

THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN and THE ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY
MILITARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on 1 December 2014

Present: Dr J Grieve (**Convener**, UoA), Professor I Broom (RGU), Mr M Combe (UoA), Mr P Fantom (UoA), Professor R Flin (UoA), Mr J Lemon (UoA), Capt EL McEwen (AUOTC), Sgt L Powles (ESUAS), P Williams (ESUAS), Mr J Wyllie (UoA) and Mr N Edwards (Clerk) with Mrs E Hook (Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Sir I Diamond (UoA), Professor von Prondzynski (RGU), Ms C Buchanan (RGU), Professor P Robertson (RGU) and Dr P Ziegler (UoA)

Minutes

1.1 The Committee approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2013.

(copy filed as MEC/011214/01)

Matters Arising

2.1 The Committee was advised that URNU would have no further involvement in the MEC (minute 3.3 refers).

Unit Progress Reports

3.1 The Committee considered and noted the reports from the Service Units:

- ESUAS *(copy filed as MEC/011214/2a)*
- AUOTC *(copy filed as MEC/011214/2b)*

COMEC

4.1 The Committee considered and noted a report from Mr Lemon, who had attended the COMEC AGM.

(copy filed as MEC/011214/3)

Elphinstone Defence Lecture 2015

5.1 A number of suggestions of topics and speakers were made, including Capt (ret'd) Stuart D Samson MBE to speak on Pipes and Drums; the Battle of Jutland 1915; the Battle of Waterloo 1815; Major General Julian H A Thompson CB OBE, who can speak on issues such as the deployability of forces and his time in Oman; and Ian Gardiner, an author and speaker on military history. Members agreed to approach two potential speakers, with the first choice being Ian Gardiner.

Action: LP, JL

5.2 It was hoped that the lecture could take place in March, possibly on a Tuesday evening to coincide with an OTC training night; and that a dinner might be held before the lecture. RGU agreed to host the event.

Remit & Composition

6.1 The Committee noted the remit and composition for academic year 2014/15.

6.2 With regard to membership of the Committee Dr Grieve noted that Professor Robertson would soon leave Aberdeen, and that it would be prudent to consider potential replacements for him and for other future retirements.

[Note by Clerk: Professor Rita Marcella, the Dean of Aberdeen Business School at RGU, *vice* Professor Robertson.]

URNU - Remembrance Parade 2014

7.1 The Committee noted the contents of a letter received from URNU, dated 15 October 2014, regarding attendance at the University's Remembrance Parade.

(copy filed as MEC/011214/ 4)

Date of Next Meeting

8.1 It was agreed that the date of the next meeting should coincide with the date of the next defence lecture in March.