



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2017

Minute

- Present:**
- Mr Steve Morrison, Rector (in chair)
 - The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
 - Ms Anne Richards, Vice-Convener
 - Dr Alan Brown
 - Ms Doreen Davidson
 - Mr Ritchie Walker
 - Professor Sarah Cooper
 - Dr Claire Phillips
 - Professor Alexander Tudhope
 - The Rt Hon Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
 - Mr David Bentley
 - Dr Robert Black
 - Mr Peter Budd
 - Ms Alison Grant
 - Mr Alan Johnston
 - Dr Chris Masters
 - Lady Susan Rice
 - Ms Angi Lamb
 - Mr Patrick Kilduff, President, Students' Association
 - Ms Esther Dominy, 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 Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and 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 Tracy Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
 - Mr Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary, Student Experience
 - Dr Ian Conn, Director of Communications and Marketing
 - Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources
 - Ms Fiona Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations
 - Ms Kirstie Graham, Deputy Head of Court Services
 - Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
 - Ms Jo Craiglee, Non-Teaching Staff Assessor-designate
- Apologies:**
- Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen
 - Professor Elizabeth Bomberg

- 1 Minute** **Paper A**
The minute of the meeting held on 24 April 2017 was approved.
- Court welcomed the Rt Hon Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Mr Patrick Kilduff, EUSA President and Ms Esther Dominy, EUSA Vice-President Welfare to their first meeting as Court members and welcomed Ms Jo Craiglee, Non-Teaching Staff Assessor-designate, attending as an observer.
- Noting that this was the last meeting for Co-opted members Mr Peter Budd and Dr Chris Masters and for Non-Teaching Staff Assessor Ms Angi Lamb, Court recorded its thanks for their service and wished them well for the future.
- 2 Matters Arising** **Verbal**
There were no matters arising.
- 3 Principal's Communications** **Paper B**
The Principal invited the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Estates to provide an update on fire safety measures at the University. It was noted that recent renovation work on the Appleton Tower had been completed to their highest health and safety standards, including the use of non-combustible materials. All large University buildings have various evacuation routes and procedures for simultaneous evacuation upon the activation of a fire alarm. All buildings, including University student residences, are subject to regular inspection, including fire safety standards.
- Court noted the content of the Principal's report and the additional information on: utilisation of University expertise in Fire Safety Engineering across the UK following the Grenfell Tower fire; promising student applications for the 2017-18 academic year; an expected record year for research income in 2016-17; scheduled national discussions regarding the Universities Superannuation Scheme; and, implications for higher education following the UK General Election.
- 4 Policy & Resources Committee Report** **Paper C**
The Vice-Convenor noted: approval granted for an initial £1.5M social finance investment with Big Issue Invest: approval granted to enter the first phase of procurement – competitive dialogue – for new core University IT systems; an opportunity to assist in establishing a new Small-to-Medium Enterprise Financial Technology Hub; and, an update on planned collaboration with Hua Xia Healthcare.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

5 Planning Round 2017-2020

Paper E

The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning, presented the final draft of the University's three year financial plan for 2017-20, synthesising business plans and investment proposals developed by the main budget owners recognising the objectives and development themes of the Strategic Plan 2016. Court welcomed the paper, noting that the plans do not include any investment that may arise from the proposed City Deal. It was suggested that communications to staff and students of key proposals be considered as appropriate. Court approved the plan and the proposed investments.

6 Student Experience Updates

**Papers
D1-D2**

The Senior Vice-Principal presented a high-level framework for future reporting to Court on learning, teaching and student experience activities in four thematic areas: resources and investment; recognition and incentives; partnership and community; and, innovation and curriculum. The proposed partnership approach with the Students' Association was welcomed by the Student President and improving student facing communication, communal social spaces and staff workload capacity was discussed. The high-level framework was approved.

The Deputy Secretary, Student Experience, provided an update on recent activity to enhance the student experience in areas including: employability; information and library services; support for mental health and wellbeing; support for disabled students; student residences; transport; and sport. Members discussed the importance of recreational sport, improving the physical and digital estate and communicating to students the wide range of enhancements and investments made.

7 Estates

- **Proposals for Investment in Student Facing Facilities**

Paper G3

An overview of proposed investments in student facing facilities incorporated within the Estates Vision 2017-2027 was reviewed. It was discussed that, student facing facilities are crucial to the activity of the University and in attracting prospective students, though typically indirectly revenue generating. The status of each project was noted, with approval requests to be submitted separately as appropriate.

- **Student Centre**

Paper G4

The full business case and funding request to deliver a new Student Centre at Teviot Row House and 1 George Square was considered. Members discussed:

- the phasing of the project timetable and minimising disruption during the construction phases;
- a plaque to commemorate eminent surgeons associated with the Wilkie Building;
- actively monitoring the University's project management capacity;
- attributing revenue to the Student Centre; and,
- creating a narrative case for the Student Centre alongside the business case.

The full business case and request for funding from University Corporate Resources to progress the project to completion was approved.

- **Estates Vision 2017-2027**

Paper G1

The Estates Vision 2017-2027, setting out the strategic direction for the development of the University Estate in advance of an updated Estates Strategy, was approved. It was suggested that a timeline of major projects could be incorporated within the document.

- **Residential Accommodation Strategy**

Paper G2

The Residential Accommodation Strategy, considering the future student residential requirements of the University in the context of the Strategic Plan and planned growth, was approved.

- **Murchison House**

Paper G5

The full business case for the refurbishment of Murchison House at the King's Buildings Campus and a request for funding from University Corporate Resources and College of Science & Engineering reserves to complete the project was approved.

- **King's Buildings Campus Infrastructure**

Paper G6

A funding request from University Corporate Resources to progress the King's Buildings Infrastructure Project to completion was approved.

- **Institute for Regeneration & Repair: Updated Business Case**

Paper G7

A philanthropic donation from the Robert O Curle Charitable Trust towards a regenerative ophthalmology research laboratory within the Institute for Regeneration & Repair was welcomed and a request from

University Corporate Resources to complete the funding requirement for the laboratory approved. The updated business case for the Institute of Regeneration & Repair incorporating the regenerative ophthalmology research laboratory was approved, with previously approved funding for a BioQuarter site gym to be set aside for a revised proposal.

8 Horizon COFUND

Paper M

Approval was granted for an application to the European Union Horizon 2020 COFUND scheme for international postdoctoral fellows and for a University contribution to funding costs should the application be successful.

9 Finance

- **Finance Director's Report**

Paper F1

The University Group Quarter Three forecast surplus, the latest Ten Year Forecast and associated key performance indicators and an update on the forthcoming actuarial valuation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme was noted. Members requested consistent labelling of different surplus definitions and discussed the importance of generating positive cashflow over the period of the Ten Year Forecast.

- **Scottish Funding Council Strategic Plan Forecast**

Paper F2

The University's Strategic Plan Forecast was approved for submission to the Scottish Funding Council.

10 Edinburgh University Students Association President's Report

Paper H

The EUSA President reported on activities since the last meeting and planned future events, including preparations for graduations, the Festival and Welcome Week. A minor amendment to the EUSA Democracy Regulations to create two University-wide postgraduate representative positions was approved.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

11 Scottish Code of Good HE Governance: Consultation Response

Paper I

The draft response to the consultation on a revised Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance was approved subject to amendments to: i) strengthen the request that the draft revised Code is either significantly revised to focus on core principles of good governance or the implementation date is extended to match the implementation period of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 given that full compliance will not be possible until then; and,

ii) strengthen comments highlighting specific concerns with new requirements in the draft revised Code.

12 Review of the University of Edinburgh Development Trust **Paper J**

The recommendations of the review of the University of Edinburgh Development Trust were accepted: that from a future date (to be agreed), new philanthropic donations will be made directly to the University; that the Development Trust is retained, primarily to receive legacy pledges, and is streamlined; and, that Court accepts an oversight function in relation to the University's philanthropic and alumni relations activity.

13 Prevent Duty Implementation Update **Paper K**

An update on the implementation of the Prevent duty at the University from July 2016 to June 2017 was noted.

14 Education Act 1994 compliance **Paper L**

Court noted the Certificate of Assurance demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the Education Act 1994.

15 University Risk Register **Paper N**

The University Risk Appetite Statement and University Risk Register 2017/18 were approved.

16 University Computing Regulations **Paper O**

Revisions to the University Computing Regulations were approved with effect from 1 August 2017.

17 Committee Reports **Paper P1**

- **Exception Committee**

The following matter approved by the Exception Committee on behalf of Court was noted: the award of the distinction of University Benefactor to the Robert O Curle Charitable Trust in recognition of the Trust's donations for research and medical and veterinary equipment and facilities in the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine.

- **Nominations Committee** **Paper P2**

On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Court approved the following appointments and reappointments with effect from 1 August 2017 unless otherwise specified:

University Court

- Lady Susan Rice to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Ms Perdita Fraser to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Dr Frank Armstrong to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

Audit & Risk Committee

- Mr Bindesh Savajani to be reappointed for a three year term of office from 2 November 2017 to 2 November 2020
- Mr Jim Bishop to be reappointed for a three year term of office from 31 January 2018 to 31 January 2021
- Ms Perdita Fraser to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

Committee on University Benefactors

- Dr Alan Brown to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2019

Knowledge Strategy Committee

- Ms Doreen Davidson to be reappointed for a three year of office as Convener to 31 July 2020

Nominations Committee

- Lady Susan Rice to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Ms Doreen Davidson to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

Policy & Resources Committee

- Lady Susan Rice to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Ms Doreen Davidson to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Dr Frank Armstrong to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

Remuneration Committee

- Lady Susan Rice to be reappointed for a three year term of office as Convener to 31 July 2020
- Ms Doreen Davidson to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

Curators of Patronage

- Vice-Convener Anne Richards to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Vice-Principal Professor Dorothy Miell to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme

- Vice-Principal Professor Jane Norman to be appointed for a four year term of office to 31 July 2021
- Ms Doreen Davidson to be appointed for a four year term of office to 31 July 2021
- Mr Richard Davidson to be reappointed for a term of office from 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2019

'Whistleblowing' Court lay member contact

- Mr Alan Johnston to be appointed as the designated lay member of Court for 'whistleblowing' purposes from 1 August 2017.

Court noted the following appointments and reappointments to Thematic Committees approved by Nominations Committee, to take effect from 1 August 2017:

Investment Committee

- Ms Doreen Davidson reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Ms Carolyn Aitchison reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Mr Mark Connolly reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2020

University Collections Advisory Committee

- Dr Alan Brown appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2019.

• **Audit & Risk Committee**

Paper P3

Court noted the report and approved the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2017/18, External Audit Annual Plan 2016/17, External Auditor Appointment and External Audit Fee as set out in the paper.

• **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper P4

Court noted the report and approved in principle the revocation of Ordinance no. 64 (Custody and Management of Libraries) and Ordinance no. 182 (Composition of the Library Committee) and their replacement by a University Resolution.

• **Committee on University Benefactors**

Paper P5

On the recommendation of the Committee on University Benefactors, Court approved the bestowing of the distinction of University Benefactor.

- **Senate**

Paper P6

Court noted the report, including Senate's support for a University consultation on a preferred model for an amended composition of Senate to comply with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016.

- **Senate Committees Annual Report**

Paper P7

Court noted the report.

18 Resolutions

Paper Q

The Principal declared a conflict of interest in relation to Resolutions No. 17/2017 and No. 18/2017 and withdrew from discussion and approval of these Resolutions.

The following resolutions were approved:

- Resolution No. 16/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Jurisprudence
- Resolution No. 17/2017: Foundation of a Sir Timothy O'Shea Chair of Veterinary Informatics and Data Science
- Resolution No. 18/2017: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Learning Analytics and Informatics
- Resolution No. 19/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Material Design and Innovation
- Resolution No. 20/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Isotope Geochemistry
- Resolution No. 21/2017: Foundation of a Chair of Food and Environmental Security
- Resolution No. 22/2017: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No. 23/2017: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No. 24/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Anti-Racist and Multicultural Education
- Resolution No. 25/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Acoustics and Audio Signal Processing
- Resolution No. 26/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Early Modern History
- Resolution No. 27/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Food Marketing & Society
- Resolution No. 28/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Ethics and Epistemology
- Resolution No. 29/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Roman Law
- Resolution No. 30/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Social History

- Resolution No. 31/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Social Policy and Research Methods
- Resolution No. 32/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of War and Peace
- Resolution No. 33/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Russian and Sociolinguistics
- Resolution No. 34/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Evolutionary Linguistics
- Resolution No. 35/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of History of Art
- Resolution No. 36/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Economic and Social History
- Resolution No. 37/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Renal Physiology
- Resolution No. 38/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Epidemiology
- Resolution No. 39/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cellular and Systems Neuroscience
- Resolution No. 40/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Global Health and Development
- Resolution No. 41/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Tissue Engineering
- Resolution No. 42/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Quantitative Trait Genetics
- Resolution No. 43/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Immunology
- Resolution No. 44/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Comparative Medicine
- Resolution No. 45/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Stem Cell and Cancer Biology
- Resolution No. 46/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neurodegeneration
- Resolution No. 47/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medicines Discovery
- Resolution No. 48/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neonatal Medicine
- Resolution No. 49/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Molecular Imaging and Healthcare Technology
- Resolution No. 50/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Respiratory Medicine
- Resolution No. 51/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biological Physics
- Resolution No. 52/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Algebraic Geometry
- Resolution No. 53/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Theoretical Chemistry
- Resolution No. 54/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Particulate Materials Processing
- Resolution No. 55/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Synthesis and Chemical Biology

- Resolution No. 56/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Collider Physics
- Resolution No. 57/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Global Health Infection and Immunity
- Resolution No. 58/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Evolutionary Ecology
- Resolution No. 59/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Biomechanics
- Resolution No. 60/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Bioinformatics
- Resolution No. 61/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Nuclear Envelope Biology
- Resolution No. 62/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Polymer Chemistry
- Resolution No. 63/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of NMR Spectroscopy
- Resolution No. 64/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Neuroscience
- Resolution No. 65/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Theoretical High Energy Physics
- Resolution No. 66/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Climate and Low Carbon Innovation
- Resolution No. 67/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Business Analytics
- Resolution No. 68/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Aquaculture Genetics

19 Donations and Legacies

Paper R

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from 1 April 2017 to 31 May 2017 were noted.

20 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 the common seal.

21 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

22 Dates of 2017/18 Meetings

The previously agreed dates were noted.