EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 4th March 2022 at 9.00 am by Teams Video Conference

PRESENT:
Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor) (Convenor) [until Item 6]; Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal Research & Innovation and Deputy Vice Chancellor) (Convenor) [from item 7]; Professor P Andras (Dean, School of Engineering & the Built Environment and School of Computing); 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); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); M Greenhalgh (Director of Strategy and Planning & Secretary to Court /Interim Vice Principal International); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences); Professor N Karodia (Vice Principal Learning & Teaching and Deputy Vice Chancellor); Dr M Leggate (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); Dr K Leitch (School of Engineering and the Built Environment); Dr S Logie (Director, Student Services & Academic Registrar); Professor A Machin (Dean, School of Health & Social Care); Professor A McCleery (Professoriate); Dr K Macleod (School of Arts and Creative Industries); Dr D Maclean (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); J Martin (ENSA Campus Representative); Dr L Mora (Business School); Dr N Pitropakis (School of Computing); Professor A Snowden (Professoriate).

IN ATTENDANCE:
D Cloy (Head of Governance & Risk); Professor C Cunningham (Head of Learning & Teaching Enhancement); C Taylor (Director, Information Services).

APOLOGIES:
M Akinpelu (ENSA Co-President); Dr R Cooper (Interim Dean of Business School); Dr C Mahoney (School of Health & Social Care); Dr F McQueen (School of Applied Sciences); A Michael (ENSA Campus Representative); Dr X Pierron (Business School); C Reid (ENSA Campus Representative); B Stillie (School Head of Learning & Teaching); Dr S Wells (School of Computing); Dr G Wright (School Head of Research).

1.   WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

1.1   The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed newly elected members Nick Pitropakis (SOC) and Kenny Leitch (SEBE).

1.2   The apologies were **noted.**

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

2.   MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021   AB(21/22)27

2.1 The minutes were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 **Minute 10. Curriculum Management Update** [see slides circulated with meeting papers]

Members **noted** the slide set clarifying governance matters and summarising deliverables and timelines for the curriculum management project which had been circulated to Academic Board with the papers for the meeting.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT   AB(21/22)29

4.1 The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the expectation that the remaining Covid legal restrictions would be lifted on 21st March. With regard to the war in Ukraine, it was noted that the University had reached out to Ukranian and Russian staff and students to offer support and was engaged with the Scottish Government around support that could be provided to those affected by the conflict. It was noted that the UK's association to the Horizon Europe research and innovation funding programme remained frozen because of the ongoing disagreements between the UK and the European Union on the issue of the Northern Ireland protocol. The below inflation increase in sector funding was also highlighted.

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

5. COVID 19: PLANNING AND RESPONSE UPDATE

5.1 Academic Board **noted** an upate on key developments in the University's response to the ongoing Covid-19 situation since its last meeting. The positive Internal Audit Report into the University's management of its response to the pandemic was highlighted.

6. SEBE/SOC INTEGRATION   AB(21/22)30

6.1 Academic Board considered the paper which outlined the rationale to meaningfully integrate the School of Computing (SoC) and the School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE), considering the academic benefits for doing so and building on the outcome of the extensive consultation about the opportunity of integration of the two schools.

6.2 Discussion followed during which the proposal was welcomed and members representing the two schools endorsed the proposal. Additional benefits in terms of international market positioning and positioning in relation to the SFC review of provision were noted. It was also noted that some elements of system integration work would continue beyond the establishment date for the new School. Thanks were extended to all involved in developing and progressing the proposal.

6.3   Thereafter, Academic Board **approved** the integration of the School of Computing and the School of Engineering and Built Environment into a single school, the School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment (SCEBE), with effect from 1st August 2022.

7.   ENHance CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION   AB(21/22)31

7.1   Academic Board considered the paper which provided an update on the implementation of the ENhance Curriculum Development Framework.

7.2   Discussion followed during which it was noted that consideration would be given to ongoing requirements and positioning concerning the role of School Academic Lead (Curriculum Development). The desirability of a fast track approval process for programmes that drew upon existing modules was recognised, and was under consideration. An update on this would be provided at the next Board meeting. It was also noted that there were opportunities for discussion of learning & teaching and research elements in the context of the development of the broader digital strategy.

   ACTION: Update on consideration of fast track Programme Approval Process to be provided at next Academic Board meeting (VP L&T)

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

8.   REPORT ON APPLICATIONS 2022/23*   AB(21/22)32

8.1   Academic Board considered the paper which presented an update on student applications and the recruitment and admissions process for the 2022/23 admissions cycle. The current position and actions being taken to achieve the 2022/23 student number targets were highlighted. It was also noted that an update would be provided on the work of the Curriculum Development Group at the Board's next meeting in June.

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

9.   STUDENT ENROLMENTS AND FORECAST FOR 2021/22*   AB(21/22)33

9.1   Academic Board received the paper which provided a summary of student enrolments and forecasts for the academic year 2021/22 student population segments. The challenges in achieving target numbers in certain population segments and the mitigating actions taken were highlighted. In discussion, the importance of Schools having a clear picture of student numbers as early as possible to facilitate effective and timely planning was recognised and it was noted that earlier application deadlines would be introduced to facilitate this.

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

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF KPIS   AB(21/22)34

10.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided an update against the agreed set of University Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are used to monitor progress towards the University Strategy, 'Shaping our Future: Driving Distinctiveness'. The report summarised achievements and performance against the 2020/21 Annual Plan and presented the latest figures for the KPIs.

10.2 Academic Board **noted** the update.

11 STUDENT APPEALS, COMPLAINTS & CONDUCT: AB(21/22)35
STATISTICS AND ANNUAL REPORT*

11.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided the annual report on matters relating to the areas of academic appeals, complaints and student conduct.

11.2 The significant increase in academic misconduct cases was highlighted as a particular area of concern which was anticipated to be a continuing trend. It was noted that work was underway through the development of academic skills to address the underlying causes contributing to academic misconduct. It was also noted that ways to limit opportunities for misconduct should be considered when designing assessment strategies. It was also recognised that more work was needed to support staff and educate students on matters relating to non-academic misconduct. It was noted that consideration was currently being given to the resources required to support these areas of work given the increase in volume and complexity outlined in the report.

11.3 Thanks were extended to Richard Bews (Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Manager) for his excellent work in supporting this area.

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

12. PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

12.1 Academic Board received and **noted** an update on the 2022/23 planning process. The current year's approach was welcomed by members.

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 Research & Innovations Committee meeting held on   AB(21/22)36
25 November 2021

The minutes were **noted**.

14. Minutes of Research & Innovations Committee meeting held on   AB(21/22)37
27 January 2022

The minutes were **noted**.

15. Minutes of Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Student
Experience Committee meeting held on 16 February 2022

AB(20/21)38

The minutes were **noted**.

PART C   ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

16.   TOP RISKS MONITORING REPORT (2 of 3)*   **AB(21/22)39**

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

17.   SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021/22

Noted as:
03 June 2022 at 09.00.

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