



**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**4 September 2017**

**Minute**

**Present:** Ms Anne Richards (Convener)  
The Principal  
University Secretary, Ms Sarah Smith  
Lady Susan Rice  
Mr David Bentley  
Ms Alison Grant  
Dr Frank Armstrong  
Ms Doreen Davidson  
Mr Patrick Kilduff

**In attendance:** Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning  
Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources  
Mr Phil McNaul, Director of Finance  
Mr Gary Jebb, Director of Estates  
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

**Apologies:** Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl  
Professor Sarah Cooper  
Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery

**1 Minute Paper A**

The minute of the meeting held on 4 June 2017 was approved.

**2 Matters Arising Verbal**

The Convener welcomed new members Mr Patrick Kilduff and Dr Frank Armstrong to their first meeting.

The University Secretary summarised the outcome of a rapid review group led by the Head of College of Science & Engineering to investigate a graduation email sent in error. It was noted that the rapid review group's report will be considered by Audit & Risk Committee.

**3 Principal's Communications Verbal**

The Principal reported on: the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union's announcement that the UK wishes to remain a participant in the EU's science and research fund, currently known as Horizon 2020; the National Student Survey 2017 results, with the overall satisfaction score increasing from 80% to 83%, albeit remaining below the level the University aspires towards; the success of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe,

around half of which takes place on University property, with 2.9 million tickets sold and 3.5 million audience members including the 'Free Fringe'; and the successful hosting of the summer graduation ceremonies in the newly refurbished McEwan Hall.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

### **4 Student Recruitment Update Paper B**

The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning, presented an overview of performance during the current recruitment cycle and a forward look for the next cycle. Success in entering Scottish Clearing to recruit widening access students and in entering A Level clearing for Rest of UK students was commended. The University's continued strong performance relative to the sector in attracting applications from EU students was welcomed. Members discussed sector-wide trends in relation to international student recruitment and in the continued appeal of standard length degrees compared to compressed degrees.

### **5 City Deal Paper C**

The Director of Corporate Services provided an update on City Deal developments in the summer period, including the Heads of Terms document agreed on 20 July 2017.

### **6 Finance Director's Report Paper D**

The Director of Finance provided an overview of the draft unaudited 2016/17 financial outturn, with full presentation to follow at the November meeting.

### **7 Financial Benchmarking – Russell Group Peer Institutions Paper E**

A comparative analysis of the published financial statements of Russell Group peer institutions was reviewed.

### **8 University Tax Strategy Paper F**

A University Tax Strategy codifying existing practice and underpinning tax policy principles was approved.

## **ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

### **9 People Report Paper G**

The report was noted.

- 10 Investment Committee Report** **Paper H**
- The report was noted.
- 11 Insurance Renewal 2017/18** **Paper I**
- The University's Insurance Policy Renewal for 2017/18 was approved.
- 12 Research and Commercialisation Statistics – End of Year Update** **Paper J**
- The report detailing the University's most successful year to date in securing research awards was welcomed.
- 13 Any Other Business**
- There was no other business.
- 14 Date of next meeting**
- Monday, 13 November 2017 at 2pm