UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Court

Minute of Meeting held on Wednesday 14 February 2007 in The Senate Room

Present:
Dr Jacqueline Atkinson Senate Assessor, Mr Norman Berry General Council Assessor, Professor John Briggs Senate Assessor, Mr Peter Daniels Co-opted Member, Dr Robin Easton Co-opted Member, Professor Mike French Senate Assessor, Mr James Gibb General Council Assessor, Dr Alastair Hunter Employee Representative, Dr Martin Macauley Senate Assessor, Bailie Margaret McCafferty GCC Assessor (to item 24.2), Mr Alan Macfarlane General Council Assessor, Dr Laura Martin Senate Assessor, Professor Keith Millar Senate Assessor, Ms Shona Morrison SRC President, Mr Anders Aufderhorst-Roberts SRC Assessor, Mr Alex Ross Employee Representative, Mr David Ross General Council Assessor (to item 22), Sir Muir Russell Principal, Professor Michael Scott-Morton Co-opted Member, Professor Mona Siddiqui Senate Assessor (from item 23), Mrs Joy Travers Chancellor's Assessor (Convener).

In attendance:
Mr Ian Black (Director of Human Resources), Mr Robert Fraser (Director of Finance), Miss Jan Hulme (Academic Secretary), Professor Robin Leake (Vice-Principal Physical Sciences & Engineering), Ms Deborah Maddern (Administrative Officer), Professor Andrew Nash (Clerk of Senate), Mr David Newall (Secretary of Court), Professor Andrea Nolan (Vice-Principal Learning & Teaching), Ms Susan Stewart (Director of Corporate Communications)

Apologies:
Members: The Rector, Professor Andrew Christie Co-opted Member, Ms Barbara Duffner Co-opted Member, Mr Kevin Sweeney General Council Assessor
Attenders: Professor Steve Beaumont (Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise), Professor John Coggins (Vice-Principal Life Sciences & Medicine), Mr Jim McConnell (Director of Estates and Buildings)

CRT/2006/19. Announcements
Court welcomed Mr James Gibb to his first meeting as General Council Assessor. Court noted that Mr Kevin Sweeney had also been elected as a General Council Assessor but had given his apologies for the meeting.

CRT/2006/20. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2006
The minutes were approved.

CRT/2006/21. Matters Arising not otherwise on the Agenda
There were no matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda.
CRT/2006/22. Report from the Principal

CRT/2006/22.1 Crichton Campus

Court was reminded that it had been advised at previous meetings of the University’s request that Scottish Funding Council (SFC) increase funded places at the University’s Crichton Campus so that the University would not have to continue to subsidise its activities there. In the last financial year the subsidy was £879k. Court learnt that the SFC had declined to provide the necessary support, confirmation of this having been given following the Council's meeting in late January. Court was invited to confirm that no new undergraduate entrants should be admitted to the Crichton Campus in September 2007.

Court received a number of representations from the SRC President, Ms Morrison, on behalf of students. The representations were that the University’s presence in Dumfries had the support of local people, the local Council and politicians; that people in the local area should have a choice of vocational and non-vocational courses; that the teaching and research taking place at the Crichton campus brought attention to an overlooked part of the country; that courses in subjects such as Social Work and Tourism provided an important range of skills for the local economy; that the presence of international students in the area was valuable; that some students could not afford to study elsewhere; that the drop out rate would increase if Glasgow withdrew from Crichton; and that there would be job losses with a consequent impact on families.

Court heard a number of questions from Dr Hunter, addressed to the Principal on behalf of Crichton campus staff. The staff asked why applicants, students and staff had been contacted in advance of the present Court meeting to advise them of the likelihood of student admissions being stopped in 2007; what steps had been taken to secure alternative funding for the campus; whether further discussion on, and reversal of, any decision was possible if other sources of revenue were forthcoming; and whether reputation issues had been considered. The Principal advised that a detailed written response would be provided to these questions. With regard to the advance contact made with applicants, it was noted that this had been to alert them as early as possible of the potential decision on non-admission, and to advise them of their options.

Dr Hunter suggested that more time be allowed for the decision on 2007 admissions, given that a political campaign had only recently begun. Court agreed that the matter had in fact been aired - and that those in a position to increase funding had been aware of it - for some time. Court also agreed that to delay a decision on the basis of possible alternative funding emerging, when the Funding Council’s position was already clear, was not appropriate.

It was requested on the Crichton staff’s behalf that a sum of £900k allocated to the University recently by the SFC be used for the Crichton campus. Court noted that grant was for non-recurrent expenditure and must be spent by July 2007. It would not be of assistance in helping address the recurrent financial deficit at Crichton.

On a vote, Court agreed by a clear majority that with regret, in light of the SFC’s position, the University should not admit new undergraduate entrants to the Crichton Campus in September 2007.

Court agreed that it would consider future options for any Glasgow presence at Crichton, following further University discussions with the SFC and partners and the development of what the SFC was calling a “route map” for Crichton. Court heard that the SFC had reaffirmed its commitment to the provision of higher
education at Crichton through the other partners associated with the campus. As it currently stood the provision of Liberal Arts would cease once a phased withdrawal by the University was complete. The SFC was aware of this. The interests of current Glasgow students at Crichton would be protected throughout their remaining course of study. Unless there was a very significant change, it was likely that there would be a steady reduction in the University's presence at Crichton. An academic plan to address the implications was being drawn up at present. There would be early consultation with staff about how best proposed changes could be managed, and every effort would be made to address the impact on staff in a constructive and supportive way.

**CRT/2006/22.2 Investing in Excellence**

The Principal explained that 'Investing in Excellence' was the title of the University's planned new fundraising campaign. The main feature of the Investing in Excellence would be its complementarity with 'Building on Excellence', the University's strategic plan. Rather than focusing on a headline target, the campaign would demonstrate the link between the University's strategic goals and its philanthropic activities, with a range of opportunities for giving that would focus on providing new opportunities for staff and students and on enhancing the campus environment. Court asked to hear more about 'Investing in Excellence' through a pre-Court briefing.

**CRT/2006/22.3 Recruitment and Admissions to Science and Engineering**

Court noted that the Senior Management Group (SMG) had recently discussed the need to encourage more school pupils to take an interest in science and engineering and progress to study these subjects at University. This was a challenge for the UK as a whole, and effective partnerships with schools and with business would be important if progress was to be made. Members of SMG had been tasked with formulating ideas for a University initiative in this area, and the Dean of Education would coordinate these through an inter-faculty forum.

**CRT/2006/22.4 Internationalisation**

Court noted that the SMG had recently endorsed a proposal from the Vice- Principals for Learning & Teaching and Research aimed at taking forward the University's internationalisation strategy. This would involve establishing an internationalisation steering group in the University and identifying six regional leads from among the University's staff, each of whom would have a remit to champion and coordinate the University's international activities in a region of the world.

**CRT/2006/22.5 IT Education Unit**

Court was advised that the Unit’s future role was being looked at in light of changing IT skills and needs, and that a report would be made to the next meeting.

**RT/2006/23. Faculty of Information and Mathematical Sciences**

Court welcomed Professor David Fearn, Dean of the Faculty of Information and Mathematical Sciences, who was attending the meeting to give an overview of the
Faculty and its key objectives. A copy of the presentation and of the Faculty’s operational plan was provided.

Professor Fearn explained that the Faculty was composed of four 5 or 5* research rated departments and the Robertson Centre for Biostatistics which was a high income generator. Staff planning was proceeding well for the next Research Assessment Exercise and research volume was increasing. A good growth in research awards was highlighted. The Faculty was developing strong interdisciplinary collaborations, particularly with life sciences. The Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging was a major new initiative, using complementary technologies and providing a number of opportunities for collaboration. There was a good mix of funding sources although the Faculty was hoping to grow income generation further. The student profile showed that participation targets were being met. Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate Taught (PGT) numbers had declined slightly in recent years, partly due to decreasing applications for Computing Science and Mathematics degree courses. Growth of numbers was on target for Postgraduate Research (PGR) students and for PGT overseas students. The Faculty was aiming to increase student numbers by increasing applications, widening the geographic coverage for recruitment, improving the retention rate and increasing overseas numbers. To this end a Science and Engineering recruitment officer had been appointed, new courses were being developed and outreach programmes were taking place. Graduate employment was good.

Court thanked Professor Fearn for his presentation.

CRT/2006/24. Reports of Court Committees

CRT/2006/24.1 Finance Committee

CRT/2006/24.1.1 Acquisition of Western Infirmary Site

Court approved the Finance Committee’s recommendation that the University enter into discussions with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde on the feasibility of acquiring the Western Infirmary Site, and brief the Funding Council at an early stage on its intentions. Court agreed that acquiring the site would provide a major opportunity for estates planning.

CRT/2006/24.1.2 Corporate Structure

Court approved the Finance Committee’s recommendation that a proposed new Corporate Structure should be adopted in order to shelter the University’s various commercial activities from tax liability.

CRT/2006/24.2 Human Resources Committee

CRT/2006/24.2.1 Pay Modernisation Report to the Scottish Funding Council

The draft text of the Pay Modernisation Report to the Funding Council had been circulated. Mr Black explained that the report summarised the Court’s overview of the Modernisation project at the University, the incorporation of key elements into the University’s strategic plan and progress to date, including progress to address the Funding Council’s particular interests. Areas yet to be completed were also outlined. The financial reporting sheet was still to be added, but the Finance Director confirmed the project had been delivered broadly within plan. Court requested that a list of Court meetings at
which Modernisation issues had been considered be provided at the front of the report. Court agreed that the report indicated that the University had met the objectives of the Modernisation Agenda in broad measure and had addressed key aspects of the Agenda on which the Funding Council placed particular emphasis, including Court oversight. Court noted that the finalised document would be submitted to the Funding Council by the end of February 2007.

CRT/2006/24.2.2 Long Service Awards

Court approved the Human Resources Committee’s recommendation that a new system of long service awards be introduced by which members of staff serving for 30 years would have their service recognised by a gift and a reception.

CRT/2006/24.2.3 Performance and Development Review

Mr Black confirmed that guidance and training on the Performance and Development Review system for non-academic staff would be made available to managers across the campus.

CRT/2006/24.3 Estates Committee

CRT/2006/24.3.1 Estates Updates

Court noted the progress made regarding the sale of the St Andrews Campus. Court also noted the intention to pursue commercial options for the sites currently occupied by the Pontecorvo and Virology Buildings. Court further noted the risk to a proportion of the ERDF grant in relation to the Small Animal Clinic Redevelopment as a result of the project delay, and the current financial position arising from additional maintenance requirements owing to recent, unexpected stormy weather.

CRT/2006/24.3.2 University Bookshop

Mr Newall agreed to contact the University bookshop about the continuing sale of food in the shop, which was not in the terms of the lease.

CRT/2006/24.3.3 Kelvingrove Gatehouse

It was confirmed that the Kelvingrove Gatehouse would remain in place if it were returned to University use.

CRT/2006/24.4 Health, Safety and Environment Committee

CRT/2006/24.4.1 Committee Structure

Court noted that the Health, Safety and Environment Committee would remain unchanged, except for the addition to the membership of the Secretary of Court, and that a clear steer regarding remit, particularly relating to sustainable development issues, would be provided in the future.
CRT/2006/24.4.2 Division of Immunology, Infection & Inflammation

Court noted that an inspector from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) had visited the Division of Immunology, Infection & Inflammation in January 2007. A formal report would be received in due course but it appeared that the outcome of the inspection was generally favourable and that the inspector believed that the issues that had been raised by the HSE in 2006, and which had been reported to Court at the time, had now been addressed.

CRT/2006/24.4.3 Waste Recycling

Court noted that Mr Newall would be progressing a SRC-led initiative on waste minimisation and waste recycling.

CRT/2006/24.5 Nominations Committee

Court approved the Nominations Committee’s recommendation that Mr Hamish Guthrie, a former partner in Ernst & Young, be confirmed as an external lay member on the Audit Committee for the period to November 2010, to replace Mr David McVicar whose term of appointment on the Audit Committee ended in November 2006.

Court noted that a recommendation would be made at a future meeting to fill a vacancy on the Audit Committee which Court had agreed could be filled by a lay member of Court.

Court noted that the Nominations Committee would exist for the time being with a vacancy for a Lay Member of Court and that the position would be reviewed in the spring of 2007.

CRT/2006/25. Report from the Secretary of Court

CRT/2006/25.1 Key Performance Indicators

Court was reminded that in Session 2005/06, it had established a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) to assist in assessing the University's performance over time and in relation to competitor institutions. The indicators covered five themes: Learning & Teaching, Research, Financial Management, Human Resource Management and Estates Management. In introducing these indicators, Court had agreed that the Vice-Principal (Learning & Teaching) and the Vice-Principal (Research) should update Court annually on the University's performance against its key indicators for, respectively, Learning & Teaching and Research. The Finance, Human Resources and Estates Committees should similarly report annually on performance against the other three themes.

Court agreed that Professors Nolan and Beaumont should be invited to report to the April meeting of Court, and the three relevant Committees should be asked to include an analysis of performance against key indicators in their reports to the June meeting.

A copy of the November 2006 Committee of University Chairmen (CUC) report on the 'Monitoring of Institutional Performance and the Use of Key Performance Indicators.' was provided to Court members at the meeting and was commended to Court. Court noted that much of the content of the CUC report was consistent with the approach the University had adopted in defining its KPIs, although there were some differences, including the suggested adoption of 'top-level summary indicators' on 'Institutional Sustainability' and on 'Academic Profile and Market
Position’. It was agreed that Court should review the University's KPIs following the April and June meetings and in the light of the guidance contained in the CUC report.

CRT/2006/25.2 General Council

Court noted that the recent process of selection of new General Council Assessors seemed at one point to be problematic in that three General Council members were nominated to fill two vacant places on Court. In terms of the University's Ordinances, the next stage in the selection process ought to have been a ballot of the University's graduates. When advised of this, the three nominees agreed that an election would be an inappropriate and inordinately expensive way of arriving at a final selection. In the event, the situation was resolved amicably with one of the nominees agreeing to stand down.

Court agreed that the General Council should be asked to consider operating a different method of selecting Court members, perhaps via a nominations process conducted by the General Council's Business Committee. If such an approach were agreed, steps would need to be taken to amend the relevant Ordinance.

CRT/2006/25.3 Modern Languages

Court was reminded that it had established a committee, comprising John Briggs, Anton Muscatelli and David Newall, to review the activities of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. The committee had produced an interim report in November which it had shared with the Dean of Arts and senior members of the School. This included a requirement that the German Section should prepare a forward plan for its activities, and this was done in December. The review process was not yet complete. Professor Briggs and Mr Newall were reviewing the plan submitted by the German Section, in discussion with the Dean and with some external expertise. A further report would be made to Court in April.

CRT/2006/25.4 Draft Resolution Relating to Degree Regulations

Court noted that acting under delegated authority and on behalf of Court, and on the recommendation of the Senate, the Secretary of Court had agreed Draft Resolution 553 - Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery, which had been drafted following comments from the Senate and General Council. A copy of the Draft Resolution was available from the Court Office.

CRT/2006/25.5 Disability Equality Scheme

Court was reminded that the Disability Discrimination Acts placed a duty (the Disability Equality Duty) on all public authorities to promote disability equality. Court noted that the University’s Disability Equality Scheme had been in place since 4th December 2006 and that on 24th January 2007 the University had hosted an event to mark the launch of the Scheme.

CRT/2006/25.6 Membership of Court

Court noted that, at its meeting on 27 January, the General Council had elected the following two members of Court:

Mr James Gibb, General Council Assessor (27.1.07 - 31.7.08)

Mr Kevin Sweeney, General Council Assessor (27.1.07 - 31.7.10)
These new members replaced Mr Donald Wilson and Mrs Margaret Paxton.

Court also noted that the meeting on 27 January had elected Dr Frances Boyle to be Convener of the General Council Business Committee with immediate effect and for a period of 4 years.

**CRT/2006/25.7 Scottish Funding Council: Strategic Dialogue**

Court noted that SFC Circular 79/2006, issued in December, set out the way in which the Council intended to take forward a strategic dialogue with universities and colleges in the months ahead. This would involve a visit of senior Council staff to each institution, with Glasgow's visit scheduled for some time between September 2007 and April 2008. One important aspect of the strategic dialogue was for the Funding Council to assess the effectiveness of an institution's system of governance and it would expect the Chair and at least two other members of Court to be present for the visit.

**CRT/2006/25.8 Headship of the Department of Mathematics**

Court approved the recommendation of the Committee of Appointment that Professor Peter Kropholler be appointed as the Head of the Department of Mathematics for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2011 in succession to Professor Nick Hill.

**CRT/2006/25.9 Headship of the Department of Scottish Literature**

Court noted that acting under delegated authority and on behalf of Court, the Secretary of Court had established the following Appointing Committee for the Headship of the Department of Scottish Literature, where the current Head Professor Alan Riach would demit office on 31st July 2007:

- Professor Elizabeth Moignard (Dean)
- Dr Jacqueline Atkinson (Senate Assessor)

**CRT/2006/25.10 Headship of Divisions, Faculty of Medicine**

Court approved the recommendations of the Committees of Appointment that the following Heads of Division be appointed or reappointed in the Faculty of Medicine (in each case the existing Head is indicated):

- **Cancer Sciences and Molecular Pathology** (Professor Barry Gusterson)
  - Professor Barry Gusterson to be re-appointed until 31 July 2008

- **Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences** (Professor John Reid)
  - Professor John Reid to be re-appointed until 31 July 2008

- **Clinical Neuroscience** (Professor Peter Kennedy (acting))
  - Professor Peter Kennedy to be confirmed as Head of Division until 31 July 2009.

- **Developmental Medicine** (Professor Mike Connor (acting))
  - Professor Mike Connor to be confirmed as Head of Division until 31 July 2009.

- **Immunology Infection and Inflammation** (Professor Eddie Liew)
  - Professor Eddie Liew to be re-appointed until 31 July 2008
CRT/2006/25.11 Amendment to Glasgow University Trust Deed

Court was reminded that the University Trust was created in 1984 as a vehicle for charitable donations to the University. Court noted that on Court’s behalf the Secretary of Court had agreed to a proposal from the Trust that a number of changes to the Deed be made. These served to establish the Principal as a Trustee, to reduce the number of Trustees from 14 to 11, and to clarify the roles of Trustees and the periods of office of elected Trustees (a maximum of 2 x 5 years). A copy of the original Trust Deed and of the Deed of Amendment was held in the Court Office.

CRT/2006/25.12 Amendments to Constitution of Queen Margaret Union

Court noted that the Queen Margaret Union had presented a number of changes to its Constitution for approval. The changes were not material and the Secretary of Court had approved them on Court’s behalf. A copy of the amended Constitution was available for inspection at the Court Office.

CRT/2006/25.13 Bequests

Court noted that the University had received the following bequests:

The late Mrs Dorothy J GRANT: £9,738 to the Medical School.

The late Mr John COULL: one Grotrian-Steinweg piano.

CRT/2006/25.14 University Nursery

Court noted that Childcare (Scotland) Ltd had been successful in the recent tender exercise for the contract to operate the University Nursery for 4 years from March 2007.

CRT/2006/25.15 Court Induction Day

Court members were reminded that the Court Induction Day would take place on 21 February.

CRT/2006/25.16 University Logo

Court was shown the new University logo which modernised the look and layout of the crest and University name.


CRT/2006/26.1 Revised Constitution of School of Historical Studies

Court approved the proposed revised constitution for the Centre for Historical Studies.

CRT/2006/26.2 Dates of Session 2007-08

Court approved the dates of session for 2007-08.

The Communications from Senate were otherwise noted.
CRT/2006/27. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

CRT/2006/28. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Court will be held on Wednesday 18 April 2007 at 2pm in the Senate Room. The other Court meeting date for 2006/2007 is Wednesday 27 June 2007 at 2pm in the Forehall, next to the University Chapel

Prepared by: Deborah Maddern Clerk to Committee d.maddern@admin.gla.ac.uk

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