1. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 7 September 2017 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. REPORT FROM THE CONVENER

The Convener prepared a written report ahead of the meeting in which he spoke about:

- The new composition of Court;
- The Business Committee Strategy Day. It was agreed that the meeting would take place on Thursday 8 February, between 10.00am-4.30pm;
- The proposed publication to mark 150 years of the General Council;
- Upcoming winter graduations.

The report from the Convener was approved by the Committee.

4. ALUMNI RELATIONS UPDATE

Katrina Allan, Alumni Relations Manager, updated the Committee on alumni relations activity. Highlights included:

- Update on the Aberdeen Connect events programme;
- The annual Alumni Bonfire Night reception which sold out in less than one hour;
- Upcoming Hardy’s Chocolate Tasting;
- Winter Gathering and Statutory Meeting of the General Council;
- Plans to have an alumni reception around the Student Show 2018;
- Upcoming Aberdeen and London Celebration of Carols. This year our graduates will be invited to the premiere of The Three Ships, written by Sir Tony Robinson with music by Professor Paul Mealor;
- Recent alumni dinner in Beijing which was attended by Professor John Paterson, Vice Principal for Internationalisation, and Mrs Jenny Shirreffs, alumna and member of Court;
- Upcoming winter graduations and collection of contact preferences from new graduates;
- Alumni volunteering plan and communications strategy for 2018.

The Convener thanked Mrs Allan for her update.

5. PRESENTATION: MAGGIE CHAPMAN, RECTOR

Ms Maggie Chapman (Rector) was invited to give a presentation looking back over her three year term as Rector.
Ms Chapman gave a short overview of her background and how she decided to run for Rector. She spoke about sense of community and pride in Aberdeen, which, due to changes externally and internally, is becoming increasingly at risk. Ms Chapman also spoke about the University Court and its recent changes.

Her main highlights in the last three years included:
- Meeting different people and getting to know students and graduates;
- Graduations;
- Student development and how their lives are transformed by higher education.

Ms Chapman also spoke about a number of challenges the University currently faces:
- Brexit and uncertainty around it;
- Increasing anti-immigration feeling;
- Issues around mental health;
- Lack of facilities available to students and societies on campus;
- Issues around financial developments and transnational education.

The Convener thanked Ms Chapman for her presentation.

6. BUSINESS COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS PLAN 2017/18 & 2018/19

The Convener presented the paper. It was agreed to discuss the paper during the Strategy Day in 2018.

The draft paper was approved subject to change.

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Secretary to the University gave an update on the appointment of the new Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

It was suggested that the Committee members should send their comments to the Convener, which he could share with headhunters.

ACTION: Mr Lindsay

8. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

There are two vacancies available for co-option. Ms Mennie suggested a possible candidate for co-option. Subject to the candidate’s agreement, the Committee agreed to approve their co-option.

The Committee agreed to fill the remaining vacancy at the next meeting.

9. DRAFT COURT MINUTES FROM 4 OCTOBER 2017 MEETING AND REPORTS FROM ASSESSORS

The Committee noted the minutes.

10. PURPOSES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE- REVISED STATEMENT

The Committee agreed to look at the statement during the Strategy Day and approve it as a draft in the meantime.

11. AOCB

No other items of business were noted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Business Committee will be held on Thursday 1 March at 4pm in the Court Room.