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## **Court**

### **Minute of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 February 2013 in the Senate Room**

**Present:**

Mr David Anderson General Council Member, Ms Susan Ashworth Employee Representative, Mr Ken Brown Co-opted Member, Mr Peter Daniels Co-opted Member, Dr Robin Easton Co-opted Member, Professor Christine Forde Senate Member, Dr Marie Freel Senate Member, Mr James Harrison SRC President, Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP Rector, Mr Brian McBride General Council Member, Mr Alan Macfarlane General Council Member, Mr Donald Mackay SRC Member on Court, Ms Margaret Anne McParland Employee Representative, Professor William Martin Senate Member, Ms Margaret Morton Co-opted Member, Professor Anton Muscatelli Principal, Dr Alan Owen Senate Member, Professor Miles Padgett Senate Member, Mr David Ross General Council Member (Convener of Court), Professor Michael Scott-Morton Co-opted Member, Professor Adrienne Scullion Senate Member, Dr Donald Spaeth Senate Member, Mr Kevin Sweeney General Council Member

**In attendance:**

Ms Ann Allen (Director of Estates & Buildings), Professor Anne Anderson (Head of College of Social Sciences and Vice-Principal), Professor Steve Beaumont (Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise), Mr Ian Black (Director of Human Resources), Professor John Briggs (Clerk of Senate), Professor John Chapman (Head of College of Science & Engineering and Vice-Principal), Professor Anna Dominiczak (Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences and Vice-Principal), Mr Robert Fraser (Director of Finance), Professor Neal Juster (Vice-Principal Strategy & Resources), Ms Deborah Maddern (Administrative Officer), Mr David Newall (Secretary of Court), Professor Andrea Nolan (Senior Vice-Principal), Professor Murray Pittock (Head of College of Arts and Vice-Principal)

**Apologies:**

**Members:** Cllr Matt Kerr Glasgow City Council Assessor, Mr Murdoch MacLennan Chancellor's Representative

**Attendees:** Professor Frank Coton (Vice-Principal Learning & Teaching)

**CRT/2012/23. Announcements**

Court congratulated Professor Andrea Nolan on her appointment as Principal of Edinburgh Napier University from 1 July 2013.

**CRT/2012/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 2012**

The minutes were approved.

**CRT/2012/25. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**CRT/2012/26. Report from the Principal**

*CRT/2012/26.1 Staff Investment*

Several internationally eminent academic staff had been recruited to Professorships as part of the strategic investment programme in anticipation of the REF and in line with the commitment to strengthening research.

*CRT/2012/26.2 Trans-national Education - Recent Activity*

Court noted an update on recent Trans-national Education, focusing on current activity, including collaborative arrangements with the Singapore Institute of Technology and the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC); and potential developments with partners in China. The University was working to ensure that students involved in these developments received a 'Glasgow experience'. Additional staff were being employed to deliver courses and arrangements being made for these staff to be able to undertake research within the overseas institution.

*CRT/2012/26.3 Senior Management*

The Principal would be appointing a new Deputy Vice-Chancellor and reviewing the portfolios of senior management, following the appointment of Professor Nolan as Principal of Edinburgh Napier University. Court would be kept informed. The Principal would be personally involved in overseeing the internationalisation strategy following Professor Nolan's departure.

*CRT/2012/26.4 Nursing and Healthcare*

At the October meeting, it had been agreed that the internal consultation on Nursing and Healthcare should formally end, and Court had noted that discussions within the School and College about the possible future configuration of the subject area were at a very early stage, as outlined in the Outcome Agreement with SFC. It was also noted that any proposal for a future model of provision would be brought back to Court in due course, and that Court would receive also for information the final report of the School of Medicine's internal working group. Professor Anna Dominiczak advised that funding was being provided by the SFC for an options appraisal and collaborative discussion between the University and Glasgow Caledonian University. Court would be kept informed.

*CRT/2012/26.5 Applications for University Places*

UCAS had recently released figures from the 2013 applications cycle, showing that the number of people applying to university in the UK has risen by 3.5 per cent, although it had not returned to the level seen before the introduction of higher tuition fees. Court noted details of applications to Glasgow, which indicated a strong increase in applications for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught qualifications, with a marginal reduction in Postgraduate Research. Significant work was being undertaken with regard to conversions of RUK applications into firm acceptances, in particular via the Applicants' Visits days. Applications from the EU would be kept under review particularly to ensure as far as possible that entry standards were fair and consistent. Fairness would also be key in the treatment of home and RUK applications and it was not anticipated that any marginal decisions to admit applicants from one group would adversely affect the other. Court noted that the quality of overseas applications remained high despite the increase in numbers. It also noted that investment in residential and teaching accommodation, and in front-line student services, was being made in light of increasing student numbers.

*CRT/2012/26.6 Widening Participation*

Following the University's submissions to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in relation to Outcome Agreements, the University had learned that additional places for up to 800 students from low-income backgrounds would be created at the University over the next four years.

*CRT/2012/26.6 SFC Outcome Agreement*

Court noted an update on UG and PGT places which had been awarded as a result of bids to SFC for a variety of new funded places for 2013-14 onwards. Thanks were extended by the Principal to the Colleges and Schools for their work in preparing bids.

Court had received the University's draft Outcome Agreement for the 2013-14 year, which required to be submitted to the SFC at the end of February. Professor Nolan explained that new sections had been added since last year, covering development of graduate skills and promotion of international competitiveness. Court supported the text of the draft document and noted that it would receive a further updated version by email for final approval before the end of the month.

Court noted that it was likely that targets would be required to be included in the Agreement although some caution was required in terms of their future use.

*CRT/2012/26.7 Key Activities*

Court noted a summary of some of the main activities in which the Principal had been involved since the last meeting of Court, covering internal and external activities beyond daily operational management and strategy meetings. The activities were under the broad headings of: Academic Development and Strategy; Internationalisation activities; Lobbying/Policy Influencing and Promoting the University; Internal activities and Communications.

**CRT/2012/27. Report from the Secretary of Court**

*CRT/2012/27.1 Review of Court's Effectiveness*

John Lauwerys's report had been circulated to Court members. Court agreed that the report's recommendations would be discussed further at a session to be held later in the spring.

*CRT/2012/27.2 Review of Higher Education Governance/ Scottish Code of Governance*

Following publication of the Von Prondzynski report on 1 February, the Cabinet Secretary for Education had asked the Committee of the Scottish Chairs of Higher Education Institutions to develop a new Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. A Steering Group had been formed, of which David Ross was a member, and consultants had been appointed to support the Steering Group in developing the new Code. The University had been visited by one of the consultants on 18 December, when he had met with several members of Court, including staff, student and lay representatives. The consultants' work was ongoing. The precise timing of publication of their report was not certain. Court agreed that, if necessary, given time constraints, a sub-group of Court be convened to consider and comment on the draft Code. Court members would be kept briefed on developments.

*CRT/2012/27.3 Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill*

As Court had heard at its last meeting, the Scottish Government had presented its bill for legislation on Post-16 Education and, while the bill focused largely on Further Education, some sections related to universities. The most significant of these was Section 2, which would place a requirement on universities to comply with principles of good governance and management

practice, as determined by Scottish Ministers. Universities had anticipated that this legislation might make reference to the forthcoming Code of Good Higher Education Governance which was currently being developed by a Steering Group of the Scottish Chairs. The expectation had been that the legislation might require each university to comply with good governance practice as set out in the Code, or to explain their reasons for not so doing. In fact, the scope of the draft bill was much wider: it stated that 'The Scottish Ministers may ... impose a condition that the [Funding] Council must, when making a payment to a higher education institution ... require that institution to comply with any principles of governance or management which appear to the Scottish Ministers to constitute good practice in relation to higher education institutions.'

As drafted, this would give a Government Minister considerable new powers to intervene in University business. Strong representations had been made to the Parliament on this draft legislation by Universities Scotland, by the Committee of University Chairs, and by University Principals, a group of whom had recently been invited to give evidence to Parliament's Education and Culture Committee. In all these submissions, university representatives had queried the need for legislation and pointed to the unsatisfactory nature of what had been drafted. Having consulted with Court members, the Secretary of Court had made a brief submission on 17 January to the Education & Culture Committee.

Court would be kept updated at future meetings.

#### *CRT/2012/27.4 Management of Organisational Change*

At the December meeting, Court had received a draft policy on the Management of Organisational Change. This had been the subject of extensive consultation, including with the Senior Management Group, and had been considered and recommended to Court by the Human Resources Committee. Court had also been advised at its December meeting of concerns that remained on the part of the trade unions regarding the management of 'Tier 2' cases. In terms of the draft procedure, these would be considered by a Court Procedural Review Group (CPRG). The campus unions' view had been that the CPRG should not be empowered to make decisions on Tier 2 matters, but instead should make recommendations to Court.

December Court had agreed to defer consideration of this item of business, to provide an opportunity for further discussions to be held. The management and union sides to these discussions each felt that there remained merit in allowing further consultation to take place. The discussions would also cover the competency procedure. Court approved the continuation of discussions, on the understanding that a recommended policy on the Management of Organisational Change would be submitted to Court for approval in April.

Mr Newall updated Court on the outcome of a Management of Organisational Change process involving the Registry Accounts Receivable function, where the two remaining staff whose posts had potentially been at risk had now been redeployed, and the work of the relevant Structural Change and Redundancy Committees had finished.

#### *CRT/2012/27.5 Student Representative Council Constitution*

Minor amendments to the SRC Constitution had been approved by the Secretary of Court, following approval by SRC Council in January. The most significant change within the amendments was to alter the remit of the sabbatical officers. From 2013/14, the four executive posts would be: President; Vice-President (Education); Vice-President (Student Activities); Vice-President (Student Support).

*CRT/2012/27.6 Vice-Principal Appointment*

Court approved an extension to Professor Murray Pittock's term as Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Arts, until 31 July 2014.

*CRT/2012/27.7 Media Report*

The latest media report was noted. Court agreed that as part of the ongoing review of external relations functions in general, the content of the report would be reviewed and refreshed, and should show more strategic information including KPIs. Court would receive proposals later in the year following the review.

*CRT/2012/27.8 Resolutions*

The following Resolutions had been approved following consultation with the Senate and General Council for consultation. A copy of the Resolutions was available from the Court Office.

RESOLUTION 656 - FOUNDATION OF THE DONALD J ROBERTSON CHAIR OF ECONOMICS

RESOLUTION 657 - CHANGE OF NAME OF THE CHAIR OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO 329. – (GLASGOW NO 94))

**CRT/2011/28. SRC Annual Report**

James Harrison, SRC President, presented the SRC's annual report for 2011/12.

Highlights for the SRC's year included: changes to the representation structure; involvement with improvements to MyCampus; the PG Space & Welcome Point development; working closely with the University on the implementation of the graduate attributes agenda, and membership of the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) Working Group, where students were now recognised for their extra-curricular activities on their university transcript. The Student Volunteer Support Service was engaged in supporting a number of projects in the community including Support for the Homeless, Classroom support, Nightline and Macmillan befriending. The SRC advice centre had dealt with a heavy load of cases relating to academic work, and also with accommodation problems and financial issues. The SRC had been involved in internal representations in several areas including Lecture recording, the Carers' policy, the Debt policy and PG parental leave; and in external representation relating to the Glasgow Student Forum, Equal Marriage and It Gets Better, and Tenancy Deposits. Other activities had covered Charity work, Student Media and Freshers Week.

Court thanked Mr Harrison for the briefing.

**CRT/2012/29. Reports of Court Committees**

*CRT/2012/29.1 Finance Committee*

*CRT/2012/29.1.1 MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (SPHSU) transfer*

Finance Committee had received a financial business case outlining a potential transfer of the Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (SPHSU), a Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit, to the University. Finance Committee had approved the proposal, subject to a satisfactory resolution of TUPE, pay and grading scheme and s75 pension issues. Finance Committee had also noted that the SHPSU had sought a commitment from the University

that it would at some time in the future provide suitable accommodation for the Unit on the Western Infirmary Site. It had since been agreed with MRC that documents would only make reference to accommodation on the 'University campus'.

*CRT/2012/29.1.2 Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) Capex application*

Finance Committee had received a capital expenditure application requesting a loan of £1.2m to purchase a Thermo Fisher 253 Ultra Mass Spectrometer to be housed at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC). Finance Committee had approved the Capex application.

*CRT/2012/29.1.3 Finance Key Performance Indicators*

Court noted Finance Key Performance Indicators.

*CRT/2012/29.1.4 Investment Managers Report as at 31 December 2012*

Court noted the Investment Report.

*CRT/2012/29.1.5 Overview of Performance as at 30 November 2012*

Court noted an Overview of Performance as at 30 November 2012.

*CRT/2012/29.2 Human Resources Committee*

Court noted the report from the Human Resources Committee.

*CRT/2012/29.3 Estates Committee*

Court noted the report from the Estates Committee. Consultation on the Campus Estates Strategy, including the future use of the Western Infirmary site, was about to begin.

*CRT/2012/29.4 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee*

Court noted the report from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee.

**CRT/2012/30. Report from the Rector**

The Scottish Rectors' Group had requested to give oral evidence to the consultation on the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill, but this had been declined; the group would however ensure that its views were conveyed. The group was also involved in lobbying with regard to matters relating to student visas and the UK Border Agency.

**CRT/2012/31. Communications from meeting of Senate 7 February 2013**

Communications from the meeting of Senate held on 7 February were noted by Court. Senate had received reports on the Outcome Agreement, the draft University Knowledge Exchange and Impact Strategy and the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill. It had also received an update on the management of Teaching Space.

**CRT/2012/32. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**CRT/2012/33. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Court will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2013 at the Dumfries Campus