



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3 April 2017

Minute

Present: Ms Anne Richards (Convener)
The Principal
Ms Sarah Smith, University Secretary
Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl
Lady Susan Rice
Mr David Bentley
Ms Alison Grant
Dr Chris Masters
Ms Doreen Davidson
Professor Sarah Cooper
Mr Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson

In attendance: Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery
Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services
Ms Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources
Mr Phil McNaull, Director of Finance
Mr Gary Jebb, Director of Estates
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

Apologies: None

1 Minute **Paper A**

The minute of the meeting held on 23 January 2017 was approved.

2 Matters Arising **Verbal**

There were no matters arising.

3 Principal's Communications **Verbal**

The Principal reported on: a £20M donation from the Simons Foundation for research in brain development changes associated with autism; the establishment of a UK Dementia Research Institute with a successful bid to become one of the regional centres; fundraising for the Quatermile development; staff and student communications following the Prime Minister's Article 50 letter of 29 March; a visit to Stanford University and potential future collaborations; EUSA's award of Scottish Higher Education Student Union of the Year; the Ladies Rugby Club winning the British Universities and Colleges Sport Championship at Twickenham; the Edinburgh Science Festival Church Service; and the latest student application statistics for 2017-18 entry.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

4 Finance Director's Report Paper B

The Quarter 2 forecast outturn, Subsidiary Companies half-yearly results and the results of the Annual Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) Return 2015/16 were reviewed. The Director of Finance advised that the final 2016-17 outturn is expected to meet the approved budget and it was noted that the Annual TRAC Return results were comparable to those of other large research intensive UK universities. Members discussed the forthcoming Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) actuarial valuation and asked for further analysis to be submitted to a future meeting.

5 Financial Regulations Paper C

The updated Financial Regulations were recommended to Court for approval after circulation to individuals listed in the Regulations.

6 City Deal Update Paper D

The Senior Vice-Principal and the Director of Corporate Services presented an update on negotiations to establish a City-region Deal with the UK and Scottish Governments.

7 Edinburgh Futures Institute – Quatermile Paper E

The full business case for the development of the Quatermile site and the creation of the interdisciplinary Edinburgh Futures Institute was considered. The Committee welcomed the proposals and discussed the internal rate of return, noting that it is comparable to recently completed estates projects; plans for public engagement within the building in the ground floor foyer/atrium area; retaining where possible the sponsorship boards recognising donors to the original hospital; and the possibility of dedicated alumni space within the building.

The Committee agreed to endorse the full business case, including the academic vision, and to recommend to Court the approval of funding from University Corporate Resources to progress the project to completion.

8 Nominations Agreements Paper F1 Paper F2

- Brae House
- 38 Haddington Place

The Vice-Convener declared a conflict of interest regarding 38 Haddington Place and withdrew from discussion and decision-making on the item, with the Principal chairing.

It was agreed to recommend to Court that approval is granted to enter into 20 year Nominations Agreements for 402 bed spaces (Brae House) and for 159 bed spaces (38 Haddington Place) respectively.

9 Hua Xia Healthcare Update **Paper G**

An update on the status of a collaboration between the Usher Institute in the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine and Hua Xia Healthcare was received.

10 Equality & Diversity **Paper H1**
Paper H2

- **EDMARC Staff and Student Reports 2016**
- **Equality Outcomes 2017-2021**

The annual 2016 Equality, Diversity Monitoring and Research Committee report on staff and student data and the draft Equality Outcomes 2017-2021, part of the reporting requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty, were reviewed. Members discussed improving the grade 10 gender pay gap, prioritising actions in the Equality Outcomes and requested that the supplement on the black and minority ethnic student journey be submitted to the next meeting upon completion.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

11 People Report **Paper I**

The report was noted, with the 2017/18 National Pay Negotiations and the range of support offered by Human Resources for EU and non-EU staff discussed.

12 Estates Committee Report **Paper J**

The purchase of 7-8 Chambers Street was welcomed and the VAT Savings on Capital Projects paper discussed, with a revised version to be submitted to the Committee in due course.

13 Investment Committee Report **Paper K**

The Vice-Convenor declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from discussion, with the Principal chairing.

The report was noted.

14 Research and Commercialisation Statistics **Paper L**

The report was noted, with the improvement in the value and number of research awards welcomed and the current success rate, broadly in line with comparator institutions, discussed.

15 Naming of Student Accommodation, Holyrood Development **Paper M**

The Principal vacated the meeting.

The Committee approved the naming of the Student Accommodation in the Holyrood Development as the 'O'Shea Hall' in honour of Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea's term of office as Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

16 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

17 Date of next meeting & 2017/18 Meeting Dates

Monday, 5 June 2017 at 2.30 pm in the Raeburn Room, Old College

The 2017/18 Meeting Dates were approved as:

- Monday, 4 September 2017 at 2.30pm
- Monday, 13 November 2017 at 2.30pm
- Friday, 19 January 2018 at 2.30pm
- Friday, 6 April 2018 at 10.00am
- Monday, 4 June 2018 at 2.30pm