1. MINUTES
The minutes from the meeting held on 9 March 2017 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING
Euan Mackenzie queried the type of procedures and policies in place around student support and wellbeing.

Professor Margaret Ross (Vice-Principal for People Strategy) highlighted a number of support mechanisms available to students and staff, both on and off campus. Staff and Student Resident Assistants are trained to support students in a variety of areas, including; first aid, drug and alcohol abuse, and privacy and confidential issues.

The University has a Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as a number of policies in place, including a Support for Study policy. In the past year over 60 people have been trained in first aid mental health. These training programmes are run by NHS Scotland and are available to anyone on campus. From August a trained psychiatric nurse will be joining the University’s Student Support team. In addition, further training will be provided to staff to identify relationship abuse.

Professor Ross added that all documents which have been produced will appear on the University policy zone. She also handed out cards with tips for maintaining good mental health and main contacts which are available to students and staff.

3. PRESENTATION: INTERNATIONALISATION AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT, PROFESSOR RICHARD WELLS
Professor Richard Wells (Dean for South East Asia and Middle East) gave a presentation on Internationalisation and Student Recruitment.

Despite a constantly changing world, six key strands from the 2014 Internationalisation Strategy remain the same:
- Institutional Profile
- Student Recruitment and Experience
- Transnational Education
- Research Networks
- Staff Recruitment and Mobility
- Alumni and Donors

It was noted by Professor Wells that cross section collaboration is crucial for them to work more efficiently to achieve targets in all strategic areas.

Professor Wells spoke about a number of challenges the University is currently facing:
- Political climate
• Brexit
• Increasingly restrictive visa arrangements
• Funding challenges for international students and sponsors
• Currency fluctuations
• Pressures on domestic university funding

He explained that, despite these challenges, the University responds well to new opportunities, with new initiatives focusing on student recruitment and regional developments. He also noted that the University is benefiting from a successful digital campaign and a strong conversion and enquiry team.

Professor Wells noted that there has been an increase in international student numbers from the Americas and China. He also mentioned that the University’s Language Centre in Aberdeen delivers a number of successful courses which support international students.

Currently there are four main international projects in development which include campuses in South Korea and Qatar and future developments in Sri Lanka and Rwanda.

4. REPORT FROM THE CONVENER

The Convenor prepared a written report ahead of the meeting in which he praised the support of the Committee and their work. He spoke about the main streams of the Committee’s work:

• Reviewing how members’ biographies and experience are presented on the University’s website
• Exploring of ways in which the Committee might be able to offer continued co-operation and support to the University’s Externals Affairs department
• Pursuing the Committee’s interested in maintaining the right of the General Council to elect Assessors to the University Court

The Convener thanked the Committee members who attended the Incorporated Trades Service in March and the Statutory Meeting of the General Council in May, as well as those who have registered to attend and process in the forthcoming graduation ceremonies in June.

He noted that he will be meeting his counterparts from St Andrews, Glasgow and Edinburgh universities on 15 June. One of the matters which will be discussed is changes in the governance of Scottish universities.

The report from the Convener was accepted by the Committee.

5. PRESENTATION: EXTERNAL RELATIONS, THERESA MERRICK, ELEANOR BRADFORD, ALEXANDER GODFREY-BROWN

Mel Roberts briefly updated the Committee on a meeting which took place on Friday 4 May 2017 between a Business Committee sub-group (Mel Roberts, Lynne Mennie, Tom Lynch and Alan Milne) and the External Relations team.

Ms Merrick (Director of External Relations) gave a short introduction and identified three main priorities:

• Raising awareness of University’s profile
• Supporting student recruitment
• Focus on social media

Mrs Bradford gave a presentation on the changes in the way we communicate with people and the different mediums used. She highlighted the decline in the number of people reading newspapers and that the focus is on broadcast and social media.

Mr Godfrey-Brown represented the University’s Public Affairs team which promotes the research and expertise of the University to political, policy, and civic audiences. The team’s main role is to develop and facilitate interactions with elected members of national and local governments. Mr Godfrey-Brown added that the team also coordinates biannual sessions for local MSPs, MPs and MEPs, and supports ministerial and VIP visits to the University.
6. ADDRESS BY DR DAVID GALLOWAY

Dr David Galloway was invited to address the Committee after he raised several concerns at the last Statutory Meeting of the General Council, in May.

Dr Galloway informed the Committee that he has a number of concerns regarding the Medical School. His primary concern was regarding the position of the Medical School in recent rankings which placed it at 29th out of 32 other Medical Schools. Dr Galloway spoke about the current financial climate and the negative impact that it can have on teaching and research.

The Convener thanked Dr Galloway and suggested that Professor Steve Heys or Professor Phil Hannaford be invited to address the Committee at a future meeting.

ACTION: Ms Saduikyte

7. RESOLUTION ON REMOVAL MEMBERS OF COURT

The resolution was approved.

8. BUSINESS COMMITTEE WEB PAGE TEMPLATE

Tom Lynch thanked Jenny Mordue and Iain Percival for their assistance.

It was agreed that Mr Lynch will continue working on the template and circulate an existing link to the Committee members.

ACTION: Mr Lynch

9. DRAFT COURT MINUTES FROM 28 MARCH 2017 MEETING AND REPORTS FROM ASSESSORS

The Committee noted the minutes.

10. AOCB

The University Secretary informed the Committee that the University is number 1 in the 2018 Guardian University Rankings for Sports Science.

The Committee members suggested that it would be good to have future dates of the upcoming Statutory Meetings.

ACTION: Ms Saduikyte

11. RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC STRUCTURES

The resolution was approved.

12. RESOLUTION ON DEGREE REGULATIONS

The resolution was approved.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Business Committee will be held on Thursday 7 September at 4pm in the Court Room.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES
The dates of the future meetings of the Business Committee are:

Thursday 7 September 2017
Thursday 9 November 2017
Thursday 1 March 2018
Thursday 7 June 2018