

**APPROVED
CIRCULATED**

AB(19/20)15

**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT**

ACADEMIC BOARD

**Minutes of the meeting held Friday 18th October 2019 at 9.00 am in
The Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus**

PRESENT:

Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor) (Convenor); Professor A Sambell (Senior Vice Principal & Deputy Vice Chancellor); Professor A Tobin (Vice Principal of Learning & Teaching); Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal of Research and Innovation); Dr J Brodie (School Head, Learning & Teaching); Ms K Bryce (Student Campus Representative, Merchiston); Dr Stuart Cable (School of Health & Social Care); Mr J Fraser (ENSA President); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences); Ms N Janigova (Student Campus Representative, Craiglockhart); Ms N Nitika Nathaniel (Student Campus Representative, Sighthill); Dr E Malone (School of Applied Sciences); Dr N Urquhart (School of Computing); Dr Simon Wells (School of Computing); Dr G Wright (School of Applied Sciences).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr D Cloy (University Secretary); Ms C Taylor (Director, Information Services); Mr A McLachlan (Head of Student Recruitment and Admissions).

APOLOGIES:

Dr N Brown (School Senior Officer, Quality Enhancement); Ms G Boag (Dean, Business School); Professor S Dawkes (School Head, Learning & Teaching); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Professor J Kennedy (Dean, Research & Innovation); Prof S Keates (Dean, School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Dr S Logie (Director, School Support Service & Academic Registrar); Dr C Mahoney (School of Health & Social Care); Professor Alison McCleery (Professoriate); Mr M Thomson (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Dr Luca Mora (Business School); Dr D Maclean (Interim Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor S Smith (Dean, School of Computing).

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Convenor welcomed members to the first meeting of the new session and extended a particular welcome to new members. It was noted that a number of vacancies remained to be filled and that work was ongoing to fill these.
- 1.2 The apologies were **noted**.

2. RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

- 2.1 The Vice Principal (Research & Innovation) gave a presentation on work underway to support the development and delivery of the University's Research & Innovation Strategy.

- 2.2 Discussion followed during which the importance of research being integrated and aligned with the curriculum was noted, and the differentiation between subject areas in some Schools with regard to the extent to which their research would align to industry was recognised. External engagement activity was recognised as extending to engagement with Schools and Colleges, but the need to ensure such engagement was co-ordinated was emphasised. It was noted that a key facts crib sheet would be helpful for academic staff when engaging externally. It was noted that Marketing & External Relations had recently produced a '29 Things' key facts pamphlet to support such activity and that the Director of Marketing & External Relations would be asked to make this available more widely to academic staff.

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2019 AB(19/20)001

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Additional Entry Points for Students (item 2.5)

- 4.1 It was noted that the question of an additional entry point for students would be taken into account as part of the development of the International and UK Student Recruitment strategies.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(19/20)002

- 5.1 The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the UK and Scottish spending reviews and the anticipated impact on the sector's finances. The University's success in the Advance HE Teaching Excellence awards was noted and welcomed; Dr Jacqueline Brodie had been awarded the title of National Teaching Fellow with the result that the University now had 4 of the 11 such Fellows in Scotland. The University had also won a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) for the "Students as Colleagues" project.

- 5.2 In response to a query regarding the participation of Scottish Universities in the Office for Students' (English HE regulator) Teaching Excellence Framework, it was noted that there was no requirement for Scottish institutions to do so, no Scotland-wide policy on participation and that it was a matter for individual institutions to determine. It was noted that the University had decided it would not participate currently, but that the necessary preparations were in place should it decide to do so in future. It was noted that there was confidence in Scotland's own arrangements for academic quality assurance and enhancement.

- 5.3 Academic Board **noted** the report.

6. REPORT ON STUDENT SURVEYS AB(19/20)003

- 6.1 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.

- 6.2 Discussion followed during which it was noted that the Student Surveys Group would have an overview of the student survey activity taking place across the University and would seek to minimise the risk of survey fatigue. The importance of Schools reviewing and reflecting on the NSS verbatim comments to identify specific areas of action was also emphasised. The upcoming review of NSS in the spring was noted.
- 6.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the update.

7. BREXIT UPDATE

AB(19/20)004

- 7.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided an update on developments relating to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, the potential risks to the University and the preparations which had been put in place to mitigate these.
- 7.2 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the paper.

8. POSTGRADUATE GRADING SCALE

- 8.1 Academic Board received and **noted** an update on plans to implement a new Postgraduate Taught Grading Scale in the next academic year.

9. UNIVERSITY STRATEGY

- 9.1 Academic Board received an update on activity which had taken place over the past 12 months to engage and consult on the development of the future University Strategy, building on the current Strategy 2020. It was noted that the draft University Strategy would be brought to Academic Board at its next meeting on 29 November for consideration along with an update on the development of the core strategies for Research & Innovation, Learning & Teaching and International, with final sign off for the University Strategy anticipated in March and the core strategies after that.
- 9.2 Academic Board **noted** the update.

10. HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

AB(19/20)005

- 10.1 With an amendment to increase the number of student representatives to two, Academic Board **approved** the proposed changes to the constitution of the Honorary Awards Committee for submission to Court.

11. HONORARY AWARDS*

AB(19/20)006

[Clerk's note: This paper was tabled and collected from members following the meeting]

- 11.1 Academic Board **approved** the Honorary Award nominations recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee for onwards transmission to Court.
- 11.2 It was agreed that details of the anticipated engagement of nominees with the University would be included in future papers.

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.

12. Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee meeting held on 20 September 2019 **AB(19/20)007**

The minutes were **noted**.

13. Minutes of Learning, Teaching, Assessment & Student Experience Committee meeting held on 25 September 2019 **AB(19/20)008**

The minutes were **noted**.

In response to a query, the background to the development of the guidance on support for student pregnancy, maternity, paternity and adoption was outlined and it was noted that a range of relevant expertise and experience had been consulted in its preparation.

PART C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

14. **RESEARCH & INNOVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT** **AB(19/20)009**

14.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2018/19 annual report of the Research & Innovation Committee.

15. **LEARNING, TEACHING, ASSESSMENT & STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT** **AB(19/20)010**

15.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2018/19 annual report of the Learning, Teaching, Assessment & Student Experience Committee.

15.2 Plans, preparations and timescales for the upcoming Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR) were highlighted.

16. **QUALITY & STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT** **AB(19/20)011**

16.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2018/19 annual report of the Quality & Standards Committee.

17. **ANNUAL REPORT ON INSTITUTION-LED REVIEW & ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY TO THE SFC** **AB(19/20)012**

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

**18. ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBERSHIP & TERMS
OF REFERENCE**

AB(19/20)013

18.1 Academic Board **noted** its terms of reference and membership for 2019/20.

19. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

AB(19/20)014

19.1 Academic Board **noted** the 2019/20 Forward Schedule of Business.

20. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2019/20:

Noted as:

29 November 2019

6 March 2020

5 June 2020

All at 09.00, Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus.

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