UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2016

Present: Nigel Lindsay (Convener), Nuala Booth, Stephen Duggan, Colin Duncan, Caroline Inglis (University Secretary), Lynne Mennie, Corinne Blackstock, Alan Milne, Marjory Reid, Karen Scaife (clerk), Susan Stuart, Joe Wallace, Brian Wood, Mike Cooper, Graham Hunter, Mary Stephen, Willie MacColl, Tom Lynch, Graeme Nicol, Jenny Mordue, Patricia Pugh, Euan Mackenzie,

Apologies: Duncan Macniven, Mel Roberts, Jenny Shirreffs, Iain Percival

1. MINUTES
   The minutes from the meeting held on 1 September were approved, subject to the addition of Tom Lynch to standing orders sub committee

2. MATTERS ARISING
   The Subcommittee hope to have a digitised version of the History of the General Council by the start of December and will begin to progress updating it.

3. SUPPORTING STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY
   Sandi Thompson, Deputy Head of Careers gave a presentation to the committee on the University’s approach to student employability. There has been a move towards a more holistic view of skills through the development of graduate attributes (a set of attributes and skills that will make graduates more likely to gain employment).

   Aberdeen is currently in the top 5 in UK for graduate employment.

   Career Services work on 3 strands:

   **Explore your options** for example providing students with one to one appointments, DLHE, career planning, professional skills courses and career bytes – lunchtime workshops covering a range of topics.

   **Develop skills** for example encouraging co-curricular activities through STAR award (Students taking active roles i.e. class reps, mentors, clubs and societies etc), enhanced transcript, Career mentoring programme (6 month link up with business person) 280 matched students in the current academic year, leadership academy – employer led workshops, credit bearing courses and work experience opportunities i.e. Aberdeen internship, Intern plus, Santander, Saltire scholar intern programme. There is also provision for work based projects for post-grad dissertations and undergrad courses.

   **Connecting with employers** for example Career fairs (Careers are currently working on a join fair with RGU), on campus presentations and workshops, workshops and seminars led by graduate recruiters, practise interviews and gap year info

   [www.abdn.ac.uk/careers](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers)

   Twitter @abdnunicareers

   If members are interested in getting involved in any of the initiatives please contact the Careers Services.
4. REPORT FROM THE CONVENER

NL is keen to raise the profile of the General Council and Business Committee webpages. He suggested reviewing the members’ pages with a view to standardising the format of biographies. Tom Lynch volunteered to assist with the creation of a template and collating member’s biographies and photos for the webpages.

NL suggested reviewing the format of the skills register, perhaps by developing a skills/interest matrix which will align with other existing skills matrices. CI stressed that the University are keen to use members’ skills to support the development of university activities.

5. COMPOSITION OF COURT

CI advised the committee that the consultation period is currently open. Senate have considered a number of motions. She reported that Senate have supported the proposal to retain 4 elected General Council Assessors. Senate has also proposed that the most appropriate title for the senior governor is Dean of Court.

After discussion the committee decided to agree with Senate’s views on the Draft ordinance proposed by Court. As such NL requested a subgroup to draft a letter to send to court indicating the committee’s position (Duncan McNiven, Susan Stuart and Colin Duncan agreed to do so and to forward a draft to members for comment).

The committee raised concerns over the gender balance issue highlighting that there is a broader meaning of diversity. CI informed the committee that guidance was being sought from the Privy Council.

6. PROPOSED CHANGES TO GENERAL COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

The subgroup presented the revised Standing Orders, to which the committee agreed, subject to Order 21 being amended to "Chair".

7. DRAFT COURT MINUTES FROM 4 OCTOBER MEETING AND REPORTS FROM ASSESSORS

CI provided an update on the appointment of next senior governor. Head-hunters were appointed and approached over 160 people (40 of whom were women). A General Council Assessor, Jenny Shirreffs, has been involved in the process. Nine individuals are currently being progressed, there will be a shortlisting meeting at end of November. A formal appointing committee will sit on 5 December to make a recommendation to court on 6 December.

In response to a question, CI explained some implications of the new financial reporting standard, highlighting that the challenge will be communicating the situation.

8. AOCB

The Committee suggested a number of future topics for presentations. After discussion it was agreed to look at the areas presenting highest risk. Internationalisation and Student Recruitment (March) Financial position (June)

It was also agreed that members would be very interested to hear a presentation by Anne Glover at a convenient time in the coming year.

Date of next meeting: 9th March 2017.