

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY COURT

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2012

Present: Sir Moir Lockhead (in the Chair), Principal, Rector (Dr M Mackie), Miss T Birley, Ms J Craw, Cllr B Crockett, Mr C Duncan, Mr J Hall, Professor P Hannaford, Mr G Hunter, Professor N Hutchison, Dr A King, Mr B Lockhart, Professor S Logan, Professor P McGeorge, Cllr R McKail, Mrs K McPhail, Mr K Murray, Mr B Pack, Mr B Paterson, Mr R Ruddiman, Dr J Skakle, Mr D Steyn (by teleconference) and Dr N Vargesson.

In attendance: Mr S Cannon, Ms I Bews, Mrs C Inglis, Ms J Sewel, Miss Anne-Claire Deseilligny and Mr B Purdon (Clerk).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr A Baxter, Professor P Edwards and Professor N Webster.

PRESENTATION ON THE BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL IN ABERDEEN

256 The Court received a presentation from Dr K Skeldon on the forthcoming British Science Festival in Aberdeen. The Court noted the national and international profile that the Festival would bring to both the City and the University, in addition to the significant benefits that it would have for the promotion of science within the North-East of Scotland.

MINUTES

257 The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2012 were approved, subject to Minute 178 being amended to record that the Court had agreed that performance space was of importance to the student community.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

258 Mr Duncan noted an interest in the agenda item, *Report from the Operating Board (Section 14: Dentistry)*, as a Member of the Scotland Dental Practice Board.

REPORT FROM SENIOR GOVERNOR

259 The Senior Governor noted that it was Miss Tessa Birley's last meeting of Court as President of the Students' Association and Dr Alex King's last meeting as a Senate Assessor to Court. The Court recorded its thanks to Miss Birley and Dr King for their respective contributions to the work of the Court.

260 The Senior Governor reported that following recent meetings regarding collaboration with the Robert Gordon University (RGU), it had been agreed that the proposed vehicle of a Joint Institute in Engineering was not feasible. The University was to focus on developing its own Energy Institute. The two institutions would continue to consider collaboration where there was sufficient academic interest to do so.

HIGHER EDUCATION ONLINE

- 261 Mr Cannon noted that Court had received a communication from the Aberdeen Branch of the University and College Union (UCU) regarding the University's discussions with HE Online regarding a potential collaborative venture in online learning provision. The Court was assured that many of the issues that had been raised by UCU were matters the University itself was seeking to clarify with HE Online as part of ongoing discussions. The Court was further assured that it would receive a briefing on the outline of the proposal at its next meeting. The Court also noted that no decision to proceed would be reached without discussion with the Senate and the approval of Court.

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- 262 The Principal reported to Court on the progress of undergraduate and postgraduate admissions in the areas of Home/EU, Rest of UK (RUK) and International. The Court noted that applications for undergraduate study from Home/EU students were very buoyant and the University did not expect to have places available for 'clearing' in August. Numbers of applications from RUK students were considered to be encouraging although the University expected to enter clearing given that there was no 'cap' on the number of RUK students it could recruit.
- 263 The Principal reported on the progress of University fundraising and highlighted the continuing success of the Annual Fund. The Principal also reported on plans to formally conclude the Sixth Century Campaign and current discussions with the Development Trust regarding the next Campaign. While noting that it could not direct the Development Trust which was an independent Charity, the Court agreed that it was appropriate for it to be aware of the Trust's activities and that it should receive formal reports on fundraising twice a year. The Court further agreed that there should be a fuller discussion of fundraising at its next meeting of Court.
- 264 The Principal reported on a number of international developments, including the progress of discussions with the British University in Egypt regarding a partnership to validate degrees in the geosciences, and the Science without Borders initiative with Brazil.

REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

- 265 The Court received a report from the Rector which highlighted the value of the recent Institutional Survey of Undergraduate students years (1-3). The Report also highlighted the contribution made by student sabbatical officers. In discussion, the Court noted that sabbatical officers were involved in a wide range of University committees and working groups, and received induction training to help maximise their contribution both to the Student community and the management of the University.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATING BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Corporate Risk Register

- 266 The Court received a presentation from the Director of Policy, Planning and Governance regarding the revised Risk Management procedures that had been introduced with the Strategic Plan 2011-15. The Court also noted progress with the implementation of the University's Risk Management arrangements and the development of risk registers across all activities.

Planning and risk update

- 267 The Court noted that the Board had received and considered a planning report which had comprised:
- institutional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which had included an indication of progress against target, a copy of which was considered by Court.
 - a summary of actions being taken in support of the Strategic Plan and to mitigate against identified risks, a copy of which was considered by Court.
 - the University's Corporate Risk Register, a copy of which was considered by Court.
- 268 The Court noted that the Board had discussed those areas of strategic importance where achievement of targets was challenging and risk scores remained high. It had noted the need for robust action in relation to the following areas in particular:
- Research performance and income;
 - International student recruitment including the impact of the requirements of the UK Borders Agency; and
 - Staff recruitment and retention
- 269 The Court noted the risks that the Board had discussed as ones being scored relatively high in relation to likelihood of occurrence:
- Improving league table performance. (Subsequent to meeting of the Board, specific actions had been taken in relation to the reporting of data, particularly financial data, and it was expected that the likelihood score would reduce when the risk was next assessed); and
 - Embedding a culture of carbon management.
- 270 Overall, the Court noted that the Board had welcomed the planning report as demonstrating this process and facilitating open discussion. It had also agreed that consideration would be given to refining the presentation of the Report, taking into account the following points:
- The link between risks included in the Risk Register and the KPIs;
 - How to highlight the smaller number of high-scoring risks in the presentation of the Report;
 - The inclusion of an indicator showing whether the Risk Score had increased or decreased since the previous Report. The Board had noted that now that baseline risk scores had been established, it was intended to include this movement information in future reports.

REVENUE BUDGETS 2012/13 TO 2014/15 AND SFC FINANCIAL FORECASTS

- 271 The Court noted that the Operating Board had agreed to recommend that Court approve the Revenue Budgets 2012/13 to 2014/15; and the annual financial forecasts requested by the Scottish Funding Council. (See *Minutes* 308-310)

CAPITAL PRIORITIES AND 10-YEAR PLAN

- 272 The Court noted that the Operating Board had agreed to recommend approval of the next phase of the 10-Year Plan. (See *Minutes* 313-316)

UNITE RESIDENCES UPDATE

- 273 The Court noted that the Board had received and considered a paper on a proposal from Unite, the company that owned and operated the student residence, Carnegie Court, on the Hillhead site. (See *Minutes* 317-318)

STRATEGIC BUSINESS VENTURES GROUP

Investment Proposal from Rockspring Ventures UK

- 274 The Court received and considered a paper that had been approved by the Board and which proposed a University contribution to a new Life Science Venture Fund, a Limited Partnership at the level of £2M, which included £0.5M as a contribution from the Endowment Funds and £1.5M from the returns from Haptogen and others.
- 275 The Court also noted that the Board had requested that the Advisory Group in Investments review the possibility of increasing the contribution from University Endowment Funds.
- 276 The Court approved the proposal.

Remit of the Strategic Business Ventures Group

- 277 The Court noted the updated remit for the Strategic Business Ventures Group. *Copy filed with principal copy of the minutes.*

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety Committee

- 278 The Court noted that the Operating Board had considered the Annual report from the Health and Safety Committee, a copy of which was also received by Court. The Court noted that the Board was broadly satisfied with the report.
- 279 Following discussion, the Court agreed that the Operating Board should periodically review the University's Health and Safety policies and report back to the Court in due course.

FINANCE REPORTS

Monthly management accounts 2011/12

- 280 The Court noted that the Operating Board had received and considered the Monthly Management Report for the period ended 30 April, which had shown a forecast year end historic cost surplus of £3M, compared to a budget of £4M. It had noted that the latest figures showed further improvement towards budget and it was hoped to achieve the target of £4M by the end of the financial year (*See Minutes 369*).

Scottish Funding Council: Final Funding Allocation 2012/13

- 281 The Court noted that the Operating Board had received and considered a paper on the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Final Funding Announcement 2012/13. It noted that the main difference between the indicative announcement made in December and this final allocation related to the allocation of strategic funding (including Knowledge Transfer Grant) and capital funding. The allocation of these grants was positive, with Aberdeen receiving £1.8M Knowledge Transfer Grant out of a total fund of £15.4M, and £2.6M of capital funding.

STUDENT ADMISSIONS

- 282 The Court noted that the Operating Board had received and considered an update on student admissions for 2012/13.

ONGOING CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FUTURE RECURRENT SPEND

- 283 The Court noted that the Operating Board had received updates on ongoing capital projects including; disposal of the Rowett Estate, the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health Building, 50/52 College Bounds. OneSource, Aquatics Centre and the Hillhead Refurbishment.

IT Recurrent Capital

- 284 The Court noted that the Operating Board had approved a proposal to introduce an IT Infrastructure Renewal Plan. To date, investment in IT across the University had been on a responsive basis, with funding proposals considered as individual projects were brought forward. The proposal was now to invest in IT based on a longer term strategic approach involving the allocation of a recurrent capital budget per annum.
- 285 The Court noted that the Operating Board had
- (i) agreed to re-classify the current levels of IT spend to recurrent capital by allocating the Directorate of Information Technology a maximum of £2.5M per annum in place of the current *ad hoc* spending patterns (usually in the region of £2.7M per annum).
 - (ii) agreed to extend the current Technology Renewal Programme to cover research staff and postgraduate research students.
 - (iii) At its June meeting, approved the spend plans for the 2012/13 allocation of £2.5M

Estates Recurrent Capital

- 286 The Court noted that the Board had approved spend plans for the agreed £3M annual recurrent capital funding allocations to Estates.

NATIONAL PAY BARGAINING

- 287 The Court noted that the Board had received an update on developments relating to National Bargaining at its meetings in May and June.
- 288 The Court noted that the third and final meeting of the new Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff (new JNCHES) had been held on 22 May 2012. A final offer was made by the higher education employers of a 1% increase on all points on the JNCHES pay spine. Previous meetings had offered 0.5% and then 0.8%. The joint trades union pay claim is for a pay increase of 7% (3.7% to match RPI at February 2012 plus 3.3% "to begin to catch up with the real terms cut in pay over the last 3 years").
- 289 The trades unions had expressed their disappointment at the level of the final offer from the employers and were considering further action as a result.

INTERNATIONAL TUITION FEES

- 290 The Court noted that the Board had approved international tuition fees for postgraduate students for academic year 2013/14, noting that the fee structure had been reviewed to 1) simplify bandings for different disciplines; and 2) bring tuition fees into line with competitors. This had been one of the recommendations arising from the external review of the University's postgraduate portfolio, carried out by the Knowledge Partnership.

DENTISTRY

- 291 The Court noted that the Board had received an oral update on progress with the resolution of an issue relating to UK Dentistry degrees and a related EU Directive, lobbying in relation to a revision which was being led by Universities UK. The University's first cohort of Dentistry students would graduate in July 2012, and the General Dental Council (GDC) had now confirmed that it would register these students on the GDC Register, thus allowing them to practice in the UK in the NHS.

SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

- 292 The Court received a paper on the development of the Outcome Agreement that the University is required to have in place with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) as a condition of grant. The Court noted that over time the intention was for outcome agreements to cover nine areas specified by the Scottish Government. In 2012/13 the agreement was to focus on three of those areas, Knowledge Exchange, Widening Access and the Pattern and Spread of Provision.
- 293 The Court noted that outcome agreements represented a change in the relationship between the SFC and the University and some members noted their concern at the extent to which the agreements appeared to contradict the approach articulated by members of SFC at the Strategic Dialogue Visit in April.
- 294 The Court noted that the outcome agreement would be further developed and considered at its September meeting of Court subject to the timeframe being acceptable to the SFC.

REPORTS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

ACADEMIC STAFF RECRUITMENT

- 295 The Court received a paper which provided an update on the progress of the Academic Recruitment Campaign ('Shape the Future') and further information on the process that had been undertaken to identify strategically important areas for investment.
- 296 The Court noted that as at 8 June 2012, a total of 1,525 applications had been received in response to the campaign with early indications suggesting that the majority of posts appeared to have attracted strong field of applicants. A number of appointments had been made (three in Psychology, one in the History of British Art and three in Engineering), with several high quality professorial applications being taken forward in a number of areas. In addition, a number of new positions had been included in the second phase of the campaign, including the prestigious Roland Sutton Chair of Radiology.
- 297 In discussion, the Court was assured that the University was committed to appointing candidates who were of outstanding quality and who would significantly enhance the University's research capacity. It was agreed that the Court should receive at a future meeting an assessment of how the recruitment campaign had improved the University's research quality profile.

EMPLOYEE TURNOVER

- 298 The Court received and considered a paper on employee turnover which included analysis across a range of staff categories including professorial staff. The reasons why some professorial staff had left to join other institutions was discussed. In noting that in many cases the reasons were specific to the individual rather than generic, it was acknowledged that universities throughout the UK were making significant attempts to recruit senior academics in preparation for the REF 2014.

STAFF SURVEY 2012

- 299 The Court received and considered a report on the 2012 Staff Survey.
- 300 A number of key points arising from the survey were discussed and it was agreed that Court should receive a further report on actions that had been identified by management for implementation in response to the survey. It was further agreed that the more detailed analysis of the survey be circulated to members of Court.

REPORT FROM REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

- 301 The Court received and considered a report from the Remuneration Committee for academic year 2011/12.

- 302 In discussion, the Court noted the work that the Committee had undertaken to review gender differences in the remuneration of non-clinical professorial staff. The Court discussed the Committee's aspiration to ensure any gender salary differences were limited to 5% or less in the future, and noted that the Committee was to undertake a further review following the implementing of this year's awards. The Court suggested that the Committee consider a best and worst analysis, the timeframe for equalisation of pay, and the impact of the current academic recruitment campaign on the gender pay gap.

INTERNATIONALISATION

DRAFT INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

- 303 The Court received and considered a draft Internationalisation Strategy for the University. The Strategy provided a framework to take forward actions and implement the operational plans required to achieve the University's international aspirations.
- 304 In discussion, the Court discussed the importance of how the Strategy would be supported and implemented. The Court also noted the importance of working with partners across Aberdeen and the North-East of Scotland to make and promote the City and Region as an attractive destination which was intrinsic to the success of the University internationally.
- 305 The Court approved the Strategy and agreed that it should receive at its next meeting the University's detailed operational plan including KPIs and timelines for the implementation of the Strategy.

JOINT INITIATIVE WITH EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

- 306 Mr Cannon briefed the Court on discussions that the University had been engaged in with Edinburgh Napier University regarding the potential to jointly open an overseas campus.
- 307 The Court noted that discussions were at a very early stage and it agreed that the University continue with exploratory discussions.

FINANCE & CAPITAL PROJECTS

REVENUE BUDGETS 2012/2013

- 308 The Court received Revenue budgets for 2012/13 and indicative budgets to 2014/15, together with budget sensitivity analysis.
- 309 The Court noted that the budgets would be linked to the Strategic Plan through the performance indicators being developed. The budgets were based on the funding letter received for SFC for 2012/13 and assumed SFC funding increases of 2.5% for future years.
- 310 The Court approved the budgets for 2012/13 subject to measures being adopted throughout the institution to exercise careful budgetary control. (See *Minute 271*)

SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN FORECAST

- 311 The Court received a Strategic Plan Forecast 2012 return required by the SFC, covering the forecast outturn for the current financial year (2011/12) and budgets for the three subsequent financial years.
- 312 The Court approved the Strategic Plan Forecast for onward submission to the Funding Council.

ESTATES CAPITAL PRIORITIES AND 10-YEAR PLAN

- 313 The Court received a paper which proposed projects to be undertaken as part of the next phase of Estates development and which took into account fit with the University's Strategic Plan and Strategy for Growth.
- 314 The Court also received an updated 10-Year Plan to reflect the funding of the priority projects.
- 315 In discussion, it was noted that University management were aware of proposals favoured by some members of the University community to enhance institutional cultural and performance facilities and that a flexible performance space was included within the projects plan although not as a priority at this stage.
- 316 The Court:
- (i) approved in principle a new build delivering an Institute for Energy, based around Meston, with an outline budget of £50M, as included in the 10-Year Plan.
 - (ii) approved that £150K of the outline budget of £50M should be released to take forward the detailed scope for the new build under (i) above. Formal approval of the total budget would be sought following this stage and the Court would have an opportunity to review the supporting business case;
 - (iii) approved a new Nursery at a cost of up to £2M, as included in the 10-Year Plan. Formal budgetary approval would be sought once costs were established following the preparatory work for tender;
 - (iv) agreed that a more detailed case for support based on the criteria set out in the table at appendix 1 should be developed for the co-location of Business and Law in a new build. Formal project approval would be sought once there was a clearer idea of costs.
 - (v) approved the development of a Strategic Infrastructure Renewal Fund and that cases for support should be developed for the following three projects as initial funding priorities:
 - Interfaith centre/extension of Chaplaincy
 - International student centre
 - Enhancement and development of student social space: a Student Union
 - (vi) agreed to delegate authority to the Operating Board to approve individual projects for funding from the Strategic Infrastructure Renewal Fund where these come in at less than the Board's approval limit of £5M, and subject to the Fund's affordability. It was further agreed that the Court would receive regular reports from the Operating Board on the use of the Fund.
 - (vii) agreed that the University should take forward the proposal to forward-fix borrowing of £15M from 1 August 2012 for 24 years, and delegate authority to the Convenor of the Audit Committee, the Convenor of the Operating Board, Mr Steyn and the Director of Finance to scrutinise and then finalise details of the terms and amendment to the existing loan document on the advice of the University's external financial advisers.

UNITE RESIDENCES

- 317 The Court was briefed on a proposal that the University had received from UNITE, the company that owned and operated the student residence, Carnegie Court, on the Hillhead site. Unite had indicated that they wished to sell the property to a pension fund and the Operating Board had undertaken some consideration of the proposals.

- 318 Following discussion, the Court agreed that the Director of Finance should continue discussions with UNITE and develop a full options appraisal to be reviewed by the Convenor of the Operating Board, the Senior Governor, the Principal, the Convenor of the Audit Committee and Mr Steyn, and, thereafter, to bring full details of the proposal and a recommendation for decision to Court.

NEW LIBRARY

- 319 The Court considered the naming of the new Library noting that the Development Trust had pursued a number of donor naming opportunities but none had been realised.
- 320 In discussion, three potential names were proposed by members of Court. The Court agreed by a majority vote, that the Library should be named "The Sir Duncan Rice Library" or "The Rice Library" subject to consultation and agreement with Sir Duncan Rice.

BUSINESS FOR EXTENDED MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

- 321 The Court received and endorsed a paper which outlined potential items for the extended meeting of Court in September 2012. The Court agreed that in addition to progress with the Strategic Plan, the Court should discuss the vision for the future of the University.
- 322 The Court also approved a change in the date of the meeting which would now take place on Tuesday 25 September between 10.30am and 5.00pm. An optional Induction Seminar would take place between 9.00 and 10.30am.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 323 The Court noted a report of the principal business considered by the Audit Committee at its meetings on 3 May and 7 June 2012.
- 324 The Court also approved or noted the following:
- External Audit Service: Reappointment and Tendering*
- 325 The Court noted that the University's term of appointment of its External Auditor, KPMG, was due to end on 30 December 2012. The University had the option to extend the contract for one year, in the first instance, or to proceed to tender.
- 326 The Court on the recommendation of the Audit Committee agreed to extend the contract for one year.

GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- 327 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Governance and Nominations Committee at its meeting on 8 May 2012.
- 328 The Court also approved or noted the following:
- Senior Governor/Vice-Chair*
- 329 The Court, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee agreed that Sir Moir's appointment as Senior Governor/Vice-Chair be extended for a period of two years to 31 July 2014. The Court noted that the Committee had taken account of positive feedback received by the Convenor of the Committee from the December 2011 meeting of non-executive members of Court. Sir Moir was absent during the Committee's consideration of this recommendation. The Court was provided with the opportunity to discuss the recommendation without Sir Moir in the Chair but agreed this was not necessary.

Membership of Court and Audit Committee

- 330 The Court was reminded that the University had advertised publicly a vacancy for a co-opted independent member of Court and a vacancy for an independent member of the Audit Committee. The vacancies had also been advertised on the University's website and members of Court had been invited to submit nominations.
- 331 The Court noted that the Committee had considered all applications for the vacancies against a role description and skills matrix. The Committee had short-listed candidates to meet the Principal, Senior Governor and/or Convenor of the Audit Committee.
- 332 The Court, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, approved the appointment of Mr David MacFarlane to both vacancies with effect from 1 August 2012 for a term of three years.

Trustee of University of Aberdeen Superannuation and Life Assurance Scheme (UASLAS)

- 333 The Court on the recommendation of the Governance and Nomination Committee agreed, that Professor Angela Black be appointed as a University Court-nominated trustee of the Scheme. Professor Black would be advised that should the UASLAS be discussed at Court meetings she would be expected to attend.

Dunlop Chair in Integrative Health Care Management

- 334 The Court noted that the Committee had considered a recommendation that a proposal to establish a Chair in Integrative Health Care Management should not be taken forward. It was noted that the decision to recommend this to the Committee had been reached following a meeting of the Principal, Senior Vice-Principal and University Secretary on 23 April 2012.
- 335 The Court noted that, following discussion and consideration of the issues involved, the Committee had agreed that taking into account the need for any proposal to be supported by a model which provided sustainability of funding for the longer-term, the University could not satisfy its requirement for the highest standards of scientific rigour with the funding model proposed, in particular the aspirations of potential donors to establish a Centre of Complementary Medicine.
- 336 The Court noted that the Committee had further agreed, that research that sought to investigate the evidence base for the effectiveness or otherwise of complementary therapies in the treatment of disease was a legitimate academic endeavour, provided that it could be supported by sustainable and unrestricted academic research funding.

Lord Woolf Inquiry into the London School of Economics

- 337 The Court noted that the Committee had received a paper which provided a summary of key issues arising from the Woolf Inquiry into the London School of Economics' (LSE) links with Libya. The paper compared recommendations of the Inquiry to procedures and practices in the University to highlight any areas for further review. It had also outlined the constitutional relationship between the University and the Development Trust and outlined the Trust's procedures regarding fundraising and ethical issues.
- 338 The Court noted the Committee had agreed that:
- (1) further work to develop a University Code of Ethics be undertaken, taking into account existing policies and procedures in related areas;
 - (2) in addition to the Committee's standing remit to approve gifts of £1M or more or where a gift regardless of monetary value might give rise to significant public interest, the University should establish additional reporting procedures to review prospective gifts of less than £1M if these were likely to give rise to public interest.

- (3) the current review of the Development Trust's relationship with the University should include whether the Trust should be asked to consider amending its Deed to enable it to receive gifts for 'joint ventures' in which the University was a partner.

Naming of the Library

- 339 The Court noted that the Committee had received an update on the progress of fundraising for a major donation which might influence the naming of the Library. The Committee noted that it was not now expected that such a donation would be secured and that this would be reported to the next meeting of Court where the naming of the Library would be considered.

Past Process for Appointment of Senior Governor

- 340 The Court noted that, the Committee had reviewed a paper which outlined the public advertisement process which was used in 2008/09 for the appointment of the current Senior Governor/Vice-Chair.

STAFFING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 341 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Staffing and Development Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2012.

- 342 The Court also approved or noted the following:

Staffing Policies

- 343 The Court approved on the recommendation of the Committee a Policy on Social Networking Services, and a Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace.

CHAPEL COMMITTEE

- 344 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Chapel Committee at its meeting on 22 May 2012.

COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, INCOME-GENERATION AND COMMERCIALISATION

- 345 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Committee on Research, Income-Generation and Commercialisation at its meeting on 26 March 2012.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- 346 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Student Affairs Committee at its meeting on 28 May 2012.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

- 347 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the University Committee on Teaching and Learning at its meetings on 21 March and 16 May 2012.

ROUTINE BUSINESS NOT PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION

SENATE REPORT

Draft Resolution No 267 of 2012 [Supplementary Regulations for First Degrees in Education]

- 348 The Court noted that the draft Resolution No 267 of 2012 [Supplementary Regulations for First Degrees in Education] had been approved by the Senate and had been considered by the Business Committee of the General Council.

- 349 The Court approved the Resolution.

Draft Resolution No 268 of 2012 [Supplementary Regulations for First Degrees in Science]

350 The Court noted that the draft Resolution No 268 of 2012 [Supplementary Regulations for First Degrees in Science] had been approved by the Senate and had been considered by the Business Committee of the General Council. Following this process, minor amendments to the Regulations had been proposed.

351 The Court approved the Resolution as amended.

Draft Resolution No 269 of 2012 [Changes to Regulations for Various Degrees]

352 The Court noted that the draft Resolution No 269 of 2012 [Changes in Regulations for Various Degrees] had been approved by the Senate and had been considered by the Business Committee of the General Council. Following this process, amendments to the Regulations had been proposed by the University Committee on Teaching & Learning.

353 The Court approved the Resolution as amended.

Draft Resolution No of 2012 [Amendments to the Code of Practice on Student Discipline]

354 The Court approved the draft Resolution No of 2012 [Amendments to the Code of Practice on Student Discipline] from the Senate and agreed to forward it to the General Council and to make it generally available in terms of Section 6 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966.

Collaborative Provision

355 The Court noted, that Senate, for its part, had approved revisions to the University's process for the approval of collaborative teaching partnerships.

EXTENSION TO APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRINCIPAL

356 The Court, on the recommendation of the Principal, approved an extension to the period of appointment of Professor Neva Haites as Vice Principal (Development) on a part-time rate (0.6 fte) for a further period of 2 years to conclude 30 September 2014.

DRAFT ORDINANCE: CHANCELLOR AND GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSOR ELECTIONS

357 The Court received and considered a paper which outlined the University's intention to modernise its current regulations for the elections of Chancellor and General Council Assessors to Court as currently determined by Ordinances No 123 and No 120.

358 The Court noted that the regulations were widely regarded as outdated and overly prescriptive and in particular, prevented online voting. It was, therefore, proposed to replace the two current Ordinances with a single new Ordinance which would allow the University greater flexibility in managing the respective electoral processes and allow for their future modernisation without the need for further Privy Council approval.

359 The Court noted a first draft Ordinance which illustrated the likely approach that the University would discuss informally with Privy Council officers.

360 The Court agreed that the University should commence informal discussions with the Privy Council Office. Following which a revised draft Ordinance would be considered by the Governance & Nominations Committee, and thereafter by Court in September 2012. This would be followed by consultation with the Senate and the Business Committee of the General Council and followed by public advert before formal submission to the Privy Council for approval.

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR AND CLERK TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

- 361 The Court approved the appointment of Ms Jennifer Sewel, Director of Policy, Planning and Governance, as Registrar to the General Council in accordance with Ordinance 110.

APPOINTMENTS TO COURT

General Council Assessors

- 362 The Court noted that the General Council had elected the following as Assessors to Court:
- 363 Mr Colin Duncan with immediate effect to 30 September 2014.
- 364 Mr Alex Arthur with effect from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2016.
- 365 Mrs Jennifer Shirreffs with effect from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2016.

LOCAL COUNCIL ASSESSORS

- 366 The Court noted that following the recent local council elections Aberdeen City Council had appointed with immediate effect Councillor Barney Crockett as its Assessor and successor to Councillor Stewart. The Court noted that Aberdeenshire Council had appointed with immediate effect Councillor Ron McKail as its Assessor and successor to Councillor Howatson.

SENATE ASSESSOR (COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

- 367 The Court noted that due to new extensive overseas research commitments, Dr Alex King had tendered his resignation as a Senate Assessor on Court with effect from 1 August 2012. An election of the Senate to appoint his successor would take place over the course of the summer.

VACATION POWERS

- 368 The Court noted that during the period 26 June 2012 and 25 September 2012, matters requiring urgent decision would be undertaken under the standing delegated authority as previously agreed by Court.

MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL REPORT

- 369 The Court noted the Management Financial Report to April 2012.

PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRINCIPALS

- 370 The Court noted a paper which outlined the appointments process for Vice-Principals.

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- 371 The Court received and noted a series of decisions pertaining to staff promotions, resulting from the annual promotions exercise.

DATES OF MEETINGS: 2012/2013

- 372 The Court noted the dates of meeting for 2012/2013.

Tuesday	25 September 2012	(10.30am-5.00pm, followed by Dinner)
Tuesday	11 December 2012	(9.00am-12.00pm, following by lunch)
Tuesday	26 March 2013	(9.00am-12.00pm, followed by lunch)
Tuesday	25 June 2013	(9.00am-12.00pm, followed by lunch)