

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COURT

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26 March 2018
at 3.45 pm in the Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus**

Present: Dr G Forbes (Chair); Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice-Chancellor); Mr R Adams; Mr N Ballantyne; Ms J Boyle; Lord Brodie (Chancellor's Assessor); Ms J Brown; Mr C Guest; Dr S Jiwa; Mr M Khatri; Ms E Partyka; Professor A Sambell (Senior Vice Principal, Deputy Vice Chancellor); Professor A Scullion; Dr P Stollard; Mr S Walls; Mrs P Woodburn; Mr N Woodcock.

Apologies: Dr V Ellis; Mr R Hare; Professor A McCleery; Ms H Markley; Professor L Yellowlees.

In attendance: Mr D Cloy (Secretary to Court); Dr S Cairncross (Assistant Principal); Ms K Dewar (Director of People & Services); Ms N Graham (Vice Principal (International)).

Observing: Ms G Boag (Dean, Business School).

1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1. The meeting was preceded by a Pre-Court Strategy Presentation on the University's marketing, communication and brand activity, which members had welcomed.
- 1.2. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Gail Boag (newly appointed Dean of the Business School) who was observing the meeting as part of her induction.
- 1.3. The apologies were **noted**.

Part A For discussion and decision

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2017 UC(17/18)30

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2017 were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1. No matters arising were identified.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

UC(17/18)31

- 4.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the University's indicative funding allocation from the Scottish Funding Council. It was noted that the grant for Nursing had yet to be announced.
- 4.2. The review of fees and funding in England was also highlighted. The potential of the review to alter the competitive landscape across the UK with potential implications for the current deregulated status of rUK fees in Scotland was noted.
- 4.3. Developments regarding the Widening Access agenda were highlighted. It was noted that the sector had requested data from the Scottish Government on the size of the potential pool of qualified MD20 applicants, but that this had not yet been provided.
- 4.4. Successful January intakes of Global Online students and on-campus international students were highlighted. The recent visit to Hong Kong and Macau for graduation ceremonies at partner institutions was noted, as was the visit to China to discuss a potential new development with a partner.
- 4.5. It was noted that Court had been circulated with the headline outcomes of the 2018 Staff Engagement Survey and that a full report would be brought to Court for consideration in June, which would include a summary of University actions.
- 4.6. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION*

UC(17/18)32

- 5.1. Court received the report which provided the financial position as at the end of February 2018.
- 5.2. Court **noted** the report.

6. BREXIT UPDATE

UC(17/18)33

- 6.1. Court received the paper which provided an update on developments relating to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. An update on recent developments since the paper was written was also provided.
- 6.2. Court **noted** the report.

7. HE GOVERNANCE ACT IMPLEMENTATION: UPDATE REPORT AND COURT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW OUTCOMES

UC(17/18)34

- 7.1. Court received the paper which provided an update on matters relating to the implementation of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act, the revised Scottish Code of Good HE Governance and the review of Court effectiveness following the meeting of Court's HE Governance Act Implementation Review Group on 7 March 2018. The effectiveness review report was welcomed as providing re-assurance that Court was operating effectively overall.

7.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the update, **noted** the report on the outcome and recommendations of the Court effectiveness review and **endorsed** the enhancement recommendations contained.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES

UC(17/18)35

8.1. Court received the paper which presented proposed changes to the University's Grievance and Disciplinary policies. It was noted that these changes followed a review by the HR team and consultation with the trade unions, with amendments having been made to the proposals in response to feedback from the trade unions throughout the consultation process.

8.2. Discussion followed in which the background and rationale to a number of the changes, and issues raised by the trade unions, was explained. It was agreed that the creation of a decision flow chart to complement the policies would be useful. It was also noted that training would be provided to the pool of relevant management staff who would undertake investigations in line with the policies.

8.3. Thereafter Court **approved** the revised Grievance and Disciplinary policies.

9. PREVENTING & TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE & MISCONDUCT: UPDATE

UC(17/18)36

9.1. Court received the paper which presented an outline of work underway towards developing a strategy to tackle and prevent sexual violence and misconduct.

9.2. Court welcomed the report and supported the actions being taken. Within this context, it was noted that an internal audit was underway to examine the University's overall safeguarding framework, in view of recent reports of abuses connected to some charities working in the international aid sector. The outcome would be reported to the next Audit & Risk Committee and therefrom to Court. It was noted that charity trustees were being reminded by OSCR of their responsibilities to ensure that their charity has appropriate policies, procedures and practices in place to make sure that everyone is kept safe from abuse.

9.3. Discussion followed during which the beneficial partnership working underway between the University and ENSA to develop the strategy was noted. The prevalence of alcohol as an aggravating factor in this area was also highlighted, and it was recognised that it would be appropriate to reflect on its promotion during freshers events.

9.4. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

10. DEVELOPING NEW AREAS OF PROVISION UC(17/18)37

10.1. Court received the report which updated on the expansion of the University's academic portfolio into two new areas of provision, namely Allied Health Professions programmes and Teacher Education.

10.2. Discussion followed during which the potential for future international opportunities in teacher education was noted. The importance of giving consideration to the marketing message and positioning in relation to the teacher education offering was also highlighted.

10.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the update.

Part B For information

11. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 9 MARCH 2018 UC(17/18)38

11.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 9 March 2018. The decision to change the structure of the academic calendar to start later in the year was highlighted.

12. EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS UC(17/18)39

12.1. Court received and **noted** the Trustee's Report and Financial Statements of Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) for the year ended 30 June 2017.

13. TOP RISKS MONITORING SCHEDULE (2 of 3)* UC(17/18)40

13.1. Court received the Top Risks monitoring schedule and noted the improved position with regard to the mitigation of risk 8 (high performance culture), with My Contribution objective setting completion having risen to 98.5%.

13.2. With regard to the University's preparedness for compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) contained within risk 10 (information security), the recent Information Governance internal audit was highlighted and it was confirmed that the University was on track to have the compliance framework for the new legislation in place ahead of the effective date of 25 May 2018.

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

14. COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT* UC(17/18)41

14.1. Court **noted** the annual report on matters related to the handling, recording, reporting and learning from complaints received by the University.

Part C Not intended for discussion

15. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES

15.a Finance & Property Committee meeting on 25 January 2018* **UC(17/18)42**

15.1. The report was **noted**.

15.b Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 27 November 2017* **UC(17/18)43**

15.2 The report was **noted**.

16. REPORT OF THE COURT/UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP TEAM STRATEGY MEETING ON 26 FEBRUARY 2018 **UC(17/18)44**

16.1. Court **noted** the report.

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.