



UNIVERSITY COURT

18 June 2018

Minute

Present: Ann Henderson, Rector (in chair)
The Principal, Peter Mathieson
Anne Richards, Vice-Convener
Edward Bowen, Chancellor's Assessor
Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Alan Brown, General Council Assessor
Doreen Davidson, General Council Assessor
Ritchie Walker, General Council Assessor
Elizabeth Bomberg, Senate Assessor
Sarah Cooper, Senate Assessor
Claire Phillips, Senate Assessor
Alexander Tudhope, Senate Assessor
Jo Craiglee, Non-Teaching Staff Assessor
Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member
David Bentley, Co-opted Member
Robert Black, Co-opted Member
Perdita Fraser, Co-opted Member
Alison Grant, Co-opted Member
Alan Johnston, Co-opted Member
Susan Rice, Co-opted Member
Eleri Connick, President, Students' Association
Kai O'Doherty, Vice-President, Students' Association

In attendance: Angi Lamb, Rector's Assessor
University Secretary, Sarah Smith
Senior Vice-Principal Charlie Jeffery
Vice-Principal Dorothy Miell
Vice-Principal Moira Whyte
Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University
Phil McNaull, Director of Finance
Leigh Chalmers, Director of Legal Services
Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary, Student Experience
James Saville, Interim Director of Human Resources
Theresa Merrick Director of Communications and Marketing
Kate Schafferius, undergraduate student (for Item 5)
Jon Turner, Director, Institute for Academic Development (for Item 5)
Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

1 Minute

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 23 April 2018 was approved.

On behalf of Court, the Rector welcomed Student President Eleri Connick and Student Vice-President Welfare Kai O'Doherty to their first meeting

as Court members and welcomed new Court attendee Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing.

Court recorded its condolences on the passing of George Grubb, former Lord Provost, who served on Court from 2007 to 2012.

2 Matters Arising

Verbal

There were no matters arising.

3 Principal's Communications

Paper B

Court noted the contents of the Principal's Report and additional information on: the report expected in September 2018 from the Joint Expert Panel regarding the 2017 valuation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and potential increases to employers and staff contributions if the cost sharing provision is implemented; the forthcoming launch of a student opportunity fund to support those students most impacted by recent industrial action; the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding in England and potential cross-border implications; the League of European Research Universities meeting hosted by Edinburgh on 18-19 May; engagement with the developer and local groups regarding a proposed student accommodation site in the Leith Walk area; James Saville's appointment as Director of Human Resources on a substantive basis; the forthcoming graduation ceremonies and recent celebrations of student sporting success at the Commonwealth Games and the annual Blues and Colours awards; the Chancellor's visit on 1 May – to celebrate 150 years of Engineering at the University, visit surgical training facilities at Little France and open the Charnock Bradley building and new Equine Hospital at the Easter Bush campus; and the receipt of a five year funding award of £55m from the Medical Research Council to support the MRC Human Genetics Unit.

Court noted the recent fire in the Mackintosh Building at the Glasgow School of Art and expressed its deep sympathy and support for the Glasgow School of Art.

The extension of the terms of office for Honorary Assistant Principals Professor John Smyth and Professor Eve Johnstone CBE to 31 July 2019 were endorsed.

4 Policy & Resources Committee Report

Paper C

The report was noted.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

5 Student Experience Update

Paper D

The Senior Vice-Principal introduced a regular update on the University's student experience enhancement activities, with a presentation on the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences led by the Head of College, with a contribution by a Business School undergraduate and peer support

leader. Case studies for the School of Economics and the Business School and convergence in staff-student ratios and workload allocation models within the College were discussed.

The Director of the Institute for Academic Development presented on drivers for curriculum change – including technology, widening participation, graduate outcomes, government policy changes, desire for flexibility and joint degrees – and possible responses, with the last major curriculum review having taken place in 2001-04. Court thanked the presenters and noted the contents of the paper and presentations, with further updates to be provided as scheduled.

6 Planning

• Planning Round 2018-2021

Paper E1

The financial plan for the three year cycle from 2018-2021 and accompanying synthesis of the underpinning business plans were considered. Following a query on plans for growth in student numbers over the period, it was confirmed that these are similar to previous years and have been formulated at School level. The proposed business plans and surpluses for the period 2018-21 were approved.

• Scottish Funding Council Strategic Plan Forecast

Paper E2

The University's Strategic Plan Forecast 2017-18 to 2020-21 was approved for submission to the Scottish Funding Council.

7 City Deal

• Negotiations Update

Paper F1

An update on the final phase of the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal negotiations was considered. The expected funding profile and negotiating outcome was welcomed and leadership shown by University staff in progressing the City Region Deal congratulated. It was noted that the City Region Deal agreement comprises three documents: a City Region Deal document; a Financial Plan and Agreement; and an Implementation Plan. In addition, a legally binding University Grant Agreement will follow. Court authorised the Senior Vice-Principal to sign the public-facing City Region Deal document as designated representative of the universities and colleges of the region.

• Funding and Legal Arrangements

Paper F2

The proposed funding arrangements for the City Region Deal between the UK and Scottish Governments, the City of Edinburgh Council (the Accountable Body), the University and the other Council partners were reviewed. Court authorised:

- the University's City Deal Executive Governance Group to approve the final legal and funding arrangements as set out in the University Grant Agreement described in the paper; and,
- subject to the approval above, the University Secretary to sign the University Grant Agreement between the City of Edinburgh Council and the University.

8 Estates

• IGMM 4D Cellular Medicine

Paper G

A proposal to expand and upgrade space at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine (IGMM) to house the 4D Cellular Medicine Initiative led by the Medical Research Council Human Genetics Unit was considered. Court:

- noted the approval by Estates Committee of funding for design fees subject to confirmation of the capital commitment from the Medical Research Council;
- approved the underwriting from University Corporate Resources to provide 1:1 matched capital funding with the Medical Research Council; and,
- noted that a full business case in support of a formal request for University funding will be submitted to Estates Committee, Policy & Resources Committee and Court after completion of the initial design phase.

• Estates Plan Progress/Capital Prioritisation Overview

Verbal

The Director of Finance provided an update on work to develop a capital prioritisation methodology considering strategic fit, financial aspects and estates benefits, such as relieving teaching space pressure. The methodology will be reviewed by the University Executive then submitted to Policy & Resources Committee.

9 Finance

• Finance Director's Report

Paper H1

The Period 9 (April) Management Accounts and the Quarter 3 University Full Year Forecast for the year were reviewed. Members discussed the introduction of quarterly rolling financial forecast meetings for the seven budget areas and the potential impact of any increases in employer pension contributions on the UK higher education sector as a whole.

• Estates Funding Strategy

Paper H2

Court reviewed the latest iteration of the Ten Year Forecast, a summary of the latest Estates Capital Plan and options being explored to fund the emerging priorities of the Estates Capital Plan. The opportunity to refinance relatively expensive existing debt and finance new student residences by raising external debt at current low interest rates was considered, alongside amending the current cash liquidity assumption given significant improvements in financial forecasting and estates planning in recent years. Members discussed the historic underinvestment in estates and information services, the expected high demand for University owned student residences and the external risk environment, including possible higher levels of employer pension contributions and reductions in higher education funding. Court supported the direction of travel and endorsed the next steps, to include:

- a review by Audit & Risk Committee of a revised University Risk Appetite Statement with a reduced minimum cash holding policy and increased gearing associated with raising new debt;
- an updated paper on financing options to be reviewed by Policy & Resources Committee; and,
- final approval by Exception Committee of a revised University Risk Appetite Statement and financing proposal over the summer period.

10 IT Network Replacement

Paper I

An opportunity to incorporate the student residences and conference data network and telephony service into the University campus network within the current campus network replacement project was considered. The potential benefit to the student experience, lessons learned for similar projects in future and the low level of implementation risk were discussed.

Court approved:

- the change of scope to the Campus Network Replacement project to include the Accommodation, Catering and Events student data networking and telephony services;
- procurement Option 4 as set out in the paper, to amend the current campus network procurement to include the residential network; and,
- the associated increase of capital expenditure.

11 Developing a University Strategy: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Paper J

University activity to prevent and respond to sexual violence and to identify priority future actions was reviewed. The approach and activity to date was welcomed. Learning from other sectors and organisations and a comprehensive approach including all gender orientations and student and staff categories was discussed. The proposed future plans were approved, with a taskforce chaired by the Vice-Principal People & Culture to report to the University Executive.

12 Governance

Paper K1

- **Governance Code Implementation**

Recommended changes to Court documentation and practices to ensure compliance with the revised Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance were approved. It was noted that Nominations Committee will undertake further work to explore whether staff and student Court members should join Remuneration Committee.

- **External Effectiveness Review**

Paper K2

Court approved the appointment of David Newall, former Secretary to Court & Director of Administration at the University of Glasgow and current Chair of the Board of Management at Glasgow Clyde College as facilitator of an external effectiveness review of Court and its committees and approved David Newall's suggested approach to the review.

13 EUSA President's Report **Paper L**

The Student President reported on the Impact Awards, work to develop a British Sign Language plan and summarised the joint priorities for the new sabbatical team. The Students Association's preference for University-owned and operated student accommodation was discussed. It was requested that future EUSA President's Reports be considered beside Student Experience items on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

14 Prevent Duty Implementation Update **Paper M**

The report was noted.

15 Education Act 1994 Compliance **Paper N**

The report was noted.

16 Committee Reports **Paper O1**

- **Court City Deal Sub-Group**

The report was noted.

- **Nominations Committee** **Paper O2**

On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Court approved the following appointments and reappointments from 1 August 2018:

University Court

- Alan Johnston to be reappointed as a co-opted member of Court for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021
- Clare Reid to be appointed as a co-opted member of Court for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021
- Robert Black to be reappointed as a co-opted member of Court for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019
- David Bentley to be reappointed as a co-opted member of Court for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019

Audit and Risk Committee

- Alan Johnston to be reappointed as Convener for a two year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Robert Black to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Alan Brown to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019

Committee on University Benefactors

- Edward Bowen to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Jo Craiglee to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2020

Exception Committee

- Sarah Cooper to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

Knowledge Strategy Committee

- Elizabeth Bomberg to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Claire Phillips to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

Nominations Committee

- Robert Black to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019

Policy and Resources Committee

- David Bentley to be appointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Sarah Cooper to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

Remuneration Committee

- Alan Johnston to be reappointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme

- Alan Johnston to be reappointed as Convener for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

Ethical Fundraising Advisory Group

- Alan Johnston to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

Intermediary Court member

- Edward Bowen to be reappointed as the intermediary Court member for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019

Court noted the following appointments and reappointments to Thematic Committees approved by Nominations Committee from 1 August 2018:

Estates Committee

- David Bentley to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Clare Reid to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021 (subject to Court approval as a new Court member)

Investment Committee

- Richard Davidson to be reappointed as Convener for a two year term of office to 31 July 2020
- David Bentley to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2019
- Henry Cobbe to be appointed as an external member for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021

- Jim Roth to be appointed as an external member for a three year term of office to 31 July 2021.

- **Audit and Risk Committee**

Paper O3

The report was noted and the following approved:

- University Risk Register 2018-19
- University Statement of Risk Appetite – noting that this will be further reviewed as part of the Estates Funding Strategy considered under Item 9
- External Audit Annual Plan and Fee for 2017-18.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper O4

The report was noted and progress with lecture recording equipment and policy discussed.

- **Senate**

Paper O5

The report was noted.

- **Senate Committees Annual Report**

Paper O6

The report was noted.

17 Resolutions

Paper P

The following resolutions were approved:

- No. 10/2018: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- No. 11/2018: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- No. 12/2018: Higher Degree Programme Regulations
- No. 13/2018: Foundation of a Chair of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- No. 14/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Tissue Regeneration and Repair
- No. 15/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Paediatric Medicine
- No. 16/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Morphosyntax
- No. 17/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Intellectual History
- No. 18/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Labour Law
- No. 19/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Science and Technology Studies
- No. 20/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Nineteenth-Century Art
- No. 21/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of History
- No. 22/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of English Language and Book History
- No. 23/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cultural Sociology
- No. 24/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Forensic Clinical Psychology
- No. 25/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Early Modern Art History
- No. 26/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Public Health Policy
- No. 27/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Marketing

No. 28/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Applied Development Psychology

No. 29/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Qualitative Inquiry

No. 30/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Translational Obstetrics

No. 31/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Molecular Microbiology and Global Health

No. 32/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Translational Liver Research

No. 33/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Farm Animal Health and Production

No. 34/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Transplant Surgery

No. 35/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Clinical and Experimental Surgery

No. 36/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Preclinical Ultrasound

No. 37/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Developmental Haematology

No. 38/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Melanoma Genetics and Drug Discovery

No. 39/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medicinal Chemistry

No. 40/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Immunology and Infectious Diseases

No. 41/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Parasite and Mitochondrial Biology

No. 42/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Patterned Parallel Computing

No. 43/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Human Geography and Cultural Studies

No. 44/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Nuclear Physics

No. 45/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cryosphere-Atmosphere Interactions

No. 46/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Astrostatistics

No. 47/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Language Learning

No. 48/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Epigenetics and Developmental Biology

No. 49/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Atmospheric Chemistry

No. 50/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Microbial Geochemistry

No. 51/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Asymptotics and Special Functions

No. 52/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Machine Learning

No. 53/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Civil Engineering Design

No. 54/2018: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Ocean Engineering

No. 55/2018: Foundation of a Chair of Renewable Energy Technologies

No. 56/2018: Foundation of a Chair of Genomic Medicine

18 Recognition of Alumni Clubs

Paper Q

Court approved the formal recognition of the following alumni clubs:

- Edinburgh University Club of Toronto (EDUCT)
- Edinburgh University Boston Club
- Edinburgh University Club of New York

- Edinburgh University Alumni Club of Washington DC
- The London Club
- Edinburgh University Brussels Society
- London Alumni Network

It was noted that continued compliance with the criteria will be monitored for recognised clubs.

19 Donations and Legacies

Paper R

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from 1 April to 31 May 2018 were noted.

20 Uses of the Seal

A record was made available of all documents executed on behalf of the Court since its last meeting and sealed with its common seal.

21 Any Other Business

Court recorded its thanks to departing co-opted member Alison Grant for her service to the University. A publication from the Graduates' Association was circulated.

22 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 1 October 2018