



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 June 2019

Web Version

Minute

- Members Present:** Ann Henderson, Rector (in chair)
Anne Richards, Vice-Convener
Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor
Edward Bowen, Chancellor's Assessor
Alan Brown, General Council Assessor
Doreen Davidson, General Council Assessor
Ritchie Walker, General Council Assessor
Sarah Cooper, Senate Assessor
Claire Phillips, Senate Assessor
Alexander Tudhope, Senate Assessor
Jo Craiglee, Non-Teaching Staff Assessor
Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member
David Bentley, Co-opted Member
Robert Black, Co-opted Member
Perdita Fraser, Co-opted Member
Alan Johnston, Co-opted Member
Clare Reid, Co-opted Member
Susan Rice, Co-opted Member
Andrew Wilson, President, Students' Association
Oona Miller, Vice-President, Students' Association
- Apologies:** Elizabeth Bomberg, Senate Assessor
- In attendance:** Angi Lamb, Rector's Assessor
Sarah Smith, University Secretary
- Presenters & Observers:** Caroline Gardner, Co-opted Member-designate
Jock Millican, General Council Assessor-designate
Sarah Wolffe, General Council Assessor-designate
Charlie Jeffery, Senior Vice-Principal
Jonathan Seckl, Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy
Dave Robertson, Vice-Principal & Head of College
Moirra Whyte, Vice-Principal & Head of College
Gavin McLachlan, Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University
Lee Hamill, Director of Finance
Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning
Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student Experience
Gary Jebb, Director of Estates
Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing
Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

1 Minute

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on 29 April 2019 was approved.

On behalf of Court, the Rector welcomed Students' Association President Andrew Wilson and Vice-President Welfare Oona Miller to their first meeting as Court members and welcomed Sarah Wolffe, Jock Millican and Caroline Gardner, observing the meeting before taking office on 1 August. Four staff members recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours were congratulated: Dorothy Miell, Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences – OBE for services to higher education and psychology; Professor Hector MacQueen – CBE for services to legal scholarship; Professor Amanda Amos – OBE for services to public health; and, Dr Jane Haley – MBE for services to scientific engagement and education.

2 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log

Paper A2

There were no matters arising. The action log was reviewed and the following points noted:

- September's Court seminar could include consideration of climate change and the University's 'Zero by 2040' strategy;
- Follow-up to the staff survey will be considered by the University Executive at its next meeting;
- The Students' Association is moving towards payment of the real living wage for all staff with year-on-year increases of the base pay differential above the national minimum wage; and,
- The network replacement procurement contract was signed on 13 June 2019.

3 Principal's Report

Paper B

The Principal thanked Professor Charlie Jeffery for his service to the University at his last Court meeting before joining the University of York as Vice-Chancellor and welcomed new student representatives Andrew Wilson and Oona Miller.

Court noted the contents of the report and additional information on:

- The publication of the report of the Post-18 Review of Education & Funding in England (Augar Review), with the report's recommendations to be considered by the UK Government over the coming months;
- Discussion at a recent University Executive Strategy Day, which considered climate change, the University's cost base and alignment of the new Strategic Plan with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; and,
- A new option for consultation proposed by the Trustees of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) in relation to the 2018 valuation. This would establish contribution levels for an interim two year period while the Joint Expert Panel undertakes a second phase of work. The University & College Union have published an open letter to UK Vice-Chancellors stating that it will be in dispute with employers if contribution rates for members rise, as is expected under all three consultation options.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

4 Student Experience Action Plan Update

Paper C

An update on the programme of work to address the student experience was reviewed, with the following points raised in discussion:

- To aid with promotion opportunities for teaching-focused academic staff, revised Exemplars of Excellence in Student Education have been developed and will be submitted to the University Executive for approval. Existing examples of teaching-focused academic staff promotions could be communicated more widely;
- Recommendations from a review of student support, including the Personal Tutor system, are expected in December 2019. Student-facing administrative hubs will be rolled-out across University campuses from January 2020 onwards;
- Work to improve the accessibility of the estate is ongoing, including in the refurbished Law School;
- The significant increase in lecture recording to 85% of all lectures was welcomed. While, in common with other universities, lecture attendance is not compulsory, guidance for students recommends attendance at lectures with recordings supplementary; and,
- The £14.2 million budget for the three year programme of work is included within the Court-approved planning round, with key new areas of expenditure in the programme including curriculum reform and digital teaching.

5 EUSA President's Report

Paper D

The Students' Association President reported on recent developments, including: a commendation received at the 2019 Herald Education Awards for the joint EUSA-University #NoExcuse anti-sexual harassment and violence campaign; peer support training for over 600 student representatives; and, the launch of a new EUSA Strategic Plan. Members welcomed the new Strategic Plan, discussed the planned move towards payment of the real living wage for all EUSA staff and income generation over the Festival period in collaboration with the University.

6 Draft Strategic Plan 2019

Paper E

An update on the consultation process and final draft text for a new Strategic Plan was reviewed. The move to a values based approach and utilising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a lens to view the University's wider contributions to society were welcomed. Drafting comments for consideration prior to publication in the Autumn were provided, including: case study suggestions; emphasising sustainability; and, enhancing language on the vision and active contributions of the University. The draft Strategic Plan 2019 was agreed, with authority delegated to the University Secretary and Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning to make final drafting amendments and agree the document design prior to publication.

7 Undergraduate Access Scholarships

Paper F

Proposed changes to replace the existing undergraduate access scholarships from 2020 entry with a single, consolidated and simplified access scholarship programme to be named the Access Edinburgh Scholarships were approved. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Strong support for the simplification of existing scholarships and opportunities for accessing support prior to Welcome Week in some circumstances;
- Students with a home address in the City of Edinburgh are not currently eligible for an accommodation bursary but would be eligible for the full package of support in the new scheme;
- The steepness of the household income taper between £21,000 to £24,000, although these match government income banding when assessing student support eligibility;
- Equalising financial support between Scottish and Rest of UK students, with the intent to maximise the impact of the scheme; and,
- Court will be updated on the impact of the scheme and level of financial expenditure after implementation.

8 Director of Finance's Report

Paper G

The Quarter Three full year forecast for 2018/19, the latest iteration of the ten year forecast and a special focus update on the tax implications for staff working internationally were reviewed. Members discussed: work to remove the optimism bias apparent in the third year of three year Planning Round periods; income growth predicted in the ten year forecast in comparison with planned modest growth in on-campus student numbers – noting that significant growth in research income is anticipated and growth potential for online and on-campus postgraduate student numbers; and, encouraging staff who work overseas to seek advice from the University's tax team prior to contact with local tax authorities.

It was agreed to delegate authority to the Principal to sign and submit the Strategic Plan Forecast to the Scottish Funding Council by 30 June on the basis that the figures submitted are equivalent to those approved by Court within the April 2019 Planning Round.

9 Estates

- **Peffermill Sports Village: Indoor and Outdoor Sports**

Paper H1

Following approval of the full business case by Estates Committee, a funding request to improve sports facilities at the Peffermill site was considered. Joint funding of a four court indoor tennis centre was discussed, noting that this was a new opportunity that had arisen since the capital prioritisation exercise had been agreed but could be accommodated within the estates capital budget with minor modification. The outcome of capital prioritisation exercise would remain open to future amendment if sufficiently strong new opportunities arose. Potential for community access to the facilities, the importance of sport to the student and staff experience, attracting philanthropic funding and the intention to develop student accommodation at Peffermill were discussed.

Court approved expenditure from University Resources to:

- Deliver a new sports pavilion with a 12 court sports hall, outdoor hockey pitch, archery range, event car parking and associated landscaping;
- Contribute to the delivery of a new four court indoor tennis centre subject to securing external funding from the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis Fund.

• **Small Works Programme Budget**

Paper H2

Following approval of a revised Small Work bidding process by Estates Committee, Court approved the Small Works Programme Budget allocation for 2019/20 as follows:

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	£3m
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine	£1.5m
College of Science and Engineering	£3m
Corporate Services Group	£2m
- Accommodation, Catering and Events	£3.5m
- Estates	£1.5m
Information Services Group	£1m
University Secretary's Group	£1m
Total	£16.5m

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

10 Committee Reports for Approval

• **Nominations Committee**

Paper I1

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

Audit & Risk Committee

- Caroline Gardner to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2022
- Sarah Wolffe to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2022

Nominations Committee

- Alexander Tudhope to be reappointed for a one year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Alan Johnston to be appointed for a two year term of office to 31 July 2021

Policy & Resources Committee

- David Law to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2022
- Jock Millican to be appointed for a three year term of office to 31 July 2022

Remuneration Committee

- Caroline Gardner to attend Remuneration Committee in 2019/20 in a shadowing capacity

Intermediary Court member

- Doreen Davidson to be appointed as the intermediary member for a two year term of office to 31 July 2021

Staff Benefits Scheme Trustees

- Richard Davidson to be reappointed as a Trustee of the Staff Benefits Scheme for a three year term of office to 31 July 2022

Development Trust Board

- Perdita Fraser to be appointed to the position reserved for a lay member of Court for a one year term of office to 31 July 2020
- Colm Harmon, incoming Vice-Principal Students, to be appointed to the position reserved for a Vice-Principal nominated by the Principal

On the recommendation of Nominations Committee, Court approved the proposed role of the Senior Lay Member and associated 'The Roles of the Rector and Senior Lay Member' document as set out in the report.

- **Audit & Risk Committee**

Paper I2

Court noted the report and approved:

- Annual Risk Report and Strategic Risk Register – noting that the accompanying planning appendix will be reviewed by the Risk Management Committee;
- Internal Audit Plan 2019-20; and,
- External Audit Annual Plan and Fee for 2018-19 audit.

- **Committee on University Benefactors**

Paper I3

Court approved:

- the streamlining of the process for bestowing the distinction of Benefactor, by dissolving the Committee on University Benefactors;
- a process for consideration at the point when a donor has given £1m to the University through philanthropic donations (as set out in the paper with minor textual amendment); and,
- allowing posthumous Benefactors awards to be made.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper I4

Court noted the report and approved minor revisions to the University Computing Regulations with effect from 1 August 2019. On and off-campus digital learning was suggested as a future Court Seminar topic.

11 Committee Reports for Noting

- **Policy & Resources Committee**

Paper J1

The report was noted.

- **Court USS Sub-Group** **Paper J2**

The report was noted.

- **Senate** **Paper J3**

The report, and the intention to establish senior staff champions for sustainability and for equality and diversity, was noted.

- **Senate Committees Annual Report** **Paper J4**

The report was noted.

12 Ordinances: Senate and General Council **Paper K**

Court:

- considered the responses received during the statutory consultation and agreed a response to the comments submitted by the General Council;
- approved the final draft Ordinances as presented for submission to the Privy Council; and,
- delegated authority to the University Secretary to agree any further non-material changes to the Ordinances if requested by the Scottish Government or Privy Council.

13 Prevent Duty Implementation Update **Paper L**

The update was noted.

14 Education Act 1994 Compliance **Paper M**

The report was noted.

15 Annual Recognition of Alumni Clubs **Paper N**

Court renewed the recognition of the eight University alumni clubs as set out in the paper.

16 Donations and Legacies; Global Alumni Events **Paper O**

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from 6 April 2019 to 31 May 2019 were noted along with information on upcoming global alumni events.

17 Resolutions **Paper P**

The following resolutions were approved:

- Resolution No. 7/2019: Code of Student Conduct
- Resolution No. 8/2019: Foundation of a Baillie Gifford Chair of Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence
- Resolution No. 9/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Numerical Analysis

- Resolution No. 10/2019: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Black Studies
- Resolution No. 11/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Africana Philosophy and Black Male Studies
- Resolution No. 12/2019: Foundation of a Chair of Design Informatics
- Resolution No. 13/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Applied Economics
- Resolution No. 14/2019: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No. 15/2019: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No. 16/2019: Higher Degree Programme Regulations
- Resolution No. 17/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Global and African History
- Resolution No. 19/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Greek History
- Resolution No. 20/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Personal Chair of Speech, Language and Cognition
- Resolution No. 21/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Natural Science and Theology
- Resolution No. 22/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Environmental Law
- Resolution No. 23/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Emotions and Society
- Resolution No. 24/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Anthropology of Migration
- Resolution No. 25/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Public Health in Social Science
- Resolution No. 26/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Pacific and Postcolonial Literature
- Resolution No. 27/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of School Exclusion and Restorative Practice
- Resolution No. 28/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of University Education
- Resolution No. 29/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Neuropsychology
- Resolution No. 30/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair Italian and Comparative Studies
- Resolution No. 31/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Place-Based Education
- Resolution No. 32/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Language Development
- Resolution No. 33/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Political History
- Resolution No. 34/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Uncertainty Modelling
- Resolution No. 35/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cognitive Linguistics
- Resolution No. 36/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Renaissance Visual and Material Cultures
- Resolution No. 37/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Critical Design and Architectural Culture
- Resolution No. 38/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Molecular Diagnostics and Infection
- Resolution No. 39/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Equine Cardiology
- Resolution No. 40/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Host Defence and Inflammation Biology
- Resolution No. 41/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Avian Biology
- Resolution No. 42/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cancer Epidemiology and Global Health

- Resolution No. 43/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Epigenetics and Metabolism
- Resolution No. 44/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Diabetic Medicine
- Resolution No. 45/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Global Surgery and Data Science
- Resolution No. 46/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medical Education
- Resolution No. 47/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Glaciology and Geophysics
- Resolution No. 48/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Microbial Genetics and Biotechnology
- Resolution No. 49/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Complex Systems
- Resolution No. 50/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medical and Biological Spectroscopy
- Resolution No. 51/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Supramolecular Chemistry
- Resolution No. 52/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Applied Biology
- Resolution No. 53/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Bacterial Systems Biology
- Resolution No. 54/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Environmental Geochemistry
- Resolution No. 55/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Mathematical Biology
- Resolution No. 56/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computer Graphics
- Resolution No. 57/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Networked Systems
- Resolution No. 58/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biology Education
- Resolution No. 59/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Environment and Society
- Resolution No. 60/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Chemistry
- Resolution No. 61/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Dispersive Equations
- Resolution No. 62/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Gravitational Dynamics
- Resolution No. 63/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Artificial Intelligence
- Resolution No. 64/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Chemistry Education
- Resolution No. 65/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Health Geographies
- Resolution No. 66/2019: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Machine Learning and Computer Vision

18 Any Other Business

Court recorded its thanks to departing members Edward Bowen, Alan Brown, Ritchie Walker, Robert Black and David Bentley for their service and advice to the University, with each member recording their thanks in return to Court colleagues and staff.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 30 September 2019 – Court Seminar and Meeting.