

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COURT

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29 October 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 G Cullen; Mr J Fraser; Mr R Hare; Mr C Ibanez; Professor A McCleery; Ms A McLean; Mr S Moir; Ms E Partyka; Ms G Scholefield; Mr S Walls; Mr N Woodcock; Professor L Yellowlees.

Apologies: Dr S Jiwa; Mr S Brannan; Mr C Guest; Professor A Scullion; Professor A Sambell.

In attendance: Mr D Cloy (Secretary to Court); Ms G Boag (Dean, Business School); Ms N Graham (Vice Principal (International)); Mr A McGoff (Director of Finance & Operations); Ms T Humphrey (Dean of School of Health & Social Care) (item 7); Professor A Tobin (Vice Principal, Learning & Teaching).

Observing: Mr A Watling (Head of Student Futures).

1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1. The meeting was preceded by a Pre-Court Presentation outlining Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) activities, key issues and initiatives.
- 1.2. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed new members; Jonathan Fraser, Ashely McLean, Stephen Moir, Gwyneth Scholefield, Grant Cullen and Carles Ibanez. Gail Boag, attending the meeting to present, and observer Adam Watling were also welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.3. The apologies were **noted**.

Part A For discussion and decision

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2018 UC(17/18)67

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018 were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. COURT AND COURT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UC(18/19)01

- 4.1. Court **noted** its membership for 2018/19 and approved the committee memberships recommended by Nominations Committee.
- 4.2. It was noted that the elected Academic Staff member place on Court remained vacant following a cancelled election, and that a further election would be held to fill the vacancy as early as practicable.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT UC(18/19)02

- 5.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the Migration Advisory Committee reports, the appointment of Richard Lohead MSP as the new Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science in Scotland, and the Scottish Government's Spending Review.
- 5.2. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT: PROVISIONAL OUTTURN FOR 2017/18* UC(18/19)03

- 6.1. Court received the paper which reported on the provisional financial outturn for the year ended 31 July 2018.
- 6.2. In discussion the range of mechanisms and activity, including School Boards, intended to support the achievement of income targets were noted. It was noted that effective local cascade was important to ensure that staff understood the University's financial context and targets, and a number of communication activities undertaken within Schools in this regard were highlighted. It was noted that more work was needed to grow external engagement and promote the importance of this to staff.
- 6.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

7. STUDENT SURVEYS: OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS UC(18/19)04

- 7.1. Court received the paper which summarised the latest results of the three independent sector-wide surveys of student experience: the National Student Survey (NSS), the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) along with details of the actions being taken to address the outcomes of these surveys.
- 7.2. The background to the difficulties experienced within Nursing regarding programme change which had contributed to the overall decline in NSS performance were noted, as were the actions being undertaken to address these issues and other learning points going forward. In discussion, it was recognised that a similar situation could arise in the near future with further changes to Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards, but that there was a high degree of confidence within the School that any future transitions would be much better managed. With regard to addressing issues in other Schools, the expected consultation with Heads of Subject and Programme Leaders which fed into School Plans was highlighted. It was noted that issues in the School of

Engineering and Built Environment would be addressed with the arrival of the newly appointed Dean. The importance of education and promotion of the NSS to students was recognised, and improving levels of employee engagement was acknowledged as a factor in increasing student satisfaction. It was noted that the results of the PTES and PRES surveys had been more positive.

7.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the update.

8. REPORT ON LEAGUE TABLE PERFORMANCE UC(18/19)05

8.1. Court received the paper which provided a summary of league table rankings for the University across the three main league tables in the UK as well as the World University rankings. The change in presentation of entry standard data was noted due to a change in methodology by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). It was agreed that information would be circulated to enable comparison of data between the old and new methodologies.

8.2. Court **noted** the report.

9. INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, CHINA: PROPOSAL AND BUSINESS CASE* UC(18/19)06

9.1. Court received the paper which sought agreement from the University Court to submit an application to establish a Joint Education College (JEC) in Liuzhou, Guangxi Province of China, in partnership with Guangxi University of Science of Technology (GXUST). It was noted that the rotation of senior staff at GXUST would delay the timescale for application to the Ministry of Education until March 2019.

9.2. Discussion followed during which members welcomed the detailed work that had been undertaken in preparing the business case and to identify and manage risks. It was noted that the income projections based on projected student numbers were considered to be achievable, having been informed by experience of recruitment in similar areas, and were considered to be conservative. It was noted that further programmes could be added in future as the partnership developed. It was noted that the University's financial commitment was limited to investment in staffing and that the main risk of not proceeding would be reputational rather than financial. The staffing model envisaged for the JEC was also clarified.

9.3. Thereafter, Court **approved** the recommendation to proceed with the JEC application submission.

10. SCHOOL UPDATE: THE BUSINESS SCHOOL

10.1. Court received the presentation from the Dean of the Business School on the strategic development of the School.

10.2. Members welcomed the presentation and discussion followed during which the importance of sharing good practice with other Schools was emphasised.

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

11. BREXIT UPDATE UC(18/19)07

11.1. Court received the paper which provided an update on developments relating to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union.

11.2. Thereafter Court **noted** the update.

12. HONORARY DEGREES & FELLOWSHIP REGULATIONS UC(18/19)08

12.1. Court **approved** the revised Honorary Awards Regulations.

13. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS* UC(18/19)09

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

13.2. In view of the lack of gender balance in the nominations received, it was noted that an additional meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee had been arranged for 19 November to consider the results of a call for female nominations.

Part B For information

14. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 19 OCTOBER 2018 UC(18/19)10

14.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 19 October 2018.

15. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH UC(18/19)11

15.1. Court **noted** the update on developments in support of student mental health within the University. Members recognised the significant importance of this issue and the need for continued focus in developing services and support mechanisms in this area. It was agreed that members should provide any feedback to the Principal to inform the further development of this provision.

16. EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

16.1. Court noted the update on current priorities and activities undertaken by the Edinburgh Napier Students' Association Sabbatical Officers.

Part C Not intended for discussion

17. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES

17.a Finance & Property Committee meeting on 24 September 2018* **UC(18/19)12**

17.1. The report was **noted**.

17.b Nominations Committee meeting on 1 October 2018* **UC(18/19)13**

17.2 The report was **noted**.

17.c Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 10 October 2018* **UC(18/19)14**

17.3 The report was **noted**.

18. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COURT BUSINESS 2018/19 **UC(18/19)15**

18.1. Court **noted** the forward schedule.

19. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

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