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## Court

### **Minute of Meeting held on Wednesday 12 April 2017 in Room 127, Rutherford McCowan Building, Dumfries Campus**

#### **Present:**

Mr Dave Anderson Employee Representative, Mr Aamer Anwar Rector, Mr Graeme Bissett Co-opted Member, Mr Ken Brown Co-opted Member, Ms Heather Cousins Co-opted Member, Dr Carl Goodyear Senate Assessor, Mr Ameer Ibrahim SRC President, Professor Karen Lury Senate Assessor, Dr Morag Macdonald Simpson General Council Assessor, Ms Lauren McDougall SRC Assessor, Mr Murdoch MacLennan Chancellor's Assessor, Ms Margaret Anne McParland Employee Representative, Mr Ronnie Mercer Co-opted Member, Ms June Milligan Co-opted Member, Mr David Milloy Co-opted Member, Professor Anton Muscatelli Principal, Ms Elspeth Orcharton Co-opted Member, Ms Elizabeth Passey Co-opted Member (Convener of Court), Dr Duncan Ross Senate Assessor, Cllr Helen Stephen Glasgow City Council Representative, Mr Gavin Stewart Co-opted Member, Ms Lesley Sutherland General Council Assessor

#### **In attendance:**

Ms Ann Allen (Director of Estates & Buildings), Professor Anne Anderson (Head of College of Social Sciences and Vice-Principal), Ms Christine Barr (Director of Human Resources), Professor John Briggs (Clerk of Senate), Professor James Conroy (Vice-Principal Internationalisation), Professor Jon Cooper (Vice-Principal Innovation & Knowledge Exchange), Professor Frank Coton (Vice Principal Academic and Educational Innovation), Mr Robert Fraser (Director of Finance), Professor Neal Juster (Senior Vice-Principal), Ms Deborah Maddern (Administrative Officer), Mr David Newall (Secretary of Court), Professor Miles Padgett (Vice-Principal Research)

#### **Apologies:**

**Members:** Professor Lindsay Farmer Senate Assessor, Professor Nick Hill Senate Assessor, Professor Paul Younger Senate Assessor

**Attendees:** Professor Muffy Calder (Head of College of Science & Engineering and Vice-Principal), Professor Anna Dominiczak (Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences and Vice-Principal), Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh (Head of College of Arts and Vice-Principal)

#### **CRT/2016/33. Announcements and Declarations of Interest**

##### *CRT/2016/33.1 Announcements*

The Rector Aamer Anwar and Co-opted member Gavin Stewart were welcomed to their first meeting as new members of Court. Dr David Duncan, Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary, was welcomed to the meeting.

Cllr Helen Stephen was attending her final meeting. Court thanked her for her contributions to Court business and wished her well.

David Newall, Secretary of Court, was attending his final meeting. On behalf of Court, the Convener thanked Mr Newall for his outstanding contribution to Court's business and to the University for the past 12 years, and wished him all the best for the future. Mr Newall thanked members for their support and good wishes, and thanked colleagues at the University.

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies was thanked for its hospitality for the meeting.

*CRT/2016/33.1 Declarations of Interest*

June Milligan noted that, for the purpose of transparency, she had discussed with the Convener and the Secretary of Court the matter of her presenting the University's Gender Pay Action Plan under the HR Committee report, in the context of her being an Equality and Human Rights Commissioner, a role which was already declared on her Register of Interests. The reason for the discussion had arisen from the fact that failure to report gender pay information by the University would be an 'unlawful act' which could trigger EHRC Equality Act 2006 enforcement powers - the latter linked to a Commissioner's role. It had been agreed that there was no conflict in respect of action by the University, including Ms Milligan's role as chair of the Committee, in planning to address the gap.

With regard to the item on Campus Development Borrowing Group, during the discussion on that item, Gavin Stewart, who advised he had not been involved in the Borrowing Group's work, declared an interest for the purposes of transparency. This was owing to his employment in Lloyds Banking Group, and was made in the context of a reference, during the discussion, of the appointment of Lloyds as placement agent for the borrowing. Mr Stewart confirmed that as an employee of Lloyds he had had no knowledge of the borrowing business being transacted.

**CRT/2016/34. Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 15 February 2017**

The minutes were approved subject to a correction to minute *CRT/2016/27.2 Court and Committee governance (Committee composition)*, where a reference to 'trade union representatives on Court' would be amended to 'trade union nominees on Court'; the amended minute would be signed by the Convener as a correct record.

**CRT/2016/35. Matters Arising**

With regard to minute *CRT 2016/26.1. Higher Education developments* and the University's position regarding the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), and in response to a question about the timing of any proposals for the University's future involvement in TEF coming to Court, it was noted that the outcomes of the TEF exercise were expected in late May or early June. However, the mechanisms for its continuing application, and scope within Scotland, required much further consideration, and possible piloting. Court would continue to be kept informed, and when proposals were formulated, they would come to Court via the Secretary's Report, in 2018.

**CRT/2016/36. Report from the Principal**

*CRT 2016/36.1. Higher Education developments*

*CRT 2016/36.1.1 Higher Education and Research Bill*

Court had previously noted that the Bill working its way through Westminster would have a major impact on Scotland, both through reserved matters (e.g. the new UK Research and Innovation structure UKRI), and indirectly through other areas which, although devolved (e.g. the TEF), would still have an impact in Scotland.

The Third Reading of the Bill in the Lords had taken place on 4 April 2017, the Lords having made amendments, the government's response to which would not be clear until after the

Easter recess. Given the tight timescales, the ultimate passage of the Bill was also unclear. Universities UK were seeking to encourage MPs to support amendments to the Bill which were favourable to the intent of protecting international student flows, and which addressed concerns with the poor quality of net migration data. The Bill would establish UKRI. Attempts to amend the legislation to ensure that the new UKRI Board reflected the devolved nations in its membership had not been successful. Nevertheless, it was likely that the Board appointments would seek to reflect different areas of expertise and regional/devolved knowledge. Court would continue to be kept informed.

*CRT 2016/36.1.2 Skills and Enterprise Review*

Court had heard at its February meeting that the Scottish Government's Skills and Enterprise Review had entered its second phase, with representations from the HE sector and businesses being examined. In March, the Cabinet Secretary had made a statement to the Scottish Parliament about the governance workstream of the Enterprise & Skills Review. The key announcement had been that the existing boards (SFC, SDS, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands & Islands Enterprise) would continue, with their existing statutory functions unchanged. The Scottish Government would establish a new 'strategic board', intended to achieve better alignment between the agencies to maximise their impact on the economy and productivity. It would be a non-statutory body, chaired by an independent figure from the business community. The Minister had also confirmed that Ministers and Parliament would continue to allocate funding to the SFC, rather than via the new strategic board. The remaining strands of phase 2 of the Review would report in May.

*CRT 2016/36.1.3 Funding status for EU Students*

In March, the Scottish Government had announced that the post-Brexit fees status of EU students commencing their studies in academic year 2018/19 would be protected. This meant that EU nationals choosing to study in Scotland and enrolling in 2018-19 were guaranteed free tuition for the duration of their entire course.

Court noted that applications from the EU continued to be healthy, but that if government funding ceased then the position could change. The University was currently receiving high numbers of high quality applications from other applicants, that would mean student numbers could be maintained by recruiting higher numbers from these other groups, although the tuition fee position would need to be reviewed should this occur.

*CRT 2016/36.1.4 Letter of Guidance to Scottish Funding Council.*

The Minister for Further and Higher Education had recently issued guidance to the SFC on priorities for Further and Higher Education. This had been supplemented by a Letter of Guidance from Cabinet Secretary to state the expectations on joint working by the agencies in light of the Skills and Enterprise Review.

There was an intention, expressed in the recently issued documents, to intensify the Outcome Agreement process, which could include direction about areas of focus for University teaching. This was connected to the government's planning around the country's skills needs, which the sector acknowledged to be a key policy concern in relation to its receipt of significant public funding. The sector would however be concerned about the possible impact of any move towards a more centralised approach to workforce planning. Court noted that it would be important for any changes in government requirements to be communicated with as long a lead-in time as possible, since there were matters such as resource planning and student work placements that institutions would need to address in good time, to maintain the best student experience.

*CRT 2016/36.2. Campus Masterplan*

As Court members had been advised since the last meeting, the Campus Masterplan had been approved by the City Council on 16 February. Court joined the Principal in thanking all those involved in moving the vision for the campus development to this key stage. The Principal thanked Court for its involvement in the process to date.

*CRT 2016/36.3 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/2016/37. Annual Report on Research and Knowledge Exchange**

Professor Miles Padgett, Vice Principal Research, briefed Court on Research priorities and KPIs. Court was reminded that the Research Excellence Framework (REF) was a highly important exercise that drove reputation and league tables, and informed the allocation of £45M pa of unrestricted funds to the University.

Court heard that performance in the REF2014 had been weakened by the 4\* outputs profile, which had placed the University 20th in the Russell Group, based on percentages of 4\*. Actions since then were focusing on addressing this, with prioritising excellence as the first research priority. The REF2014 Unit of Assessment (UoA) reviews were now complete, having involved a panel-based external review of each of the UoAs, leading to areas for future focus to improve performance. Interim reviews were ongoing for the next REF, with panel-based external reviews of outputs, environment measures, and impact preparations.

The second research priority was nurturing and attracting talent. Researcher development was a key aspect, with resources having been developed to aid this. These resources included a development portal; a Glasgow 'Crucible' providing a leadership and development programme for Early-Career Researchers; and a Senior Research Leaders Programme for staff in REF leadership roles. Actions to attract the highest talent included Professorial recruitment of eminent professorial chairs to Research zones, and the extension of the Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Fellowships scheme.

The third research priority was to increase and diversify research income. Court received details of a number of notable funding awards made across the Colleges. Systems and resources for increasing grant capture had been augmented. Court noted details of Research Beacons, six broad-based themed areas of research excellence that had attracted major external investment, which were to be launched in 2017.

Court noted the report and progress against Research KPIs, the latter relating to Research income, PGR:Academic ratio, Research output quality, and staff holding grants.

In discussion, Court noted that all staff would be required to be returned in the next REF, which would reduce to a degree the complicated decision-making that institutions engaged in about which staff to include in returns. It was also noted that the sector largely supported the current dual funding mechanism for research, involving the general quality-based allocation arising from the REF, and specific project and programme grants from the Research Councils.

Professor Jon Cooper, Vice Principal for Knowledge Exchange and Innovation, briefed Court on the area's priorities and on the KPI of increasing knowledge exchange. Progress was being mapped via activity including Spin Outs, Easy Access IP, new Knowledge Transfer awards, and the value of Innovate UK Grants.

The priority to increase Innovation was being achieved by developing economic impact from research-led innovation, via increased engagement in industry collaboration, licensing and spin-out company creation; enhancing the institutional environment to grow the portfolio of economic impact case studies for the next REF; and exploiting opportunities for partnerships for campus development investments to increase the University's local economic impact. Court noted a number of successful spin-out achievements, and also noted details of the funding and collaborative environments associated with the Innovation strand.

Court heard that the SFC had replaced the Knowledge Transfer Grant with the University Innovation Fund (UIF). This comprised a Platform Grant of £250k to all HEIs, and an Outcomes Grant of £7.49m for sector to share, the award being contingent on delivery of progress against a plan submitted by the University in January 2016. In 2017/18, the Outcomes Grant would be conditional on the University demonstrating progress towards meeting National Outcomes, with a requirement for monitoring and reporting of progress against National Outcomes being made via the University's Outcome Agreement. Court heard details of the UIF's National Priority Actions for the current year and the National Outcomes for the following year.

Court heard how the University was addressing the priority of the Scottish government for in-curricula and ex-curricula student entrepreneurship. Court also heard details of universities being increasingly at the centre of national economic development strategies e.g. the City Deal, which would be used to boost entrepreneurship, economic growth and industry engagement within a proposed 'Innovation Quarter' area. Court also heard details about activities relating to public engagement.

Court noted the statistical trends in the agreed reporting areas for KE&I over the period 2014-2017.

Court heard that the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) was a £1.5bn fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addressed the challenges faced by developing countries. There had been early successes in projects in Asia, China and Africa, in which the University was involved.

In discussion, Court heard that in terms of spin-out success, the University had been successful with relatively limited resource. Court requested that consideration be given to including a KPI relating to financial growth and profitability over time/return on investment. Court members with relevant experience could be asked for advice on useful indicators in this area. With regard to the incorporation of entrepreneurial activity into the student curriculum, Court heard that 'graduate attributes' were key informers of curricula, and that entrepreneurship needed to be approached carefully in terms of course content, with an emphasis on building activity that would bring out entrepreneurship and support it.

Court thanked Professors Padgett and Cooper for the briefings.

## **CRT/2016/38. Report from the Secretary of Court**

### *CRT/2016/38.1 Campus Development Borrowing Group*

At the December 2016 meeting of Court, it had agreed that a short-life working group be established with delegated authority to make decisions on the University's long-term borrowing strategy, in the light of Court's decision to commit to an additional £175M of

long-term borrowing. That working group had met on 20 February, comprising: the Convener of Court, Elizabeth Passey; the Chair of the Finance Committee, Ken Brown; the Vice-Chair of Finance Committee, Graeme Bissett; the Director of Finance, Robert Fraser; and Allan Bertie, an expert in investment banking.

At the request of the Director of Finance, Ernst & Young (EY) had prepared a report for the working group, which report had considered the University's borrowing requirements, evaluated a broad range of options available and arrived at a recommended way forward. EY favoured Private Placement as the most favourable option for the University and had clarified the advantages of that approach as compared with the other main options (Bank Debt, Public Bond, European Investment Bank loan). All members of the working group had been satisfied with the clarity of the EY analysis and the thrust of EY's recommendations. The working group had agreed that, with the risk that interest rates might soon begin to rise, early progress should be made on putting a borrowing facility in place.

Following that meeting, and with the agreement of the working group, the Director of Finance had employed legal and financial agents to act on the University's behalf in implementing the borrowing strategy. The University had then issued a prospectus, following which there had been a presentation to possible lenders by the Principal and the Director of Finance, on 11 April. Following this date, there was approximately one week in which lenders might submit proposals. It was essential that, at the expiry of that time, the University should be in a position to make an early decision on the best borrowing option. The working group had therefore agreed that, subject to Court's agreement, a group of four University officers should have delegated authority to make commitments on the University's behalf. The four officers were: the Convener of Court, Graeme Bissett, the Principal and the Director of Finance.

Court approved the proposed arrangement for the group of four officers - comprising the Convener of Court, Elizabeth Passey; the Vice-Chair of Finance Committee, Graeme Bissett; the Principal, Anton Muscatelli; and the Director of Finance, Robert Fraser, to have delegated authority to make commitments on the University's behalf. It was agreed that, before commitments were entered into, the Group would approve the terms of a document setting out the nature of these commitments, and that this document would be shared with Court members for their information.

#### *CRT/2016/38.2 Appointment of the Principal*

The Principal left the meeting for this item.

The Principal's contract of employment with the University would run until 30 September 2019. Within the contract, there was a clause stating that it may be extended, should both parties be willing, and that discussion on a possible extension should take place before 1 April 2018.

To allow early progress in taking forward consideration of the matter, Court agreed that a working group be established with a remit to: review the Principal's performance in his role; consider whether the University should offer an extension to his current contract of employment and, if so, on what terms; and report with recommendations the June meeting of Court.

Court agreed that membership of the working group should be: the Convener of Court, as chair; the Convener of HR Committee; two other lay members; the Senior Senate Assessor; a Staff Representative on Court; the SRC President.

#### *CRT/2016/38.3 Review of Code of Good HE Governance*

The current Code had been published in July 2013, with a commitment to a review after 3 years. The Committee of Scottish Chairs had established a Review Committee in 2016. It was expected that the updated Code would be published in draft form in April 2017.

Court agreed that the Court Governance Working Group would, on Court's behalf, consider

whether to submit comments on the draft Code, and would also identify any issues which should be brought to Court's attention at the June 2017 meeting. Matters which might potentially be raised included: the composition of Court Committees; the question of remuneration for governing body chairs; and the governing body's strategy on promoting equality and diversity.

Court members noted that they would be able to submit comments on the draft Code individually if they so wished.

*CRT/2016/38.4 Court annual self-assessment*

A questionnaire for Court self-assessment/feedback on performance had been circulated. The Court Governance Working Group would consider the outcomes of this and would also refer to the Code, to ensure that the University was addressing all its responsibilities in terms of good governance. The working group would report to Court in June.

*CRT/2016/38.5 Organisational Change Governance Group*

Court noted the annual report of the Organisational Change Governance Group.

Court noted (via the report) that the Group had made the decision in March to authorise management to implement a reorganisation of the technical staffing support at the Scottish Centre for Ecology and Natural Environmental (SCENE) at Rowardennan, Loch Lomond, to meet evolving academic needs. The staffing complement would remain at 2 FTE, but with posts redesigned.

David Anderson sought assurance that Group would have a role in considering organisational change in relation to the recently announced merger of the estates and campus services functions. In response, it was reported that the organisational structure for this merged unit was currently being considered by management and that the Organisational Change Governance Group would indeed be involved in considering proposed changes.

*CRT/2016/38.6 Court and Committee appointments*

Mr Aamer Anwar had been elected by the student body to serve as Rector for 3 years from 1 April 2017. Court noted that the turnout had been high and that Mr Anwar had been elected in the first round. Court's congratulations were extended to him.

Applications for a new Co-opted member had been considered by the Nominations Committee and interviews held in March. Mr Gavin Stewart had been appointed as a Co-opted member for 4 years from 1 April 2017.

Recruitment of a member of the Audit Committee was in hand, and Court would be kept updated.

*CRT/2016/38.7 Appointment of Vice-Chairs*

The Human Resources Committee and the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee had identified Vice-Chairs, which meant that each of Court's Committees, and Court itself, now had a formally appointed Vice-Chair. The two new appointees were:

- Human Resources Committee: Rob Goward
- Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee: Richard Claughton

In both cases, the Vice-Chair would serve for a period of 4 years, starting 1 May 2017.

*CRT/2016/38.8 SRC Elections*

The following candidates had been successful in the Spring 2017 SRC elections and would take up sabbatical officer posts on 1st July 2017:

President: Kate Powell

VP Education: Hannah-May Todd

VP Student Support: Lauren McDougall

VP Student Activities: Pritasha Kariappa

*CRT/2016/38.9 Head of School Appointments*

Professor Philippe Schyns had been reappointed as Head of the School of Psychology for 3 years from 1 August 2017.

Professor Alice Jenkins had been appointed as Head of the School of Critical Studies from 1 August 2017 until 31 December 2020.

*CRT/2016/38.10 Glasgow University Union Lease*

The University and the Glasgow University Union (GUU) had recently entered into a formal lease in relation to the Union's occupancy of space in the Stevenson Building extension, since this provided a VAT benefit. The University would charge GUU rental and would fully reimburse the Union for the cost.

*CRT/2016/38.11 Glasgow University Union Constitution*

On behalf of Court, the Secretary of Court had approved minor changes to the GUU's constitution, as approved by the Union's Board of Management in March. These related to the status of the GUU's honorary librarian.

**CRT/2016/39. Reports of Court Committees**

*CRT/2016/39.1 Finance Committee*

*CRT/2016/39.1.2 Committee Business*

Court noted a report from the most recent Finance Committee meeting, at which business had included the Committee's approval of a number of Capex applications, including three relating to the Joseph Black Building, totalling £16.3M. Court had been reminded ahead of the present meeting that the latter formed part of the planned £34.2M capital spend on the Joseph Black Building, approved by Court in December 2016 as part of the Capital Plan. The total cost of the three elements had been approximately £1M lower than the figure included for them within the Capital Plan.

The Committee had also: approved a reduction in counterparty limits, and approved proposed changes to bank signatories; received a report giving an overview of the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) Return for 2015/16; and received a summary update on the budget position after the February 2017 round of budget meetings.

*CRT/2016/39.1.2 Endowment Investment Report*

Court noted an endowment investment report as at 28 February 2017.

*CRT/2016/39.1.3 Financial reports*

Court noted an overview of performance as at 28 February 2017.

*CRT/2016/39.2 Audit and Risk Committee*

The Committee had received internal audit reports on reviews of: Cyber Security; Project Management - Workload Modelling; Strategic Planning; Performance Management; and International Activity (use of agents in Student Recruitment). The Committee had received the updated University Risk Register, and a Higher Education Sector Risk Profile 2017 compiled by the internal auditors. The Committee had received an update on implementation of outstanding recommendations from prior internal audits.

Court noted the report.

*CRT/2016/39.3 Estates Committee*

Court noted the report, including: Estates Committee's approval of three projects which formed part of the £34.2M investment in the Joseph Black Building, as referred to above: Functional Nanomaterials Laboratory Upgrade £1.33M, Building Fabric Repairs £13.54M, and Fire Upgrade £1.41M; and Estates Committee's approval of three other CapEx applications: Pixel Sensor Array Fabrications Facility £0.58M, James Watt Nanofabrication Centre £0.78M, and Western/New Build/Research Hub £0.501M.

Court heard that good progress was being made with regard to appointment of the Delivery Partner for the campus redevelopment. Court would be kept informed.

In response to a question about the effect of the demolition of the Mathematics and Statistics Building on Queen Margaret Union activities during Freshers' week 2017, Court noted from Ann Allen and Frank Coton that there was ongoing liaison with the University community so as to minimise disruption of key events for the duration of the demolition, which was expected to take several months.

*CRT/2016/39.4 Human Resources Committee*

*CRT/2016/39.4.1 Gender Pay Strategy and Action Plan*

Court received the Gender Pay Strategy and Action Plan which sought to address, over time, the gender pay gap. The paper set out the key factors contributing to the pay gap and proposed actions to tackle this. The strategy had been positively received by the HR Committee at its March meeting, following earlier detailed discussions at its November 2016 meeting.

June Milligan explained that the focus was the totality of remuneration across the male and female workforces and actions to address this by the University; it was not about equal pay, which was the subject of a separate legal framework. The Gender Pay Strategy had been developed against a backdrop of legislative change, with increased governmental focus on tackling the gender pay gap by all organisations, regardless of sector. This was coupled with the University's strategic imperative to tackle inequalities in gender pay, to further enhance its brand in attracting and retaining the very best available talent.

Court noted that the development of the strategy and action plan had included a focus on occupational segmentation and on how the University might 'do things differently' to tackle areas where there was a marked preponderance of one gender doing a particular job, for example in operational services such as security and catering. There were opportunities ahead, for example where an ageing workforce in a particular job group was approaching retirement, with resultant chances to change the demographic profile. There were also opportunities to look at attracting, developing and retaining staff differently and to enshrine such revised methods in the context of the strategy's aims.

The action plan had a target date of 2030, which although some way into the future, was considered realistic.

Court welcomed the paper and its careful and detailed consideration of the issues. Court noted a comment about the importance of maintaining a careful watch on any trends emerging in terms of female academic staff being more likely to be Teaching staff and male academic staff more likely to be Research staff. It was agreed that there should be a choice of career paths, for example for academics returning from maternity leave. Court noted a further comment about the importance of setting milestones in the context of what was a long term action plan.

Court heard a comment relating to patterns from data on Black and Minority Ethnic applicants for employment, noting that there was a need for the University to undertake further work to attract more applicants from these groups; and that new reporting requirements were in place.

Court thanked the HR Committee for its work on the Gender Pay Strategy and Action Plan. Court approved both the documents.

#### *CRT/2016/39.4.2 Other HR Committee business*

The Committee had received a presentation from Professor Frank Coton on the People aspects of the University Learning and Teaching Strategy. The Committee had discussed matters relating to Academic Promotion. The Committee had also considered draft reports prepared to fulfil the University responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty, which reports were received and noted by Court.

The HR Director's strategic update to the Committee had included briefings on Strategic Recruitment, the Strategy Transformation Programme and the University's response to Brexit

The report was noted.

#### *CRT/2016/39.5 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee*

The Committee had received: an update on the pilot of central recording of overseas travel; an update from the Business Continuity Officer; an update on the stress survey action plan; an update on the HSE visit to CVR; and the HSW annual report. The Committee had covered its usual range of business in reviewing standard reports on Occupational Health activities, Audit updates, Accident reporting, Employee counselling and Minutes from the University Services Health & Safety Committee.

The report was noted.

#### **CRT/2016/40. Report from the Rector**

The Rector, Aamer Anwar, made his first report to Court following his election. He considered his election an honour, noting that he had been a student at the University and

wished to give something back. He planned to be an active Rector, honouring pledges made to students during his election campaign, and hoped for a good working relationship with the University.

The Rector's main pledges were: to be on campus and hold surgeries regularly; to look at issues relating to the student unions, the provision of extra-curricular activities, student accommodation/rents and the local property market; to discuss the University's and students' roles in relation to Brexit matters affecting students; and to look at matters relating to student mental health and provision for this in the context of contemporary pressures on students from a wide variety of backgrounds. He looked forward to working with the University on a range of issues.

Court noted that work was ongoing to address the problem of the wide choice of local student accommodation sometimes leading to segregation of certain student groups. Court also noted comments from members on the Student Finance Committee, relating to the student unions needing to review their provision to optimise offerings for as wide a range of students as possible, including international students; and to work together to avoid offering similar activities.

The SRC President commended the high turnout for the Rectorial election, which had showed good student engagement, and noted that the role of the Rector had been rejuvenated as a result. The SRC was thanked by Court for its role in facilitating the recent election.

**CRT/2016/41. Any Other Business**

Court was reminded that the annual Strategy Day would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**CRT/2016/42. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Court will be held on Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 2pm in the Senate Room.