1 DRAFT MINUTES

1.1 The draft Minute of the 303rd Statutory Meeting was approved.

2 REPORT FROM THE CONVENER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2.1 The Convener of the Business Committee, Mr Eric Crockart, reported on the activities of the Business Committee during the past six months.

2.2 The Convener noted that the Committee had decided to change the schedule of meetings this academic year, traditionally the committee met once between September and December and three times between January and June. This was deemed unbalanced and therefore two meetings were held before December and two between January and June. The meeting schedule would be reviewed in June once the trial was complete.

2.3 The Convener noted that the Committee had been monitoring the potential implications of the Scottish Government Bill on Higher Education Governance. Members of the Committee had submitted responses to the Scottish Government regarding the Bill, the two main concerns being the lack of clarity surrounding the position of the Rector and the number of General Council Assessors who sit on Court. The Bill suggested that only two Alumni members should sit on governing bodies. The Convener noted that he had subsequently seen a copy of a letter sent by the Education and Culture Minister, Angela Constance, in which she made clear that there was no intention to abolish the position of Rector. The letter also explained that the Bill requires governing bodies to include representation from two members of staff, two union representatives, two student representatives and two graduates. Universities were otherwise free to decide the remainder of the membership of the governing body.

2.4 The Convener informed the General Council that the Committee had made comments on the University’s Strategic plan and that these had been considered when producing the final draft of the plan.

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. 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 Strategic Plan, including its mission, values, structure and objectives.

3.3 The Principal discussed the future of the University, and highlighted the need for the University to continue to stand for innovation and investigation as it had throughout its history, and to continue to make a real difference to lives through excellence in teaching and research.
4 VOTE OF THANKS

4.1 The Vice-Convener of the Business Committee, Mrs Muriel Roberts gave the Vote of Thanks.

5 NOTICE FROM THE CLERK AND REGISTRAR

5.1 GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSOR TO COURT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS 2016

5.1.1 The Clerk and Registrar informed the General Council that the current terms of office of two General Council Assessors to the University Court, Mr Alex Arthur and Mrs Jenny Shirreffs, would conclude on 30 September 2016.

5.1.2 The Clerk and Registrar informed the General Council that in accordance with the University Ordinance No 143 and the supporting regulations, the Business Committee of the General Council had agreed the following timetable for receipt of nominations for the two positions:

5.1.3 Thursday 10 December 2015 – Nominations Open.

5.1.4 Friday 29 January 2016 – Nominations close at 12 noon.

5.1.5 If at the close of nominations there were more nominations received than there are vacancies, an election of the General Council would be held in May.

5.2 BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2016

5.2.1 The Clerk and Registrar, as required by Standing Orders, advised the General Council that the current terms of office of three members of the Business Committee would end on 30 September 2016. Nominations for the positions would close at noon on Friday 25 March. If more nominations were received than vacancies, an election would be held at the Summer Statutory Meeting.

6 NOTICE OF THE 305th STATUTORY MEETING

6.1 The Clerk and Registrar reported that the 305th Statutory Meeting of the General Council would be held during the May Festival weekend, further details would be available on the General Council website.