



UNIVERSITY COURT

Minutes of meeting held on 5 February 2014

PRESENT

Keir Bloomer (Chair)
Fergus Boden
Jim Bradshaw
Robin Burley MBE
Ian Calder
Craig Cathcart
Johnny Elmer
Dr Anthony Falconer
Professor Alan Gilloran
Dr Lindesay Irvine

Roger Knox
Mark Laing
Brian Leggat
Jackie Macdonald
Margaret McPhail
Robert Rae
Judith Sischy OBE
Professor Petra Wend
Olga Wojtas

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Richard Butt	Dean of School of Arts, Social Sciences and Management
Dr Fiona Coutts	Dean of School of Health Sciences
Gordon Craig	Head of Planning
Malcolm Cutt	Director of Operations and Finance
Steve Scott	Director of Campus and Commercial Services
Riley Power	Governance Officer (Minute Secretary)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and those in attendance to the meeting and noted that the Court had received apologies from Miller McLean, Anna Gregor and Irene Hynd (Secretary).

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3 DETERMINATION OF OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Chair brought to the Court's attention a request by a UCU representative for a meeting between members of the Court and union representatives to discuss union concerns over the current pay dispute. The Chair had advised that this would not be possible during the formal Away Day programme due to pressure of business. However, the Chair had arranged to meet with Union representatives following the conclusion of the Away Day on

Thursday 6 February 2014. The Chair invited any interested Court members to attend the meeting.

4 MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY COURT

Members APPROVED a recommendation from the Nominations Committee (Court (14) 01) to reappoint Ian Calder and Robert Rae, both of whom had been due to demit office on 28 February 2014, for a further 3 year period to 28 February 2017.

5 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The Principal noted that a full summary of the University's activities would be provided in her 'Where We Are Now' session in the Away Day programme

6 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Court held on 4 December 2013 (COURT (13) MINS 04) were APPROVED as a correct record.

7 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

8 SENATE

8.1 Members RECEIVED the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 11 December 2013 (SENATE (13) MINS 06).

8.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

9.1 Members RECEIVED the minutes of the Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 19 December 2013 (H&S (13) MINS 04) and NOTED the following in particular.

9.2 The Chair queried whether there was any indication of when East Lothian Council intended to complete the new junction on the A1. The Director of Operations and Finance and Director of Campus and Commercial Services advised that ongoing discussions had been held with the Council and that any relevant updates would be reported to the Court.

9.3 Court members sought clarification about whether there had been any accidents or near misses and whether the University was exposed to any liability resulting from its knowledge of concerns with the campus exit slip road. The Director of Operations and Finance confirmed that members of staff and students had been asked to submit details of accidents and near misses, and that this information was reviewed by the Health & Safety Advisor and reported to the Health & Safety Committee. The University had engaged in discussions with East Lothian Council and the police and had asked the relevant authorities to address the length of the slip road and to mitigate any risks in the interim, including through taking further action to enforce the 50mph speed limit on the relevant section of the A1.

9.4 Members also noted the Committee's ongoing discussions on the issue of people smoking in front of the Campus entrance.

10 FINANCIAL UPDATE

- 10.1 The Director of Operations and Finance provided a verbal update on financial matters relating to the University.
- 10.2 The Director of Operations and Finance advised that the University was in the process of producing its half-yearly accounts and that there were no significant changes to the expected financial outturn for 2013/14, with the forecast surplus for the year being unchanged at £100k, following the additional strategic investment previously approved by Court.
- 10.3 The Court noted that indicative funding from SFC for 2014/15 incorporated a 1% real-terms efficiency gain in teaching funding but that QMU had been awarded additional funded places for associate students and the next year of the academies project. The Court was also advised that while there had been minimal change to the core research funding provided to the University, additional funding had been provided for knowledge exchange activities.
- 10.4 Members queried the likelihood that the SFC would relax the cap on student numbers. The Director of Operations and Finance advised that the University had requested a relaxation in the cap for 2014/15 and that the SFC had indicated that it was supportive of the University's position. SFC had undertaken to provide a response by the end of March.

10.5 Minute redacted

Minute 10.5 is exempt from disclosure under Section 33 (1) (b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

10.6 Minute redacted

Minute 10.6 is exempt from disclosure under Section 33 (1) (b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

11 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 11.1 Members CONSIDERED a paper setting out a proposed report structure for reporting KPIs to the Court.
- 11.2 Members discussed the proposed report and the level of detail contained therein. Members remained divided on the issue of whether the level of detail was appropriate for the purposes of the Court, whether more detail was required or whether there ought to be some combination of both summary details and comprehensive details.
- 11.3 Members AGREED that Court members that represented these divergent views should meet with the Head of Planning to agree a reporting structure that would be acceptable to Court members of all views. Jim Bradshaw, Jackie Macdonald and Ian Calder agreed to meet for this purpose. It was further agreed that this meeting would be timed to coincide with the next meeting of the Finance and Estates Committee.

12 SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL

- 12.1 Members were asked to approve the 2014/15 Outcome Agreement. The Principal advised that the agreement presented to members was not materially different from the near-final agreement presented to the December meeting of Court. The Principal advised that the version presented to the meeting had broadened the narrative contained in the agreement to better reflect the full range of the University's activities.
- 12.2 Members APPROVED the 2014/15 Outcome Agreement.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Court will meet on the following dates:

2 April 2014
25 June 2014

Meetings commence 4:00pm