

SENATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting of 27 September 2017

Present: Professor M Greaves (Convener), Mrs C Inglis, Mr L Ogubie, Ms D Connolly, Professors K Shennan, J Masthoff, M Kashtalyan, H Hutchison, C Kee, Drs D Maccallum, J Lamb, D Lusseau, M Mills and Dr R Bernard (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from Professors P McGeorge, M Campbell, K Friedrich and Dr M Da Silva Baptista

384. Minutes

384.1 Subject to minor amendments, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2017.

Action: Clerk

385. Remit and Membership

385.1 The Committee discussed the current membership of the Committee noting that changes were required as a result of the removal of Colleges from the University's structure. It was acknowledged that it was not practicable to include representation from every school on the Committee. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that it would be appropriate that there be four members for Sciences, Engineering and Healthcare and four members for Business, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

385.2 It was further agreed that volunteers from the elected membership of Senate should be sought, prior to a ballot to determine membership. Senators should be reminded that there should be gender balance and representation from across schools so far as is possible.

Action: Clerk

386. Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Senate on 18 October 2017

386.1 In approving the draft agenda for the meeting of Senate on 18 October 2017 the Committee discussed the order in which items should appear on the agenda. It was finally agreed that the overseas activity discussions should precede the resit capping discussions. The need to have items which required a vote earlier on the agenda rather than those which do not require a vote was taken into account.

387 Review of the operation of the Senate in 2016/17

In considering the operation of the Senate during 2016/17 the committee noted:

387.1 A general perception that Senate has been more effective following the implementation of the changes arising from the Senate Effectiveness Review in 2015.

387.2 Concern was noted that where items are being introduced by way of motions at Senate, appropriate discussion in the committee structure is being circumvented. The Committee were of the view that Senators should be encouraged to discuss issues with appropriate sub-committee conveners/members in advance of raising a motion at Senate. It was noted that discussions at committee often had already covered issues being raised by motions. It was agreed that this would be highlighted in induction for

new Senators and that guidance on the process for raising a motion for Senate should be developed. It was further agreed that it would be useful to reinstate 'previously considered' information in the paper template for Senate.

Action: MM & Clerk

388 Major Topics for Discussion in 2017/18

388.1 The Committee suggested the following topics for discussion at future meetings of Senate, in addition to those identified in the paper:

- Library and Special Collections update. The requirement for additional discussion at committees other than Senate was acknowledged
- An update on Capital Development
- The outcome of the Professional Services Review – in particular a presentation on the new structure and how it relates to the Vice-Principals' portfolios.

389. Honorary Degrees Committee membership

389.1 The Committee considered the list of Senators who had volunteered to be Senate representatives on the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC). The Committee noted that there was neither a good gender balance nor subject coverage in the volunteers to date. The Committee agreed that further volunteers should be sought with the Convener considering a further list of names before the next meeting of the HDC. It was noted that the meeting of HDC scheduled for October would be rescheduled to give time for the Senate appointments to be made.

Action Clerk

390. Senate Working Group on Policies and Procedures following removal of Colleges from the management structure.

390.1 The Committee noted the report from the Group and agreed that a further meeting of the Group should be scheduled.

Action Clerk

391 Annual Report on Institutional-led Review for the Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

391.1 The Committee approved, on behalf of the Senate, the Annual Report on Institutional-led Review for submission to the Scottish Funding Council by 30 September 2017.

392 Election of a Rector

392.1 The Committee approved the change of Returning Officer for the election and the composition of the Election Committee as outlined below.

Returning Officer: Professor Mike Greaves

Election Committee:

- Professor Margaret Ross
- Professor Peter McGeorge
- Mrs Caroline Inglis
- A nominated student senator from AUSA.

393 **Annual Senate Survey**

- 393.1 The Committee noted that the annual Senate Survey would be conducted in December 2017. It was further noted that this timeline would permit new senators to have more experience of being a part of Senate before completing the survey.

394 **Senate Elections**

- 394.1 The Committee noted the outcome of the Senate elections conducted at the end of academic year 2016/17 as detailed below:

The following were elected to serve on the Senatus Academicus from 01 October 2017 to 30 September 2021:

School of Divinity, History & Philosophy

Dr G Hough

School of Education

Dr H Martin

School of Law

Dr P Glover

School of Social Science

Dr A McKinnon

School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition

Dr M Brazzelli
Dr J Hislop
Dr A Jack
Dr G Jones
Dr P Murchie
Professor G Nixon
Professor H Wallace

School of Psychology

Dr M Jackson

395 **Senate Assessors to Court**

- 395.1 The Committee noted that the elections for the four Senate Assessors to Court closed at 5pm on Wednesday 27 September 2017
*[Clerk's note: following the conclusion of the election process, the following were elected: Senate Assessor for Sciences, Engineering & Healthcare Dr Nir Oren, Reader, School of Natural and Computing Sciences'
Senate Assessor for Sciences, Engineering & Healthcare Professor Mirela Delibegovic, Personal Chair, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition']*

Senate Assessor for Business, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Professor Joachim Schaper, Established Chair of Hebrew & Semitic Languages, School of Divinity, History & Philosophy'
Senate Assessor for Business, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Dr Rachel Shanks, Senior Lecturer, School of Education.]

396 Senate Working Group on the Establishment of Overseas Campuses.

396.1 It was noted that, as agreed at the meeting of Senate in June, a Working Group had been established to look further at the processes for the establishment of campuses overseas. The Group would be convened by Dr Tom Rist, with further members as noted below. It was noted that the Group would meet for the first time on Friday 29 September.

- Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture: Dr Amy Bryzgel and Dr Tom Rist (Convener)
- Business School: Mrs Lindsay Tibbets and Professor Norman Hutchison
- Divinity, History & Philosophy: Professor Joachim Schaper and Professor Karin Friedrich
- Social Science: Professor David Anderson and Dr Martin Mills
- Biological Sciences: Professor Michelle Pinard and Dr Martin Barker
- Psychology: Dr Emily Nordmann and Dr Margaret Jackson
- Engineering: Professor Maria Kashtalyan and Dr Oleksandr Menshykov
- Geosciences: Dr Brice Rea and Professor Andrew Hurst
- Natural & Computer Sciences: Dr Murilo da Silva Baptista and Professor Benjamin Martin
- Medicine: TBC
- Dean for Transnational Education: Professor Richard Wells

14. County of Banff Bursary Fund

The Committee noted that the Convener had approved that Dr Glynn Hesketh would replace Dr David McMurtry as the University's representative on the above Fund.

377. Dates of meetings in 2017/18

377.1 The Committee noted the dates of the meetings to be held in 2017/18.

Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 2.00 p.m.
Thursday 1 February 2018 at 2.00 p.m.
Thursday 29 March 2018 at 2.00 p.m.
Thursday 26 April 2018 at 2.00 p.m.