

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY COURT

Minutes of meeting held on 27 June 2018

Present: Ms M Chapman (in the Chair), Mr M Gilbert (for minutes 233 to 268), Professor N Booth, Mrs D Connelly, Mr C Duncan (for minutes 233 to 285), Professor M Delibegovic, Mrs J Fernandes, Mr J Hall (for minutes 233 to 282), Ms L Jack (for minutes 233 to 282), Mr D MacFarlane, Mrs K McPhail (for minutes 233 to 282), Ms L Menzies, Dr M Mills, Ms A Minto, Mr L Ogubie, Dr N Oren, Mr B Paterson, Professor J Schaper, Dr R Shanks, Mrs J Shirreffs, Dr D Steyn and Dr D Watts.

In attendance: Mr D Beattie, Mrs D Dyker, Professor P Hannaford, Mrs C Inglis, Professor M Campbell (for minutes 244 to 258), Ms K Christie (for minutes 283 to 285), Mr A Donaldson (for minutes 247 to 266), Dr S Hill (for minutes 274 to 278), Professor K Shennan (for minutes 283 to 285), Dr H Sveinsdottir (for minutes 267 to 273), Professor J Paterson (for minutes 274 to 275), Professor M Ross (for minutes 241 to 243 and 262 to 266), Professor R Wells (for minutes 274 to 278), Very Rev Professor I Torrance Kt, and Mr B Purdon (Clerk).

Apologies for absence were received from the Principal, Mr I Mackay and Mr I Percival.

NEW AND RETIRING MEMBERS

233 The Rector welcomed Mrs Connelly to her first meeting as one of the Student Association nominated members of Court. The Court also recorded its appreciation of the contribution that Ms Smith had made during her period of appointment as one of the two Student Association nominated members of Court.

RETIREMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL

234 The Court noted its gratitude to Professor Sir Ian Diamond for his service as Principal of the University and extended its best wishes to him for his retirement.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT

235 The Court was assured that it was anticipated that there would be opportunities for staff engagement with regard to the recruitment process for the position of Senior Vice-Principal.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

236 Mrs Fernandes declared an interest as Head of International Student Recruitment with respect to the item: Budgets 2018/19 to 2020/21.

237 The Court was reminded that a number of papers contained commercially sensitive information which should not be disclosed.

MINUTES AND ACTION LOG

238 The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2018 were approved, subject to Professor Booth's name being removed from Minute 173.

239 The Court noted the updated Action Log (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

- 240 The Court was advised that members would in future be able to access the papers and minutes of all Court committees through the Court Intranet. It was anticipated that this would also mean that reports from those committees to Court could be reduced in size.

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SAFETY

STUDENT OCCUPATION

- 241 The Court received and discussed a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on lessons learnt from the Student Occupation in March 2018. The Court noted that the Principal and Convener of the Student Experience Committee had jointly convened a working group involving representatives of campus Trade Unions and the Students' Association, and the Vice-Principal for People, to identify any lessons which could be learned from the occupation and reported to Court. While the report before Court had been endorsed by the working group's representatives of Unison, Unite and the Prospect Trade Unions, it had not been possible to reach agreement on some points with all members of the working group. The Convener of the Student Experience Committee, as Co-Convener, had decided, however, that more than reasonable efforts to reach a consensus had been made and that it was important in the interests of staff and student safety that any lessons learnt were considered by Court promptly rather than delayed until its next meeting in October.
- 242 In discussion, the President of the Students' Association noted that while he endorsed the report's recommendations, he could not endorse other aspects of the document and that some students he represented continued to have concerns with regard to a particular incident that took place during the occupation. The Court was assured, however, that the circumstances of the incident referred to had been reviewed separately, but due to the inadequacies of available evidence, it had been agreed by all parties on the working group that it could not inform their consideration of lessons learned and was therefore set aside.
- 243 The Court agreed that the working group report should be strictly confidential but to endorse and minute its recommendations on lessons learned, being:
- A review of all current policies which relate to incidents on campus (i.e. those outwith existing statutory legislation, codes of practice and/or locally agreed policies and procedures) should be included as an urgent priority in the ongoing programme of internal Audits which are conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers as the University's internal auditors;
 - All members of the University's management team undertake mandatory Conflict Resolution & Management training to support them in effectively managing future situations of a similar nature. In discussion, it was noted that this recommendation did not arise from a criticism of how senior management had handled a challenging situation but to recognise that all members of senior management might be called upon to respond to similar future situations should they arise and, therefore, should be trained to do so.
 - A review of existing security arrangements be undertaken with a view to ensuring that appropriately resourced and trained staff are available to ensure the security and safety of the University community. It was suggested that the training for these staff should include reference to examples of professionalism, good interpersonal skills and positive behaviours already exhibited by current members of University staff. In discussion, it was emphasised that this was not intended to suggest any criticism of the performance of security staff but to recognise, as a matter of good practice, the importance of such training being undertaken on an ongoing basis. The importance of such training being appropriately funded was emphasised. In addition, the Court noted that there were currently vacancies for security staff and was assured that these would be addressed to ensure appropriate cover for normal operations was in place.
 - Discussions take place with the Sabbatical Officers and Chief Executive of the Aberdeen University Students' Association to explore how relations between it and the University could be enhanced with regard to ensuring the safety and security of staff and students on campus;
 - Cognisance should be taken of the work of the Values & Cultures Working Group to raise awareness of the standards of reasonable behaviours of staff and students and the potential consequences should these not be observed (which may involve formal staffing and/or student conduct policies being invoked).

RESEARCH

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK: MID-TERM REVIEW

- 244 The Court received a paper outlining the outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) Mid-Term Review (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which had been undertaken in spring 2018. The paper reported on the current status of each of the individual components of the developing REF2021 submission which were: staffing numbers, research outputs, research impact, research metrics and research environment.
- 245 The Court discussed, in particular, the report's findings on the current number of staff who were eligible for REF and the number of outputs at 3* and 4* quality. The Court emphasised the strategic, reputational and financial importance of ensuring that REF 2021 resulted in the University improving its relative position in research terms. In this regard, the need to ensure the actions identified in the paper to further improve and develop the University's overall REF submission by 2020, were delivered as a priority across the Schools was highlighted. The importance of best practice in relation to REF, including feedback on quality of outputs, being shared and applied consistently across the Schools was noted. The Court also noted that there was only a limited time frame for the actions identified to be implemented successfully prior to the REF submission date.
- 246 The Court also discussed the impact of past strategies on recruitment of staff and staff reductions, while noting proposals elsewhere on the agenda to invest in new academic staff to enhance the University's research and teaching. The importance of considering at an appropriate time, a longer-term strategy for success in the REF after 2021 was also discussed. In the meantime, the Court agreed:
- 1) that achievement of an enhanced performance in REF 2021 was a key strategic priority and as such, it should be included as a standing item on the Court's agenda going forward; and
 - 2) that the actions set out in the paper should be taken forward as a matter of urgency.

FINANCE

BUDGETS 2018/19 TO 2020/21

- 247 The Court received a paper outlining the revenue budgets for three years: 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The paper detailed how the University intended to achieve the Court requirement of a financial break-even position by 2019/20. The Court noted the necessity of break-even by this date in order to fund major enhancements to physical infrastructure and academic performance. The budget forecast a significant increase in international fee income of 89% over the three year budget period, from a base of £24.9 million in 2017/18 to £47.0 million in 2020/21. While focused on growth, the budget also sought to address the need to maintain control over costs with options identified to achieve staffing savings including reshaping through restructuring, merging of some Schools, reducing or withdrawing from academic areas, performance management and stringent vacancy management.
- 248 The Court discussed the proposed budgets in detail which included the following points of note:
- the importance to the achievement of the budget targets of delivering income growth in the face of increasing costs was highlighted. The targets for growth in international fee income, which had been developed in consultation with Heads of Schools, were felt by some members to be very challenging, particularly in terms of 2018/19, but others considered the University had the potential to achieve such growth. The need for the University to be prepared to radically change its approach and offering to international students was noted and this required a collective effort and commitment from academic areas as well as professional services.
 - the role of Schools in delivering income growth and being prepared to manage where necessary the consequences of not achieving their budgets was discussed.

249 The Court discussed the reference in the paper to restructuring and merging of Schools and where such decisions would be taken, if required. The Court was assured that major restructuring decisions such as a merger of Schools or withdrawal from an entire discipline would be considered by Court, but where a School identified that it needed to refocus or restructure some of its activities, these were operational decisions for Heads of Schools and Senior Management to take and implement through the existing agreed University procedures that were in place, with appropriate consultation within Schools. While such processes could result in redundancies, it was confirmed that the paper was not proposing actions involving institution wide compulsory redundancies.

250 The Court agreed an underlying operational budget (as detailed in the paper) of:-

2018/19	Deficit of £5.851 million (excluding exceptional restructuring)
2019/20	Surplus of £0.251 million
2020/21	Surplus of £1.0 million

251 In approving the budget, the Court noted, however, the current risks detailed in the paper around USS pension contributions, the significant income growth and staff savings required to achieve break-even by 2019/20 and that the contingency within the budgets was not sufficient to deal with substantial changes to the budget presented. In this context, the Court also noted the significant financial risk posed by Brexit.

252 The Court agreed that given the risks identified in the budget that it should receive an update on progress against key income growth targets at its meeting in October.

253 The Court also agreed that it would plan to take the final decisions on future borrowing and the commencement of construction of the Science Teaching Hub at its meeting in December 2018. Necessary pre-construction planning and preparatory works would, however, continue so that the project was in a position to move without delay to a construction phase thereafter.

254 Dr Watts abstained from the decision of the Court.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH

255 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) outlining a proposal to create a cash-based strategic investment fund for the purpose of investing in approximately 50 new academic appointments that could support academic performance and revenue growth over the next three years. Given the constraints on University finances, the fund would be generated by the sale of assets considered to be of low strategic importance. It would be a requirement of the investment that the 50 strategic appointments each generate sufficient income to be self-financing after three years and thereafter to generate a surplus. The paper acknowledged and detailed the risks associated with this approach.

256 In discussion, the objective of investing in academic staff with the proviso that these become self-financing was welcomed. It was noted, however, that the funding of that investment through the sale of assets was a significant, 'one-time only', decision. As such, it represented a significant risk. It was imperative, therefore, that as proposed in the paper, the investment in new staff was considered rigorously and conditional on income growth targets and monitoring of performance against these through the Advisory Group. The timeframe for investments to be self-financing was also discussed and while noting that a similar scheme in another university was over a five year period, the Court endorsed the three year approach as proposed in the paper.

257 The Court also discussed the proposed asset sales detailed in the paper but agreed that one item, a piece of artwork, should not be considered for sale at this time and that as an alternative, the selling of a greater number of shares in a spin-out company be taken forward.

258 The Court agreed to:

- 1) approve the creation of a cash-based strategic investment fund for the creation of 50 new academic appointments;

- 2) approve the sale of assets as detailed in the paper to provide the cash for investment, with the exception of a piece artwork and instead increasing the proportion of shares for sale in a spin-out company;
- 3) delegate authority to the Operating Board to agree the essential work and due diligence required to dispose of the assets with regular reports on progress to future meetings of Court;
- 4) approve the establishment by the Principal of an Advisory Group with the authority to invest the funds for the sole purpose of appointing academic staff with the potential to deliver enhanced performance in the Research Excellence Framework and increases in research income and net tuition fee income. The Advisory Group would provide regular reports on progress to future meetings of Court;
- 5) note the risks identified in the paper.

INSTITUTIONAL 10 YEAR CASHFLOW PROJECTION

- 259 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the institutional 10 year cashflow projection which detailed the forecast cash generation and projected investment in capital projects, whilst maintaining an operational cash balance as approved by the Audit Committee.
- 260 The Court noted the following:
- 1) that the revised plan was aligned with the draft budget proposals;
 - 2) the revised assumptions around the timing of land sales, and the impact of these on the availability of cash;
 - 3) the cash investment in the early years of the plan was allocated to the Science Teaching Hub and Digital capital projects, with limited scope for additional investment;
 - 4) that the plan breached the minimum cash threshold (as recommended by the Audit committee at its meeting on 29 May 2018) in 2019-20 by £2.9M. Accordingly, the budget proposals, therefore, recommended that the decision on whether to proceed to the construction phase of the Science Teaching Hub be taken by Court in December 2018 when there should be more clarity on operational cash flows in relation to income growth, staff savings and pension costs;
 - 5) that the cash generation outlined within the Strategic Investment for Academic Growth paper was not currently included within the 10 year cashflow plan. The cashflow assumed that the cash generated from the Investment in Academic Growth would be drawn down to match the costs of that investment strategy, so that the cash impact is neutral.

PENSIONS: USS

- 261 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which provided an update on the progress of national discussions around the future of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) following the period of industrial action in February and March 2018. The report noted the establishment by Universities UK (UUK) and the University and College Union (UCU) of a Joint Expert Panel, to review the basis of the Scheme's valuation and assumptions and that this was expected to report to UUK and UCU in September.

CAPITAL AND ESTATE

STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE KING'S COLLEGE CAMPUS

- 262 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) from the Campus Development Working Group which set out a vision for the transformational development of the King's College Campus, underpinned by additional borrowing. The paper outlined three projects that, in the first instance, had been identified as priorities for potential future investment through additional borrowing:
1. Premium teaching spaces in New King's for priority growth programmes;
 2. A new Business School;
 3. Re-modelling of the Law School in Taylor with a bridge to New King's, if funds permitted.

263 The Court noted that in developing the vision, the Campus Development Group had considered the following :

- All calls for developments within King's College campus and elsewhere in the University's estate at this time;
- Identified those calls which were transformational, those which were evolutionary and those which were operational;
- The key strategic ambitions of the University and the aims, objectives, themes, priorities, and risks identified in previous papers considered and approved by Court;
- Which bids for funding addressed the strategic need for distinct budget streams to facilitate the transformation of King's College, on which most of the University's teaching currently took place and was expected to continue to do so in the future;
- The need for change management mechanisms that supported and coordinated the development and use of the adaptable facilities to be delivered by priority projects;
- A number of further key issues affecting the University's ability to develop the Old Aberdeen estate.

264 In discussion of the vision, the following key points were noted by the Court:

- While welcoming the vision, it was noted that the use of additional borrowing via a bond was likely to be a once in a generation opportunity and as such it was critical that the use of those funds was both sufficiently ambitious and focused on the right projects to deliver an effective transformation of the King's Campus. In this regard, it was important that the vision addressed the long-term needs of the University and not only immediate requirements, while also recognising the limits on the additional borrowing being considered;
- The case for a co-location of Business and Law and whether there was an academic rationale for this was debated. It was noted that there could be potential around the Crombie-Johnston site to have a two stage approach, commencing with the Business School given the importance of it to planned future student and income growth and with the School of Law being a second phase. The Court agreed this should be considered further.
- The point was made that no building belonged to any one School or area, although clear 'badging' of a building as the new home for an academic area was likely to be more attractive to donors.
- All new buildings should be designed to offer flexibility of use and to avoid as far as possible configurations which were based on the principle of large numbers of designated individual offices for staff.
- While noting the University had taken forward steps to provide a larger and dedicated space for AUSA and students in the current building, the need over the longer-term for a Student Union building that was accepted as a suitable facility for a growing student population was discussed. It was noted that the University would continue to develop and review its routine programme of capital priorities for investment outwith additional borrowing streams and that a Student Union could be considered within that, together with other potential projects such as the Meston building.
- The importance of ensuring that maintenance budgets were maintained and protected to avoid longer-term and, as a result, more expensive issues arising was noted.

265 The Court agreed:

- (i) while noting the points above, to endorse in broad terms the vision and the proposed three priorities for investment through additional borrowing;
- (ii) on that basis, that the development of detailed business cases for those major projects proposed, including information on strategic fit, the project rationale, costings, income generation, the anticipated return on investment, and the expected benefits, be taken forward. Subject to funding availability, proposals would also be developed for prioritisation and sequencing of these projects as part of the wider institutional project portfolio, taking account of strategic priorities, inter-project dependencies and the aforementioned availability of funds.

SCIENCE TEACHING HUB: ENHANCED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING SPACE

266 The Court received a paper and presentation (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on proposals to enhance and optimize the central collaborative learning space planned for

the new Science Teaching Hub. The Court noted that the Operating Board had approved the allocation of additional budget to extend the proposed width of the building by 3.3 metres to facilitate this enhanced collaborative learning space and thereby increase its flexibility for a wide range of purposes.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

BREXIT – MITIGATING ACTIONS

- 267 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which provided an overview of activities being undertaken to mitigate the possible impact on the University of Britain's exit from the European Union. The activities to mitigate risks arising from Brexit focused on student recruitment, staffing, research and student/staff mobility.
- 268 In discussion, it was suggested that the University should explore whether there were incentives that could be put in place to help retain EU staff and whether university webpages could be made available in more languages to support student recruitment and internationalisation.

REPORT ON LEAGUE TABLES

- 269 The Court received a paper outlining the University's performance in key league tables published since autumn 2018 and actions to support future improvement in these (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).
- 270 The Court noted the need to continue to improve the University's position and that key areas for attention were student:staff ratios, academic and facilities spend, career prospects, continued improvements in NSS performance, and reputational scores. The Court also discussed the steps the University had taken to increase the number of academic and employer respondents in the QS reputational survey. While an increase in respondents had been achieved, it was less than had been targeted and below the level of increases achieved by some other institutions.

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- 271 The Court received a paper on institutional Risk Management Framework (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The paper outlined the use of risk appetite and tolerance thresholds in more effective risk management and proposed that each risk is given a tailored tolerance threshold, based on the unique risk appetite rating applied to each. The paper also reported on the Strategic Risk Register, which had been updated following a comprehensive bi-annual review by risk Owners and Managers and the Audit Committee. This highlighted that three risks were scored at above the current tolerance threshold: Financial Sustainability; Internationalisation; and Student Recruitment.
- 272 In discussion, it was noted that the three highest scoring risks had been the top three risks for a number of years. The Court, therefore, discussed how the risk management process was being used by management as a means of focusing and implementing mitigating actions and was assured that it was integral to the work of the management group. It was also suggested that the scoring of the strategic risks on staff recruitment and retention and on research should be reviewed further and that the risk register should be brought back to the Operating Board for further consideration, following the commencement of the new Principal.
- 273 The Court agreed to:
- 1) Note the changes made to the University's Risk Management Framework, following consideration by the Audit Committee;
 - 2) Approve the proposal to tailor and align tolerance thresholds for reporting, to risk appetite ratings applied to each strategic risk;
 - 3) Approve the updated Strategic Risk Register, subject however, to this being reviewed in more detail by the Operating Board at an early stage of the next academic year.

INTERNATIONALISATION

KOREA CAMPUS UPDATE

- 274 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which reported on developments since December 2017 with regard to the proposed campus in Hadong, South Korea and which had been the subject of regular reports to the Operating Board.
- 275 In discussion, it was agreed that at an appropriate stage, lessons learnt from the development of the project would be identified and used to inform any similar future projects. The Court endorsed the paper and the approach outlined within it for the progression of the project. The Court also thanked the officers involved for their extensive work in producing the report.

PROPOSED TNE PROJECT IN SRI LANKA

- 276 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the development of a healthcare education partnership in Sri Lanka to deliver in Aberdeen and in Sri Lanka the MBChB degree in medicine. In discussion, the Court was updated on the outcome of recent dialogue with the Scottish Funding Council with regard to the proposed project.

QATAR CAMPUS UPDATE

- 277 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which reported on recent developments in the University of Aberdeen campus in Qatar. The Court noted the good progress that had been made under the leadership of Dr Foster, Provost for the Campus, in particular with regard to the student experience and integration of the new campus into the University community.

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

- 278 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which provided an update on the status of the University's principal strategic alliances, namely its own direct strategic alliance with Curtin University in Perth and its membership of the Aurora Universities Network.

PEOPLE

ORAL REPORT FROM THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE OF 26 JUNE

- 279 The Court received an oral report of the principal items of business considered by the Remuneration Committee at its meeting held on 26 June 2018. The Committee had approved the majority of recommendations with regard to senior staff pay awards that met the criteria of exceptional performance or addressing gender pay differentials. These were within the overall budget agreed by Court of £100k for senior staff pay awards.
- 280 The Court approved the Committee's recommendation that a bonus should not be awarded to the Principal for 2017/18.
- 281 It was noted that the Committee had discussed a range of issues and potential actions with regard to the gender pay gap and this would be a key priority for the Committee in the coming year.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT TO COURT

- 282 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the key current areas of work in relation to the Equality and Diversity Strategy.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

REPORT ON ENHANCEMENT-LED INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

- 283 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which outlined the requirements and process of the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR) in autumn 2018, together with a working draft of the University's Reflective Analysis for submission to the Quality Assurance Agency.
- 284 The Court noted that the University was engaging with other institutions who had been through the ELIR process recently to learn from their experience.
- 285 The Court agreed to delegate authority to the Principal or Senior Vice-Principal to approve the final version of the ELIR submission on behalf of Court for submission to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in August 2018.

COURT STRATEGY DAY

- 286 The Court received a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) which considered the potential focus and timing of a Court Strategy Day. The paper outlined a number of potential areas of focus and in addition to these the following topics were suggested for consideration for inclusion by the new Principal and Senior Governor:
- Priorities for the next three years and their delivery;
 - Research, REF 2021 and strategy for the next REF;
 - Income generation and how teaching and research contributed to this;
 - Culture and Values of the University;
 - The future strategic needs of the University from its Estate and longer-term capital priorities;
 - Marketing and Branding;
 - The role of Schools and Heads of Schools in delivering Strategy;
 - The role and priorities of the Students' Association;
- 287 It was also suggested that it would be helpful for members to receive supporting information for a Strategy Day in advance, to ensure the best use of time for discussion was made. It was also suggested that consideration be given to the meeting being facilitated.
- 288 In addition, but not linked directly to the matter of a Strategy Day, the Court noted a request that where a number of papers or agenda items were inter-linked, there be a means of summarising this.

OPERATING BOARD REPORT

- 289 The Court received and noted a report from the Operating Board, outlining the main business considered at its meetings of 8 May 2018 and 4 June 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- 290 The Court received a report of the principal items of business considered by the Governance and Nominations Committee at its meeting held on 8 May 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The Court also approved, on the recommendation of the Committee, the following:
- the reappointment of Professor Booth, Mr Duncan, Mr MacFarlane and Ms Minto as independent members of Court;

- the appointment of Ms Minto as Chair of the Operating Board;
- recommendations for the introduction an annual University stakeholder public meeting as required by the new Scottish Code of Good HE Governance and for this to be combined or aligned with the General Council's winter statutory meeting;
- an addition to the Court's Statement of Primary Responsibilities to more clearly reference the Court's role in equality and diversity;
- a nomination for the Benefactor to the University Award be made to the Chevron Corporation;
- the appointment of Professor Ross and Professor Kemp as University Court nominated trustees on the UASLAS Board of Trustees.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 291 The Court noted reports of the principal items of business considered by the Audit Committee at its meetings held on 19 April and 29 May 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

Procurement Policy

- 292 The Court approved a revised Procurement Policy, which had been previously considered by the Audit Committee and the Operating Board.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

- 293 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Student Experience Committee at its meeting on 14 May 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE

- 294 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Research Policy Committee at its Away Day on 20 April 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

- 295 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the University Committee on Teaching and Learning at its meeting on 28 March 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATING AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 296 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Partnership Negotiating and Consultative Committee at its meeting on 16 May 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

ROUTINE BUSINESS

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 297 The Court received and approved revised Financial Regulations which had previously been considered by the Operating Board and Audit Committee (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

SFC STRATEGIC PLAN FINANCIAL FORECASTS

- 298 The Court received the Strategic Plan Forecast 2017/18 to 2020/21 for submission to the Scottish Funding Council (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). The Court approved the document noting that this reflected the University's proposed budget for the same period (see minutes 247) and that adjustments would be made to reflect the financial implications of the Strategic Investment for Academic Growth proposals (see minutes 255) agreed earlier in the agenda. The Court also noted that as recommended in the budget proposals for 2017/18 (see

minutes 247), the forecast did not include any additional borrowing or interest charges pending consideration of new borrowing by Court at its meeting in December 2018.

SENATE REPORT

- 299 The Court noted reports from the Senate meetings held on 23 April and 16 May 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).
- 300 The Court on the recommendation of the Senate approved the draft Resolutions, 'Changes to Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic)' and 'Changes to Regulations for Various Degrees' and, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 (2) of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, agreed these be passed forthwith, so that the amended provisions may be applied with immediate effect.
- 301 The Court also approved a Resolution with regard to Degree Regulations for Degrees of Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, which had previously been considered by the Business Committee of the General Council and made generally available for comment for the required statutory period.

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR GOVERNOR

- 302 The Court noted a report from the Senior Governor (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- 303 The Court noted a report from the Principal (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on recent developments within the University.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- 304 The Court noted a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) from the President of the Students' Association on the recent activities of the Students' Association. A report on the use of the Nightline service was also tabled at the meeting.

REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

- 305 The Court noted a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the recruitment process underpinning the appointment of Professor George Boyne as Principal & Vice-Chancellor, who on the unanimous recommendation of the Selection Committee had been appointed by Court by correspondence in April 2018. The Court noted that approval to appoint Professor Boyne as Vice-Chancellor for the duration of his appointment as Principal had also been received from the Chancellor, HRH The Duchess of Rothesay.

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS TO APRIL 2018

- 306 The Court noted the Monthly Management report for the period to 30 April 2018 (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*). In discussion, further information related to the reasons for a debt provision within the report was requested and it was agreed this would be circulated to Court.

Note by Clerk: The further information requested was subsequently circulated to members.

DEVELOPMENT TRUST ACTIVITY

- 307 The Court noted a report (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) from the Development Trust on the fundraising activities undertaken since the last meeting of Court.

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SAFETY

- 308 The Court noted a report on Health, Wellbeing and Safety (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*).

VACATION POWERS

- 309 The Court noted a paper (*copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes*) on the standard delegated powers that would be used should any urgent business arise during the summer, with any decisions made to be reported to Court.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND DATES FOR 2018/19 AND 2019/20

- 310 The Court noted that meetings had been scheduled for 2018/19 and 2019/20 as follows:

Tuesday 2 October 2018 9am to 3pm, preceded by Dinner on Monday 1 October 2018, at 6.30pm.

Meeting Tuesday, 11 December 2018	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Meeting Tuesday, 26 March 2019	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Meeting Tuesday, 2 July 2019	9.00 am – 3.00 pm

COURT 2019-20

Meeting Tuesday, 1 October 2019	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Meeting Tuesday, 10 December 2019	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Meeting Tuesday, 24 March 2020	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Meeting Tuesday, 30 June 2020	9.00 am – 3.00 pm

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Maggi Chapman

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2/10/2018
Date approved