EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT
ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11 December 2015 at 9.00 am in the Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus

PRESENT:
Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor) (Convenor); Professor A Sambell (Deputy Vice Chancellor); Dr S Cairncross (Assistant Principal, Student Experience); Dr K Chalmers (School Academic Lead, Quality Enhancement); Dr N Cimini (School of Life, Sport & Social Science); Professor L Dryden (School Academic Lead, Research); Mr S Falconer (Interim Dean, Business School); Dr M Foster (School Academic Lead, Learning & Teaching); Dr A Gavris (Business School); Ms S Goddard (President, ENSA); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor E Hart (Professoriate); Ms E Hofland (ENSA Rep); Dr G Hutchison (Dean, School of Life, Sport and Social Science); Mr M Innes (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor J Kennedy (Dean, Research & Innovation); Ms C Lambert (Director, Student & Academic Services); Mr R Lannon (School Academic Lead, Quality Enhancement); Ms P Miller-Judd (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr L Muir (School of Computing); Dr B Neades (School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Professor B Paechter (School Academic Lead, Research); Professor I Smith (Dean, School of Engineering & Built Environment); Ms S Smith (Dean, School of computing); Mr P Tar (ENSA Rep); Mr D Telford (Director, Information Services); Dr E Theodoraki (Business School); Professor B Webster-Henderson (Dean, Learning & Teaching).

IN ATTENDANCE:
D Cloy (Assistant Secretary); K Cairney (Director, External Relations & Communications); N Graham (Director of International Operations).

APOLOGIES:
Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Professor T Humphrey (Dean, School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Mr R Kemmer (School of Computing); Dr D MacLean (School Academic Lead, Learning & Teaching); Ms A McMillan (ENSA Rep); Ms A Sharp (School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Professor G Stonehouse (Assistant Principal, Internationalisation); Dr G Webber (University Secretary).

1.   WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

1.1   The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting.

1.2   The apologies were **noted**

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

2.   MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2015   AB(15/16)12

2.1   The minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(15/16)13

4.1 The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the outcome of the UK Comprehensive Spending Review and issues arising from the Green Paper on Higher Education in England. The achievement of the award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for the University's work in timber engineering, sustainable construction and wood science was noted and congratulations were extended to all those involved.

4.2 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the report.

5. UNIVERSITY STRATEGY KEY PERFORMANCE AB(15/16)14
INDICATORS & ACADEMIC STRATEGY KPIs

5.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the agreed set of University Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are used to monitor progress towards the University Strategy 2020. It was noted that the indicators were presented with indicative trajectories for each of the measures to 2020 using 2014/15 as a baseline. Academic Strategy KPIs were also presented at subject level for 2014/15. A number of key points arising from the report were highlighted.

5.2 Discussion followed during which activity to encourage greater student engagement with work-related learning opportunities was noted. The importance of recognising opportunities for students beyond physical work placements was noted and a question over the appropriateness of the definition of the KPI measure which currently only reflects entrants to programmes with a work-related experience element was recognised. It was also noted that work was continuing to increase the visibility of the University's CPD activity on the website. The recent conclusion of the very successful Graduate Employability Project was noted and thanks were extended to the Director of Student and Academic Services and her colleagues for their work on this.

5.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the report and extended thanks to the Head of Planning and his team for their work in its preparation.

6. DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE AB(15/16)21

6.1 Academic Board received a presentation which outlined the approach for the £100m Investment Campaign "Transforming Tomorrow, Together" and in particular how the philanthropic goal of £15m is progressing, the areas it has supported and future developments.

6.2 Discussion followed during which it was noted that gifts in kind were recognised alongside cash donations and sponsorship. An example of the value that could ensue from initial engagement with a potential donor was also noted.

6.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the update.

7. STUDENT POPULATION FORECAST & EARLY MATRICULATION NUMBERS FOR 2015/16   AB(15/16)15

7.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided a summary of student enrolments and forecasts for the academic year 2015/16 on-campus student population segments. It was noted that the University would achieve its SFC funded places and would not exceed the SFC's tolerance threshold. It was noted that international recruitment into Edinburgh and RUK recruitment were down on both target and intake and remained areas of concern. The strong growth in students studying online programmes was also noted.

7.2 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the paper.

8. DRAFT 2016/17 SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT   AB(15/16)16

8.1 Academic Board considered the paper which presented the well-developed draft of the University's Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) for 2016/17 which had been submitted to the SFC on 8 December.

8.2 Discussion followed during which the need to continue efforts to sustain the good progress which had been made in student retention was emphasised. In relation to efforts to recruit more women into STEM subjects it was suggested that, as well as targeting school leavers, it would be helpful to look at ways of engaging with women returners.

8.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the Draft 2016/17 SFC Outcome Agreement.

9. STUDENT RECRUITMENT STRATEGY (HOME & EU)   AB(15/16)17

9.1 Academic Board considered the paper which presented the UK & EU Student Recruitment Strategy which had been developed to deliver the aspirations outlined in Strategy 2020 and the supporting Academic, Student Experience and Internationalisation strategies, as well as the developing Widening Participation and Marketing, Communication and Engagement strategies.

9.2 Discussion followed during which the importance of support for Schools to help them articulate the unique selling points of their courses was recognised. It was also noted that there would be a separate strategy developed for Research Postgraduate Student recruitment.

9.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the UK & EU Student Recruitment Strategy.

10. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT STRATEGY   AB(15/16)18

10.1 Academic Board received a presentation which outlined the key elements of the International Student Recruitment Strategy 2015-2020, and its underpinning analysis, which had been developed to deliver the aspirations outlined in the University's Strategy 2020 and the supporting Internationalisation Strategy.

10.2 Discussion followed during which the need to monitor opportunities that might arise in lower priority markets as a result of changes in political situation was recognised. The importance of working effectively in collaboration with partner institutions in China to better prepare students for the style and requirements of studying successfully at Edinburgh Napier was also emphasised. It was also noted that data was now available which allowed the progress and outcomes of students who had come through Edinburgh International College to be monitored. The importance of activity within the University around cultural awareness to provide a supportive environment for international students studying here was also recognised.

10.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the International Student Recruitment Strategy 2015-2020 and extended thanks to all those involved. It was noted that work was underway on the Transnational Education Strategy which it was expected would be completed by April 2016.

11. VISITING & EMERITUS PROFESSORSHIP PROCEDURE   AB(15/16)19

11.1 Academic Board **approved** the updated procedure for the conferment of the honorary academic titles of Visiting and Emeritus Professor. The Board also **agreed** to suspend for the time being the award of the titles of Honorary or Visiting Teaching or Research Fellow to allow re-consideration of their purpose and benefit.

11.2 Members discussed issues around the status of visiting academic staff and PhD students and it was noted that these matters would be taken forward by Human Resources & Development in conjunction with relevant colleagues in Student and Academic Services and the Research & Innovation Office. It was also agreed that Human Resources & Development would circulate to Academic Board a list of the University's current Visiting and Emeritus Professors.

12. EDINBURGH UNIVERSITIES MILITARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE   AB(15/16)20

12.1 Academic Board **adopted** the updated constitution for the Edinburgh Universities Military Education Committee (a joint committee of the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, Heriot Watt University and Queen Margaret University), and **delegated authority** to the Principal to make the University's appointments to that Committee.

PART B   RECEIPT OF MINUTES

Academic Board received the minutes of the following meetings to confirm that its sub-committees were continuing to meet their remits and were undertaking business on its behalf to the standard it expects.

13.	Minutes of Student Experience Committee held on 17 November 2015	**AB(15/16)22**
14.	Minutes of Learning, Teaching & Assessment Committee on 18 November 2015	**AB(15/16)23**
15.	Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee held on 19 November 2015	**AB(15/16)24**

The availability of the committee's papers for members to read on its SharePoint site was noted.

PART C   ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**16.   REPORT ON UNIVERSITY KEY RISKS APPROPRIATE   AB(15/16)25
TO ACADEMIC BOARD***

16.1 The Board **noted** the report which provided a first assessment of confidence in the management of the University's Top Risks for academic year 2015/16.

17.   FINAL APPROVED ESTATES STRATEGY   AB(15/16)26

17.1 The Board **noted** the University's Estate Strategy as approved by University Court.

18.   ENTERPRISE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION   AB(15/16)27

18.1 The Board **noted** the commitments and actions around Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education articulated in the Universities Scotland publication 'Making it Happen' in the context of the University's enterprise ambition and the development of its Innovation, Citizenship & Enterprise (ICE) Strategy.

19.   SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015/16:

Noted as 26 February 2016 & 03 June 2016 at 9.00am, Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Principal extended thanks to all colleagues who had participated in the Employee Engagement Survey. It was noted that the response rate was 69%, which was above the sector average, and that results would be available in January.

*denotes a paper to which an exemption under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies.