

APPROVED
CIRCULATED

AB(16/17)16

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 21st October 2016 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); Mr S Chowdhry (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Dr N Cimini (School of Life, Sport & Social Sciences); Professor L Dryden (School Academic Lead, Research); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Dr A Gavris (Business School); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor E Hart (Professoriate); Professor T Humphrey (Dean, School of Health & Social Care); Dr G Hutchison (Dean, School of Life, Sport and Social Science); Professor J Kennedy (Dean, Research & Innovation); Mr R Lannon (School Academic Lead, Quality Enhancement); Dr Eva Malone (School of Life, Sport & Social Sciences); Dr I McIntosh (Assistant Principal); Dr D MacLean (School Academic Lead, Learning & Teaching); Ms P Miller-Judd (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr L Muir (School of Computing); Professor James O’Kane (Dean, Business School); Professor B Paechter (School Academic Lead, Research); Mr C Rault (ENSA Rep); Mr Sagar KC (ENSA Rep); Mr R Subramani (ENSA President); Dr E Theodoraki (Business School); Professor B Webster-Henderson (Dean, Learning & Teaching).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr D Cloy (Assistant Secretary); Dr S Laing (item 6).

APOLOGIES:

Dr M Foster (School Academic Lead, Learning & Teaching); Ms A Fraser (ENSA Rep); Mr M Innes (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Ms C Lambert (Director, Student & Academic Services); Dr S Logie (Director, School Support Service); Professor A McCleery (Professoriate); Dr B Neades (School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Ms A Sharp (School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Dr S Smith (Dean, School of computing); Mr D Telford (Director, Information Services); Dr G Webber (University Secretary).

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Convenor welcomed members to the first meeting of the new session and extended a particular welcome to the new student members.
- 1.2 The apologies were **noted**.

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2016

AB(15/16)62

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Convenor's Action on Proposal for School Name Change (6.3)

- 3.1 It was **noted** that, following the meeting, further discussion and consultation had taken place within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care and the overall balance of feedback received was favourable towards the proposed change. In view of that progress, the desirability of introducing the name change ahead of the new session and the opportunity to announce the change at the ENU Health and Social Care International conference on 1st & 2nd September, the Principal, as convenor of Academic Board, judged it to be in the School's and University's interest to progress the decision in time for the start of the new academic year. The Principal sought and received feedback from Academic Board members which was supportive of the proposed change, and so approved the change of name from the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care to the School of Health and Social Care by Chair's action on behalf of Academic Board on 16 August 2016.

b) Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) (7.1)

- 3.2 It was **noted** that good progress had been made with regard to the implementation of HEAR 6.1 and that roll out was anticipated over the course of the year.

4. ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE AB(16/17)01

- 4.1 The Board **noted** its terms of reference and 2016/17 membership.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(16/17)02

- 5.1 The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the EU referendum result which had significant implications for Universities. The guarantee provided by the University, and now backed up by the Scottish Government, with regard to the funding status of EU students commencing in 2016/17 and 2017/18 was noted. The University's arrangements for monitoring and responding to issues arising from the result were also noted.
- 5.2 The Universities Scotland response to the Commission on Widening Access report was highlighted and the development of the University's Widening Participation Strategy in response was noted.
- 5.3 The Scottish Spending Review and the outlook of continuing severe pressure on public finances was highlighted. It was noted that Universities Scotland was continuing to lobby hard for sustainable resourcing of the sector.
- 5.4 UK Government plans for further curbs on immigration including further restrictions on student migration were also highlighted as a matter of concern.
- 5.5 The Review of the Research Excellence Framework and its recommendation that all research active staff should be returned was also noted.

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

6. DRAFT INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE STRATEGY

AB(16/17)03

6.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the draft Innovation and Enterprise Strategy which set out a strategic approach for the University's ambition to be one of the UK's leading Universities for innovation and enterprise. The key dimensions of the strategy and its proposed objectives and actions were outlined.

6.2 Members welcomed the Strategy, focussed on students, which was recognised as complementary to the Student Experience Strategy. In discussion it was noted that effective delivery of the Strategy would require co-ordination and sharing of good practice to ensure a comparable experience along with the identification of innovative ways to deliver within the resources available. The difficulty of establishing indicators of success for the Strategy was recognised and it was suggested that additional questions could be added to the NSS and PTES to enable the University to obtain measures of confidence in this area. It was also suggested that a pledge could be developed for students with regard to the opportunities identified in the Strategy and it was agreed that this idea should be taken forward. Thanks were extended to the Dean (School of Arts & Creative Industries), to Dr Laing and to other colleagues involved for their work on developing the Strategy.

6.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **approved** the Innovation and Enterprise Strategy.

7. REPORT ON STUDENT SURVEYS

AB(16/17)04

7.1 Academic Board received the paper which identified themes across the various student satisfaction surveys undertaken and outlined the actions being taken by the University in response to the student feedback received.

7.2 Discussion followed during which it was recognised that the significant number of new initiatives which had taken place over the past year to address issues arising from surveys would take time to have an effect on results. The desirability of explicitly recognising and celebrating highly NSS rated modules and the staff delivering them was also noted and the Vice Principal and Dean of Learning & Teaching would give further thought to this, recognising the importance of celebrating success. The importance of sharing learning from NSS and PTES action plans across schools was also emphasised. With regard to the impact of change on staff potentially influencing the student experience, the need to recognise that change would be continual was highlighted as was the need to develop resilience and engage positively in response to it. The importance of understanding the implications of new question areas being introduced to future iterations of the NSS was noted as was the importance of gaining a better understanding of the feedback expectations of students given the apparent disconnect between staff and students in this area. In the context of discussion around the effectiveness of internal student satisfaction surveys it was emphasised that engagement by student representatives with module tutors and programme leaders to provide feedback on issues was very

important and greatly welcomed. It was noted that further awareness raising training to encourage better academic staff engagement with the management information available through Cognos would be beneficial, as would more effective means of data gathering for module reports.

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

8. ULT REPORTING LINES

AB(16/17)05

8.1 Academic Board **noted** the revised ULT reporting lines following the review of professional services.

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.

9. Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee meeting held on 20 September 2016

The minutes were not available and would be considered at the next meeting.

10. Minutes of Student Experience Committee meeting held on 4 October 2016

The minutes were **noted**.

AB(16/17)07

11. Minutes of the Learning, Teaching & Assessment Committee meeting held on 5 October 2016

The minutes were not available and would be considered at the next meeting.

PART C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12. ACADEMIC BOARD EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW: YEAR ON REPORT

AB(16/17)09

12.1 The Board **noted** the outcome of the year-on review of the effectiveness of its operation under its new constitution and sub-committee structure.

12.2 Clarification was provided as to the provisions of the HE Governance Act which applied to the Court and the Academic Board respectively. It was noted that the University was already fully compliant with the Act's provisions with regard to Academic Boards and that the University Court had approved an implementation plan for the remaining provisions.

13. RESEARCH & INNOVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

AB(16/17)10

13.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2015/16 annual report of the Research & Innovation Committee.

13.2 It was suggested that the format of future Academic Board Committee annual reports might be enhanced by greater reference to strategic performance measures. The Board was invited to provide further feedback to the Vice Principal on what they would find useful to be included in future reports.

14. LEARNING, TEACHING & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AB(16/17)11

14.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2015/16 annual report of the Learning, Teaching & Assessment Committee

15. STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AB(16/17)12

15.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2015/16 annual report of the Student Experience Committee and **approved** the revised Committee terms of reference.

16. QUALITY & STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AB(16/17)13

16.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2015/16 annual report of the Quality & Standards Committee.

17. ANNUAL REPORT ON QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY TO THE SFC: FINAL REPORT AB(16/17)14

17.1 Academic Board **noted** the final submitted annual report to the Scottish Funding Council on institution-led processes to maintain and enhance academic quality.

18. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS AB(16/17)15

18.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2016/17 Forward Schedule of Business.

19. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015/16:

Noted as:

25 November 2016

10 March 2017

02 June 2017

All at 09.00, Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus.

VALEDICTIONS

It was noted that Dr Kevin Chalmers had changed role and therefore no longer sat on the Board as a School Academic Lead for Quality. Thanks were extended to Dr Chalmers for his contribution to the Board over the past year.

It was noted that Cathy Lambert (Director of Student & Academic Services) was leaving the University at the end of the month. Thanks were extended to Ms Lambert for her significant contribution to the work of the University and Academic Board.

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