

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SENATUS ACADEMICUS

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2001

Present: Principal, Professors The Lord Sewel, Logan and Houlihan, Dr JG Roberts, Professors Rodger and Torrance, Ms C Macaslan, Professors Urwin, Bruce, Baker, Jolliffe, Forte, Racey, Buckland, Sharp, Macinnes, Jordan, Graham, Alexander, Watson, Leboutte, Archbold, Adams, Smith, Mather, Mitchell, Hunter, Ohlmeyer, Dunkley, Duff, Player and Salmon, Dr AD Clarke, Dr B Fennell, Dr J Murdoch, Ms M Ramsay, Mr PB Wilson, Mr WTC Brotherstone, Dr D Hay, Dr D Heddle, Mrs B Hookey, Dr PR Kinnear, Dr DJ Lurie, Dr WD McCausland, Dr PFA MacConnell, Ms DW McKenzie Skene, Dr D Macphee, Dr MR Masson, Dr AJ Mordue, Dr J Sheehan, Dr C Thomson, Dr SP Townsend, Dr A Venneri, Mr D Cockburn, Mr C Buchanan and Mr J Beardsley with Dr N Dower and Ms L Smith in attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Professors Sloane, Mordue, Sleeman, Helms, Ritchie, Gane, Little, Chandler, Bryden, Gilbert, Flin, Dawson, Ingram, Beaumont, Gow, Imrie and Reid, Dr AR Akisanya, Dr LH Chappell, Dr G Hesketh, Dr H Hotson, Dr A Hull, Dr J King, Dr S Lawrie, Dr WF Long, Dr J MacDowall, Mr LE Moffat, Mrs ML Ross, Dr P Schlicke, Dr HM Wallace, Ms E Brown and Mr C Irish

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

461. The minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2001, and of the *In Absentia* and In Person Graduation Ceremonies held between 2 and 18 July 2001, were approved.

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL

462.1 In opening his statement, the Principal welcomed those who were attending their first meeting. In particular, he extended a warm welcome to new colleagues from Northern College, who would be attending Senate meetings prior to Vesting Day.

462.2 The Principal drew attention to a tabled paper entitled *Selected Highlights 2000/01*, which had formed the basis of his recent presentation to the University Court [Appendix I : copy filed with the principal copy of the minute]. The paper summarised major projects that had been undertaken in the last academic year. It also listed several noteworthy achievements and a selection of major donations and awards. In particular, the Principal reported that the University had achieved, subject to audit, an historical cost surplus greater than the target submitted to the Funding Council.

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462.3 The tabled document was not comprehensive and the Principal acknowledged that everyone in the University was to be congratulated for their superb efforts in contributing to one of the most successful years that the University had experienced. The University's financial situation was very much healthier than the position two years ago and he acknowledged that achieving last year's surplus had only been possible by everyone enduring financial constraints. While the Principal personally believed that the University had never been in a stronger position, both academically and financially, the key to maintaining and improving that position was achievement of an even greater surplus in the coming years.

462.4 Continuing to be attractive to students, by offering high quality programmes, and continuing to strengthen the research excellence of the University were key to securing the academic reputation and financial health of the University. The Principal reiterated his aim for the University: that it should strive to improve its international standing and be a top UK University. In his view, there was some way to go to achieve that aim and it was essential that the University should move forward in a planned and focused manner. However, this should be in such a way as to maintain the characteristics of the University: namely, that it should continue to serve the North of Scotland while competing

internationally; that it must be research-led and secure international standing as a research University; that it must be a full service institution by offering high quality educational provision in pure and applied areas as well as professional areas; and that it should be a full spectrum University offering different modes and levels of study, to encompass social inclusion and widening participation at undergraduate level through to supporting postdoctoral research, although not necessarily in all subject areas.

462.5 The Principal had concluded that the above aspirations could not be achieved by remaining an institution of medium size in terms of student numbers and without an intellectual critical mass. He believed that continual improvement without a radical streamlining of the University's current portfolio could only be achieved by the University expanding. However, this could not be a matter simply of admitting more students, as funded places were capped and it would not be acceptable in general to increase student:staff ratios. Several universities had recognised the strengths of forming alliances, and the Principal believed that this was the way forward for the University of Aberdeen to improve its current academic standing. The University was therefore holding discussions at senior management level with the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute, SAC and The Robert Gordon University, with a view to forming alliances where these were considered to be clearly to the benefit of the University. The forthcoming merger with Northern College, which was to be warmly welcomed and would provide huge and exciting opportunities for developing the University, would be the first of the alliances to come to fruition.

462.6 A major contributory factor to the financial health of the University was the ability to continue to attract major donations and awards. While substantial increases in research spend and attracting new grants had been made within the last five years, it was clear that this trend should not only continue, but would need to be further improved in order to achieve the University's goals. Many people had been engaged in fundraising and the University was on track to raise its target of £150M by 2010, with £36M being achieved at present. This funding would be largely used for capital projects, proposals for which would be submitted to the University Court in due course after appropriate consultation.

462.7 The Principal then invited the Senior Vice-Principal to outline actions to be taken in the current year.

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STATEMENT BY SENIOR VICE-PRINCIPAL

463.1 In opening his statement, Professor The Lord Sewel indicated that the University would take stock of its position by considering three broad areas: its shape and direction; appraising its core areas of activity; and reviewing and improving the resource allocation and budgetary mechanisms.

463.2 Criteria would be identified to allow informed judgements to be made in regard to the University's future shape and direction. Professor Sewel emphasised, however, that this would not be a mechanistic process. He would meet with Heads of Department and School, and other colleagues, with a view to reporting by the end of the academic year on the University's strengths and future direction. As part of this review, there would be a debate at institutional level to explore how best the University should be organised: in particular, the benefits and implications of moving to a School structure would be explored.

463.3 The three income streams from teaching, research and earned income would be considered in a review of the resource allocation and budgetary mechanisms. Although, in terms of teaching grant, undergraduate student numbers were currently favourable, the market was becoming increasingly competitive and caps on funded places prevented expansion in this area. The University was also continuing to experience difficulties in the recruitment of postgraduate students. The results of the Research Assessment Exercise would inform the budgetary process and any review of resource allocation. Research funding, however, would be finite. Earned income was relatively undeveloped and perhaps offered the most potential for exploring new ways of attracting income.

463.4 Professor Sewel indicated that the current resource allocation model was complex and lacked transparency. He believed that the University should move away from historical based budgets and move to a more transparent method of allocating funds. Any future model also should be responsive to needs for change at short notice, and was likely to include more incentive schemes that would reward performance against agreed objectives. The goal should be to achieve an historical cost surplus of approximately £4M per annum, which would provide a means of funding new ventures as well as securing a reserve to maintain the University's estate and to cope with unexpected

requirements.

463.5 In responding to comments from Senators, the Principal emphasised that it was essential that as much participation as possible should be obtained in taking forward discussions of the various initiatives. To this end, consultation would be transparent and involve all Faculties, to secure as much participation as possible in shaping the future size, structure and direction of the University.

ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATIONS FOR 2001/02

ENTRY: INTERIM REPORT

464.1 The Senate received a tabled version of the Interim Report on Admissions and Registrations for 2001 entry that had been circulated with the papers, indicating student registrations as at 9 October 2001 when compared against the admissions targets and the intake at the comparable date in the previous year. [Appendix II : copy filed with the principal copy of the minute].

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464.2 In summary, the number of undergraduate students registered at 9 October 2001 was slightly above target for both "home" full-time and part-time students, with the number of overseas student registrations being almost 50% above target. While postgraduate taught registrations were slightly above and slightly below target for "home" and "overseas" students, respectively, the number of research students registered to date was significantly below target. Research student registration, however, had only commenced on 1 October and would continue during the next few weeks.

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR QUALITY

ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

465.1 The Senate received a summary of a consultation document on proposals for future quality assurance arrangements in UK higher education and discussed a draft response to the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (copy filed with the principal copy of the Minute).

465.2 The principal points of discussion were as follows:-

- i. that the University, generally, should comply minimally with the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (although any decision on changes to future external arrangements for quality assurance would rest with the Funding Councils, on whom a statutory responsibility had been placed for the accountability of public funds for teaching);
- ii. that the University should re-consider its decision to require an external subject specialist to be appointed to Internal Teaching Review Panels;
- iii. that the student members did not support the University's proposal that external review at individual subject level should only take place if Institutional Audit identified any weaknesses in the University's quality assurance procedures.

465.3 The majority of members present voted to endorse the draft response, subject to the following:-

- i. that the response should acknowledge that student representative bodies (which had also been invited to submit their own response direct to SHEFC) may not concur with the view that there should be no routine external scrutiny at the subject level;
- ii. that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning, in revising the Internal Teaching Review procedures in light of whatever external regime emerged from the consultation exercise, should seek ways of reducing the burden of internal review and of quality assurance procedures in general without jeopardising their robustness and reliability.

ACADEMIC APPEALS

466. The Senate approved the following recommendations, to be effective from Vesting Day with Northern College:-

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- i. that the Convener of the Undergraduate Programme Committee (Education) be a member *ex officio* of the Senate Undergraduate Academic Appeals Committee;
- ii. that the Senate appoint one senior representative of the Education Area of Study to the Senate Postgraduate Academic Appeals Committee, on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of Education following appropriate consultation;
- iii. that the relevant paragraphs (7 and 8) of the Guidance Note on Academic Appeals be amended accordingly.

LATEST DATE FOR THE RETURN OF EXAMINATION

RESULTS 2001-2002

467.1 The Senate approved the latest dates for the return of examination results in the session 2001-2002 as under:

a. January 2002 Diet of Examinations

- i. Level 1 and 2 courses by Friday 8 February 2002
- ii. Level 3, 4 and undergraduate Level 5, courses by Friday 15 February 2002
- iii. Postgraduate taught courses by Friday 22 February 2002

a. May/June 2002 Diet of Examinations

- i. MBChB and BSc Med Sci courses (years 2 or above) by the last date of the relevant Summer Term (i.e. Friday 21 June 2002, 28 June 2002, or 5 July 2002, as appropriate)
- ii. All other Level 1 to 4 and undergraduate Level 5 courses and undergraduate programmes by Friday 14 June 2002
- iii. Postgraduate taught course and programme results, for those candidates completing all the requirements of their programme and hoping to graduate in July 2002, by Friday 14 June 2002
- iv. All other postgraduate taught courses by Friday 21 June 2002

a. August 2002 Diet of Examinations

- i. Level 1 to 4 and undergraduate Level 5 courses by Wednesday 28 August 2002
- ii. Postgraduate taught courses and programmes by Friday 18 October 2002

467.2 The deadline of 18 October 2002 for the return of postgraduate taught courses and programmes was approved subject to agreement that the date would be kept under review.

DEADLINE FOR REFUSAL OF CLASS CERTIFICATES

468. The Senate approved a recommendation that the deadline for the notification to the Office of the refusal of Class Certificates be as follows:-

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First half-session courses: 5.00 p.m. on 18 December 2001 i.e. on the Tuesday following the last day of teaching

Second half-session courses: 5.00 p.m. on 14 May 2002 i.e. on the Tuesday following the last day of teaching

DATES OF TERMS

469. The Senate approved the Dates of Terms for 2002-2003 and, provisionally, those for the

sessions to 2011-2012 (copy filed with the principal copy of the Minute).

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

470.1 (i) The Senate approved the following appointments to University committees with immediate effect, on the recommendation of the relevant Deans, where appropriate, to fill existing vacancies:-

Honorary Degrees Committee: Professor WC Smith

Chapel Committee: Professor PR Beaumont

470.2 (ii) The Senate approved the following appointments to University committees, to be effective from Vesting Day with Northern College, on the recommendation of the Shadow Planning Committee (Education) and the relevant Deans, as appropriate:-

Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate): Dr D Hay

Undergraduate Programme Committee (Education): Ms C Macaslan (Convener)

Mrs L
Stephen

Mr A Glendinning

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT

The Senate noted that the University Court, at its meetings of 26 June and 18 September 2001, had undertaken the actions indicated below:

Strategic Plan 2001-2005

471. The Court had approved the Strategic Plan 2001-2005 and supporting documentation for submission to SHEFC.

Northern College

472.1 The Court had noted a letter dated 21 June 2001 from the Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning to the Principal conveying formal approval of the merger of the two constituent campuses of Northern College in Aberdeen and Dundee with the Universities of Aberdeen and Dundee respectively. The Scottish Executive was drafting a Statutory Instrument which would effect the closure of the College, and specify the date for merger.

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472.2 In the meantime, Ms Cathy Macaslan, Course Director for the B.Ed Honours Primary programme at Northern College had been appointed to the post of Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Acting Dean pending appointment of the Dean. Until vesting she would be in attendance at those University committee meetings which Deans normally attend. Similarly, College representatives of the new Faculty would also attend the full range of University committees of which they would secure formal membership post vesting.

Scottish Agricultural College

473. The Court had agreed that the University enter formal negotiations with representatives of the Scottish Agricultural College with the view to the development of a formal partnership agreement for approval in due course by the governing bodies of the two institutions. A joint press statement was issued (27.06.01) announcing that the two institutions had entered into discussions on closer collaboration and the delivery of services to rural Scotland.

UHIMI

474. The Court had agreed that the University enter into formal negotiations with representatives of the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute to develop a formal partnership

agreement for approval in due course by the governing bodies of the two institutions. Building on the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions a range of strategic issues had been identified for future discussion.

Partnership with Banff & Buchan College

475. The Court, noting that the Senate, for its part, had given its approval, had approved the draft Partnership Agreement with Banff & Buchan College forwarded from the Senate in regard to the specification of articulation routes by which HNC and HND students would be admitted to the University's degree programmes, with advanced standing where applicable.

University Committee for Research & Commercialisation

476. The Court had approved the renaming of the University Research Committee as the University Committee for Research & Commercialisation with a revised remit and composition, as previously agreed by Senate (13.6.01).

Court membership of joint Court-Senate Committees

477. The Court, on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, had approved the Court's representation on the joint Court-Senate Committees, as follows:.

JOINT COURT-SENATE COMMITTEES

Chapel Committee

Dr G Roberts (Convener), Mr G Stevenson

Committee on Biological Services Units

Professor D Houlihan (Convener), Professor D Ogston, Miss M Main

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Joint Planning Finance & Estates Committee

Principal, Professor J Sewel, Mr A Mair (Convener), Dr H Fullerton, Mr G Stevenson, vacancy, rector's Assessor in attendance

Museums, Collections & Galleries Committee

Principal, Dr G Roberts, Professor A Rodger, Professor J Simpson, Dr A Dawson, Mrs A Skene

Research & Commercialisation

Professor D Houlihan (Convener), Principal

Staffing & Development Committee

Professor J Sewel, Dr M Mackie, Dr A Dawson, Dr G Roberts, Professor D Houlihan

Student Affairs Committee

Principal, Dr N Milne (Convener), Dr G Roberts, Mr R McGregor, Mrs A Skene, Mr S Cannon.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

Professor D Houlihan (Convener), Professor I Torrance, Miss A Harper, Miss M Main, Dr G Roberts (in attendance)

University's Committee on Teaching & Learning

Dr G Roberts (Convener), Dr J Farrington, Miss A Harper, Professor J Simpson

NB The Court representation on the Military Education Committee remained as for 2000/01.

Risk Management

478. The Court had approved proposals for a University risk management policy, and the establishment of a Risk Management Committee as a sub-committee of the Joint Planning, Finance & Estates Committee, it would also report to the Audit Committee.

Staffing Policies

479. The Court, on the recommendation of the Staffing and Development Committee, had approved four policy and procedure documents on (i) Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying; (ii) Management of Work Related Stress; (iii) Procedure for the hearing of Appeals from Academic and Academic-Related Staff; (iv) Redundancy Policy and Procedure (previously agreed by the Court in June 2000), revised in light of further consultations with the campus unions during the past year.

Museums and Galleries: Acquisitions and Disposals Policy

480. The Court had approved a revised Acquisitions and Disposals Policy which had been updated in order to register the University's collections by September 2001 with *Resource*, the Government's Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries.

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Immigration Advice to Students

481. The Court, noting that under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, effective from 1 May 2001, immigration advice and services should be offered to students only by specified employees under an agreed institutional policy, had approved a policy statement on Immigration Advice, prepared by Student Support Services.

Sustainability Programme

482. The Court had received the first draft of a University strategy for the development and implementation of a policy of sustainable development, together with a sustainability work programme 2001-2002. Over recent years sustainable development had become mainstream policy for government and a wide range of institutions and organisations. Notwithstanding concerns about the potential burden on staff, the University Management Committee in giving its approval to the scheme had concluded that the University should move forward with the programme and review the position at the end of the pilot phase.

Promotions

483. The Court had approved recommendations which had come forward through the annual exercise for the promotion of members of academic and academic-related staff.

Admissions

484. The Court had received a preliminary report on admissions for entry 2001-2002 and was pleased to note that the University was expected to meet its overall targets for undergraduate home and overseas students. It was as yet too early to draw conclusions from postgraduate admissions statistics.

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes

485. The Senate noted that the Academic Standards Committees, on the recommendations of the relevant Faculties, had approved changes to the list of courses and programmes available, as under:-

Biology

Introduction of new Level 2 courses: 'The Anatomy of Human Organ Systems', 'Essential Animal Cell Biology'.

Introduction of new Level 3 course: 'Ecological Environmental Modelling'.

Withdrawal of the course BI20B1.

Computing Science

Deferral until 2002/3 of the new BSc programme in Medical Computing.

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Cultural History

Introduction of new Level 2 course 'Cultural History of Medicine' [reported erroneously to Senate in June as being at Level 4].

Engineering

Introduction of new Level 5 course: 'Advanced topics for Safety and Reliability Engineering' (replacing EG 5583).

Withdrawal of courses EG4591, 5584, 5585 and 5586.

Geography & Environment

Introduction of new Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods/MRes programme in Human Geography.

Introduction of new Level 5 course: 'Dissertation for MRes in Human Geography'.

Geology & Petroleum Geology

Introduction of new Level 3 course: 'Skills for Geologists'.

Introduction of new Postgraduate Certificate/Postgraduate Diploma/MSc programme in Hydrocarbon Enterprise.

Introduction of new Level 5 courses: 'Oil Industry Overview', 'Finding Oil: Geoscience in Exploration & Production', 'Getting Oil Out: Engineering from Borehole to Surface', 'Cleaning Up Afterwards: Environmental Issues across the Oil Industry'.

Hispanic Studies

Introduction of new Level 2 course: 'Latin America: Texts and Contexts 1A'.

Introduction of new Level 3 courses: 'Contemporary Spanish Women's Narrative' (replacing SP3053), 'Advanced Translation Skills' (replacing SP3066), 'The Hispanic Detective in Fiction', 'Spanish Modernisms 1898-1936', 'Tradition and Canon: Selected Readings in Hispanic Studies', 'Basque Arts: The Conflict of Belonging'.

History

Introduction of new Level 3 courses: 'From Suez to Devolution: Class Conflict, Cultural Critique and Constitutional Change in Post-Imperial Britain, c.1956-1999', 'Life in the City: Urban Society and Culture c.1350-1750', 'Gender and Politics in Modern Ireland, 1845-1945', 'Medicine in the Twentieth Century'.

Re-numbering of all Level 3 courses to be available in either half-session, depending on staff availability.

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KEY Learning Opportunities

Introduction of KEY Learning Level 1 course: 'Tools for Science'.

Withdrawal of the courses CN1056 and 2009.

Land Economy

Introduction from 2002-3 of new Level 2 course: 'Land and Property Economics 1'.

Law

Introduction of new Level 4 courses: 'Comparative Law', 'European Legal History'.

Management Studies

Introduction of Postgraduate Diploma Programme: 'International Management Programme in Leadership (IMPEL)'.

Introduction of new Level 5 courses: 'Creating the Future', 'Personal Leadership Development', 'Managing Communication Strategy', 'Leading Human Resources for High Performance', 'Strategic Business Development', 'Finance, Resources and Entrepreneurship', 'Knowledge Management and E-Business', 'Strategic Implementation'.

Marine Resource Management

Introduction of new Level 1 course: 'Skills for Coastal & Marine Management'.

Philosophy

Introduction of new Level 2 course: 'Advanced Philosophy 1: Ethics and Aesthetics'.

Physics

Introduction of new Level 4 course: 'Applied Optics'.

Plant & Soil Science

Withdrawal of the course SS3802.

Psychology

Introduction of modified Level 3 courses: 'Developmental Psychology' (replacing PS3508), 'Social Psychology' (replacing PS3512).

Sports Science

Introduction of new Level 1 course: 'Sports & Exercise Coaching'.

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Zoology

Introduction of new Level 4 courses: 'Bio-ethics', 'Evolution and Molecular Ecology'.

REPORT ON TEACHING TIMETABLING

486.1 Dr Roberts, who had recently been appointed as Convener of the Space Management and Timetabling Project Board, introduced a report on the production of the teaching timetable for the current academic year (copy filed with the principal copy of the Minutes).

486.2 Dr Roberts acknowledged that an unusual number of serious timetabling problems had been encountered, particularly with the MA and BSc programmes, and that he was determined to identify the reasons so that there was no recurrence of the problems next year. The report would be considered by the University Committee on Teaching and Learning on 12 October, and the Committee would instruct the Space Management and Timetabling Project Board about the action that needed to be taken. Additionally, Dr Roberts had asked the Academic Registrar to e-mail all Heads of Department/School after the meeting of Senate, seeking feedback, by 19 October, on this

year's process. The comments would be analysed and collated, together with information already received, and a report prepared for a meeting of the Project Board, which would be convened shortly thereafter. The Project Board would be asked to report back to the Senate in January, with an interim report being presented to the November Senate if deemed appropriate.

486.3 There following a brief discussion, the principal points of record being as follows:-

- i. that it was difficult to predict registrations on some Level 1 and 2 courses: problems might be encountered if an unexpectedly high number of students registered for a course for which a room of insufficient capacity had been allocated;
- ii. that there was a paucity of lecture theatres to accommodate classes in excess of 300;
- iii. that constraints imposed by the relatively large number of degree programmes offered by the University was not the only contributory factor to the problems encountered this year.

AWARD OF ENDOWED PRIZES AND MEDALS 2000-01

487. The Senate noted the List of the Award of University Prizes and Medals for the session 2000-01 (copy filed with the principal copy of the Minutes).

CONVENER OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

COMMITTEE (ENGINEERING)

488. The Senate noted that the Principal, on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, had approved the appointment of Professor M Player as Convener of the Undergraduate Programme Committee (Engineering) with effect from 1 August 2001 *vice* Professor H Chandler, who had been appointed Head of the Department of Engineering from that date.

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UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE OFFICERS

489. The Senate noted that, with effect from Vesting Day with Northern College, Dr D Hay and Mr N Coutts would be the University Postgraduate Officers for the *Education* Area of Study, on the recommendation of the Shadow Planning Committee (Education).

UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL REPORT 2000-01

490. The Senate noted that the University Statistical Report for 2000-01 was now available and could be obtained from the Senate Office (extension 2039). Any member who wished to raise a matter on the Report for discussion at the next meeting of the Senate was asked to submit it in writing to the Academic Registrar by 5.00 p.m. on Monday 5 November 2001.

NOVEMBER GRADUATION CEREMONIES

491. The Senate noted the following:-

- i. that the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science would be conferred on Professor George Gray at a ceremony in the Mitchell Hall on Friday 23 November 2001 at 3.00 p.m. In addition, First and Higher Degrees in Science, Divinity and Medicine would be conferred. Professor M Ingram would promote Professor Gray. The Principal would preside and would deliver the Graduation Address.
- ii. that the Honorary Degree of Master of the University would be conferred on Mr Robbie Shepherd at a ceremony in the Mitchell Hall on Saturday 24 November 2001 at 11.00 a.m. In addition, First and Higher Degrees in Arts & Social Sciences, Engineering and Law would be conferred. Dr JG Roberts would promote Mr Shepherd. The Chancellor would preside. Mr Shepherd would deliver the Graduation Address.

GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

492.1 The Senate received a list of those qualified to receive degrees and diplomas who had applied to have them conferred *in absentia* [See Appendix to Minutes of June 2002].

492.2 The Senate conferred the degrees on, and awarded the diplomas and other qualifications to, the persons stated.

SEN15/minoct01

University of Aberdeen

SENATE
(10 October 2001)

Selected Highlights 2000/01

1. Major Projects

• **Institute of Medical Sciences – Phase II**

Work on £12.6m extension of the Institute began in October 2000 and is expected to be completed in spring 2002. The University received £2.5m grant from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, £7m from the Wellcome Trust, and £2m secured by Development Trust, from legacies, foundations and charitable trusts, including £500,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

• **AUTOMERS**

Building of a new ocean laboratory for sub-sea research at the University's Culterty Field Station is now complete, following a £4.2m award from the Joint Infrastructure Fund.

- **New Lillian Sutton Building** which houses the University's £2m state of the art medical imaging centre opened officially in May, financed partly by SHEFC, Mrs Sutton (Roland Sutton Academic Radiology Trust), Grampian University Hospitals NHS Trust Endowments Committee. The new centre will further research into cardiovascular, neurological disease and cancer.

- **Medical Research Facility** – the City Council has granted planning permission for the construction of a new Medical Research Facility at Foresterhill. The new facility will underpin and complement the work undertaken at the Institute of Medical Sciences. Funding - £6.1m – has been provided by the Funding Council through the Science and Research Infrastructure Fund (SRIF), and the site has been provided by Grampian Universities Hospital Trust

2. General Issues

- The full year accounts issued in July show that the University has achieved a **historical cost surplus of £1,349m**, subject to audit. This exceeds the target figure of £939,000, the target submitted in the mid year report to the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council and the target set in the University's five year strategic plan.
- **Research Grants and Contracts** income has grown from £25.2m in 1999/2000 to £31.2m in 2000/2001, a **24% increase** over the last 12 months. Since 1996/97, Research Grants & Contracts income has grown 69%.
- Following a visit of the **SHEFC Financial Appraisal and Monitoring Services** to review arrangements for financial control, corporate governance and audit, the University has received an interim report. No serious issues of concern were identified.
- **Northern College** – Scottish Ministers approved the merger of the two Northern College of Education campuses in Aberdeen and Dundee with the Universities of Aberdeen and

Dundee. A Statutory Instrument to effect the formal closure of the college is soon to be laid before the Scottish Parliament.

- **Pathfinder Project:** established to look at the outsourcing of the University's residential and catering services. The first phase of the project, which was concerned with the sale of the University's satellite halls, has been completed, realising a healthy £19.5million.
- Aberdeen has seen a **17% increase in applications** compared with last year – second highest increase of numbers of application nationally.
- **Academic Quality:** The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) reviewed undergraduate provision in the Departments of **Divinity** and **Geology** and found provision under the categories Teaching and Learning, Student progression and Learning Resources *commendable* in both departments. This is the highest rating awarded by the QAA. Results of further subject reviews are expected later in September
- At its meeting in June 2001 Court approved a range of new and revised **Human Resource policies** in relation to Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying; Management of Work-Related Stress; Staff Appeal Hearings Procedures; Redundancy Policies Procedures
- **Remedios**, University spin out company set up 1999, was awarded the 'Best New Biotechnology Award 2000' at the Biotechnology Scotland Dinner by the Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning, Ms Wendy Alexander MSP
- **Auvation**, University spin out company set up in 1996, licensed the intellectual property rights for a cancer fighting protein to an American drugs company, Zycos.
- **Sixth Century Campaign** on course to achieve first milestone of £40m by 2002 - £20m secured last year. £500,000 raised by Alumni Annual Fund, £583,000 in legacies; £150,000 towards a new organ for King's chapel
- **Aberdeen** was ranked 19th in the UK and 3rd in Scotland in *The Times Good University Guide*

3. Major Donations and Awards

- The **Leverhulme Trust** has recently announced the award to Professor K J Edwards, **Department of Geography and Environment**, of a grant of up to £1.234m to investigate 'long-term settlement in the ancient world', more specifically the human and ecological consequences of Viking settlement in the North Atlantic region.
- **Dugald Baird Centre** - Professor Wendy Graham: launched Initiative for Maternal Mortality Programme Assessment (IMMPAct), funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation. The first \$1.2m was awarded earlier this year for a nine month development phase, to put together a full programme of primary and secondary research over the next 5-7 years.

- **Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education** awarded in recognition of the achievements of the **Department of Biomedical Physics** and Bioengineering in developing new techniques for medical imaging. Aberdeen is only Scottish institution to have been awarded the prestigious prize, along with 22 universities and colleges nationally.
- **Department of Environmental & Occupational Medicine** - Professor Malcolm Pope: £1.03m from SHEFC, £600,000 from FONAR, a US company which manufactures scanning technology, towards the purchase of a vertical Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner (MRI) to improve the understanding of back pain.
- **Marischal Museum:** £241,000 over three years from LEMUR (Learning with Museum Resources) to create a database of digital images of and information about objects and artefacts held at the museum
- **Royal Bank of Scotland** pledge £340,000 of funds to support widening access initiatives
- **Scottish Enterprise Proof of Concept Funding:** £650,000 to help ideas at the early stage of development into the market place. The University award covers sectors including Molecular and Cell Biology, Engineering, Bio-Medical Physics and Bio-engineering.
- **Department of Computing** received combined funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and leading e-business companies, including Sun Microsystems, for a **new masters level course in e-commerce.**
- **Department of Geology and Petroleum Geology** – Dr Gordon Walkden: awarded £1.4m to expose students to the latest integrated interpretation technology in the oil industry. The department received funding from Landmark Graphics Corporation, based in Houston, Texas, a wholly owned business unit of Halliburton.
- **Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies** – Professor Tom Devine - £890,000 over the next five years from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) to develop an Aberdeen-based Research Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies in partnership with Trinity College, Dublin and the Queen's University in Belfast

- **Department of Computing** – Professor Derek Sleeman: £1.3m to develop computer methods and software for the management and manipulation of computer-based knowledge. Part of AKT project (Advanced Knowledge Technologies) which has attracted a total of around £7.5m from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).
- **Department of Zoology** – Professor Dominic Houlihan: £2.2m from the European Commission for two research projects – to look at the possibility of tuning carnivorous fish that are cultured, such as salmon, cod, trout and bream, into herbivores; and to look at the employment brought about by aquaculture in the West Coast of Scotland and other European countries, and how aquaculture affects the environment and interacts with local fisheries (as part of a research consortium with Irish, Finnish, Portuguese and Greek institutions).
- **Dugald Baird Centre** - Professor Wendy Graham: £600,000 from European Commission for co-ordinating the International Research partnership for Skilled Attendance for Everyone (SAFE), a project which aims to reduce maternal mortality and serious morbidity in developing countries.
- **£1.5m SHEFC grant to establish two centres of excellence:** **Department of Zoology** – Professor Secombes - and Institute of Aquaculture at the University of Stirling receive £830,000 to set up a new state of the art research centre for fish immunology. The **Arkleton Centre for Rural Development Research** – Professor Mark Shucksmith - has been awarded £782,000 in conjunction with Glasgow University's Department of Urban Studies to establish a Scottish Centre for Social Justice Research
- **Institute of Medical Sciences Fungal Group** – Professor Neil Gow - awarded £1.4m for research into why some fungal infections are spreading so quickly as well as becoming resistant to drugs: £1m from Wellcome Trust, £400,000 from the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

MB

10 October 2001

SENATE
(10 October 2001)

ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATIONS FOR 2001/02 ENTRY : INTERIM REPORT

The figures detailed below show the number of first degree undergraduate students registered as at 9 October 2001, the admissions targets for 2001/02, and the number of students registered as at the comparable time last year. Figures are inclusive of repeats, internal transfers and re-admissions to Programme Years 0 and 1. The numbers shown are a snapshot and do not represent a forecast of year out-turn positions; some students will continue to register over the next week or two.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS 2001/02					
	Programme	Registered as at 9 Oct 2001	2001/02 Target	Excess/ (Shortfall) over Target	2000/01 Intake (as at Oct 2000)
Home Full-Time	MA & Divinity	1160	1100	60	1104
	Land Economy	53	70	(17)	55
	Science	647	690	(23)	691
	Engineering	156	140	16	144
	Law	189	190	(1)	178
	Health Sciences	14	20	(6)	16
	Total Home Full-Time		2239	2210	29
Controlled	MBChB	178	162	16	175
Home Part-Time	Key Learning	323	251	72	222
	First Degree/ISS	33	70	(37)	54
Total Home Part-Time		356	321	35	276
Overseas	Arts and LLB	58	40	18	56
	Engineering	52	30	22	21
	Science	35	20	15	23
	Medicine	13	13	-	16
	Kuwaiti Access	4	5	(1)	9
Total Overseas		162	108	54	125

The figures below show the number of postgraduate taught students registered as at 9 October 2001, the admissions targets for 2001/02, and the number of students cleared for admission as at 1 October 2001. They include postgraduate taught students for full-cost (CPD) programmes.

POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT ADMISSIONS 2001/02					
	Faculty	Registered as at 9 Oct 2001	2001/02 Target	Excess/ (Shortfall) over Target	Cleared for Admission as at 1 Oct 2001
Home	A & D	15	16	(1)	15
	SS & L	187	162	25	201
	M & MS	48	58	(10)	64
	S & E	113	118	(5)	141
	Total Home		363	354	9
Overseas	A & D	7	7	-	7
	SS & L	60	58	2	104
	M & MS	23	28	(5)	41
	S & E	27	33	(6)	42
Total Overseas		117	126	(9)	194

The following additional table sets out the figures for new postgraduate research (including MRes) students registered at 9 October 2001, and compares these with the admissions targets for 2001/02 (which are Full Time Equivalent (FTE) targets for the Academic Year as a whole). Figures for the comparable date in 2000/01, and the out-turn for that year are also shown.

Registration of postgraduate research students commenced on 1 October only, and is traditionally sluggish for Research Assistants and other part-time students. Heads of Departments should be invited to note that students must be registered by 5pm on Friday October 12th 2001 to be included in the first run of Student Loads for the current Academic Year.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH ADMISSIONS 2001/02					
	Faculty	Registered as at 9 Oct 2001	2001/02 Target	Registered as at 10 October 2000	Final Out-turn 2000/1
Home	A & D	20	30	24	27
	SS & L	8	25	18	23
	M & MS	19	51	44	49
	S & E	39	63	32	58
Total Home		86	170	118	157
Overseas	A & D	12	19	12	10
	SS & L	11	18	7	14
	M & MS	7	15	7	11
	S & E	15	31	11	25
Total Overseas		45	83	37	60