UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

University Court

Minute of Meeting held on 15 December 2004 in the Senate Room

Present:

Mrs Joy Travers (Chancellor’s Assessor)
Sir Muir Russell (Principal)
Professor David Bennett
Mr Norman Berry
Professor John Briggs
Professor Andrew Christie
Professor Mike French
Dr Alastair Hunter
Mr Robert McLaggan (Students’ Representative Council Assessor)
Dr Geoffrey Moores
Mr John Andrew Murray (President, Students’ Representative Council)
Dr Keith Nimmo
Mrs Margaret RH Paxton
Ms Kate Phillips
Dr Craig Reedie
Mr David Ross
Mr Ian Russell
Mr Michael Sandford
Dr Mona Siddiqui
Professor David Watt
Mr Donald Wilson

In attendance:

Mr Ian Hawkins (Administrative Officer)
Mr Robert Fraser (Director of Finance)
Miss Jan Hulme (Academic Secretary)
Professor Robin Leake (Vice-Principal)
Professor Malcolm McLeod (Vice-Principal)
Professor Chris Morris (Vice-Principal)
Professor Anton Muscatelli (Vice-Principal Strategy and Budgeting)
Professor Andrew Nash (Clerk of Senate)
Mr David Newall (Secretary of Court)
Professor Andrea Nolan (Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching)
Mr Tom O'Connell (Convener, Audit Committee)
Mr Chris Rusbridge (Director of Information Services)
Annie Vaz (Acting Director of Publicity Services)
Mr Robert Wilson (Director of Estates and Buildings)

Apologies

Members: Dr Jacqueline Atkinson, Mr J Scott Cairns, Mrs Margaret McCafferty,

Attendees: Mr Bob Cunningham (Interim Director of Human Resources), Professor Peter Holmes (Vice-Principal).

17. MINUTE OF THE LAST MEETING
Court approved the minute of the meeting held on 10 November 2004.

18. MATTERS ARISING
18.1 Mini RAE (Minute 12.2)

Court noted that the presentation from the Vice-Principal, Research on the Mini-RAE would now be made to the February Pre-Court Briefing.

19. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2004

The Director of Finance reported that the University had barely broken even in 2003-04. This had also been the position in the previous four years but the current Financial Statements did not have the benefit of large capital gains on property as had been the case previously. In response to questions he added that a series of corrections from the previous year’s financial statements had reduced a projected surplus of approximately £2.5M to a break-even position.

In response to questions the Principal reported that the University was in a similar financial position in the current year, 2004-05, to that shown in the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2004 because a number of unavoidable extra items of expenditure had eliminated the small planned surplus. He added that the budget round for 2005-06 needed to be designed to deliver a more secure surplus, based on decisions reflecting the outcome of the SHAPE exercise. The Faculties would be able to see clearly the areas in which they would wish to remain excellent and those where essential quick wins could be achieved. The Court event to be held on 12 January 2005 would set out the detail and share the findings on SHAPE as well as highlighting the choices that would need to be made.

Court agreed to approve the Financial Statements for the year to 31 July 2004 and to authorise their signature by the appropriate officers.
On behalf of Court the Chancellor’s Assessor thanked the Finance Office team and the Audit Committee for their endeavours in producing the Financial Statements.

20. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Court agreed that the annual reappointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the University’s external auditors be approved for the year ending 31 July 2005 as recommended by the Audit Committee.

Court also agreed the recommendation of the Audit Committee that Ms Elizabeth Simpson MACA be appointed as a member of the Committee with immediate effect. Court noted that Ms Simpson, a Glasgow graduate, had a background in accountancy and was currently Company Secretary for Jones Lang LaSalle (Scotland).


The Report of the Audit Committee was otherwise noted.

21. REPORT FROM THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT GROUP (2 November 2004)

Court noted the report from the meeting of the Senior Management Group (SMG) held on 2 November 2004.

21.1 Full Economic Costing (FEC)

With regard to the meeting held on 7 December 2004 the Principal reported that the requirement upon all Higher Education Institutions to calculate the full costs of research contracts was being addressed in Glasgow by a group headed by the Vice-Principal (Strategy and Budgeting). The Principal informed Court that by January 2005 Universities would be required to cost and manage research projects on a FEC basis and from September 2005 all applications to Research Councils must be on a FEC basis. The Director of Finance reported that, with regard to the Management Accounts, it was intended to introduce quarterly accounts in due course.

In response to questions the Clerk of Senate informed Court that, with regard to the costing of courses, proposals for PGT courses were required to be accompanied by an accurate business plan and this gave a much better picture of the costs involved. He added that this would also be applied to Undergraduate courses in the future but this was a more difficult prospect because of the greater levels of choice.

With regard to any potential decisions about the possible closure of departments Court agreed that all strategic matters, i.e. not purely operational, should be considered by Court.

22. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF COURT

22.1 Guide for Members of Governing Bodies

On 17 November, the Committee of University Chairmen published a new Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies. Copies of the Guide were distributed at the meeting of Court: it contained a brief Code of Practice and a set of General Principles of Governance.
Court noted that the current practice at the University was consistent with the new Code but that this was an appropriate time to consider whether the University's governance arrangements might be improved. It was agreed that inputs would be invited from all Court members through a questionnaire to be issued by the Secretary of Court early in the New Year.

22.2 Joint School of Nursing and Midwifery

Court agreed the principle of a Joint School of Nursing and Midwifery with Glasgow Caledonian University as set out in the report and agreed that the draft memorandum of understanding on the creation of a school be used as a basis to enter into detailed discussions on arrangements for governance, academic administration and resource management. The Secretary of Court agreed to take on board Court's concern that there be proper representation of the University within the management structure of the proposed Joint School. Court also noted that proper consultation with staff would be entered into before any decision was made to transfer contracts of employment from this University to Glasgow Caledonian University.

Court otherwise noted the views of the Senate set out in the addendum to Paper 6 elsewhere on the agenda and that a further report would be submitted to Senate and Court in February 2005.

22.3 Non-Academic Staff Pension Scheme (NASPS)

Court noted the action taken in regard to this matter and that it would be brought back its meeting on 2 February 2005 for further discussion.

22.4 Synergy - Memorandum of Understanding

Court agreed the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the University of Strathclyde attached to the report as Appendix 3 and noted that it had been updated to reflect more accurately the scope of the collaboration between the two universities.

22.5 Grants to Student Bodies

Court noted that the Secretary of Court would convene a small working group of Court members to review the submissions from the Presidents of the student bodies and to prepare advice for Court on future levels of financial support for the student bodies.

22.6 Election of Rector

Court noted the receipt of the following nominations for the office of Rector of the University to be elected by the student body and that the result of the ballot was due to be known later that day:

- Annas Alamudi
- John R Beattie
• Jennifer Green
• Mordechai Vanunu

The Secretary of Court undertook to include the question of the role of the Rector in the questionnaire to members on governance issues (see minute 22.1) and whether the University should adopt the Dundee model of the Rector having the right to attend meetings of Court but without being obliged to preside over the proceedings.

22.7 Appointments to Committees

Court agreed the following two appointments to its Committees:

• Research Planning and Strategy Committee – Mr David Ross
• Investment Advisory Committee – Mr Michael Sandford

22.8 Committee of Recommendation for the Acting Deputy Deanship of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Court noted that the Secretary of Court, acting under his delegated authority and on behalf of Court had established the following Committee of Recommendation:

• Professor Chris Morris (Territorial Vice-Principal)
• Professor Noreen Burrows (Dean)
• Michael Sandford (Lay Member)

22.9 Headships of Academic Departments

Court approved the following recommendations of its various Appointing Committees:

• Department of Educational Studies – Dr Alastair McPhee for the period 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2009.
• Department of Curriculum Studies – Mr Brian Templeton, reappointment for the period 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2007.
• Department of Accounting and Finance – Professor Kwaku Opong, for the period 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2009.

22.10 Appointment of Representative

Court agreed to reappoint Professor David Bennett as its representative on the Court of the University of Liverpool for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

22.11 Special Meeting of Court

Court noted that there would be a Special Meeting of Court on Wednesday 12 January at 11:30am to consider the implementation of the outcomes of the University’s Future Shape exercise.
22.12 Appointment to the Board of Review

Court noted that the Secretary of Court acting under delegated authority and on behalf of Court had agreed the appointment of Ms Kate Phillips as the lay member of Court on the Board of Review.

22.13 Deanship of the Faculty of Education

Court approved the recommendation of its Committee of Recommendation that Dr James Conroy be appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Education with effect from 1 August 2005 for a period of four years.

22.14 Headships of Various Departments

Court approved the following recommendations of its Appointing Committees:

- Teaching and Learning Service – Dr Bob Matthew, reappointed for a further two years from 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2007
- Department of History – Dr Don Spaeth, in succession to Dr Thomas Munck for the period 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2009.
- Department of Archaeology – Dr Jeremy Huggett, in succession to Professor Bill Hanson for the period 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2009.
- Department of English Language – Professor Jeremy Smith, in succession to Professor Mike MacMahon for the period 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2009.

The Secretary’s Report was otherwise noted.

23. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SENATE

Court approved the following nominations from Senate for Honorary Fellowships in 2005:

- Dr Marjorie Allison - nominated by the Faculty of Medicine
- Professor Joe Connelly - nominated by the Faculty of Physical Sciences
- Professor David Crompton - nominated by the Faculty of Biomedical and Life Sciences
- Richard Jones - nominated by the Faculty of Information and Mathematical Sciences

The Communications from Senate were otherwise noted.

24. REPORTS OF COURT COMMITTEES

24.1 Finance Committee

24.1.1 Financial Statements

Court agreed the Financial Statements of the University for the year ending July 2004 (also see Minute 19).
24.1.2 Universitas 21 Global - Request for Further Investment

Court agreed not to make the further investment requested on behalf of U21 Global.

24.1.3 Non-Academic Staff Pension Scheme - Strain Costs

Court agreed that the University adopt the same approach to strain costs within NASPS as taken by the Local Government Pension Scheme i.e. by requiring individual departments to meet the cost of paying over to NASPS the cost of this strain at the date agreed from which early retirement will commence.

Court otherwise noted the report of the Finance Committee held on 30 November 2004.

24.2 Human Resources Committee

Court noted the report from the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 24 November 2004.

24.3 Estates Planning and Strategy Committee

Court noted the report of the Estates Planning and Strategy Committee held on Monday 22 November 2004.

24.4 Report from the meeting of the Museums and Galleries Committee

Court adopted the Acquisitions and Disposals Policy as set out in the report and otherwise noted the report of the Museums and Galleries Committee held on 1 November 2004.

24.5 Chancellor's Fund

Court approved the following disbursements from the Fund that were beyond the level of authority delegated to the Chancellor's Fund Advisory Board:

- Electronic Patient Record System - £60k
- Hunterian Museum - £48k

The report of the Chancellor's Fund Advisory Board was otherwise noted.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of court would be held on the 2 February 2005 at 2.00pm.