The 306th meeting of the General Council was held in the Linklater Rooms on 07 December 2016. The Convener of the Business Committee, Mr Nigel Lindsay, was in the Chair.

1 DRAFT MINUTES
The draft Minute of the 305th Statutory Meeting was approved.

2 REPORT FROM THE CONVENER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE
2.1 The convener thanked his predecessor Eric Crockart for his contribution over the years. He reflected on the presentations provided by the University over the year and commented on how useful it was to members to keep up-to-date with developments. He went on to talk about how the committee has been looking at ways of graduates providing assistance to the University and made reference to the recent lobbying exercise undertaken by committee. In the coming months the committee will be adapting the Skills Register of Business Committee members, to identify some of the skills which members possess against a matrix of those which the University wishes to call upon. In addition there will be a review of the General Council website pages. It is also proposed to publish a supplement to the 1963 “History of the General Council” to mark the Council’s recent 150th anniversary. The convener also updated the General Council on the amendment to the composition of court which ended the right of the General Council to elect Assessors. He said that this represents part of a regrettable change in the composition of the Court, which has seen it move from being a body that represents all major stakeholders, to one which is in effect a self-perpetuating committee. He expressed the view that this was an unwise decision and one that should be reversed sooner rather than later.

3 PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT
3.1 The Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Ian Diamond, gave the General Council an update on the University. He focused on how the University was responding to current external factors including Brexit and the HE Governance Bill. Principal provided highlights from the past year included a placing of 55th in the world and top in Scotland for research performance based on the top 10% of International Journals. Other highlights included the University’s position as a top ten UK University for graduate employability and the impact of 85% of our research being peer assessed as world leading. The Principal also informed the General Council about the announcement of proposals for the University’s first overseas campus, which would be based in Korea. This represented an exciting new phase in the internationalisation of the University’s activities.

3.2 The Principal updated the General Council about the University’s financial position and SCF spending review.

3.3 Principal talked about the strategic plan and the work on going at the University. He highlighted the focus on People (staff and students), retention, online course provision, research income, research student numbers and the student experience. He assured the General Council that he and the management team at the University were working very hard to deliver a plan that is the best for the University.

4 NOTICE OF MOTION TO VARY STANDING ORDERS
4.1 The variation to the standing orders was presented and approved
NOTICE OF THE 307th STATUTORY MEETING

The meeting will be held during May Festival on Saturday 27 May 2017.