

**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY COURT****Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25 March 2019  
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; Mr S Brannan; Lord Brodie (Chancellor's Assessor); Mr G Cullen; Mr J Fraser; Mr C Ibanez; Dr S Jiwa; Professor A McCleery; Ms A McLean; Mr S Moir; Ms E Partyka; Professor A Sambell; Ms G Scholefield; Mr S Walls; Mr N Woodcock.

**Apologies:** Ms J Brown; Mr C Guest; Mr R Hare; Dr H Patrick; Professor A Scullion; Professor L Yellowlees.

**In attendance:** Mr D Cloy (Secretary to Court); Ms K Dewar (Director of People & Services); Ms N Graham (Vice Principal (International)); Mr A McGoff (Director of Finance & Operations); Professor A Tobin (Vice Principal, Learning & Teaching); Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal Research & Innovation); Mr G Day (Director of Marketing and External Relations) (up to item 6); Dr G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences) (up to item 8).

**Observing:** Mr R Bews (Appeals, Complaints & Conduct Manager).

**1. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- 1.1. The meeting was preceded by a Pre-Court Strategy Presentation on Commercialisation and Spin-Outs which members had welcomed.
- 1.2. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Nick Antonopoulos (Vice Principal Research & Innovation) to his first meeting in attendance. Welcome was also extended to Geoff Day (Director of Marketing and External Relations) attending for the Marketing/External Relations item, Gary Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences) attending for his School presentation and Richard Bews (Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Manager) (observing).
- 1.3. The apologies were **noted**.

**Part A For discussion and decision****2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2018 UC(18/19)33**

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2018 were **approved**.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1: Academic Staff Court Election: It was noted that Holly Patrick had been elected as the Academic Staff member on Court.

5.5: ENSA Constitution: It was noted that the Chair of the ENSA trustee Board wished time to examine outstanding issues with the Board without undue pressure of time, therefore the Constitution had not been brought back to this Court meeting.

12.2 International Centres: It was noted that the application to establish a Joint Education College in Liuzhou, Guangxi Province of China, in partnership with Guangxi University of Science of Technology had been submitted.

### 4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

UC(18/19)34

- 4.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the 'flat cash' budget settlement for Higher Education in the Scottish draft budget and noted the representations being made by Universities Scotland to press the case that funding at this level is not a sustainable approach to supporting the sector. The recently published report by the European Universities Association (EUA) which categorised Scotland's university sector as "a declining system under pressure" based on the pace of funding cuts over the long-term, was also highlighted. It was noted that Court members were free to make representations on their own account on funding matters and that a brief would be made available to support those who wished to do so.
- 4.2. The Principal's recent visit to Hong Kong and China for graduations and to engage with partners was highlighted.
- 4.3. The recent success of the University in winning the Diversity in Business award was welcomed, as was the launch of the Hub for SUCCESS project.
- 4.4. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

### 5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION\*

UC(18/19)35

- 5.1. Court received the report which provided the financial position as at the end of January 2019.
- 5.2. In discussion it was clarified that the budget income figures for Schools were an estimate of achievable income, set in discussion and consultation with Schools during the annual planning and budgeting process, which were re-forecast each quarter. It was noted that the data presented on comparative financial performance of other Scottish universities provide re-assurance on the University's financial position.
- 5.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

**6. MARKETING AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS PLAN/  
PRIORITIES**

**UC(18/19)47**

- 6.1. Court received a presentation from the Director of Marketing and External Relations outlining the new structure of the Marketing and External Relations functions and direction of a new marketing strategy and University brand proposition that would underpin the messaging, tone and visual identity of marketing and external relations initiatives, activities and materials from 19/20.
- 6.2. Discussion followed during which members welcomed the direction outlined and noted the importance of identifying consistent, repeatable messaging.
- 6.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the presentation and update.

**7. RESEARCH & INNOVATION UPDATE\***

**UC(18/19)36**

- 7.1. Court received a presentation from the newly appointed Vice Principal (Research & Innovation) outlining his initial observations regarding research & innovation at the University and his key priorities going forward.
- 7.2. Discussion followed during which the importance of providing appropriate support to help develop and retain early career academics was recognised. The importance of effectively and consistently linking University research themes with marketing activity was also recognised.
- 7.3. Thereafter, Court welcomed the priorities identified and **noted** the presentation and update.

**8. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

- 8.1. Court received a presentation from the Dean of the School of Applied Sciences on the strategic development of his School which covered activities and initiatives, opportunities and challenges, review of performance and plans/priorities for the future.
- 8.2. Discussion followed in which Court welcomed the progress made and noted opportunities where the School could further develop its TNE activity.
- 8.3. Thereafter Court **noted** the presentation.

**9. ENHANCEMENT LED INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW UPDATE**

**UC(18/19)37**

- 9.1. Court received the paper which provided an update on progress to prepare for the University's Enhancement-led Institutional Review taking place in December 2019.
- 9.2. Court **noted** the report.

## **10. BREXIT UPDATE**

**UC(18/19)38**

- 10.1. Court received the report which updated on developments relating to the UK's decision to leave the European Union, particularly as they relate to Higher Education, the University and actions taken to mitigate associated risks.
- 10.2. Discussion followed during which activities underway to ensure the University remained engaged with EU partners and would continue to be attractive to EU students post Brexit were outlined.
- 10.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the update.

## **Part B For information**

### **11. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 8 MARCH 2019**

**UC(18/19)39**

- 11.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 8 March 2019.

### **12. EDINBURGH NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**UC(18/19)40**

- 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 2018.

### **13. ENSA ENGAGEMENT**

- 13.1. Court received an update from the Principal on actions taken regarding an ongoing matter.

### **14. COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT\***

**UC(18/19)41**

- 14.1. Court received and **noted** the annual report on matters related to the handling, recording, reporting and learning from complaints received by the University.
- 14.2. The Appeals, Complaints and Conduct manager was thanked for the report and for his effective management and support of this area of activity for the University.

### **15. TOP RISKS MONITORING SCHEDULE (2 of 3)\***

**UC(18/19)42**

- 15.1. Court received and **noted** the Top Risks monitoring schedule.

## **Part C Not intended for discussion**

### **16. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES**

**16.a Finance & Property Committee meeting on 7 February 2019\*** **UC(18/19)43**

16.1. The report was **noted**.

**16.b Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 5 March 2019\*** **UC(18/19)44**

16.2 The report was **noted**.

**16.c Finance & Property Committee meeting on 14 March 2019\*** **UC(18/19)45**

16.3 The report was **noted**.

**17. REPORT OF THE COURT/UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP TEAM STRATEGY MEETING ON 25 FEBRUARY 2019** **UC(18/19)46**

17.1. Court **noted** the report. It was noted that a well-developed draft strategy would be provided for consideration at the June 2019 Court meeting, with a final draft being presented for approval at the December 2019 meeting.

### **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.