

**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY COURT**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24 June 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 C Guest; Mr R Hare; Mr J Fraser; Dr C Ibanez; Dr S Jiwa; Ms A McLean; Dr S Moir; Dr H Patrick; Ms E Partyka; Professor A Sambell; Professor A Scullion; Ms G Scholefield; Mr S Walls; Mr N Woodcock; Professor L Yellowlees.

**Apologies:** Ms J Brown; Professor A McCleery.

**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).

**Observing:** Ms M Masson (Governance Officer).

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

- 1.1. The meeting was preceded by a Pre-Court Strategy Presentation showcasing two areas of the University's research (Policing Research & Sustainability), which members had welcomed.
- 1.2. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Maureen Masson (Governance Officer) who was observing the meeting as part of her role induction.
- 1.3. The apologies were **noted**.

**Part A For discussion and decision**

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2019 UC(18/19)48**

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019 were **approved**.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1. There were no matters arising.

#### 4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

UC(18/19)49

- 4.1. The Principal introduced her written report and highlighted the broadly flat cash funding outcome across the Scottish HE sector which was resulting in financial strain. The continued challenging financial environment and outlook was noted.
- 4.2. With regard to Brexit, it was noted that the University would continue to review its planning in response to emerging developments, and the decision to extend the University's commitment to underwrite Erasmus funding, for academic year 19/20 only, to include students where mobility forms a non-compulsory component of their programme was highlighted. Measures being undertaken and considered to increase attractiveness to European students were noted.
- 4.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the report.

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

UC(18/19)50

- 5.1. Court received and **noted** the paper which provided the summary financial results for the year to date to May 2019.
- 5.2. In discussion the underlying factors contributing to underspend on pay and capital budgets were noted.

#### 6. PLANNING & BUDGETING 2019/20 – 2021/22\*

UC(18/19)51

- 6.1. Court received the paper which provided the proposed budget for 2019/20, as recommended by the Finance & Property Committee. The three year financial forecast for the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 was also presented along with the Corporate Plan for 2019/20.
- 6.2. Discussion followed during which the importance of maintaining capital spend to ensure the quality, efficiency and functionality of the University's estate was noted, and the availability of SFC capital loan funding through the Financial Transactions programme was highlighted. With regard to the achievability of the target to increase the NSS score for "teaching on my course" to 90% it was noted that a good number of subject areas were already achieving that score and that it was considered a target that the University should aspire to. The areas of targeted investment underlying the professional services figure were explained and the factors contributing to the decrease in the "other income" heading were noted. The factors contributing to the varying School income targets were also outlined.
- 6.3. Thereafter Court:
  - a) **approved** the Budget for 2019/20
  - b) **authorised** the Principal to sign and submit the three-year financial forecast to the SFC.
  - c) **noted** the 2019/20 Corporate Plan

**7. SHAPING OUR FUTURE: UNIVERSITY STRATEGY BEYOND 2020**

**UC(17/18)49**

- 7.1. Court received the paper and presentation which provided a summary of the thinking emerging from the ongoing “Shaping our Future” consultation exercise to develop a strategy to take the University beyond 2020.
- 7.2. Progress with the strategy development was welcomed and discussion followed during which a number of feedback points for consideration were noted, including; be bolder in articulating where we are distinctive; be clear about who we engage with in terms of external engagement; consider whether inclusive culture and mental health is sufficiently articulated, consider use of language which staff can relate to whilst ensuring that it can be reflected to the outside world; consider slight re-focussing to make students central; ensure the underlying strategies link together to avoid silo working; stress flexibility to be able to grasp opportunities; consider areas where research has grown quickly and build that into the strategy; consider target setting within a reasonable time scale to ensure targets are sufficiently challenging whilst realistic and achievable.
- 7.3. Thereafter, Court **noted** the update.

**8. GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

**a) REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ON COURT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP\***

**UC(18/19)53**

- 8.1. Court received the report of the proceedings of the Nominations Committee held on 13 May 2019. In discussion it was noted that the criteria in the Chair of Court role description were considered to be appropriately challenging.
- 8.2. Thereafter, Court:
- a) **Noted** the report of the meeting of Nominations Committee on 14 May 2018
  - b) **Approved** the proposed membership and convenorship of Court Committees for 2019/20.

**b) ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT**

**UC(18/19)54**

- 8.3. Court **approved**, on recommendation from Academic Board, the minor changes to the constitution of Academic Board required as a consequence of changes to School academic leadership roles taking effect in Academic Year 2019/20.

**c) F&PC CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT**

**UC(18/19)55**

8.4. Court **approved** minor amendments to the Terms of Reference of its Finance & Property Committee to add the role of Vice Principal (Research & Innovation) as “in attendance” to its constitution and to reflect other minor role title changes.

**d) UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR APPOINTMENT  
EXTENSION**

**UC(18/19)56**

8.5. Court **approved** the extension of the appointment of David Eustace as University Chancellor for one further year to 31 July 2021.

**9. ENHANCEMENT LED INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW /  
LEARNING & TEACHING UPDATE**

**a) ELIR Update**

**UC(18/19)57**

9.1. Court received and **noted** the report on progress with preparations for the University’s Enhancement-led Institutional Review taking place in December 2019.

**b) Learning & Teaching Update**

**UC(18/19)58**

9.2. Court received and **noted** the report which provided an overview of key activities and developments in Learning & Teaching over the past 12 months.

**10. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**a) University Top Risks for 2019/20\***

**UC(18/19)59**

10.1. Court **approved** the Top Risks Register for 2019/20 as recommended by the Audit & Risk Committee.

**b) Top Risks 2018/19 Monitoring Report (3 of 3)\***

**UC(18/19)60**

10.2. Court received and **noted** the paper which provided the final assessment of confidence in the management of the University’s top risks for academic year 2018/19.

**11. SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL ANNUAL QUALITY  
ENHANCEMENT REPORT**

**UC(18/19)61**

11.1. Court received the paper which presented a draft of the annual report to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-Led Review.

11.2. Thereafter Court:

a) **approved in principle** the format and outline content of the draft report

- b) **authorised** the Vice-Principal to sign-off the final version of the SFC Annual Report prior to this being submitted to the Council by 30th September 2019  
c) **authorised** the Chair of University Court to sign and date the statement of assurance .

**12. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS\* UC(18/19)62**

- 12.1. Court **approved** the proposal for an Honorary Award, as recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee and approved by Academic Board.

**Part B For information**

**13. ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 7 JUNE 2019 UC(18/19)63**

- 13.1. Court **noted** the minutes from the meeting of the Academic Board of 7 June 2019.

**14. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE UC(17/18)64**

- 14.1. Court received and **noted** the annual report from the Inclusion Committee which provided an overview of activity to support and promote equality, diversity and inclusion at the University from both the staff and student perspectives.

**15. HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT UC(18/19)65**

- 15.1. Court received and **noted** the Annual Report of activity in Health & Safety management, on the recommendation of the Health and Safety Committee, as confirmation that there are effective arrangements in place to secure and promote Health and Safety across the University. Mental health related sickness absence was noted as a continued area of focus which continued to be monitored closely and for which a range of measures were being put in place to address.

**16. SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT UC(18/19)66**

- 16.1. Court **noted** the final version of the University's Outcome Agreement for 2019/20 as submitted to the Scottish Funding Council.

**Part C Not intended for discussion**

**17. REPORTS FROM COURT COMMITTEES**

**17.a Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 5 June 2019\* UC(18/19)67**

- 17.1. The report was **noted**.

**17.b Finance & Property Committee meeting on  
22 May 2019\***

**UC(18/19)68**

17.2 The report was **noted**.

**18. VALEDICTIONS**

18.1. The Chair paid tribute to demitting members of Court who were present; Neil Ballantyne, Robert Hare and Ashley McLean. All were thanked for their significant contributions to the work of Court and the University.

**19. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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

**Part D: Reserved Business**

**20. ENSA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE\***

**UC(18/19)69**

*[Recorded on confidential Reserved Business minute]*

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