University of Glasgow

COURT

Minute of the meeting held in the Senate Room on 15 May 2002

PRESENT: Mrs Joy Travers (Chancellor’s Assessor)
Professor Sir Graeme Davies (Principal)
Mr Henry Adams
Mr Norman Berry
Professor Graham Caie
Professor Andrew Christie
Dr Jocelyn Dow
Mr Ronald G Graham
Dr Alastair Hunter
Mr Alistair J Mack
Ms Katherine Milne (Assessor, Students Representative Council)
Dr Geoffrey Moores
Dr Keith Nimmo
Ms Kate Phillips
Dr Craig Reedie
Mr Ian Russell
Mr Michael Sandford
Professor John Sewell
Mr Tim Shand (President, Students Representative Council)
Professor David Watt
Dr Judy Wilkinson

ATTENDING: Mr Dugald M Mackie (Secretary of Court)
Professor Peter H Holmes (Vice-Principal - by invitation)
Mr Ian Hawkins (Administrative Officer)
Ms Jan Hulme (Academic Secretary)
Professor Robin Leake (Vice-Principal - by invitation)
Mr Ray Lewis (Director of Human Resources)
Professor Malcolm D McLeod (Vice-Principal - by invitation)
Mrs Jackie Malloy (Biological Services)
Professor Chris Morris (Vice-Principal - by invitation)
Professor Andrew Nash (Clerk of Senate)
Mr Chris Rusbridge (Director, Information Services)
Mrs Annie Vaz (by invitation)
Mr Mike Brown (Director of Publicity Services)
Mr Robert Wilson (Director of Estates and Buildings)
Mr Michael Yuille (Director of Finance)

APOLOGIES: Mr Greg Hemphill (Rector)
Mr J Scott Cairns
Dr Ron V Emanuel (Vice-Principal - by invitation)
Mr Eamon Fitzgerald
In the absence of the Rector, the Chancellor’s Assessor convened the meeting.

The Chancellor’s Assessor welcomed as an observer, Mrs Jackie Malloy from the University’s Biological Services department.

Court approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2002 save for minute 50.1 being amended to confirm that any referendum of students on the question of a single Student Association would be held in the academic session 2002-03.

Court noted that the Board of Management of the GUU had not rejected the proposed amendment but had sought legal advice. The Secretary of Court was hopeful that a satisfactory outcome to this matter would be reported to Court at its next meeting.

Court noted that the Principal had exercised his delegated authority to approve this promotion.

Court noted the request by the SRC that the second bullet point in minute 52.3.1 (that cluster facilities be increased where possible) be emphasised as a priority.

Court noted that Professor Anthony Duff, Head of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Stirling had agreed to be the external assessor on the Review Committee.
63 MINUTES AND REPORTS OF COURT COMMITTEES

63.1 Finance Committee

63.1.1 Amendment to Minute

Court noted that there had been a drafting error in the second paragraph of Minute F.38.2, Tuition Fee Report. The paragraph should be split in two and the latter read, “The Head of Registry stated that the apparent anomaly seen in the report at the last meeting, of a large increase in income coupled with a limited increase in the number of overseas students resulted from the fact that the relationship between the two was not necessarily linear. She explained that the level of fees paid by overseas students varied considerably between subject areas.”

In response to questions from Members, the Secretary of Court stated that the apparent shortfall in part-time student numbers was the result of an over estimate at the time of making projections for this year’s budget. He added that there were no targets set by SHEFC with regard to the numbers of part-time students but that as a result of this discussion the Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching) would look at the feasibility of introducing such targets within the University.

The Principal stated that the University had adopted a range of measures to increase the number of its part time students such as specific academic appointments designed to deliver flexible provision of teaching including evening and distance learning.

The Academic Secretary stated that the University was working towards a much greater provision of evening learning opportunities and reference was made to the availability of part-time courses of study for a BD in Divinity and an MA in Social Sciences currently offered by the University.

Court noted that the University has a specific publication for part time study and that this is available on the web at:

http://www.gla.ac.uk/publications/parttimeprospectus/index.html

[Note from the Secretary of Court – In addition a copy of the prospectus can be obtained from Ian Hawkins in the Court Office]

63.1.2 First Draft Budget for 2002-03 (Minute F.39)

The Principal explained that the first draft budget was an inflated snapshot of the University's future resource requirements as the Faculties and Central Administration had been requested to include all bids for posts in the first round of budget setting. The Director of Finance reported that this had contributed to the initial budget showing a recurring deficit of £6.2M and that the salary forecasts submitted by the Resource Units were therefore being analysed line by line in order to reduce the University's overall pay costs.

The Principal added that the first round of the budget making exercise was imprecise due to the variation in departmental expenditure from one year to the next. He cited the example that at any one time the University had some 50 Academics being paid by other bodies on a short term basis and at some point the responsibility for paying these salaries would return to the University.

Court noted that the financial objective of producing an annual surplus equivalent to 3% of total income on a recurring basis was to be achieved progressively over
Court noted that the sale of the Residences was expected to produce a capital sum of about £5M which would be invested to produce an expected annual return of about £250k-300k.

63.1.3 Banking Matters (Minutes F.43)

Court approved the proposed banking facilities from Barclays Bank PLC and Clydesdale Bank PLC as attached to the principal copy of the minute.

63.1.4 Remit of the Finance Committee (Minute F.45)

Court approved the remit and membership of the Finance Committee as set out in the report and attached to the principal copy of the minute.

Court otherwise noted the Minute of the Finance Committee held on 1 May 2002.

63.2 Health, Safety and Environment Committee

Court noted the report of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on 24 April 2002.

63.3 Safety Directorate

Court noted the report of the Safety Directorate held on 18 March 2002.

63.4 Human Resources Committee

Court noted the report of the Human Resources Committee held on 1 May 2002.

63.5 Estates Planning and Strategy Committee

The Vice-Principal Estates informed members that there were no serious concerns regarding the timetable for construction of the New Medical School. The Contractor was expected to meet the revised timetable and complete by 15 July 2002. The Vice-Principal stated that the programme of interrelated moves to be initiated by the Medical Faculty’s vacation from its existing accommodation would take place by the end of July.

With regard to the St Andrews Building, the Vice-Principal Estates stated that there was a potential problem with staff occupying the building in that the “Battery Pack” section (new build) of the building that housed the main stairway was the designated fire exit. This section of the construction was behind schedule. He stated, however, that alternative fire exits had now been approved and it was expected that the refurbished part of the building would be occupied in early August 2002. The Contractor was expected to complete works to the whole scheme, including the “Battery Pack”, by 17 September 2002.

Court otherwise noted the report of the Estates Planning and Strategy Committee held on 22 April 2002.

64 MINUTES OF JOINT COURT/SENATE COMMITTEES

64.1 Resource Strategy Committee

Court noted that the body it had established to address the issue of restructuring the University was not a Committee but a Restructuring Group. The Restructuring Group was time limited and was intended to be no more that a relatively short-term measure.
Court otherwise noted the report of the Resource Strategy Committee held on 29 April 2002.

64.2 Education Committee

Court noted the report of the Education Committee held on 15 April 2002 and approved the remit and membership of the Student Support and Development Committee as set out in the report attached to the principal copy of the minute.

[Note from the Secretary of Court – following the meeting, Mr Michael Sandford agreed to serve as the Lay Member and Dr Geoffrey Moores as the Senate Assessor on the Student Support and Development Committee]

Court noted the commitment to improve off campus accessibility to SURF and the expectation that exam results would be posted electronically in the next session.

65 COMMUNICATIONS FROM SENATE

65.1 Faculty of Divinity

Court noted the draft constitution of the School of Divinity within the Faculty of Arts as set out in the report and agreed that the Faculty of Divinity be dissolved. Court also noted that dissolution of the Faculty would be subject to a formal Resolution.

Court noted that the Head of the School of Divinity would have responsibility for administering the resources allocated to the School and therefore agreed that the Head of School be a Court appointment rather than being elected by the members of the School as proposed in the report.

65.2 Dates of Terms

Court approved the proposal to delay the end of Lammas Term for the Degree of Bachelor of Nursing in 2002-2003 by one week, i.e. until 1 August 2003.

Court otherwise noted the Communications from Senate held on 2 May 2002.

66 REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Director of Information Services reported that the level of resources required for the proposed Information Strategy had been re-assessed and would be less than the £250k reported to the Management Group.

Court otherwise noted the report from the Management Group.

67 REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF COURT

67.1 Remit of Committees

Court noted the remits of its Committees and agreed that the matter be subject to a further report to its June Meeting.
67.2 Student Appeal – Outcome of Hearing

Court noted that a Senate Disciplinary Committee had found that a postgraduate student in the Faculty of Arts had impersonated officers of the University and that the student had appealed against this finding on three grounds. Court noted that the Court Appeal Committee appointed to consider the student’s appeal against that finding had concluded that none of the grounds of appeal were well founded, refused the appeal and upheld the decision of the Senate Disciplinary Committee.

67.3 Appointments

67.3.1 Head of Department of Urban Studies

Court approved the recommendation of its Appointing Committee that Professor Ade Kearns, whose six year term of office comes to an end on 31 July 2002, be re-appointed Head of the Department of Urban Studies from 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2004. Court agreed that the circumstances in this particular case were sufficient to warrant an extension beyond the normal six year period.

67.3.2 Head of the Department of the History of Art

Court approved the recommendation of its Appointing Committee that Mr Nick Pearce continue as Head of Department for a further year for the period 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2003.

Court noted that the Richmond Chair of Fine Art was currently being advertised and that the Appointing Committee was of the view that the successful candidate should be appointed to the Headship from 1 August 2003.

Court noted a general trend reported by Dr Dow that it appeared to be becoming more difficult to identify suitable candidates willing to serve as Head of Department and the Secretary of Court undertook to assess the problem and report to Court in due course.

67.3.3 Head of Neurosciences Division

Court noted that Professor Graham Teasdale was unable to take up the headship of the Neurosciences Division and agreed that Professor David Graham be appointed Head of the Neuroscience Division from 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2006.

67.3.4 Acting Head of Economic and Social History

Court noted that, in order to allow Professor Mike French study leave, Dr Catherine Schenk has been appointed as Acting Head of the Department of Economic and Social History for the period 15 April to 30 June 2002.

67.3.5 Visiting Professorship

Court noted the appointment of Professor Hew Strachan, the Chichele Chair of the History of War and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, as Visiting Professor of War History in the Department of History.

67.3.6 General Convocation of Heriot Watt University

Court approved the appointment of Professor Jim Malley of the Department of Economics as the University’s representative on the General Convocation of Heriot Watt University until 31 July 2004.
67.3.7 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Court noted that Mrs Alison Bruce, an Honorary Fellow of the University, would replace Professor David Bennett as a representative on the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2006.

67.3.8 Membership of the Joint Trade Union Committee - Secretarial and Clerical

Court noted that Ms Kate Phillips has been appointed as the fourth Court appointee to this Committee joining Professor Chris Morris, Mr Ray Lewis and Dr Judy Wilkinson.

67.3.9 The Johnstone Smith Chair of Accounting

Court noted that the Johnstone Smith Chair is appointed by the Trustees of an endowment made by David Johnstone Smith in 1925, the holder of which is required to be part-time and to be a practising accountant. Court noted that these requirements had contributed to the difficulties experienced in trying to fill the Chair that had been vacant since 1989.

Court approved the appointment of Mr David Kinnon of Baker Tilly to the Johnstone Smith Chair of Accounting following discussions with Mr Ian Marrian, Deputy Chief Executive of ICAS, Mr John Baillie of Scott Moncrieff and Professor Carol Adams, Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance.

67.3.10 Appointing Committee – Headship of the Department of Accounting and Finance

Court agreed to establish the following Appointing Committee to recommend a Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance to replace Professor Carol Adams:

Professor Chris Morris, Vice-Principal Staffing (Convener)
Professor Graham Caie, Senate Assessor
Professor Noreen Burrows, Dean of Law and Financial Studies
Professor Anton Muscatelli, Dean of Social Sciences

It was possible that an acting appointment would need to be made in the first instance, with a longer-term appointment being dependant on possible departmental re-alignments within this area.

67.4 Review of the Division of Earth Sciences – Update

Court noted the report of a follow-up review of the Division of Earth Sciences and formally discharged the Review Committee.

Court also noted that discussions had been taking place in recent weeks on whether a School Structure (with sub-divisions) might not be more appropriate for Geography/Earth Sciences/Geo Sciences, rather than separate departments, along the lines of successful models elsewhere eg Bristol. Any follow up action would be taken in response to recommendations from the Department of Geography and Topographic Science made through the normal procedures.

67.5 Trinity College

Court noted the current position of Trinity College and that the Church of Scotland is in the process of developing a Model Constitution for all three of its Colleges in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.
Court agreed that the Church of Scotland, Board of Nomination to Theological Chairs be advised that the University recognises the anachronism of the Principal and the Clerk of Trinity College being nominated from a predominately non-Church of Scotland constituency and would take a pragmatic view of any reasonable change suggested by the Board.

Court also agreed that the University would like to see the College's principal sum continue to generate income for use as a hardship fund available to all students of the Faculty and that the existing contributions to the academic post and the library purchases also be maintained.

67.6 Students Representative Council (SRC) – Constitution

Court approved the amendments to the Constitution of the SRC as set out in Appendix 2, attached to the Principal copy of the minutes.

Members noted that a copy of the amended Constitution is available from the Senior Vice President of the SRC or from the Court Office.

67.7 Calendar of Actions

Court noted the report.

67.8 Election for the Deanship of the Faculty of Physical Sciences

Court noted the result of the election to elect a new Dean of Physical Sciences and agreed that Professor David Saxon be appointed as the new Dean for the period 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2006.

In future, the Secretary of Court undertook to inform members of the Nominations Committee of the result of the election at the same time as the members of the faculty.

67.9 Resolution 490 - Honorary and Official Degrees

Subject to any comments being received from the General Council, Court ratified Resolution 490, attached to the principal copy of the minute. Court noted that the Resolution had been endorsed by the Senate.

67.10 Resolution 481 – Amendment of Resolution 213, Composition of Faculties

Court noted that it had previously approved Draft Resolution 481 – The Amendment of Resolution 213 (Composition of Faculties) to reflect the change from a single Science Faculty to the three Faculties of Biomedical and Life Sciences; Computing Science, Mathematics and Statistics; and Physical Sciences. This required the amendment of the ex-officio and supplementary members of the new Faculties, a process that has now been overtaken by a proposal to open out the membership of all the Faculties. The approved Draft Resolution, however, also changed the way the Dean of a Faculty was appointed.

Court therefore noted that those parts of the Draft Resolution relating to the ex-officio and supplementary members of Faculties would be subject to further review.

Court agreed to reaffirm its approval of Resolution 481 attached to the principal copy of the minute.

67.11 Draft resolution 491 – Composition of Faculties

At its last meeting Court endorsed the proposal from Senate that the Department of Psychology be transferred from the Faculty of Social Sciences to the Faculty of
Computing Science, Mathematics and Statistics with effect from 1 August 2002 and that it be known as the Faculty of Computing Science, Mathematics, Psychology and Statistics.

Under the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Part II, Schedule 2 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 the power to vary the composition of the Faculties is exercisable by Resolution of Court and so Court noted that Draft Resolution 491, attached to the principal copy of the minute, had been placed on deposit and a copy passed to the General Council for comment.

67.12 Draft Resolution 492 – Creation of the Sir Denis Brogan Chair of American Studies

Court agreed to transmit Draft Resolution 492, attached to the principal copy of the minute, to Senate and to the General Council for consideration. The Principal stated that the creation of the Chair reflected the growth in activity in the field of American Studies at the University. He added that the first incumbent would be Dr Simon Newman, the Director of the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies who had accepted a personal professorship at the University and would translate from that position to the Chair once it had been established formally.

67.13 General Council Membership – Registration Fees

At the January meeting of the Liaison Committee of the University and the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) it was noted that, from June 2002, B.Arch students would graduate at a GSA ceremony rather than at a University of Glasgow ceremony. This will lead to an anomaly regarding the payment of General Council membership fees in that B.Arch students attending the GSA ceremony would be required to pay a registration fee to become General Council Members while others attending the same ceremony would have the opportunity to elect to pay that fee.

Court therefore agreed that those students graduating with a B.Arch at the GSA ceremony in June 2002 not be charged a General Council membership fee.

67.14 Personal Professorships

Court noted the chosen designations of the following Personal Professors:

Dr Margaret Reid  Professor of Women’s Health
Dr Graham Durant  Professor of Science Interpretation and Communication
Dr William Ferrell  Professor of Clinical Physiology
Dr Alan Taylor  Professor of Physiological Ecology
Dr Werner Weighhofer  Professor of Applied Mathematics
Dr Michael French  Professor of Economic and Business History
Dr Stephen Cohen  Professor of Number Theory
Dr James White  Professor of Russian and East European History
Dr Peter Eckersall  Professor of Veterinary Biochemistry
Dr Enrique Acha  Professor of Electrical Power Systems
Dr Iain McInnes  Professor of Experimental Medicine
Dr Iain Thayne  Professor of Ultrafast Systems
Dr Hugh Willison  Professor of Neurology
Dr Anthony Doyle  Professor of Physics

67.15 Appeal against Redundancy

Court noted that an employee of the Robertson Centre of Biostatistics had appealed against the decision to make him redundant. The Secretary of Court reported that, in accordance with the provisions of the Model Statute, an independent and legally qualified person would be identified to hear the appeal. Court also noted that this would be the first time the procedure would be used at the University of Glasgow.
Court noted the receipt of two papers tabled by the Director of Finance relating to meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Residences held on 1 May 2002 (Paper 8.1) and 15 May (Paper 8.2).

Court also noted that the Advisory Committee had used the full powers delegated to it by Court to resolve:

- that the transaction be entered into;
- that the documents be approved executed and delivered; and
- that the Documents and all other deeds and documents to be executed in respect of the transaction be signed in accordance with the University’s Ordinance 177 [Execution of deeds].

Court noted that the final paragraph of paper 8.2 be amended to read, “Having noted and fully considered all of the above, the Advisory Group Resolved:-…”

The Director of Finance reported that it was expected that financial closure would be achieved on the transaction the following week.

Court noted that there was a confidentiality clause written into the Agreement to constrain any of the partners from revealing the financial details of the transaction. In addition to this Court agreed that the Director of Finance be directed to refrain from discussing the mechanics of the scheme with third parties unless a proper commercial arrangement had been entered into with those seeking the information.

Court noted the receipt of a paper tabled by the Principal which set out a number of concurrent strategies developed by the Restructuring Group aimed at ensuring the University’s financial health over the next three years.

Court noted that formal discussions with the Trades Unions on the nascent Voluntary Severance Scheme had not yet taken place, although the Director of Human Resources reported that the matter had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Joint Committee Technicians.

The Principal confirmed that it was intended that any such voluntary Severance Scheme could be applied to any category of staff. He also confirmed that figures attached to the various proposals would be available in time for the budget round after the Star Chamber meetings due to be held the following week.

Court noted that U21 had held its annual meeting in Lund, Sweden and that a written report, dealing particularly with the current status of the joint venture U21 Global, would be submitted to the next meeting of Court.

Court also noted that the question of Student representation on U21 had been raised at the AGM but no conclusion had been reached. A student from Lund University had attended to consideration of non-reserved business at meeting of the Executive Committee and the matter would be given further consideration in the following year.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Court would take place on Wednesday 26 June 2002 at the usual time of 4pm and not 2pm as stated on the agenda. An end of year drinks reception would be held at the close of Court.

The Secretary of Court reported that, in light of delays in the delivery of the agenda, from the next session the Court agenda would be despatched on the Tuesday of the week before the meeting.