THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

12 October 2018

Minute

Present:	Doreen Davidson, Court member (Convener)
	Ritchie Walker, Court member
	Claire Phillips, Court member
	Charlie Jeffery, Senate member
	Melissa Highton, Senate member
	Tina Harrison, Senate member
	Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University
In attendance:	Jo Craiglee, Head of Knowledge Management & Planning
	Catherine Elliot, CMVM representative
	Simon Kelley, CSE representative
	Lee Hamill, Deputy Director, Finance (for Phil McNaull)
	Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
Apologies:	Elizabeth Bomberg, Court member
	Siân Bayne, Senate member
	Alan Murray, Senate member
	Diva Mukherji, Student representative
	Melissa Terras, CAHSS representative
	Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services
	Phil McNaull, Director of Finance
	Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
	Tom Ward, Director of Academic Services

1   Minute   **Paper A**

The minute of the meeting held on 25 May 2018 and the minute of the e-meeting concluded on 17 September 2018 was approved.

2   Matters Arising   **Verbal**

The Senior Vice-Principal provided an update on the Lecture Recording Policy. The draft Policy has been considered by the Combined Joint Consultative Negotiating Committee, with the timescale for implementation dependent on further discussions. The support for the draft Policy from the Students' Association was welcomed. It was noted that increasing the number of electronic course reading lists is another student experience priority, with the Library Committee reviewing progress in this area.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

3   Digital Disruption   **Verbal**

The Chief Information Officer delivered a presentation on Digital Disruption, highlighting other sectors that have been disrupted by digital technologies and the scope for similar disruption within higher education. Opportunities to deliver high quality online education at scale and to use new technology to benefit 'on campus' students were considered. The Committee discussed difficulties in predicting the extent and type of digital disruption, to be mitigated by using flexible, broad-based platforms for online learning and student preference in many cases for in-person contact with academics, particularly at undergraduate level. The first Distance Learning at Scale (DLAS) pilot programme will be from the Business School in the area of Business Analytics. The MicroMasters is currently planned for launch around September 2019 with the first intake of the related masters programme in January 2020. Discussions are underway with the College of Science & Engineering to define a MicroMasters in a data science related subject, this would launch sometime after September 2019. A further pilot programme is being sought to test the DLAS model.

4   University Study Spaces   **Verbal**

Gosia Such, Director of User Services, delivered a presentation on study spaces across the University. There are 7,588 individual study spaces (equivalent to 19% of the student population), 2,263 of which are in the Main Library, the most popular study space area. Options for increasing the proportion of study spaces in the Central Area (equivalent to 8% of the student population) were considered, including increasing study spaces in the Main Library and utilising some teaching rooms as study spaces after 5pm in peak periods. The Committee welcomed further work to develop shorter and longer term options to increase study spaces and discussed advertising available study spaces to students using a mobile application, ensuring new or refurbished buildings have flexibility to accommodate temporary study spaces if required and the accessibility of some campuses and their study spaces outside normal working hours. University study spaces will be considered by the Space Strategy Group, chaired by the Senior Vice-Principal and reporting to the University Executive, with a Main Library Masterplan under development and to be submitted to the Committee in spring 2019.

5   Report on National Student Survey IT and Library Questions   **Paper B**

Responses to the three library and IT-related questions in the 2018 National Student Survey and associated free text comments were reviewed. A theme of student frustration with inconsistency in availability of recorded lectures, library materials, printing of course materials and the quality of study spaces was noted. The possibility of developing an examination timetable mobile application was welcomed, with a class

timetable mobile application in pilot project stage. It was noted that library opening hours had previously been the most frequently raised issue but the Main Library is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and similar ambition would be shown in addressing the current issues raised in the free text comments.

6   **Distance Learning at Scale Update**   **Paper C**

An update on the Distance Learning at Scale pilot programmes was considered. A partnership agreement has been signed with edX, with a Business School MSc in Business Analytics to be the first course offered under the partnership with an accompanying Predictive Analytics 'MicroMasters.'

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

7   **Information Services Group Capital Plan 2018 – 2026**   **Paper D**

An update of the ten-year capital plan forecast was reviewed and the underspend for the 2017/18 academic year welcomed.

8   **Network Replacement Procurement**   **Paper E**

The procurement governance and timescales associated with the network replacement programme were considered. The Committee noted the timeline and recommended for approval the delegation of authority to the:
- Principal for budget and contract approval;
- University Secretary to sign the contract, in consultation with the Director of IT Infrastructure and Chief Information Officer.

9   **Digital Research Services 2018/19 Project Proposals**   **Paper F**

A proposed programme of 16 digital research services projects to be undertaken in 2018/19 were reviewed and approved. The Committee discussed payment models to cover ongoing running costs for some digital research services and whether this is covered by central University funds or by researchers on a pay-per-use basis. Noting that these are typically on a pay-per-use basis, it was agreed to consider further at a future meeting.

10   **Core Systems Procurement Update**   **Paper G**

An update on the ongoing procurement exercise for Phase 1 of the Core Systems Strategy was noted.

11   **IT and Library Spends in Excess of £500k**   **Paper H**

Two items of planned Library and IT expenditure within the Committee's delegated authority of between £500k and £2m were approved as set

out in the paper. The Committee discussed a recent announcement by a group of European national research funding organisations and the European Research Council and European Commission that, by 2020, the results of research funded by public grants must be published in open access platforms.

12	**Revision to Web Accessibility Policy**	**Paper I**

Revisions to the Web Accessibility Policy to ensure that the Policy is adaptable to future updates of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and other minor changes were approved as set out in the paper.

13	**University Web Estate Review: Risks Identified and Activity Plan**	**Paper J**

An update on the review of the University's web estate, including a risk register and activity plan, was considered. It was noted that University websites that do not have a business owner identified by the end of December 2018 will be suspended.

14	**Information Security Update**	**Paper K**

The regular update on information security activities was reviewed. The Committee discussed recent malicious attempts to disable aspects of the University's digital networks and protective measures in place, with a follow-up paper to be submitted to Audit & Risk Committee. Proposals to investigate options for the introduction of multifactor authentication were supported.

15	**Projects and Ongoing Activities Update**	**Paper L**

The regular update on various University-wide projects that fall within the remit of the Committee was noted.

16   Committee Reports
- **IT Committee Report**   **Paper M1**
- **University Collections Advisory Committee Report**   **Paper M2**
- **BI/MI Governance Board Report**   **Paper M3**

The committee reports were noted.

17   Any Other Business

There was no other business.

18   Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 18 January 2019, 10.00-12.00.