

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COURT

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 March 2017
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; Mr C Guest; Mr R Hare; Professor A McCleery; Ms E Partyka; Dr P Stollard; Mr R Subramani; Ms B Wallace; Mr S Walls; Mr N Woodcock.

Apologies: Dr V Ellis; Dr S Jiwa; Mrs P Woodburn; Professor A Sambell (Vice Principal, Deputy Vice Chancellor); Professor A Scullion.

In attendance: Dr S Cairncross (Assistant Principal); Ms K Dewar (Director of Human Resources & Development); Mr D Cloy (Clerk to Court); Ms N Graham (Assistant Principal); Ms P Miller-Judd (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); Mr I McIntosh (Assistant Principal); Mr A McGoff (Finance Director); Dr G Webber (University Secretary).

Observing: A Richmond (Governance Adviser).

1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Naomi Graham (Assistant Principal, International) to her first meeting. Pauline Miller-Judd (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries), who was in attendance to present later in the meeting, was also welcomed as was Aimi Richmond (Governance Adviser), who was observing the meeting as part of her induction to her new role.
- 1.2. The apologies were **noted**.

Part A For discussion and decision

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2016 UC(16/17)31

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2016 were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i) Appointment of Assistant Principal (International) (12.2)

- 3.1. It was noted that Naomi Graham had been appointed to the role of Assistant Principal (International) with effect from 1 February 2017.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

UC(16/17)32

- 4.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the recent successful graduations in Hong Kong, the current position with regard to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) indicative grant letter and the emergence of the learner journey as a separate major strand of government policy which would impact on the University.
- 4.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION*

UC(16/17)33

- 5.1. Court received the paper which provided the summary financial results year to date to 31 January 2017. The range of actions being taken to achieve an increased contribution were noted.
- 5.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

6. BREXIT UPDATE

UC(16/17)34

- 6.1. Court received the paper which provided an update on developments relating to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. The activities being undertaken within the University to monitor and respond to developments were noted.
- 6.2. Discussion followed during which it was noted that, whilst the decline in EU student applications (by fee status) was manageable this year, and broadly in line with trends at other Universities, some subjects may find it difficult to replace all of their EU students with Scottish students, if that becomes necessary after Brexit. Activity underway to increase numbers in these exposed areas and achieve the necessary rebalancing was highlighted, as were preparations to facilitate applications from EU students under any future fee paying arrangements.
- 6.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the report.

7. HE GOVERNANCE UPDATE

UC(16/17)35

- 7.1. Court received the paper which provided an update on the work and deliberations of the HE Governance Act Implementation Review Group (IRG) following its initial meeting on 8 March 2017.
- 7.2. The detailed timetable of activity and action plan for implementation approved by the Group was noted, and Court agreed that the aim to remain within the

maximum 25 member benchmark should be the guiding principle to inform the development of proposals for amendments to Court's constitution.

7.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the report.

8. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS* UC(16/17)36

8.1. Court **approved** the proposals for Honorary Awards, as recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee and approved by Academic Board. It was noted that the paper must be treated in the strictest confidence and that the names contained therein must not be disclosed unless and until the nominees have been approached and accepted the invitation.

Part B For information

9. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 10 MARCH 2017 UC(16/17)37

9.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 10 March 2017.

10. SCHOOL UPDATE: SCHOOL OF ARTS & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

10.1. Court received the Presentation from the Dean of the School of Arts & Creative Industries 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.

10.2. Court welcomed the presentation and discussion followed during which the importance of maintaining a close connection with industry in a rapidly changing environment was recognised and opportunities for future development and collaboration were noted.

10.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the presentation.

11. EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE / ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS UC(16/17)38

11.1. Court **noted** the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements of Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) for the year ended 30 June 2016.

12. ENSA REVIEW* UC(16/17)39

12.1. Court **noted** the paper which informed it of discussions that had been taking place between the Secretary to the University Court on behalf of the Chair and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of ENSA with regard to the commission of an independent review of the governance and management of the Association.

13. TOP RISKS MONITORING SCHEDULE (2 of 3)* UC(16/17)40

13.1. Court **noted** the Top Risks monitoring schedule. It was noted that the Audit & Risk Committee had scrutinised the traffic light status of a number of the risks and concluded that the University was doing as much as it could to mitigate these in the current context.

14. COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT UC(16/17)41

14.1. Court **noted** the 2015/16 annual report on the monitoring of complaints. The report was welcomed and it was suggested that it might be helpful for future reports to indicate whether the highlighted learning points came at an early stage in the process.

Part C Not intended for discussion

15. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES

15.a Finance & Property Committee meeting on 26 January 2017* UC(16/17)42

15.1. The report was **noted**.

15.b Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 1 March 2017* UC(16/17)43

15.2 The report was **noted**.

15.c Finance & Property Committee meeting on 2 March 2017* UC(16/17)44

15.3 The report was **noted**.

16. REPORT OF THE COURT / ULT STRATEGY MEETING UC(16/17)45

16.1. Court **noted** the report of the Court/ULT Strategy Meeting held on 27 February 2017.

17. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

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