

**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COURT**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 December 2016
at 3.45 pm in the Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus**

Present: Dr G Forbes (Chair); Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice-Chancellor); Mr R Adams; Ms M Ali; Mr N Ballantyne; Ms J Boyle; Lord Brodie (Chancellor's Assessor); Ms J Brown; Mr M Connarty; Dr V Ellis; Mr C Guest; Dr S Jiwa; Professor A McCleery; Ms E Partyka; Professor A Sambell (Vice Principal, Deputy Vice Chancellor); Mr R Subramani; Ms B Wallace; Mr S Walls; Mrs P Woodburn.

Apologies: Ms K Dewar (Director of Human Resources & Development); Mr R Hare; Professor A Scullion; Dr P Stollard; Mr N Woodcock.

In attendance: Dr S Cairncross (Assistant Principal); Mr D Cloy (Clerk to Court); Dr S Smith (Dean, School of Computing); Mr I McIntosh (Assistant Principal); Mr A McGoff (Finance Director); Dr G Webber (University Secretary).

Observing: Dr Katrina Castle (Head of Widening Access).

1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1. The meeting was preceded by a Pre-Court Strategy Presentation on the University's Widening Participation Strategy, which members had welcomed.
- 1.2. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Dr Sally Smith (Dean, School of Computing), who was in attendance to present later in the meeting. Dr Katrina Castle (Head of Widening Access), who was observing the meeting, was also welcomed.
- 1.3. The apologies were **noted**.

Part A For discussion and decision

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2016 UC(16/17)17

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2016 were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i) HE Governance Act (5.1)

- 3.1. It was noted that the Commencement Regulations for the HE Governance Act had now been laid before the Scottish Parliament and that work to implement the Act in accordance with the arrangements approved by Court at its June 2016 meeting would begin in the New Year.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

UC(16/17)18

- 4.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the Scottish Spending Review and the outlook of continuing severe pressure on public finances.
- 4.2. The Scottish Government Enterprise and Skills Review and concerns about the possible implications for the Sector with regard to changes affecting the SFC were highlighted.
- 4.3. Lobbying activity underway to attempt to influence the UK Government over their stance on immigration and planned restrictions on international students was also highlighted.
- 4.4. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION*

UC(16/17)19

- 5.1. Court received the paper which provided the summary financial results year to date to 31 October 2016. Members welcomed the revised presentation of the report which was intended to make financial information more accessible.
- 5.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

6. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2015/16*

UC(16/17)20

- 6.1. Court received the paper which was presented to enable Court to discharge its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Financial Statements for 2015/16. It was noted that the statements had previously been considered and recommended for submission to Court by the Finance & Property Committee and the Audit & Risk Committee. A number of areas of note from the Financial Statements were highlighted.
- 6.2. Thereafter Court **approved** the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2015/16, **authorised** the Chair of Court and the Principal to sign the Financial Statements on its behalf and **authorised** the Principal and the Finance Director to sign the Management Letter of Representation on its behalf.

**7. ANNUAL REVIEW OF STRATEGY AND ACADEMIC
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

UC(16/17)21

- 7.1. Court received the paper which presented the agreed set of University Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are used to monitor progress towards the University Strategy 2020. The indicators were presented with indicative trajectories for each of the measures to 2020 using 2013/14 as a baseline. It was noted that the changing economic and political environment served to reinforce the importance of the Strategy and that, whilst good progress had been made, there remained many challenges for which there were plans in place to address.
- 7.2. Discussion followed during which activity to develop and grow the University's online provision was noted. It was queried whether it might be appropriate to review the KPI targets given changes in the environment since they were approved, but was felt that the current targets were broadly appropriate and that it was of increasing importance that the University deliver against them to ensure competitiveness. It was recognised, however, that it may be appropriate to keep the target for total income under review.
- 7.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

**8. DRAFT SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL OUTCOME
AGREEMENT 2017/18**

UC(16/17)22

- 8.1. Court received the paper which presented a well-developed draft of the University's Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council for 2017/18.
- 8.2. In discussion it was suggested that it may be appropriate for a Widening Participation measure to be included in the University KPIs and it was noted that this would be given consideration.
- 8.3. Court **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 to approve the final submission.

9. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

UC(16/17)23

- 9.1. Court received the paper which presented a report of stakeholder engagement activity on the part of the University Leadership Team (ULT) since the adoption of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, received by Court at its meeting in June 2015.
- 9.2. Discussion followed surrounding the extent to which desired outcomes from engagement were pre-identified and around the measurement of impact from engagement. These were noted as matters to consider for future reports.
- 9.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the update.

10. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016* UC(16/17)24

- 10.1. Court received the paper which presented the Audit & Risk Committee annual report to Court for 2015/16. It was noted that, based on the auditors' opinions, the Committee believed that the University was operating adequate and effective control systems. A number of issues from the reports were highlighted.
- 10.2. Thereafter Court **noted** the annual report from the Audit & Risk Committee.

Part B For information

11. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2016 UC(16/17)25

- 11.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 25 November 2016. The report on the Teaching Excellence Framework considered by the Board was highlighted, and the University's approach in relation to it was noted.

12. REPORT FROM REMUNERATION COMMITTEE UC(16/17)26

- 12.1. Court received the paper which presented the report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 17 November 2016.
- 12.2. In relation to the decision to recruit to the vacant Assistant Principal (International) role, the Chair reported that, to avoid any undue delay with progressing the recruitment process, he had taken Chair's Action on behalf of Nominations Committee to establish the appointment panel. It was noted that the panel would consist of: the Vice-Chair of Court; the Principal & Vice Chancellor; Vice-Principal (Deputy Vice Chancellor); a Lay Court member nominated by the Chair (Neil Ballantyne); the Director of HR&D; an external member nominated by the Chair.
- 12.3. Court **delegated its authority** to that panel to make the appointment.
- 12.4. Thereafter Court **noted** the report.

13. SCHOOL UPDATE: SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

- 13.1. Court received the Presentation from the Dean of the School of Computing on the strategic development of the School in the context of Strategy 2020. The current position, opportunities and challenges, future direction and plans were outlined.
- 13.2. Court welcomed the presentation and discussion followed during which opportunities for future development and collaboration were noted.

13.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the presentation.

14. UPDATE FROM EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

14.1. Court noted the updates from the ENSA President and Vice President on current activities underway within the Association.

14.2. The Chair of Court reported that, in response to concerns brought to his attention with regard to the operation of the Association, the Chair of the ENSA Board of Trustees had been invited to commission an independent review of the governance and management of the Association.

15. TOP RISKS MONITORING SCHEDULE (1 of 3)* UC(16/17)27

15.1. Court **noted** the Top Risks monitoring schedule.

Part C Not intended for discussion

16. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES

16.a Finance & Property Committee meeting on 23 November 2016* UC(16/17)28

16.1. The report was **noted**.

16.b Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 23 November 2016* UC(16/17)29

16.2 The report was **noted**.

17. STUDENT INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE STRATEGY UC(16/17)30

17.1. Court **noted** the Student Innovation & Enterprise Strategy.

18. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

18.2. Members were invited to consider possible topics which they might wish to see covered in the upcoming Court/ULT Strategy Conference on 27 February 2017 and to advise the Principal/Clerk accordingly.

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