

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY COURT

Minutes of meeting held on 6 December 2016

Present: Ms M Chapman (in the Chair), Principal, Sir Moir Lockhead, Professor A Akisanya, Mr C Anucha, Professor C Black, Professor N Booth, Mr C Duncan, Professor M Delibegovic, Mr J Hall, Professor P Hannaford, Professor N Hutchison, Professor J Kilburn, Cllr J Laing, Mr D MacFarlane, Professor P McGeorge, Cllr R McKail, Mrs K McPhail (for minutes 54 to 110), Ms A Minto (for minutes 54 to 110), Mr K Murray, Dr N Oren, Mr B Paterson, Mr I Percival, Mrs J Shirreffs and Mr D Steyn (for minutes 54 to 110).

In attendance: Mr D Beattie, Mr M Butler (Good Governance Institute), Mr A Donaldson, Mrs D Dyker, Mr L Forsyth, Dr S Hill (for minutes 108 to 110), Mrs C Inglis, Mr N Qamar (for minutes 58 to 63, Professor I Stansfield ((for minutes 68 to 73), Dr H Sveinsdottir (for minutes 119 to 121, Very Rev Professor I Torrance, Professor R Wells (for minutes 108 to 110) and Mr B Purdon (Clerk).

Apologies for absence were received from, Professor C Brittain, Mr D Haywood, Ms J Killin and Mr B Pack.

SENIOR GOVERNOR AND CHANCELLOR'S ASSESSOR

54 The Court noted that it was Sir Moir Lockhead's last meeting as Senior Governor and as Chancellor's Assessor to Court. The Court recorded its considerable thanks and appreciation to Sir Moir for his excellent leadership and service to the Court and the University over the past 14 years.

MINUTES

55 The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2016 were approved.

56 The Court noted the updated Action Log (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The Court also received a summary of the main discussion points from the Court Strategy Day (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). It was agreed this should be amended to clarify that the reference to the UN Millennium Goals should instead refer to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and that these were an institution wide opportunity rather than one focused solely on the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

57 Mr B Paterson declared an interest as an Officer of the University of Aberdeen Branch of Unite the Union.

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SAFETY

REPORTS ON ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

58 The Court received and considered a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which provided details of three serious incidents. The Court also received a summary of the Operating Board's consideration of the report. The Court noted that the incidents were as follows:

- A member of staff was driving out of the Zoology building car park and was involved in a near miss with a cyclist.
- A postgraduate student was taken to hospital as a result of formaldehyde solution being splashed in his eye.
- A student fell from the roof of a Students' Association minibus and suffered head injuries.

- 59 The Court noted the report on the subsequent investigations into the circumstances of each incident and any actions that had been identified as 'lessons learnt'. In discussion, it was suggested that consideration should be given by the University as to whether the cost of providing prescription safety glasses should be met through a centralised budget rather than at School level. The Court also noted that a further report regarding the incident involving the Students' Association minibus had been provided in the report from the President of the Students' Association.
- 60 The Court also received an oral report on a more recent incident where a member of the University's cleaning staff had slipped and broken her arm in the Suttie Centre building. It was noted that the investigation into the circumstances of the incident were ongoing.
- 61 The Court further noted an initiative that the University was taking forward to improve cycle safety awareness amongst the student community with a particular focus on overseas students.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY AND POLICY

- 62 The Court received a report on the University's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Policy (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The Strategy described the University's commitment to tackling mental health concerns while the Policy provided information regarding the responsibilities of the University community in combatting mental ill health and creating an inclusive culture in which all staff and students could thrive. The Court also noted that an action plan had been developed to implement the Strategy.
- 63 In discussion, the Court welcomed the Strategy and noted that the linkage between it and the work being undertaken by the Students' Association to support mental health.

STANDING REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

- 64 The Rector congratulated all those involved in making the recent Graduation ceremonies joyous and successful occasions. The Rector noted that, as reported in the Students' Association President's report, the Association was now, following a period of vacancies, fully staffed.
- 65 The Rector reported that she had participated in an event organised by the Development Trust regarding the development of the next fundraising campaign and noted that this had been very productive.
- 66 The Rector reported that as part of the lobby of the meeting held by the University and College Union (UCU) she had been asked to receive a petition to Court with approximately 2,000 signatures regarding the staff restructuring in the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition. The Rector invited the Principal to report further on the position within the School as part of his report (see minutes 68 to 73).

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR GOVERNOR

- 67 The Senior Governor introduced his report to Court (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). In addition, the Senior Governor expressed his thanks to members of Court for their good wishes and for the support they and officers in the University had given to him during his appointment as Senior Governor.

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- 68 The Principal introduced his written report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on recent developments within the University. The Principal noted that further to the update provided within his report, an MP and an MSP had written to him regarding the restructuring

within the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition and had requested that the letters be brought to the attention of Court. The Principal noted that the two letters, together with the University's response to the MP and MSP, had been provided to the Court.

- 69 Professor Stansfield, Professor Hannaford and Mrs Dyker reported to Court in detail regarding an extensive and thorough process that had been undertaken within the School over the preceding months to address a £4m deficit in the School. This had included a comprehensive review of the School's ability to address the deficit through a greater focus on areas of strength and income generation potential and by increased efficiency savings. This had resulted in a requirement for staff savings, in areas identified for disinvestment, of £1.5m. Following the conclusion of a voluntary severance scheme, regrettably it had been necessary to take forward a process for potential compulsory redundancies in areas identified for disinvestment. This had resulted in 23 members of staff being identified as being at risk of redundancy. Following further work by the School, however, alternative employment for all staff had been found, with four members of staff presently considering offers of alternative roles with protected terms and conditions. It was clarified in discussion, that for three of these staff the positions offered were funding limited contracts for a minimum of two years.
- 70 The Court discussed in detail how the process of consultation on compulsory redundancy had been conducted including how the criteria for those staff identified at risk of redundancy had been developed. A number of issues concerning the application of the process and concerns that had been raised by members of staff with some members of Court were discussed. The Court also discussed information that had been provided to some members of Court by the UCU. Professor Stansfield and Mrs Dyker responded to clarify issues raised regarding this including where the information included a number of misstatements of fact. The Court was assured that the process had been consistent with the University's equality and diversity procedures.
- 71 The Court discussed the reputational risks arising from the process and how these had been mitigated through communication with staff, students and other stakeholders. The Court was advised of the steps taken by both the School's management team and University Senior Management, including the Principal, to communicate and engage with staff regarding the reasons why the restructuring was being undertaken and to provide transparency around the process. In further discussion, it was suggested that it was important that the process was concluded as promptly as possible without prejudice to the process being procedurally sound.
- 72 The Court noted that while many of the issues around the process that had been raised were operational matters, as a matter of good practice the University would review how the process had operated and whether there were any aspects that might be improved upon. It was further agreed that the University would make public where it identified changes to practice or procedure resulting from that review.
- 73 The Court also noted that the issues highlighted both the importance of ensuring that it and the University were considering the future financial sustainability of the institution and the steps necessary to increase income growth and avoid the very difficult issues that could arise from restructuring exercises.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- 74 The President of the Students' Association introduced his written report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the recent activities of the Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA).
- 75 The Court discussed the report's update on the usage of the Nightline service over the past three months and noted the valuable support this provided to students. It was agreed that the Court would welcome further reports on the usage of Nightline which included data from the preceding quarter to enable consideration of any trends.

GOVERNANCE

REVISED COMPOSITION OF COURT: DRAFT ORDINANCE AND FUTURE TRANSITIONAL ISSUES

- 76 The Court received a paper which reported on the statutory consultation process that had been undertaken on a draft Ordinance for the proposed new composition of Court (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).
- 77 The Court noted that the draft Ordinance had been made publicly available for a period of 8 weeks for comment on the University's website and communicated to staff. The Senate and Business Committee of the General Council had received the proposals and been invited to consider and comment on these. The Chief Executives of Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council respectively were also advised of the proposals and provided with the opportunity to comment.
- 78 The Court noted a copy of a motion that the Senate had received proposing amendments to the proposals. The Court further noted that the Senate had voted to support two points in the motion: firstly that the term Dean of Court should be adopted for the Senior Governor; and, secondly, that four of the twelve seats for independent Court members should be reserved for elected General Council Assessors.
- 79 The Court noted that the Business Committee of the General Council had considered the proposals and draft Ordinance and had agreed to support the position agreed by Senate with regard to retaining four elected General Council Assessors. The Court also received and noted three letters of representation from two current members of the Business Committee and one former member on the same issue.
- 80 The Court noted that, in response to the invitation to comment on the draft Ordinance, The City Council had responded to confirm it was content with the proposals given the commitment of Court to continuing to seek nominations from the Council to vacancies for independent members.
- 81 The Court considered specifically the two points that the Senate had voted to support and the representations it had received from the Business Committee with regard to amending the Ordinance to retain four elected General Council Assessors on Court. In discussion, it was noted that with regard to whether the term 'Dean of Court' should be adopted instead for the Senior Governor, that the University organisational structure included a number of academic 'Deans' and that it was important to distinguish between those roles and the different role that the Senior Governor undertook. The Court, therefore, agreed to retain the title of Senior Governor and that no change to the wording of the proposed Ordinance be made in this regard.
- 82 In further discussion, the Court noted the representations that had been made for retaining elected General Council Assessors and which broadly reflected matters that the Court had considered in depth previously. The Court, however, agreed no change to the wording of the proposed Ordinance be made in this regard. On the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, the Court agreed that as a result it would in future cease to include elected General Council Assessors within its composition.
- 83 The Court noted the next steps that would need to be considered with regard to how the transition of the existing composition and membership of Court to the new composition was best achieved, subject to the formal engagement with Privy Council on approval of the Ordinance that would now be undertaken. The Court also noted some of the implications of the new composition for the key sub-committees of Court that would be considered further by the Governance and Nominations Committee.
- 84 The Court:

- (i) Agreed that the University commence the process of engagement with the Privy Council towards formal approval of the draft Ordinance as set out in the paper.
- (ii) Noted that the Governance and Nominations Committee would consider the process and timeframe to transition from the current composition to the proposed new composition as soon as practicable, with a report to the next meeting of Court.
- (iii) Noted that the Governance and Nominations Committee and the Operating Board would be invited to consider in more detail the implications of the new composition of Court for the future operation of the committee structure.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR GOVERNOR

- 85 The Court received a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) together with an oral update on the progress of the process for the recruitment and appointment of the next Senior Governor.
- 86 The Court noted that, as agreed by Court, the University concluded a tender process for the appointment of recruitment consultants to lead the process and had appointed Saxton Bampfylde. Following their appointment, Saxton Bampfylde undertook consultation meetings with members of Court and all members of the Appointment Committee to inform their search process. Over 160 individuals were approached by the recruitment consultants during the course of the research as both sources and candidates.
- 87 The Court noted that in addition to the search process taken forward by Saxton Bampfylde the position was advertised in a national and local newspaper, on several websites including professional female, ethnic and disability network sites. The position was also promoted on Saxton Bampfylde and the University's website and a communication issued to staff, students and alumni inviting nominations.
- 88 The Court noted that following the close of applications, the Appointment Committee met on two occasions to agree upon a longlist and then a shortlist of candidates for interview. The Committee had agreed to interview three candidates but had been unable to conclude the process by the time of the meeting of Court. The Convener of the Committee provided Court with an oral report on the consideration of the shortlisted candidates to date and that it was proposed to circulate the Committee's recommendation following the conclusion of the process.
- 89 The Court agreed that it should receive the Committee's recommendation for approval by circulation in due course.

UPDATE ON EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW OF COURT

- 90 The Court received a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the externally facilitated effectiveness review of Court.
- 91 The Court noted that following approval of the terms of reference for the review, the University took forward a tender process for the appointment of the external facilitator and had appointed the Good Governance Institute (GGI) to lead the process. The paper summarised the expected process that would be undertaken by the GGI, which commenced with observation of the meeting of Court. The review would also include:
- Semi-structured interviews with all members of Court, members of Senior Management and other stakeholders;
 - A 360° effectiveness review survey and skills audit of members of Court;
 - Observation by the GGI of selected other key committees;
 - A review of the Court's key governance documentation and procedures.
- 92 The Court noted that following that process, GGI's report would be presented to the meeting of Court on 28 March 2017.

REPORT OF GOVERNOR APPRAISAL QUESTIONNAIRE

- 93 The Court received a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) from the Governance and Nominations Committee considering the responses to the annual Governor Appraisal Questionnaire. The paper had originally been provided to the previous meeting of Court but members had requested a further opportunity to discuss the outcome of the questionnaire.
- 94 The Court noted that the outcome of the questionnaire would be shared with the Good Governance Institute to help inform the effectiveness review of Court.

PRESENTATION ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- 95 The Principal gave a presentation on the key current and future political and economic issues that defined the competitive context of higher education in Scotland. These included:
- 'Brexit': the implications and risks for the University in student recruitment, research income, and staff;
 - The Enterprise and Skills Agency Review: the implications of the SFC ceasing to have a specific governing board for universities, including the potential threat to autonomy and university charitable status;
 - The UK Higher Education Bill: the opening up of higher education in England to new providers and the issue of how, as a Scottish institution, the University responded to the introduction of a teaching excellence framework in England;
 - Research: the opportunity presented by the UK Government's announcement of £2 billion for research and development by 2020/21;
 - The Scottish Government Spending Review: risk of a cut in funding to SFC with increasing focus on widening access which due to the way the Scottish Government defined 'widening access' students and the nature of poverty in the North-East of Scotland, was likely to be disadvantageous to the University.
- 96 The Court discussed the extent to which the current approach to higher education funding in Scotland enabled universities to compete with institutions in the rest of the UK and internationally. Given this context, it was imperative that the University diversified its income streams to ensure that as an institution it could continue to pursue its global ambition and define its strategic objectives. The need for the University to be proactive in demonstrating both to the Scottish Government and enterprise agencies its capacity to bridge the gap between the skills base, innovation and productivity in the economy was highlighted. The Court agreed on the necessity of the University, together with the rest of the higher education sector, lobbying quickly and effectively on the key risks posed by Brexit to ensure these had the optimum chance of a positive outcome in the negotiations between the UK and the EU.

FINANCIAL AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 97 The Court received a paper which set out the key substantive elements of the University's Strategic Plan and its priorities for the planning period to 2020 together with financial projections linked to the actions being taken in support of these (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The paper also set out the current and future external funding and political environment against which the University's financial projections to 2020 were framed. The paper identified the key points regarding the University's current financial performance and the implications of these for future financial sustainability.
- 98 The Court noted that the University's capital plan was the subject of a separate paper but that the extent to which the University achieved its financial and income growth targets, would directly impact upon the level of investment available to fund those future capital priorities.

- 99 The Court noted that the paper illustrated both a baseline financial position, whereby all growth had been removed and projections based on the University in steady state for the next three years, and the projections for growth based on the achievement of strategic objectives. The Court noted that if budgeted growth was not achieved, or it received significant cuts in SFC funding, then the University would need to review its underlying cost base to ensure future financial sustainability.
- 100 The Court discussed the projections for income growth, in particular with regard to Online Education and international student recruitment. The Court noted that Online Education represented a key opportunity for income growth but that there would be significant competition from other universities for market share given the current challenges of UK immigration policy for traditional on campus student recruitment. The University was confident, however, that forecast levels of growth in Online Education against new programmes were achievable and that the infrastructure and staffing to support their delivery were in place. With regard to international student recruitment, the Court noted that the target projections for growth represented an increase on recently achieved growth but that the University was confident that the implementation of a series of actions under its Internationalisation Strategy over the past two years meant it was well positioned to be confident around the forecast growth.
- 101 The Court noted that final budgets, informed by the discussion at Court, would be brought to Court in June via Operating Board once SFC funding was confirmed. It was also agreed that as Operating Board had not had the opportunity to scrutinise the figures in the paper which linked to the 10 year capital investment programme, it should continue to monitor the development of the financial projections to 2020.

10 YEAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 102 The Court received a paper on the development of the 10-Year Capital Programme (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) following its initial consideration by Court in June 2016. The paper provided an update on the immediate priority projects, while also providing a wider contextual update on planned and potential developments at sites across the whole of the University Estate, including Old Aberdeen and Foresterhill. The paper also outlined the proposals for investment in the University's digital infrastructure for 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- 103 As had been reported previously to Court in June 2016, the immediate focus of the capital programme was on flagship projects envisaged for the Old Aberdeen campus. As requested by Court, the paper included a detailed Project Brief document for both the Science Teaching Hub and the Law School Relocation projects, which Court had identified previously as the immediate priorities to be taken forward.
- 104 The paper set out the funding and cash-flow requirement for the delivery of the 10 year capital investment programme of £113.7M. Based on current assumptions linked to projected annual cash-flows, the University's ability to deliver the programme was not contingent on increased institutional borrowing, although it was assumed that annual surplus projections would be met and that proceeds from land sales would be realised. The Court noted that to mitigate against any shortfall in cash generation, the programme would, however, only proceed incrementally, with reviews undertaken and Court approval sought at key stages, before any major capital investment commitments were made.
- 105 In discussion, it was noted that further detailed work on the staffing and specification of the Science Teaching Hub would be undertaken as part of the next steps in the project. The scope of the building had been remodelled from previous discussions at Court with a focus on teaching facilities rather than research. It was, therefore, smaller in size than earlier project plans had envisaged but Court was assured that it was sufficient in size to meet the needs of

teaching. The development of new science research facilities would be considered as a separate project.

106 In further discussion, it was clarified that the Law School relocation remained a priority and that it was likely to be agreed as a key priority for the next fundraising campaign. The decision regarding what the University's strategic priorities for fundraising were would be a matter for Court although there would need to be engagement with the Development Trust on these in the context of their attractiveness to donors. It was anticipated that Court would be invited by June 2017 to agree upon the strategic priorities for the next fundraising campaign.

107 The Court agreed to:

- Approve the Science Teaching Hub project for formal initiation, with immediate effect, while noting that the University would return to Court on completion of key stages throughout the project lifecycle, to seek approval for project continuation.
- Approve the planned capital investment in digital infrastructure, for 2016/17 and 2017/18, with immediate effect. The Court also noted that for 2018/19 onwards as with investment in the physical estate, the University would seek approvals for investment in projects or initiatives linked to digital infrastructure on an incremental basis, as these became ready to proceed.
- Endorse the longer term plans under development for future capital investment on both the King's College and Foresterhill campuses, noting these were contingent on future funding availability. The University would return for approval to begin individual projects incrementally as and when it had greater confidence that the funding required to proceed was in place.

TRANS-NATIONAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA

108 The Court received and considered a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which described a proposal for the establishment of a campus in Rwanda in partnership with a commercial company which presently partnered another UK University operating in Africa. The Court also received a summary of the Operating Board's consideration in November of an earlier version of the report.

109 The Court noted that the proposal for a campus in Rwanda had been discussed at Senate in November in the context of a wider discussion on overseas partnerships and the quality assurance aspects of working with partner organisations. The discussions at Senate and Operating Board had identified a number of questions and requests for further information that the paper sought to address. It was proposed that responses to any remaining or further issues would be considered in a progress report to Operating Board in January 2017.

110 Following discussion, it was agreed that development of the proposal should continue but that further due diligence work was required to be undertaken, particularly with regard to the proposed partner organisation and the financing of their investment in the campus. In addition to the further scrutiny and consideration of the project that was proposed in the paper be undertaken by Operating Board, Governance & Nominations Committee, and with regard to the academic case by Senate, it was agreed that the Court should take the final decision on the proposal. Members of Court were, therefore, invited to advise of any particular issues or information that they considered needed to be addressed in advance of that final consideration by Court.

ANNUAL REPORT, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 31 JULY 2016

- 111 The Court received the Annual Report and University Group Consolidated Accounts for the year to 31 July 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which had been prepared under Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and the revised *Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education* for the first time.
- 112 The Court also received a commentary from the Finance Director which summarised the main audit and accounting issues, the External Auditors' Report (which provided an unqualified audit opinion) and Representation Letter (*copies filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).
- 113 The Court noted that the University group position was a deficit of £7.4m for the year ended 31 July 2016. The operating deficit before movements of the value of fixed assets, investment properties and pension liabilities was £4.6m. Included in this were exceptional costs relating to the voluntary severance scheme of £3.8m and the impairment of fixed assets of £3.1m. Once adjusting for exceptional items the surplus on operating activities was £0.3M.
- 114 The Court noted that, given the complex accounting policy changes necessitated by FRS 102, a communications plan had been put in place to disseminate the results and to explain the reasons for the deficit before exceptional items.
- 115 The Court approved the Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2016.

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

- 116 The Court received the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2015-16 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*), which would be included in the annual financial reports to the SFC. It was noted that one change to the Report would be required prior to submission to clarify that the reference to an internal audit report rated 'Critical risk' did not relate to the University but to AUSA. In this regard, the Court also noted that while there had been significant progress by AUSA to address failures in its corporate and financial governance, up to three positions for external trustees on the board of AUSA had been vacant during the year (two of which remained vacant). This, therefore, remained a governance risk to be addressed.
- 117 The Court approved the Audit Committee's Annual Report subject to the amendment noted above.

INTERNAL AUDITORS' ANNUAL REPORT

- 118 The Court received and approved the Internal Auditor's Report for 2015-16 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RISK

REPORT ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: QUARTER 4, 2015/16

- 119 The Court received a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which set out the progress made in quarter 4 of the academic year 2015/16 against School targets and the Key Performance Indicators underpinning the University's Strategic Plan 2015-2020. The paper also outlined a number of additional steps added to the KPI monitoring process from 2016/17, which would include adding a number of institutional targets to the list of monitored targets to provide a better overview of institutional performance.
- 120 In discussion, it was suggested that Court might benefit from having more information with regard to the reasons for the Red, Amber, Green ratings of KPIs.

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER - UPDATE

- 121 The Court received and considered a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which provided an update on management of the University's ten strategic risk areas. The Court also received a summary of the Operating Board's consideration of the report. The

Court noted the following three risks were highlighted as either having a high (over 18) net score or having increased significantly in score since the previous reporting period:

- Financial Sustainability
- Internationalisation
- Student Recruitment.

OPERATING BOARD REPORT

122 The Court received a report from the Operating Board meetings held on 18 October and 16 November 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The principal items of the report that were noted by Court were the Board's consideration of the following:

- An update on the Contextual Environment of Higher Education, from the Principal;
- Student Recruitment, including plans to balance the student population in future years;
- Financial planning, including:
 - o The Annual report and Accounts for 2015/16
 - o The Budget for 2016/17
 - o Updates on the Restructuring Exercise in the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition;
 - o Management Reports;
- Staffing Updates;
- Reports from the Capital Programme Management Committee;
- Updates on the Korea Campus Project.

123 The Court noted that the Board had also considered the following items which were being considered separately on the agenda:

- Health and Safety: Updates on Accidents and Incidents;
- Risk Management: Strategic Risk Register Update
- Transnational Education: Partnership Activity in Africa

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

124 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Audit Committee at its meetings on 29 September and 3 November 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

125 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the University Committee on Teaching and Learning at its meetings on 28 September 2016 and 13 October 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

PARTNERSHIP, NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

126 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Partnership, Negotiation and Consultative Committee at its meeting on 16 November 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

127 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Student Experience Committee at its meetings on 17 October 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE

- 128 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Research Policy Committee at its meetings on 23 October and 14 November 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

ROUTINE BUSINESS

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

- 129 The Court received a paper on a proposed new Procurement Strategy for 2016-21 and a supporting Action Plan (*copy filed with the principal copy of the Minutes*). The new Strategy had been prepared to align with new legislative requirements within the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016.
- 130 The Court approved the Procurement Strategy for 2016-2021.

SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

- 131 The Court received and approved a proposed Slavery and Human Trafficking statement, which under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 the University was required to publish disclosing information regarding its policies to prevent slavery and human trafficking both within its organisation and its supply chain (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

SENATE REPORT

- 132 The Court received a report of the principal items of business considered by Senatus Academicus at its meeting on 2 November 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The report included two items for approval, being:
- (i) Changes to the remits and compositions of Joint Committees of Senate and Court.
 - (ii) A draft Ordinance and Resolution on the composition of Senate and Election of Readers and Lecturers to Senate.

REMIT & COMPOSITION OF JOINT SENATE AND COURT COMMITTEES

- 133 The Court noted that in the light of recent changes to University structures, the Senate had approved revised remits and compositions for two joint Committees of Senate and Court, namely the University Committee on Teaching and Learning and the Student Experience Committee. The changes proposed largely reflect the replacement of previous College roles as *ex officio* members with the new Dean roles.
- 134 The Court approved the revised remits and compositions of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning and the Student Experience Committee.

COMPOSITION OF SENATE

- 135 The Court noted that the Senate had considered and approved a number of changes to its composition as detailed in the report to Court. The changes included recommendations arising from the effectiveness review of Senate. In preparing the proposals, consideration had also been given to ensuring the Senate's composition was consistent with the requirements of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act.
- 136 The University Court approved the recommendations and on the recommendation of the Senate, approved a draft Ordinance, '*Amendment to the Composition of the Senatus Academicus*' and a draft Resolution, '*Election of Readers and Lecturers to the Senatus Academicus*', which

were required to effect these changes subject to the further consultation required by the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 being undertaken.

- 137 The Court also noted that the Senate had received proposals for a revised composition of the University Court. The Senate had also received a motion proposing amendments to the proposals. Following discussion and a vote, the Senate gave its support to the proposals in the motion that the term Dean of Court should be adopted for the Senior Governor and that four of the twelve seats for independent Court members should be reserved for elected General Council Assessors. The Senate agreed to forward these to the University Court as representative of the Senate's view. The Senate's view and a copy of the motion it voted on were further reported and considered by the Court as part of a separate agenda item (Minutes 76 to 84 refer).

SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT: REPORT ON 2017 PROCESS

- 138 The Court received and noted a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) providing an update on the progress towards negotiation of the University's 2017/18 Outcome Agreement with the SFC.

REPORT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

- 139 The Court received and noted a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) providing details of the Development Trust's performance since its last report to Court on 4 October 2016.

ANNUAL REPORT ON REDUNDANCY

- 140 The Court noted a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) providing an overview and update of the management of redundancy activities undertaken by Human Resources for the period 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016.

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

- 141 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) detailing the annual statement the University is required to make to its governing body outlining various research governance related measures it has taken to ensure compliance with the standards and expectations outlined in the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity.
- 142 The Court noted the statement and that a further section would be added to clarify that the statement dealt with research misconduct rather than financial misconduct which were subject to separate University procedures and governance.

YEAR END MANAGEMENT REPORT

- 143 The Court noted the Management Accounts and Reports for the period to 31 October 2016 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 144 The Court noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 9.00am.

Maggie Chapman

28 MARCH 2017

Date approved