding;
- Designing the development to boost public engagement, business engagement, including co-location, and the 'porous University';
- Importance of staff recruitment and the co-ordination and co-operation of the Schools involved.

Court endorsed the full business and academic vision and approved £108.29m funding from University Corporate Resources to progress the project to completion. Progress updates were requested at key milestones.

**8 Finance** **Paper G1**

- **Finance Director's Report**

The second quarter 2016/17 financial outturn, the latest iteration of the Ten Year Forecast, expectations prior to the triennial actuarial valuation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme and the summary results of the Annual Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) Return for 2015/16 were considered.

- **Social Finance Investment** **Paper G2**

A proposal for the University to support its overall vision to deliver impact for society by investing in targeted social finance opportunities was reviewed. Court discussed the growth and success of social finance investment in recent decades, the University's recognition as a sector leader in responsible investment, reputational implications and the appropriate governance of social finance investments, including the roles of Policy & Resources Committee and Investment Committee.

Court welcomed the overall principle of developing social finance investment and noted that individual proposals will be brought forward in due course. Court agreed to delegate to Policy & Resources Committee decision-making authority to consider an initial social finance investment.

**9 Low Carbon College** **Paper H**

Court noted an update on the development of the University's partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and endorsed planned work to advance the development of a Low Carbon College in Shanghai Lingang.

**10 Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) & Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU)** **Paper I3**

- **EUSA President's Report**

The EUSA President reported on activities since the last meeting and forthcoming events, encouraging financial results for the year to date and significantly improved responses from the annual survey of members. Court welcomed EUSA's award as Higher Education Student Union of the Year in the 2017 NUS Scotland Awards and recorded its thanks to the EUSA President and Vice-President Services for their commitment to the Court and the University as a whole over their terms of office and wished them well for the future.

- **EUSA and EUSU Planning Round submission** **Paper I1**

The proposed budget allocations for EUSA and EUSU for 2017-18 were approved and the 2017-20 Planning Round update noted.

- **EUSA Budget 2017-18**

**Paper I2**

Following approval by the EUSA Board of Trustees, the proposed EUSA Budget for the 2017-18 financial year was approved by Court.

**11 City Deal Update**

**Paper J**

A progress update on negotiations to establish a City Deal for the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region following the Scottish local elections and UK parliamentary elections was noted.

**ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

**12 Estates: Nominations Agreements**

- **Brae House**

**Paper K1**

Approval was granted to enter into a 20 year Nominations Agreement for 402 bed spaces at Brae House, Abbeyhill.

- **38 Haddington Place**

**Paper K2**

*The Vice-Convenor declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from discussion and decision-making on the item.*

Approval was granted to enter into a 20 year Nominations Agreement for 159 bed spaces at 38 Haddington Place.

**13 Equality & Diversity**

- **Equality, Diversity Monitoring & Research Committee (EDMARC) Staff and Students Reports 2016**

**Paper L1**

The annual reports were approved for publication.

- **Equality Outcomes 2017-2021**

**Paper L2**

The Equality Outcomes 2017-2021 were approved for publication.

**14 Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR): Follow-Up Report**

**Paper M**

The Follow-Up Report to the Quality Assurance Agency Scotland's 2015 Enhancement-Led Institutional Review was endorsed.

**15 ARCHER2**

**Paper N**

Court approved:

i) in principle, the issue of a Parent Company Guarantee in support of anticipated bids to the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council to provide key aspects of the next-generation High Performance Computing service known as ARCHER2;

ii) delegation of authority to the Director of Corporate Services and the Directors of the subsidiary company UoE HPCX Ltd to negotiate the details of the Parent Company Guarantee, with the final outcome to be reported to Court.

<b>16 University Financial Regulations</b>	<b>Paper O</b>
The updated University Financial Regulations were approved, to apply with immediate effect.	
<b>17 China Office Bank Account</b>	<b>Paper P</b>
The opening of a bank account with Bank of China in Beijing, in the name of 'Edinburgh Research and Innovation, Beijing Representative Office' was approved.	
<b>18 Committee Reports</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exception Committee</b></li> </ul>	<b>Paper Q1</b>
The following matter approved by the Exception Committee on behalf of Court was noted: approval of the Outcome Agreement 2017-18 and the delegation of authority to the Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning, to submit the Outcome Agreement to the Scottish Funding Council by 31 March 2017.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EU Sub-Group</b></li> </ul>	<b>Paper Q2</b>
Court noted progress with the three stands of activity: communications; scenario planning & mitigation; and, strategic partnerships.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Audit and Risk Committee</b></li> </ul>	<b>Paper Q3</b>
Key points from the report were noted.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Knowledge Strategy Committee</b></li> </ul>	<b>Paper Q4</b>
Key points from the report were noted.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Senate</b></li> </ul>	<b>Paper Q5</b>
Key points from the report were noted.	
<b>19 Resolutions</b>	<b>Paper R</b>
The following draft Resolutions were referred to the General Council and to Senate for observations:	
Draft Resolution No. 22/2017: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations	
Draft Resolution No. 23/2017: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations	
The following resolutions were approved:	
Resolution No. 9/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Environmental Law	
Resolution No. 10/2017: Foundation of Additional Chairs of Finance (2 chairs)	

Resolution No. 11/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Infection Medicine

Resolution No. 12/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Interdisciplinary  
Science

Resolution No. 13/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Software  
Engineering

Resolution No. 14/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Quantum  
Technology Innovation

Resolution No. 15/2017: Alteration of the title of the Chair of  
Classroom Learning

## **20 Donations and Legacies**

**Paper S**

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from  
17 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 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**

The Rector reminded members that the Meet the University Court event  
will be held after the lunch break following the meeting.

## **23 Date of next meeting**

Monday, 19 June 2017, 2pm