



**APPROVED
CIRCULATED**

AB(20/21)73

**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT**

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 4th June 2021 at 9.00 am by Webex Video Conference

PRESENT:

Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor) (Convenor); Professor A Tobin (Vice Principal of Learning & Teaching); Ms N Graham (Vice Principal for International)(until item 4); Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal of Research and Innovation); Professor P Barlow (School Head of Research); Dr C Backhaus (School Head of Research); Dr J Brodie (School Head of Learning & Teaching); Dr S Campbell Casey (School of Applied Sciences); Dr P Chapman (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); Mr A Duggal (ENSA President); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Mr M Greenhalgh (Interim Dean, School of Engineering & the Built Environment & School of Computing); Professor G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences); Dr M Leggate (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); Dr S Logie (Director, Student Services & Academic Registrar); Professor A Machin (Dean, School of Health & Social Care); Dr D Maclean (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); Mr M Thomson (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Dr N Urquhart (School of Computing); Dr S Wells (School of Computing); Dr G Wright (School of Applied Sciences).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr D Cloy (University Secretary); Ms C Taylor (Director, Information Services).

OBSERVING

Mr A Houghton (Lay Court Member); Mr R Tomlinson (Lay Court Member).

APOLOGIES:

Mrs G Boag (Dean, Business School); Mr P Goyal (Student Campus Representative, Sighthill); Mr M Fahad Siddiqui (Student Campus Representative, Craiglockhart); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr K James (School of Health & Social Care); Dr C Mahoney (School of Health & Social Care); Professor A McCleery (Professoriate); Dr K Macleod (School of Arts and Creative Industries); Dr L Mora (Business School); Dr X Pierron (Business School); Professor A Snowden (Professoriate); Mr S Kowshik Uppalapati (Student Campus Representative, Merchiston).

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed lay Court members Andy Houghton and Rex Tomlinson who were observing the meeting.
- 1.2 The apologies were **noted**.

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2021 AB(20/21)53

2.1 The minutes were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY AB(20/21)55

4.1 Academic Board received the well-developed draft of the Internationalisation Strategy 2021-23 and noted the consultation process which had informed its development and the main strands covered by it.

4.2 In discussion, it was noted that a full Equality Impact Assessment would be undertaken on the Strategy at an appropriate point. With regard to capacity to support the activities and student numbers entailed by the strategy it was noted that the capacity of Schools and Services was taken into account during the planning process and that estate planning and development work was in progress to ensure appropriate spaces and facilities were in place to support the delivery of the Strategy. The importance of meeting the University's 85% compliance completion rate (condition of the University's sponsorship licence) for on-campus international students was noted and the support required for students to ensure the achievement of this was recognised. The interlinking of research with the Strategy was particularly welcomed by members.

4.3 Academic Board endorsed the Internationalisation Strategy 2021-23 which would be finalised based on feedback and approved by the University Leadership Team later this month.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(20/21)56

5.1 The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the Scottish Funding Council's review of tertiary education which was expected to report at the end of June. It was also noted that guidance was awaited from the Scottish Government on Covid planning parameters for the next academic year.

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

6. COVID 19: PLANNING AND RESPONSE UPDATE AB(20/21)57

6.1 Academic Board received the paper which reported on key developments in the University's response to the ongoing Covid-19 situation since last meeting.

6.2 In discussion the current arrangements and availability of asymptomatic testing to staff and students was outlined. It was noted that future arrangements and requirements for staff and student asymptomatic testing were currently under review by the Scottish Government and that a decision on provision for the next academic year was awaited. It was anticipated that any future provision would likely be based on the distribution of home self-test kits. With regard to the permissibility of conducting certain types of research, it was noted that research

activities should be able to resume subject to adherence with current sector guidance and completion of an appropriate Health & Safety risk assessment. The work currently underway to establish principles and guidance for future ways of working was highlighted, and the potential difficulties for international students from red list countries traveling to commence studies in September was recognised given current quarantine hotel requirements and capacity. The potential to allow such students to commence studies online as a contingency was currently being considered.

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

7. CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES 2021/22 AB(20/21)58

7.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the outcomes of the Annual Planning round for 2021/22, including Key Performance Targets (KPTs) for the next three years. With regard to environmental sustainability, it was noted that the University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group was currently working on a three year plan as phase one of our 10 year plan to meet our net zero carbon target by 2030.

7.2 Thereafter, Academic **noted** the report.

8. SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AB(20/21)59 AND SCHOOL OF COMPUTING INTEGRATION

8.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided an update on the further steps taken since the last meeting to meaningfully integrate the School of Computing (SoC) and the School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE). It was noted that, further to the proposed joint Graduate School for SOC and SEBE, discussions were currently underway regarding the potential establishment of a cross-University Graduate School. It was also noted that consideration of the School leadership support required by the new Dean of the two Schools was currently ongoing.

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

9. QUALITY FRAMEWORK: ANNUAL REVIEW & PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2021/22 AB(20/21)60

9.1 Academic Board received the paper which reported on the outcome of the routine monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Quality Framework during 2020/21 and amendments for 2021/22.

9.2 Academic Board **noted** the report on the effectiveness of the Quality Framework and **approved** that the Convenor of Quality & Standards Committee may sign off the final version of the Quality Framework prior to its publication.

10. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR SESSION 2021/22 AB(20/21)61

10.1 Academic Board **approved** the amendments to the University's Academic regulations for academic session 2021/22, following approval by Quality and Standards Committee, as detailed in the paper.

**11. ANNUAL REPORT ON QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY AB(20/21)62
TO THE SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL**

11.1 Academic Board considered the paper which presented a draft of the Annual Report on institution-led review and enhancement activities to the Scottish Funding Council. Members were invited to provide further suggestions for amendments and additional content prior to its submission to University Court. In discussion, the issue of rewarding and recognising students for their engagement with Institution Led Reviews was noted as an issue for consideration.

11.2 Thereafter, Academic Board endorsed the draft report which would go forward to Court, and subject to amendments, be submitted to the Scottish Funding Council.

12. ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION UPDATE APPROVAL AB(20/21)63

12.1 Academic Board **approved**, for onwards transmission to Court, minor changes to its constitution which were required as a consequence of changes in senior roles.

13. ACADEMIC CALENDAR TO 2026/27 AB(20/21)64

13.1 Academic Board **approved** the Academic Year Calendar for 2026/27.

**14. HONORARY AWARDS* AB(20/21)65
(TABLED PAPER)**

14.1 Academic Board **approved** the Honorary Award nomination as recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee, for onward transmission to Court for final approval.

14.2 It was noted that a working group was being established to review and develop a strategic approach to the award of honorary degrees and visiting academic titles.

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.

15. Minutes of Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Student Experience Committee meeting held on 17 February 2021 AB(20/21)66

The minutes were **noted**. The approval by the committee of a Mental Health Strategy for students and staff was highlighted.

16. Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee meeting held on 18 February 2021 **AB(20/21)68**

The minutes were **noted**.

17. Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee meeting held on 6 May 2021 **AB(20/21)69**

The minutes were **noted**.

PART C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

18. **COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD: 2020/21** **AB(20/21)70**

18.1 Academic Board **noted** the report which presented the University's Register of Collaborative Provision and updated on the range of collaborative activity undertaken at School and University level and the awards of the University made to those who study with partners both in the UK and overseas.

19. **BAME INCLUSION SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP REPORT** **AB(20/21)71**
BOARD: 2020/21

19.1 Academic Board **noted** the report by the Short Life Working Group on BAME Inclusion.

20. **TOP RISKS MONITORING REPORT (3 of 3)*** **AB(20/21)72**

20.1 Academic Board **noted** the Top Risks monitoring report.

21. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020/21:

Noted as:

15 October 2021
26 November 2021
04 March 2022
03 June 2022

All at 09.00.

VALEDICTIONS

It was noted that this was the final Academic Board meeting of Ankit Duggal, Professor Peter Barlow and Professor Alyson Tobin. Thanks were extended to them all for their contribution to the work of the Board.

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