UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY COURT

Minutes of meeting held on 1 July 2014

Present: Sir Moir Lockhead (in the Chair), Principal, Mr A Arthur, Ms E Beever, Dr C Black, Dr C Brittain, Ms J Craw, Mr C Duncan, Professor P Edwards, Mr J Hall (by teleconference), Professor P Hannaford, Professor S Heys, Mr G Hunter, Professor N Hutchinson, Professor S Logan, Mr D MacFarlane, Professor P McGeorge, Cllr R McKail, Mrs K McPhail, Mr K Murray, Mr B Paterson, Mrs J Shirreffs and Mr D Steyn (by teleconference).

In attendance: Ms I Bews, Mrs L Bowie (for minutes 299-301), Mr A Donaldson (for minutes 262-298), Mrs D Dyker, Professor M Greaves (for minutes 262-298), Professor N Haites (for minutes 299-301), Mrs C Inglis, Professor S Kunin (for minutes 262-298), Mr M McCorkell and Ms T Merrick.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr B Pack, Dr A Baxter and Prof J Skakle.

TRIBUTE TO THE RECTOR

262 The Court noted with great sadness the death of the Rector, Dr Maitland Mackie. It was noted that in addition to his service as Rector, Dr Mackie had been a longstanding member of Court. The Court recorded its gratitude for the significant contribution Dr Mackie had made to the life of the University at many levels and over many years.

263 The Rector’s Assessor expressed on behalf of Dr Mackie’s family, their appreciation for the support that they had received from the University and its staff in recent months. The Rector’s Assessor also paid tribute to Dr Mackie and his great love for the University.

PRESENTATION ON THE HEALTH ECONOMICS RESEARCH UNIT

264 Professor Mandy Ryan, Director of The Health Economics Research Unit, provided Court with a presentation on the Health Economics Research Unit. The presentation highlighted the main areas of research activity undertaken by the Unit, its main income streams and its plans for future development. The Court welcomed the presentation and congratulated the Unit on its achievements to date.

MINUTES

265 The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2014 were approved.

266 The Court also noted an updated Action Log (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

267 The Court received and considered the Health and Safety Annual Report 2013/14, together with a report on the Operating Board’s consideration of the report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

268 The report provided information on a number of initiatives and incidents including:

- The development of a specific Health and Safety Risk Register;
- The outcome of health and safety audits undertaken in particular areas of the University. ‘No Priority 1’ recommendations had been recorded;
- The number of reportable accidents during the reporting period had been 5 and was comparable to previous years;
- The circumstances of an incident in the Combined Heating and Power Station in which a member of staff had been scalded by hot water and which had required the involvement of the Health and Safety Executive. The University had taken action to implement the recommendations arising from its investigation into the incident.
Health and Safety Executive had set out their concerns about the incident in a letter to the University; no enforcement action was taken. In discussion, it was agreed that the University would confirm that if not already practice to do so, it would consider the use of permits to work and risk assessments.

269 The Court noted that there had been a significant effort to reaffirm the University’s commitment to safety, including the use of the Health and Safety Laboratory’s Safety Climate Tool survey. This had now been completed and the results were being analysed. There were early indications that, on the whole, staff had a positive perception of the University’s commitment to health and safety, but there were areas in which improvements could be made, including the reporting of near misses. A full analysis of the outcome of the survey (informed by focus groups) and actions arising from it would be reported to the next meeting.

270 The Court also noted the close co-operation between the University Health and Safety Committee and the Aberdeen University Students’ Association (AUSA). Over the reporting period, an agreement governing the arm’s length relationship of the University to the AUSA had been put in place, and an AUSA risk register was under development. The University had also engaged with the wider student community on personal safety and health issues working closely with the Director of Student Affairs. It was further noted that the University was developing a student safety campaign which would address a range of relevant safety issues using a variety of communications and engagement platforms.

271 In discussion, the importance of the University ensuring that its safety standards were upheld in future potential international activities, such as overseas campuses with international partners, was noted.

REPORTS ON INCIDENTS

272 The Court received and noted a paper (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) which provided detailed reports on the circumstances of three recent accidents which were reportable to the Health and Safety Executive and the actions which had been taken to prevent recurrences. The Court noted that the incidents were:

- an accident at the Suttie Centre in which a Domestic Assistant fell and fractured a vertebrae;
- an accident in a passenger lift at the Sir Duncan Rice Library in which a member of the Library staff was struck by the doors of the lift which were closing following the activation of the building fire alarm;
- an accident to the rear of the Fraser Noble Building in which an Estates Porter injured his back while opening the door of a storage container;

273 The Court also noted a report on the Operating Board’s consideration of the issues arising from these three incidents. In addition, the Court noted that subsequent investigations of the circumstances of the lift incident had identified that the closing force of the lift doors had exceeded the British Standard. The University’s investigations with its lift consultant and lift maintenance contractor had also identified that there was no requirement under British Safety Standards for the closing force of lift doors to be checked routinely. This was considered to be a nationwide issue which the University had brought to the attention of the relevant national authorities, other UK universities and local public sector organisations which used the same lift maintenance contractor.

274 The Court noted that the University had now checked all of its lifts and any found to have a closing force greater than the British Standard had been adjusted or placed out of service until the adjustment could be made.

275 The Court was also advised of a further three incidents which had occurred since the issue of the Court papers. The first involved a head injury to a member of domestic staff in the Regent Building who had entered an area where contractors had been undertaking work and been injured by a piece of paneling which had come loose when she had opened the door. The Court noted that the University was undertaking investigations at a senior level with the contractor into the circumstances of the accident and identifying any improvements that might be made to the safety procedures and responsibilities between the University and
its contractors when working in buildings which were not closed sites. A further report on
the incident and any lessons learned would be made to the Operating Board in due course.

276 The second recent incident had occurred during a Geology Field Research trip in a hilly area of
California. Investigations were ongoing, however, it was understood that a member of the
party had slipped and had slid down the hillside into a gully from where he was unable to
ascend or descend. The individual was uninjured but had to be rescued by helicopter. A full
investigation was being undertaken and would be reported to the Operating Board.

277 The third incident had been a small fire within a drying oven in the Zoology building. The fire
had been detected and extinguished quickly, no one had been injured and there had been
only minor damage to the laboratory. Investigations into the circumstances and cause of the
fire were ongoing and a report would be brought to the Operating Board.

STANDING REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR GOVERNOR

278 The Senior Governor reported on a further meeting with governors and senior management of
the Robert Gordon University to discuss issues of mutual interest to the two universities.

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

279 The Principal introduced his written report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) on
recent developments within the University.

280 The Principal reported with sadness the death of Professor Russel Botman, Rector and Vice-
Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch who had been due to receive an Honorary
Degree at the forthcoming graduations.

281 The Principal noted that the University and its staff had been active in promoting, facilitating
and contributing to the debate on the Independence Referendum.

282 The Principal highlighted from his written report the outcome of the Times Higher Student
Experience Survey, the results of which suggested that the steps the University was taking
to provide an improved building for the Students’ Association could result in a significantly
improved ranking in this survey.

283 The Principal reported that a recent survey of the 1,000 most important scientists in the world
had included two Professors from the University of Aberdeen, Professor R Pertwee and
Professor P Smith.

284 The Principal highlighted from his written report that the University had joined FutureLearn, an
e-learning partnership of 38 universities around the world and through which the University
was launching two Massive Open Online Courses.

285 The Principal reported to Court on significant discussions between the University and a leading
UK Business School regarding a potential collaboration. The University had been competing
in this process with another preferred bidder, which had now been appointed as the
preferred partner. The University was, therefore, reviewing alternative strategies for the
future development of its Business School.

286 In discussion, the Court noted that the University was taking forward a fundamental business
process review of its postgraduate taught applications process, with the objective of
achieving a five day decision turnaround. The Court also discussed ‘drop out’ rates and was
assured the University had strategies in place to improve its retention rates.

STATEMENT FROM THE RECTOR’S ASSESSOR

287 The Rector’s Assessor welcomed that the University had progressed the installation of
information plaques outside key buildings to explain the history of the individuals after whom
the buildings were named.
INTERNATIONALISATION

INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

288 Professor Kunin presented a paper to Court which outlined a new Internationalisation Vision and Strategy for the University (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

289 The Court noted that the Strategy comprised of six core elements that defined Aberdeen’s strategic approach to achieving its international vision:

- Institutional Profile;
- Student Recruitment and Experience;
- Transnational Education;
- Research Networks;
- Staff Recruitment and Mobility; and
- Alumni and Donors.

290 In discussion a number of points were raised by members regarding the Strategy. The Court discussed the relationship between potential international locations of branch campuses of the University and the achievement of the University’s wider vision as a global University. The Court discussed the prioritisation of the Strategy and how it would be implemented and monitored. The Court also discussed the regional priorities and, noting their geographical extent of these, how the University would grow its reputation across them all. The Court also noted that the paper did not provide information on the return on the investment, agreed by Court in 2012, on internationalisation nor how this had informed the new Strategy and approach. The Court was advised that detailed implementation plans for four of the student recruitment focus areas had been prepared and were available to members. The University had prioritised the Strategy, identifying student recruitment as its first area of focus, followed by Transnational Education, Research Networks, Staff Recruitment and Mobility, and Alumni and Donors. This was being kept under review by the University following the establishment of an Internationalisation Strategy Committee.

291 The Court discussed the level of resource required to support the Strategy noting, that the proposed staffing expenditure was largely at the non-management level. The Court also discussed the extent to which particular areas of the University had the academic and non-academic staffing resource to deliver the Strategy, particularly with regard to increased student numbers and teaching articulation/partnership agreements with overseas universities.

292 The Court discussed and noted the importance of the University having procedures and staff awareness around the UK Bribery Act, particularly in the context of the use of overseas student recruitment agents. The Court was assured that the University’s internal auditors had recently favourably audited the University’s provisions but the University would continue to carefully monitor this.

293 The Court approved the Strategy and agreed that it should consider further at its next meeting the implementation of the Strategy, including prioritisation of activities and associated resource implications.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN MEDICAL SCHOOL, SRI LANKA

294 Professor Greaves presented a paper to Court on the proposed University of Aberdeen Medical School, Sri Lanka (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes), together with a summary of the Operating Board’s consideration of the proposal.

295 The paper outlined a proposal to open a University of Aberdeen Medical School in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in September 2015, which would train doctors and award the University’s, General Medical Council-validated, MBChB degree to support medical practice and improve the regional health economy of Sri Lanka. The proposal was to establish a Joint Venture Company governed by an Executive Board and chaired by the Dean of the proposed Medical School.
Following consideration by the Governance and Nominations Committee on 13 May 2014 of the potential reputational risks associated with the project, the Sri Lanka Project Board had continued to develop a business plan, had undertaken due diligence on the investors and proposed company structure, and was instructing market research. The Court noted that a full Joint Venture Company business plan was being developed by the Project Board with the Sri Lankan partners. The project was expected to generate sufficient resource to exceed all costs and to impact favourably on the University's financial outturn over time. A risk register was under development and would identify reputational risk as one of the main risks for mitigation. It was suggested that the University should develop a communications plan with regard to the project.

In discussion, the Court considered the potential reputational risks of operating in Sri Lanka and noted that these were key considerations in the University's assessment of the project. It also discussed whether Sri Lanka was an optimal location in the context of the University's wider Internationalisation strategic objectives. It was noted, however, that opportunities to develop an overseas Medical School were limited. The Court also discussed the proposed share allocation of the Joint Venture and noted this was being considered further as the plans were progressed. The importance of understanding the extent of the University's financial exposure should the supporting finance for the project be unavailable in the future was noted.

The Court agreed that all necessary due diligence work should be progressed and that an update together with, if appropriate, a supporting final business case would be presented to the next meeting of Court.

DEVELOPMENT TRUST SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Professor Haites introduced a paper to Court which provided details of the recent performance, of the Development Trust, an update on plans being developed to support the University's ten-year capital plan through philanthropy, and details of the development of plans for of a major new fundraising campaign (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

The Court noted that since 2010 £52million in charitable income and £9.4M in gift-in-kind donations had been received, which exceeded the £50.5M target by 2015 set by the Development Trust in 2012. The Court also noted benchmarking information which highlighted the Trust's strong performance. The Court discussed the importance of future fundraising in relation to the key projects in the capital plan, and for undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships.

The Court also discussed the development of the next major fundraising campaign and noted that professional fundraising consultants had been engaged to assist the University to develop the scope and content of the next campaign. The Court agreed that it should receive a further report on the development of the fundraising campaign at its next meeting.

BUDGETS 2014/15 AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Ms Bews introduced a paper outlining proposed Revenue budgets for 2014/15 and the supporting Financial Strategy together with a summary of the Operating Board's consideration of the paper (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

The Court noted that the financial strategy sought to maintain financial sustainability through cost management and income growth and the paper highlighted the on-going work to deliver both of these across the University. The Court further noted that in delivering financial sustainability, the University was seeking to balance the resources required to be an international research driven university and to deliver a student experience second to none, with the need to generate a surplus to provide the cash to invest in the future. Budgeting was, therefore, intended to achieve an annual surplus to generate cash as part of the 10 year cash flow, and to continue the programme of capital investment in the estate.
304 The Court noted that the approved capital projects were developing spend profiles which were significantly slower than previously expected, reducing the immediate cash needs. The University had, therefore, reviewed the 10 year plan to confirm that in proposing a surplus target of £2M for 2014/15, it could remain within the borrowing profile approved by Court, maintain cash availability of £12M and deliver on the £288M capital investment programme in line with the 10 year plan presented and approved by Court in December 2013.

305 The Court noted that with regard to income growth, investments in new posts were generating the cautious levels of income that had been envisaged and the University's expectation was that it would continue to deliver additional growth to generate income above the level of investment. It was noted that lower international student numbers had generated sizeable budgetary challenges particularly for the College of Arts and Social Sciences. The paper, therefore, outlined the actions being taken to take advantage of the opportunities to grow income and control costs; and proposed budgets with a smaller surplus to allow the additional time needed to grow income while continuing to excel in teaching and research and deliver the approved capital programme.

306 The Court discussed in depth the implications of the paper and the approach that the University was taking to budgeting and financial reporting at School level. It was agreed that in future it would be helpful to Court to receive information at School level in a tabular form.

307 The Court also discussed the financial horizon beyond 2014/15, noting that the financial environment could continue to be challenging. It agreed there should be early engagement with Court if significant issues were expected to arise. The Court also noted that the University was taking forward discussions on the future shape of the University to ensure that the structures were financially sustainable.

308 The proposed reduction in the financial disbursement to the Students' Association was raised by the Students' Association representatives and the Court discussed the background to this. The Chair proposed that the proposed reduction in the financial disbursement to the Students' Association be reversed and a paper be brought to the next meeting of Court on the annual disbursement following meetings to be held over the summer between representatives of the Students' Association and the University.

309 The Court approved the budgets which proposed a surplus target of £2M for 2014/15, subject to (i) measures being adopted throughout the University to exercise careful budgetary control and to take forward the proposals to deliver future income growth and cost control; and (ii) the amendment to the Students' Association disbursement noted above. It was also noted that the University would review the implications of reductions in operational budgets in particular Schools on an individual basis.

310 The Court also approved the renegotiation of the replacement of the £10M draw down repayable at 1st August and the final £10M draw down forecast to be required by April 2015, at fixed interest rates for the remaining term of the facility, in line with the Court approved borrowing profile.

SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF COURT

311 Mr Hall introduced a paper outlining proposals for a revised size and composition of Court (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

312 The paper built on the discussion of a previous paper on the future size and composition of Court considered at the previous meeting of Court. The Governance and Nominations Committee had considered further the points made by Court and produced the revised proposal. This provided for a composition of 25 members with an independent majority. It also clarified points on the independence of some constituencies. The Court noted that a version of the paper had been considered by the Senate on 11 June 2014 which had endorsed the 'in principle' proposals.

313 The paper proposed a Court of 25 members as follows:
Independent Members (13/14*)

- Chancellor’s Assessor (who should be independent and appointed in consultation with the Court or from its independent members)
- Nine Appointed independent members (of whom at least one may be a member of the Aberdeen City Council or Aberdeenshire Council)
- Four General Council Assessors, elected according to revised ordinances, this meaning that Court should ask the General Council to adjust its constitutional provisions to assist in the election of Assessors that meet the Court’s commitments around equality & diversity, and to ensure arrangements allowing for the removal of any Assessor whose behaviour may risk bringing the Court or the University into disrepute or which is not in accordance with the Court’s Code of Conduct.

Non-Independent members (11)

- Rector
- Principal
- Six Senate Assessors
- The President of the Students’ Association
- A further representative of the students
- A representative of non-academic staff, to be appointed by Court on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee in accordance with the current process of applications from relevant staff being invited.

314 The Court noted that the proposed composition of 25 would include at least 13 members defined by the Code as independent. These being: the nine appointed independent members (including two local authority members) and four General Council Assessors. Amendment of the University’s constitution relating to the Chancellor’s Assessor* would result in 14 independent members. The implication of the proposed composition was that staff members had reduced from eleven to eight, (through the removal of three Vice- Principals) the Rector’s Assessor would no longer be a member of Court, and the representatives of the City and Shire would be appointed rather than nominated.

315 The Court approved the proposals and authorised the University to begin the formal process and consultation required to amend the University’s Ordinances.

TERMS OF OFFICE

316 The paper noted that Court had considered previously (October 2013) the following issues; limits on terms of office; restrictions on members returning to service on Court; and the power for Court to remove any member of Court. The Court had at that time approved that the legal issues involved to address these should be considered, but not taken forward until the future composition of Court was agreed.

317 It was agreed that as the Court had now agreed a revised composition (subject to the statutory process of consultation and Privy Council approval), the University should also take forward through the Governance and Nominations Committee the achieving of consistency in the limits on terms of office, restrictions on members returning to service on Court, and the power to remove any member of Court.

REPORT FROM REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

318 The Court received a report from the Remuneration Committee outlining how it had implemented the Senior Staff Pay Policy for 2014, which had been agreed at the last meeting of Court (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

319 The Court noted that the Committee had approved recommendations for 75 consolidated salary awards and 16 non-consolidated awards. The total cost of the recommendations was £283k.
The Court noted that the Committee had discussed the gender pay gap and noted there was a negative variance for the institution of 10.8% between the median male professorial salary (£76,169) compared to the median female professorial salary (£67,918). These figures related to non-Clinical Professorial staff. The Court noted that, following the application of the recommendations, the median gender pay gap would be 7.6%. In discussion, the Court discussed the actions that the University was taking to help address the gender pay gap.

The Court also noted that the Committee had considered the Principal’s remuneration package. The Court noted that the Principal had been appraised and that the process had involved input from Court members. The Committee agreed that the Principal’s performance and achievements were such that he was eligible to receive a bonus payment. The Committee had been advised by the Senior Governor that during the course of the appraisal process the Principal had indicated, as per last year, that he would not accept a bonus payment this year.

The Court noted the report on the outcomes of the 2 June 2014 Remuneration Committee meeting.

BUSINESS FOR EXTENDED MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

The Court received and discussed a paper on the agenda for its extended meeting on 30 September 2014. It was noted that this was expected to focus on the development of the University’s next strategic plan and the consideration of the key related issues.

In addition, a number of further potential items were suggested in addition to those noted elsewhere in the minutes of the meeting. These included:

- The prioritisation and implementation of the Internationalisation Strategy;
- The progress of the new capital projects, in particular the Students’ Union Centre;
- The process for the agreement of the disbursement to the Students’ Association and the transparency of reporting of decisions regarding this;
- The financial planning for beyond 2014/15 including scenario planning for future revenue streams and further consideration of the financial framework of the Colleges, with particular reference to the College of Arts and Social Sciences and the future development of the Business School;
- The future impact of technological change on the University’s teaching and global reach;
- A report in the routine business section on the University’s compliance with the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATING BOARD

The Court received a report from the Operating Board meetings of 6 May 2014 and 10 June 2014 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes), the principal items of which were:

Finance and Planning

- Outcome Agreement 2014-15
- Monthly Management Reports
- Update on Student Admissions for September 2014
- Pricing for Tuition Fees
- Scottish Funding Council: Funding letter
- Financial Memorandum Scottish Funding Council – Changes for 2014-15

Estates and capital

- Recurrent capital programme
- Disposals and Acquisitions
- Ongoing Capital Projects
- Future Nursery Provision Project
- Staff/Student Accommodation (Dunbar)
Staffing

- National Pay Negotiations 2014

Project Updates

- South Korea Business Plan
- Project Athena

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

326 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 5 June 2014 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). In addition, the Court approved the following:

Internal Audit Contract

327 The Court, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee approved the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as Interna Auditor to the University, with effect from 1 August 2014 for a period of three years.

GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

328 The Court noted a report of the principal items of business considered by the Governance and Nominations Committee at its meeting of 13 May 2014 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). In addition, the Court approved the following:

Re-appointment of Members

329 The Court approved the reappointment of the following members for a further term office of three years following the conclusion of their respective current terms of office in 2014:

Mr Ken Murray
Mr Brian Pack
Mr Brian Paterson
Mr David Steyn

Vacancies on Committees

Operating Board

330 The Court approved the appointment of Mr Alex Arthur to a vacancy on the Operating Board for an independent member with immediate effect.

Remuneration Committee

331 The Court approved the appointment of Mrs Kathryn McPhail to a forthcoming vacancy for an independent member on the Remuneration Committee.

Revisions to Court Statement of Primary Responsibilities

332 The Court, on the recommendation of the Committee approved proposed changes to the Statement of Primary Responsibilities (SOPR) to comply with the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance.
Rector’s Protocol

333 The Court, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved a proposed written protocol to distinguish between the statutory role of the Rector to “preside at meetings of the University Court” and the responsibilities of the Senior Governor as the “Chair” of Court. The Court noted that the development of such a protocol was a recommendation of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and the Court had previously agreed to introduce one. The Court further agreed that the protocol be incorporated into the Court’s Standing Orders.

334 In accordance with Standing Orders, the Court noted that any change must first be notified to Court and then formally adopted at the subsequent meeting. The change to the Standing Orders would therefore be formally moved at the Court’s next meeting in September.

Items for Information

335 The Court noted reports on the Committee’s consideration of: University’s compliance with the Scottish Code of HE Good Governance; proposals for the development of a branch campus in South Korea; proposals for the development of a Medical School in Sri Lanka; and the process for appointments to Committees.

COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH, IMPACT AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

336 The Court noted a report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) of the principal items of business considered by the Committee for Research, Impact and Knowledge Exchange at its meeting held on 2 June 2014.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

337 The Court noted a report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) of the principal items of business considered by the Student Affairs Committee at its meeting held on 12 May 2014.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING & LEARNING

338 The Court noted a report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) of the principal items of business considered by the University Committee on Teaching & Learning at its meetings held on 19 March 2014 and 14 May 2014.

PARTNERSHIP, NEGOTIATING AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

339 The Court noted a report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) of the principal items of business considered by the Partnership, Negotiating and Consultative Committee at its meeting held on 9 June 2014.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY POWERS

340 The Court received a paper (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) which brought to its attention the need to extend the University’s current legal powers to cover potential new activities such as the establishment of an overseas University campus.

341 The Court approved the commencement of discussions with the office of the Privy Council and the development of a draft Ordinance to extend the powers of the University to cover potential international activities.

STRATEGIC PLAN FORECASTS (SPF) 2013-14 TO 2016-17

342 The Court received a copy of the Strategic Plan Forecasts together with the Finance Director’s commentary (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).
The Court approved the Strategic Plan Forecasts 2013-2014 to 2016-17 for onward transmission to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Court noted the Management Accounts and Reports for the period to 30 May 2014 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

**S E N A T E  R E P O R T**

The Court noted a report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) of the principal items of business considered by the Senate at its meetings on 30 April 2014 and 11 June 2014. In addition, the Court considered the following items of business referred to it:

*Draft Resolution No of 2014 [Changes in Regulations for Various Degrees]*

The Court approved, on the recommendation of the Senate, the Draft Resolution No of 2014 [Changes to Regulations for Various Degrees], which enacted the changes in Degree Regulations recommended by the Quality Assurance Committee since May 2013. The Court agreed to, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Universities (Scotland Act 1966), approve the Resolution forthwith in order that the amended provisions may be applied with effect from the start of the new academic year.

**Rectorial Election**

The Court noted the timetable for the election of the new Rector as approved by the Senate Business Committee.

**V A C A T I O N  P O W E R S**

The Court noted that during the period 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014, matters requiring urgent decision would be undertaken under the standing delegated authority as previously agreed by Court, being:

(i) that routine decisions required to be taken between meetings be delegated to a small group consisting of the Senior Governor, the Principal and the Senior Vice-Principal, subject to any such decisions being reported to the next meeting of Court.

(ii) that decisions on financial or estates matters that would otherwise require Court approval, but which for reasons of urgency cannot be deferred to the next meeting of Court, should be delegated to a small group consisting of the Senior Governor, the Convenor of the Operating Board, the Principal and Senior Vice-Principal or three of the four should one be unavailable.

(iii) that decisions on matters related to governance that would otherwise require Court approval, but which for reasons of urgency cannot be reserved to the next meeting of Court, should be delegated to a small group consisting of the Senior Governor, Convenor of the Governance & Nominations Committee and the Principal.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Court noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 30 September 2014, at 9.00am.

*I confirm that these minutes were approved by Court as an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate:*

[Signature]

Senior Governor

30/09/14

Date approved

Page 11 of 11