

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COURT

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2015
at 3.45 pm in the Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus**

Present: Dr G Forbes (Chair); Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice-Chancellor); Ms M Ali; Mr N Ballantyne; Mr A Boyce; Ms J Boyle; Lord Brodie (Chancellor's Assessor); Mr R Hare; Mr W Gallagher; Ms S Goddard; Ms D Guilfoyle; Dr S Jiwa; Mr R Kemmer; Professor A Sambell (Vice Principal, Deputy Vice Chancellor); Mrs P Woodburn; Mr N Woodcock.

Apologies: Ms J Brown; Mr M Connarty; Dr V Ellis; Professor A Scullion; Dr P Stollard; Professor G Stonehouse (Assistant Principal).

In attendance: Mr S Belfer (Finance Director); Dr S Cairncross (Assistant Principal); Mr D Cloy (Clerk to Court); Ms K Dewar (Director of Human Resources & Development); Ms T Humphrey (Dean of School, Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Mr I McIntosh (Assistant Principal); Dr G Webber (University Secretary).

Observing: Mr A Deegan Wood (Planning Officer, University Secretary's Office); Mr B Hurley (Project Manager – Strategy 2020 Hub, Principal's Office).

1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1. The Chair mentioned the Pre-Court Strategy Presentation on Organisational Change and Development which members had welcomed.

1.2. Members were welcomed to the meeting and Kerry Dewar (Director of Human Resources & Development) was welcomed to her first meeting.

1.3. Welcome was also extended to Tracy Humphrey (Dean of School, Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care) who was attending to give a presentation later in the meeting and to Andrew Deegan-Wood (Planning Officer, University Secretary's Office) and Brent Hurley (Project Manager – Strategy 2020 Hub, Principal's Office) who were observing the meeting as part of their professional development.

1.4. The apologies were **noted**

Part A For discussion and decision

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2015 UC(15/16)17

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2015 were **approved** subject to a minor revision to 6.1 to clarify approving authority with regard to the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT UC(15/16)18

- 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 also welcomed.
- 4.2. The Principal also updated Court on plans for managing the internationalisation portfolio following the retirement of Professor Stonehouse (Assistant Principal, Internationalisation) at the end of the month.
- 4.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION* UC(15/16)19

- 5.1. The Finance Director introduced the paper which provided Court with the summary financial results year to date to September 2015. It was noted that this information had been considered in more detail by the Finance & Property Committee on 25th November.
- 5.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

6. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ANNUAL REVIEW UC(15/16)20

- 6.1. The Vice Principal (Deputy Vice Chancellor) introduced 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. A number of key points arising from the report were highlighted.
- 6.2. Discussion followed during which it was noted that any changes to the financial targets which may be necessitated by anticipated funding reductions would be reported to Court once the scale of any reductions were known. The importance of the continuing efforts underway across the University to engage students positively with the National Student Survey (NSS) was also recognised. With regard to the ambition to grow income from research grants and contracts, the support being provided through the University's Research & Innovation Office and through the development of mentoring support were highlighted.

6.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the report.

7. ESTATES STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION: PROPOSED PURCHASE* UC(15/16)21

[The subject matter of this minute and the associated paper relates to current and ongoing commercial property negotiations and as such is confidential to Court members and officers in attendance and is exempt from publication and disclosure under section 33 FoISA (prejudice to commercial interests) and section 30 FoISA (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).]

8. DRAFT OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2016/17 UC(15/16)22

- 8.1. The Vice Principal introduced the paper which presented Court with the 'well-developed draft' of the University's 2016/17 Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council. It was noted that the refreshed version for 2016/17 was an updated version of the existing agreement.
- 8.2. Discussion followed during which a suggestion for the inclusion of additional evidence in relation to business engagement was noted. In relation to the aspiration for the number of entrants articulating from colleges with advanced standing, the actions taken to mitigate the reduction in SFC articulation funding through the strategic review of Student & Academic Services were noted.
- 8.3. Thereafter Court:
 - **Received** the well-developed draft of the University's 2016/17 Outcome Agreement
 - **Approved** this draft as the final submission subject to incorporation of further feedback and any necessary updating of data, and **delegated authority to the Chair of Court approve the final submission.**

9. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF STRATEGY 2020

- 9.1. The Dean of the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care gave a presentation on her School's development in the context of Strategy 2020 which provided an assessment of the School's current position, its future direction, the opportunities and challenges and an outline of activity underway and planned to achieve the Strategy 2020 vision.
- 9.2. Discussion followed during which the actions that were being taken to address the relatively poor NSS performance of the BA Nursing (Mental Health) programme were noted. A number of key actions which would improve the School's performance further were outlined including improving the staff/student ratio through recruitment and through supporting clinicians to improve the placement experience of students. The value of the clinical skills laboratory facilities was highlighted, and the opportunity for further investment and development in this area was noted.
- 9.3. Thereafter, Court welcomed the presentation and extended thanks to the Dean.

10. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015* UC(15/16)23

10.1. The Convenor of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the annual report from the Audit & Risk Committee. It was noted that, based on the auditors' opinions, the Committee believed that the University was operating adequate and effective control systems. The report also recommended the extension of the Internal Audit Contract. Thanks were extended to staff for their good work in managing the process and ensuring actions were implemented and followed through.

10.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report and **approved** the extension of the Internal Audit Contract with Scott Moncrieff for a further two years until July 2018.

Part B For information

11. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2015 UC(15/16)24

11.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 11 December 2015.

12. REPORT FROM REMUNERATION COMMITTEE UC(15/16)25

12.1. Court **noted** the summary report from the meeting of Remuneration Committee on 16 November 2015. The Chair stated that in 2016 the Committee intends to provide members of Court with more information regarding decisions on senior pay.

13. UPDATE FROM EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

13.1. Court **noted** an update on activities underway within ENSA, including the current branding exercise and the performance of Team Napier.

14. KEY RISKS MONITORING SCHEDULE* UC(15/16)26

14.1. Court **noted** the paper which provided the first assessment of confidence in the management of the University's top risks for academic year 2015/16 and **endorsed** the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee that risk 10 be altered to take account of the change in UKVI policy.

Part C Not intended for discussion

15. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES

**15.a Finance & Property Committee meeting on UC(15/16)27
25 November 2015***

15.1. The report was **noted**.

**15.b Audit & Risk Committee meeting on
2 December 2015***

UC(15/16)28

15.2 The report was **noted**.

16. CORPORATE PLAN 2015/16 - UPDATE

UC(15/16)29

16.1. Court **noted** the 2015-16 Corporate Plan update.

17. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

17.1. The dates of future Court meetings were **noted**.

VALEDICTION

It was noted that Professor George Stonehouse (Assistant Principal, Internationalisation) was retiring at the end of the month and thanks were extended for his significant contribution to the University over the past 9 years.

Part D: Reserved Business

18. Report from the Remuneration Committee held on 16 November 2015

18.1. All officers in attendance, observers and members of Court, other than the Chancellor's Assessor and lay-members, withdrew from the meeting to allow reserved business to be conducted.

18.2. The Convenor's oral report from the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 16 November 2015 was **noted**.

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