

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th March 2016
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); Ms J Brown; Mr M Connarty; Dr V Ellis; Ms S Goddard; Ms D Guilfoyle; Dr S Jiwa; Mr R Kemmer; Professor A Sambell (Vice Principal, Deputy Vice Chancellor); Dr P Stollard; Mrs P Woodburn; Mr N Woodcock.

Apologies: Mr W Gallagher; Mr R Hare; Professor A Scullion; Dr G Webber (University Secretary).

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); Mr I McIntosh (Assistant Principal).
Item 7 only: Nick Fannin (Head Bright Red Triangle); Graham Birse, (Director, Edinburgh Institute); Nika Puri (Junior Associate, Bright Red Triangle).

Observing: Dr Louise Ker (Business Intelligence Analyst, University Secretary's Office).

1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1. The meeting was preceded by a Pre-Court Strategy Presentation on IT strategy and security, which members had welcomed.

1.2. Members were welcomed to the meeting and welcome was extended to Dr Louise Ker (Business Intelligence Analyst, University Secretary's Office) who was observing the meeting as part of her professional development.

1.3. The apologies were **noted**

Part A For discussion and decision

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2015

(i) Open Minutes

UC(15/16)30

2.1. The open minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015 were **approved**.

(ii) Confidential Minute* (item 7)

UC(15/16)31

- 2.2. The confidential minute of item 7 of the meeting held on 14 December 2015 was **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

UC(15/16)32

- 4.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the 3.7% reduction in the University's core Scottish Funding Council (SFC) funding for 2016/17. It was reported that some other elements of the University's grant allocation were not yet known. It was noted that the implications of the funding reduction were being managed through the planning and budgeting process.
- 4.2. It was noted that the HE Governance Bill had now been passed and that a paper on implications and next steps would be brought to Court at its next meeting.
- 4.3. The Principal also highlighted the recent successful "Chancellor Talks Series" lecture given by renowned designer Milton Glaser, delivered from New York via Skype, and reported that she and the Chancellor would be hosting a dinner in New York in April in his honour. The lecture would be posted on YouTube shortly and Court members would be sent the link.
- 4.4. The Principal was congratulated on her recent election as Convenor of Universities Scotland.
- 4.5. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION*

UC(15/16)33

- 5.1. The Finance Director introduced the paper which provided Court with the summary financial results year to date to December 2015. It was noted that the Quarter 2 forecast indicated a surplus of £2.7m, £0.6m better than budget, and the range of factors underlying this position were noted.
- 5.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

6. PLANNING & BUDGETING: EMERGING ISSUES

- 6.1. The Vice Principal (Deputy Vice Chancellor) provided an update on the planning and budgeting process and highlighted a number of themes and issues emerging. It was noted that academic areas were being challenged around growth in relation to international and online activity and in relation to academic portfolio review, whilst priority areas for investment were being identified. It was further noted that professional services were being challenged to identify areas where they could reduce costs. The next steps in the process were outlined and it was noted that the final budget and corporate plan would be completed by May.
- 6.2. In the context of the cost savings required, a member queried whether compulsory redundancies in professional services could be ruled out. It was noted that the University was not currently planning to make compulsory

redundancies, but given that the scale of financial challenge facing the University beyond 2016/17 was not yet known, it was not possible to commit that this wouldn't happen. The focus on growing income to mitigate the effects of funding reductions was emphasised, as were measures around managing vacancies and recruitment.

6.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the update.

7. STUDENT ENTERPRISE

7.1. Court received a presentation which provided an overview of the activities undertaken by Bright Red Triangle (BRT) to support student innovation and enterprise within the University, and included an overview of the positive experience of MSc student Nika Puri, who is employed as a Junior Associate with BRT and is developing their "Changing Perceptions" programme.

7.2. Discussion followed during which opportunities for BRT to engage with other organisations and to further develop and build on their activities within the University were considered.

7.3. Thereafter Court welcomed the presentation.

8. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS* UC(15/16)34

8.1. Court **approved** the proposals for Honorary Awards, as recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee and approved by Academic Board.

Part B For information

9. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 26 FEBRUARY 2016 UC(15/16)35

9.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 26 February 2016.

10. UPDATE ON PROPERTY MATTERS* UC(15/16)36

10.1. Court **noted** the update.

11. UPDATE FROM EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

11.1. Court **noted** an update on activities underway within ENSA, including the outcome of the recent elections, activity following the feedback survey and recent sporting successes. It was noted that Rojan Kumar Subramani had been elected ENSA President for 2016/17.

12. EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS UC(15/16)37

12.1. Court **noted** the paper which presented the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements of Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) for the year

ended 30 June 2015. Court also noted an update on the development of a Financial Memorandum between the University and ENSA, which would come to the next Court meeting for approval.

13. COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT UC(15/16)38

13.1. Court **noted** the 2014/15 annual report on the monitoring of complaints.

13.2. In response to a members' feedback, it was noted that a revised version of the report would be produced for publication on the University's website.

Part C Not intended for discussion

14. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES

14.a Remuneration Committee meeting on 21 January 2016* UC(15/16)39

14.1. The report was **noted**. In response to a member's comments, further clarification was provided around the matters contained.

14.b Finance & Property Committee meeting on 28 January 2016* UC(15/16)40

14.2 The report was **noted**. In response to a member's query it was noted that consideration of a pension scheme related matter was at a very early stage.

14.c Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 2 March 2016* UC(15/16)41

14.3 The report was **noted**.

14.d Finance & Property Committee meeting on 3 March 2016* UC(15/16)42

14.4 The written report was not available and would be circulated to members outwith the meeting.

15. REPORT OF THE COURT/ULT STRATEGY CONFERENCE: 22 FEBRUARY 2016 UC(15/16)43

15.1. Court **noted** the report of the Court/ULT Strategy Conference held on 22 February 2016.

16. KEY RISKS MONITORING SCHEDULE* UC(15/16)44

16.1. Court **noted** the report which provided the second assessment of confidence in the management of the University's Top Risks for academic year 2015/16.

17. CORPORATE PLAN 2015/16 – UPDATE

UC(15/16)45

17.1. Court **noted** the update.

18. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

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