UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2017

Present: Nigel Lindsay (Convener), Katrina Allan (Alumni Relations Manager), Victoria Aston, Nuala Booth, Colin Duncan, Grainne Ferrigan, Graham Hunter, Caroline Inglis (University Secretary), Tim Ingold (Item 3), Tom Lynch, Willie MacColl, Duncan Macniven, Alan Milne, Jenny Mordue, Graeme Nicol, Iain Percival, Patricia Pugh, Marjory Reid, Muriel Roberts, Guste Saduikyte (Clerk), Jenny Shirreffs, Susan Stuart, Joe Wallace.

Apologies: Corrine Blackstock, Mike Cooper, Steve Duggan, Euan Mackenzie, Lynne Mennie, John Paterson (VP for Internationalisation), Mary Stephen, Brian Wood.

1. MINUTES
The minutes from the meeting held on 17 November 2016 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING
The Committee discussed item no. 5 Composition of Court. It was suggested that a group be formed consisting of Nigel Lindsey, Colin Duncan, Duncan Macniven and Susan Stuart to discuss the matter further.

3. PRESENTATION: RECLAIMING OUR UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR TIM INGOLD
Professor Ingold’s presentation was moved to the first half of the meeting. Professor Paterson’s presentation on Internationalisation and Student Recruitment will be moved to June’s meeting.

Professor Tim Ingold, Chair in Social Anthropology, gave a presentation to the Committee on the ‘Reclaiming Our University’ movement. It started in summer/spring 2015 when a number of colleagues expressed to Professor Ingold concerns about how the University is run.

After an open discussion in Dunbar Hall in October 2015, a working group was formed which established four pillars. These were discussed in a series of four open seminars between November 2015 and February 2016:

- Freedom
- Trust
- Education
- Community

Professor Ingold noted that the problems the University faces are not unique to Aberdeen and affect other institutions around the world. He also noted that the working group feels that Aberdeen is best placed to lead the pushback against the increasing shift towards a focus on income-generation in higher education.

The working group developed a manifesto in summer 2016 which was launched in November 2016.

Professor Ingold noted that the atmosphere at the University has already improved with much more positivity around campus. The next step is to have the manifesto approved by the Senate.

4. REPORT FROM THE CONVENER
The Convenor prepared a written report ahead of the meeting which was accepted by the Committee.

Ms Roberts added that she had attended a meeting with Theresa Merrick, Director of External Relations, who is keen to build a relationship with the Business Committee. It was suggested that a maximum of four other members could join Ms Roberts at her next meeting with Ms Merrick which will be arranged in due course.

ACTION: Ms Roberts
5. DRAFT ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION FOR AMENDMENT OF COMPOSITION OF SENATE
The University Secretary introduced the paper regarding proposals arising from the Senate Effectiveness Review conducted in 2015 in regard to the composition of the Senate. No comments were forthcoming from the Committee.

6. REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW SENIOR GOVERNER
The University Secretary introduced the paper regarding the appointment of the University's new Senior Governor. The Committee acknowledged the Senior Governor's appointment as a positive development.

7. ALUMNI RELATIONS UPDATE
Katrina Allan provided a verbal update to the Committee and said that she would be happy to provide a written report at future meetings if that were preferable. Mrs Allan informed the committee that Karen Scaife is currently on secondment to the Directorate of Student Life and that Guste Saduikyte had joined the team as an Alumni Engagement Coordinator.

There was an update on the alumni volunteering programme with information-gathering meetings being held with senior management and Heads of Schools to inform a mechanism through which alumni can more easily give back. It was also noted that Grainne Ferrigan had been in South East Asia recently, engaging with alumni in Hong Kong and Singapore, and that over £3000 had been raised for the Alumnus Association scholarship at the Jazz Afternoon Tea in Elphinstone Hall in February. In addition, Mrs Allan noted that social media engagement from alumni is increasing. Mrs Allan also advised that an alumni engagement strategy is under development and that she would be happy to speak about it at a future meeting of the Business Committee.

8. BUSINESS COMMITTEE WEB PAGE TEMPLATE
Tom Lynch talked through the proposed template which he had previously worked on with Karen Scaife. The Committee discussed aspects of the template, including how best to reference proficiency in languages.

It was agreed that Mr Lynch would take forward implementation of the template with Ms Saduikyte’s support.

ACTION: Mr Lynch

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR STATUTORY MEETING, SATURDAY 27 MAY 2017
The next Statutory Meeting of the General Council will take place in the King’s College Conference Centre on Saturday 27 May, during the May Festival. An event will follow the meeting and will be confirmed closer to time.

ACTION: Ms Saduikyte

10. DRAFT COURT MINUTES FROM 6 DECEMBER 2016 AND REPORTS FROM ASSESSORS
The Committee noted the minutes.

11. AOCB
Graham Hunter requested the presence of an induction loop system at future meetings. The Committee suggested a number of future topics for presentations including Internationalisation and Student Recruitment (June, moved from March) and the University’s financial position. They also expressed their interest in receiving a presentation by Professor Dame Anne Glover.

The University Secretary suggested that a contingency plan be put in place in case Professor Paterson is unable to present in June.

ACTION: Ms Saduikyte

12. The date of the next meeting of the Business Committee is Thursday 8 June 2017, 4pm, Committee Room 2.