

Notes of the meeting held on 14 June 2006

Present: Principal, Professor Logan, Ms C Macaslan, Professors Gane, Rodger, MacGregor, Hubbuck, Racey, Buckland, Flin, Saunders, Frost, Secombes, Imrie, Beaumont, Dr WF Long, Dr P Schlicke, Mr W Brotherstone, Ms L Clark, Dr J Cleland, Dr J Liversidge, Professor T Salmon, Dr J Geddes, Dr M Masson, Dr J Naphy, Dr L Philip, Mrs M Ross, Dr H Sinclair, Dr S Townsend, Dr H Wallace, Mr P Richards, Miss F Keefe and Mr A Kartha.

Apologies: Professors Houlihan, Forrester, Templeton, Sleeman, Baker, Ritchie, Bruce, Sharp, Dawson, Watson, Hughes, Mrs L Stephen, Dr P Davidson, Professors Burgess, Archbold, Dr P Benson, Professor Blaikie, Dr G Coghill, Dr J Forbes, Professor Lurie, Dr P Edwards, Dr J Farmer, Dr J Geddes, Dr D Hay.

Since the meeting was not quorate, notes rather than formal minutes were taken. The Principal took Convener's action on behalf of the Senate to approve the various recommendations, which would be formally homologated at the next quorate meeting of the Senate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

115. In approving the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2006, it was agreed that Professor Racey's dissent to the decision to recommend that holders of Established Chairs should no longer be members of Senate *ex officio* be recorded. Professor Racey had understood that, following discussion at the last meeting, a vote would take place and that since this did not occur he had assumed that the above recommendation had not been passed. The Principal reported that, as minuted (Minute 104.1 refers), he had believed that the consensus of the meeting was that current holders of Established Chairs should not retain their right of membership of Senate *ex officio* and had not, therefore, requested a formal vote. The decision therefore stood, notwithstanding Professor Racey's dissent.

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL

- 116.1 The Principal informed Senate that he had received a formal question from Dr Masson concerning the Library Project. He asked Dr Masson to read her question to the Senate and then asked Professor Gane, as the Vice-Principal for Information Systems and Services, to respond.

Dr Masson submitted the following question:

"Recent meetings have drawn attention to the plans for the proposed new library. Although Buildings are not the responsibility of Senate, I consider that members of Senate, together with other staff, researchers and students, should have been consulted about their perceived requirements for a new library. I am not aware of any such consultation. Please can the Principal tell Senate about the consultations that occurred in the course of drawing up the list of requirements for the new library?"

The Queen Mother Library, built for a student population of 5500, has 754 study places. Can the Principal explain why 1000 study places are considered to be adequate for the current population of 13900, when the number of places to maintain the same level of provision would be 1906?"

With regard to the use of glass in the design of the proposed library, has any consideration been given to thermal efficiency and sustainability, and to the experience in the Meston Building with regard to the problems of keeping warm in winter and cool in summer, when windows must be kept closed to attempt to exclude the local population of pigeons? (They get in anyway.)"

- 116.2 In responding to Dr Masson's question, Professor Gane highlighted the following:

- (i) that the recommendation to build a new library had arisen following a recommendation several years previously from the Library User Group. The User Group had undertaken wide consultation,

including with that of the academic community. The University had then established a Project Board, to consider the matter further. The Board was chaired by Professor Gane and included, *inter alia*, members of the academic community, library staff, a Court representative and estates staff, in addition to architects. The Board had brought recommendations to the University Court to build a new library, with ten options being considered over an 18-month consultation period. It had not been appropriate to engage in wider consultation at that time, until option appraisals had been undertaken.

- (ii) that very detailed consultations were now being undertaken, which included the users, a technical group, and specialised groups meeting with the architects on approximately a fortnightly basis. College representatives on the various groups would ensure full feedback as part of this consultation process. Professor Gane was satisfied that there had been a very significant level of consultation, and invited Dr Masson to write to him with views or suggestions if she so wished.
- (iii) that, in regard to the number of study places, surveys of library uses had not identified enormous pressure on reader space for the current university population. Nevertheless, it had been considered prudent to increase the number of spaces to 1000 in the new library. In addition, the library was being designed to afford maximum flexibility of the use of internal space so that additional study spaces could be created if emerging patterns of use identified such a need.
- (iv) that environmental sustainability was a key part of all new major building projects and the library was no exception. Professor Gane had every confidence that the architects and engineers would work with the University to ensure that a wide range of sustainable issues, and not just those associated with energy utilisation, were incorporated into the design of the new building.

116.3 In closing his statement, the Principal welcomed the suspension of the recent industrial action. He expressed his appreciation to the great many people who had undertaken an enormous amount of additional work to ensure that the recent examination diet had proceeded on schedule and to allow students to graduate in July. He also thanked those who had returned to normal work during the suspension of the action so that no students would be greatly inconvenienced as a consequence of the recent action.

UPDATE OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-2009 / PLAN 2006-2007

- 117.1 The Senior Vice-Principal indicated that the latest draft of the Update of the Strategic Plan that had been circulated with the agenda had taken on board comments made previously by Senate members, and that he had worked with Schools and Colleges to bring forward objectives and performance indicators as appropriate. He indicated that he would be pleased to consider any final revisions from Senate before submitting the Plan to the University Court for approval.
- 117.2 In regard to the sections on Access and Participation, Professor Logan reported that part of the remit of the proposed Articulation Implementation Strategy Group would be to receive reports of the relative success of articulation and progression agreements.
- 117.3 In regard to the development of guidance for staff and students on the recognition of prior learning, it was noted that this would be recognition of both formal and informal learning.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

- 118.1 In introducing the Learning and Teaching Strategy, the Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching) indicated that the principle at the core of the strategy was that the University must provide learning opportunities that enabled students to realise their full academic potential. The Strategy was, therefore, a basis for lifelong learning. In so doing, the Strategy would create a learning environment that encouraged research and developed our students' potential and also that of staff, with staff development being a key feature of the Strategy.
- 118.2 Senate noted that the Strategy would remain a working document that would be continually honed to build on good practice and to continually inform decision making within the University in regard to learning and teaching. The Strategy would enable the University to become an enhancement-led institution that would assist the University in directing and managing resources to ensure a quality learning and teaching environment for students and staff. Effective learning and personal development planning were key components of the Learning and Teaching Strategy.

- 118.3 The Centre for Learning and Teaching, to be established from 1 August 2006, would play a lead role in taking forward the strategy in partnership with the Schools and Colleges, and one of its key aims was that of improving student retention.

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT

(23 May 2006)

1. Industrial Dispute

- 119.1 The Senate noted that the Court had received an update on the continuing Industrial Dispute with the Association of University Teachers (AUT) and the details of the steps, including the local pay offer, that had been made at a local level to try to resolve the dispute.

2. Strategy and Planning

- 119.2 The Senate noted that the Court had received and discussed a draft update to the Strategic Plan for 2004-2009 and had noted that a further version would be sent to Court for approval at its meeting in June.

3. Appointment of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor

- 119.3 The Senate noted that the Court had approved an extension to the contract of Professor C Duncan Rice as Principal and Vice-Chancellor for a period of two years from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2010.

4. Draft Ordinance No < > [Amendment to the Composition of the Senatus Academicus]

- 120.1 The Senate noted that the Court had received from the Senate a Draft Ordinance amending the Composition of the Senatus Academicus following the approval of the Second (Final) Report of the Senate Effectiveness Review Working Group.

- 120.2 The Senate noted that the Court, for its part, had approved the Draft Ordinance and had referred it to the General Council and agreed that it be made available within the University in terms of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966.

5. Validation Agreement: International Christian College

- 120.3 The Senate noted that the Court, for its part, had approved, on the recommendation of the Senate, a Validation Agreement between the University and the International Christian College.

6. Validation Agreement: UHI/Highland Theological College

- 120.4 The Senate noted that the Court, for its part, had approved, on the recommendation of the Senate, a Validation Agreement between the University and the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute in regard to the delivery of the Degree of Master of Theology at the Highland Theological College.

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

(26 May 2006)

1. Monitoring Students' Progress and Class Certificates – issues raised by Senate

- 120.5 The Senate approved the recommendations in regard to the system for monitoring students' progress and class certificate refusal (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). These recommendations had been approved by the UCTL at its meeting on 26 May and were proposed to address the request made at Senate on 3 May that consideration be given to (a) the feedback provided to Schools before they decided to refuse a class certificate and (b) the criteria under which appeals against class certificate refusal could be upheld in order to assist Heads of School in reaching decisions to withhold class certificates.

2. Procedures for Determining Progression and Award in Modularised Postgraduate Taught Programmes of Study (*Grade Spectrum*)

- 120.6 The Senate approved amendments to the *Procedures for Determining Progression and Award in Modularised Postgraduate Taught Programmes of Study (Grade Spectrum)* (changes are shown using track changes) (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). These revisions clarified new

procedures which had been introduced in 2005/06 and which had been approved by the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) on 10 March 2006 and by the UCTL on 26 May 2006.

- 120.7 The revisions also included amendment to the existing wording for the Award of the Master's Degree with Commendation or Distinction as the existing wording was unclear. The revised wording was as follows:

For Commendation: Marks at **15 or better** in elements constituting three quarters of the total assessment, inclusive of the project/dissertation (which must also be graded at 15 or better).

For Distinction: Marks at **18 or better** in elements constituting three quarters of the total assessment, inclusive of the project/dissertation (which must also be graded at 18 or better).

3. Equality and Diversity Strategy

- 120.8 The Senate noted that the UCTL, for its part, had approved the Equality and Diversity Strategy, subject to a number of minor revisions.

4. Enhancement-led Institutional Review – Update on Action Plan

- 120.9 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received an update on progress made in regard to addressing the recommendations highlighted in the report following the Enhancement-led Institutional Review conducted in 2005/06. The Committee had approved a number of minor revisions to the Academic Quality Handbook to issues raised in regard to Programme Approval, Programme Review, Use of Feedback from External Examiners and Student Representation.
- 120.10 The Committee further noted that the one-year follow up report was due to be submitted to the QAA by 29 September 2006 and that the report would be drafted over the summer with relevant approval being sought prior to its submission.

5. Personal Development Planning

- 120.11 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received an update on the work of the Working Group on Personal Development Planning (PDP). The Committee had noted that the Group was currently reviewing possible PDP packages to ascertain which would best meet the needs of the University. It was anticipated that such a decision would be made relatively soon in order that the chosen tool could be piloted in 2006/07 with full roll-out planned for 2007/08.

6. Class Representatives

- 120.12 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received a report on the Class Representative System from the Students' Association. It was noted that some difficulties remained with the flow of information from Schools to the Students' Association in regard to contact details for class representatives. While the level of information was better than in previous years, there were still significant delays in getting the information from some areas which had knock-on effects in regard to the training of class representatives. A number of recommendations of ways to further enhance the system were proposed and these would be discussed over the summer with the Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching), Registry and the incoming and outgoing Vice-Presidents (Education and Employability) in the Students' Association.

7. Working Group on Student and Graduate Feedback

- 120.13 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received a report from the Working Group on Student and Graduate Feedback setting out details of a proposed revised Student Course Evaluation Form (SCEF) and accompanying updates to Appendix 3.7a of the Academic Quality Handbook in regard to the process of course review. The revised form had a substantially revised Part A which aimed to be student-centred and encouraged students to comment on their overall experience on the course, with space for written comments to be provided after each question. Part B of the form was divided into four sections: facilities, course specific questions, self-reflection and space for written comments. Schools would be able to tailor Part B to suit the course subject to approval by the relevant College Director of Teaching & Learning and the ASC Convener.
- 120.14 The Senate noted that the UCTL, in approving the revised SCEF form and the revisions to Appendix 3.7a of the Academic Quality Handbook, had considered whether the form should be made available to students on-line. It had been agreed that this would be considered following a review of the effectiveness of the revised, paper, form. The Senate therefore agreed that the new form be used with effect from session 2006/07.

- 120.15 The revised SCEF form and the updated version of Appendix 3.7a of the Academic Quality Handbook could be accessed at:- <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/internal/documents/>
- 120.16 The Senate noted that the UCTL had also approved a recommendation from the Working Group on Student & Graduate Feedback that, in light of the University's decision to opt into the National Student Survey (NSS) with effect from 2006/07, consideration of the need for an additional programme-level feedback form to be completed at graduation be deferred until the outcome of the first round of the NSS survey was known.

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

1. New Award of Doctor of Engineering

- 121.1 Senate, for its part, approved on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) the new award of Doctor of Engineering (EngD). The EngD was a Professional Doctorate defined as a programme of advanced study and research in an Engineering field which, whilst satisfying the University criteria for the award of a doctorate, was designed to meet the specific research needs of a professional group, and which developed the capability of individuals to integrate research practice within a professional context. Revisions to the General Regulations for Research Awards had been made to include the EngD (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

2. Validation of UHI Millennium Institute academic areas/academic partners for the delivery of research degree programmes

- 121.2 The Senate, for its part, approved, on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate), the recommendations that the following UHI Millennium Institute academic areas/academic partners be validated under the terms of the Accreditation Agreement currently in force between the University and UHI to deliver research degree programmes as indicated below.

Agriculture: Fisheries and Aquaculture Faculty of Science and Technology, NAFC Marine Centre

Gaelic and related studies Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

- 121.3 In each case the validation would remain in force for five years under the terms of the Accreditation Agreement between the University and UHI. Each validation proposal was subject to the academic area meeting recommendations specified in the relevant report by a stipulated date. The reports from the validation panels were available at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/internal/documents/>

3. New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes

- 121.4 The Senate noted that the Academic Standards Committees, on the recommendation of the relevant Colleges, had approved changes to the list of courses and programmes available as under:

(A) INDIVIDUAL DEGREE AND DIPLOMA COURSES (UNDERGRADUATE)

Accountancy

Withdrawal of AC3546

Celtic

Withdrawal of CE1023, CE1523, CE1025, CE1525, CE2022, CE2522

Centre for Lifelong Learning

Withdrawal of KL3006, KL3506

Education

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Professional Issues in Higher Education'; 'Facilitating Learning in Higher Education'; 'Teaching Experience in Higher Education'; 'Understanding Learners in Higher Education'.

Withdrawal of ED1004, CR1030, CR1501, CR1502, CR1503, CR2040, CR2041, CR2043, CR2501, CR2502, CR2503, CR4047

English

Withdrawal of EL45EM, EL48EO, EL43UP, EL45WD, EL35XP, EL40WA

Film Studies

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Contemporary Hollywood Cinema'; 'Cinematic Cities'; 'Theories of the Visual'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Film and Television Comedy'.

Withdrawal of FS35CF, FS30CE, FS40EB

French

Introduction of new level 1 courses: 'Introduction to Literature and Culture of Modern France 1'; 'Introduction to Literature and Culture of Modern France 2'.

Withdrawal of FR3038

Gaelic

Introduction of new level 1 courses: 'Gaelic For Native Speakers 1A'; 'Gaelic For Native Speakers 1B'; 'Gaelic Language 2A'; 'Gaelic Language 2B'; 'Gaelic Language For Native Speakers 2A'; 'Gaelic Language For Native Speakers 2B'.

German

Withdrawal of GM3037, GM3046, GM3517, GM4008, GM4037, GM4046, GM4517

History

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'A Military Revolution? War, State & Society In Europe, C1500-1798'; 'Men, Women And Eunuchs: Gender And Identity In Late Antiquity'.

History of Art

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Art In France: Symbolism To Surrealism'.

International Relations

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Japan and the World'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Modernity and Islam'.

Withdrawal of IR3504, IR4001, IR4004, IR4503

Land Economy

Withdrawal of LE4526

Law

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Honours Intellectual Property, Administrative Law (Honours)'.

Mathematical Sciences

Introduction of new level 1 course: 'Topics in Mathematics'

Introduction of new level 2 courses: 'Probability', 'Introduction to Analysis', 'Sets and Algebraic Structures', 'Linear Algebra' and 'Advanced Calculus'

Withdrawal of courses: MA2003, MA2504, MA2503, MX3018, MX3019, MX3529 and MX3520.

Politics

Withdrawal of PI4048

Property

Introduction of new level 2 course: 'Principles of Property Valuation'.

Philosophy

Introduction of new level 1 courses: 'Moral Philosophy, Knowledge and Mind'.

Introduction of new level 2 courses: 'The History Of Western Philosophy I: Ancient And Medieval'; 'Philosophy of Language'; 'The History Of Western Philosophy Ii: Modern, Metaphysics'.

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Ethics and Personal Relations'; 'The Human Condition'; 'Hume's Theoretical Philosophy'; 'Independent Study'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Pragmatics and Semantics In Epistemology'.

Withdrawal of PH1013, PH1512, PH2009, PH2509, PH2010, PH2510, PH3035, PH3044, PH3062, PH3521, PH3528, PH3542, PH4508.

Russian

Withdrawal of RL1004, RL1504

Spanish

Withdrawal of SP1020, SP2013, SP3068, SP3072, SP3078, SP3090, SP3094, SP3569, SP3586, SP4004, SP4072, SP4078, SP4090, SP4569, SP4586.

Sociology

Withdrawal of SO4005

Zoology

Withdrawal of course: BI4003

(B) POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Business School

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Accounting'; 'International Accounting'; 'Extended Critical Studies Paper'; 'Securitisation'.

School of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Advanced Studies A'; 'Advanced Studies B'; 'Advanced Studies C'; 'Research Training A'; 'Research Training B'; 'Problem Solving and Professional Skills A'; 'Problem Solving and Professional Skills B'; 'Research Project A'; 'Research Project B'; 'Overview of Energy Industry'; 'Power Distribution and Sustainability'; 'Environmental Monitoring and Decommissioning'; 'Project Management and Group Project'; 'Renewable Technology (Electrical)'; 'Renewable Technology

(Liquids)'; 2020 Vision (Routes to Compliance)'; 'Energy Futures Dissertation'; 'Processes, Materials and Bioremediation for the Energy Industry'.

School of Geosciences

Introduction of new level 5 course: 'Environmental Planning and Remediation'.

(C) POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

School of Engineering & Physical Sciences

Introduction of new programmes: 'MSc/PgDip in Chemical Sciences'; 'MSc/PgDip in Energy Futures (Nuclear)'; 'MSc/PgDip in Energy Futures (Oil and Gas)'; 'MSc/PgDip in Energy Futures (Renewables)'.

School of Geosciences

MSc/PgDip/PgCert in Hydrocarbon Enterprise – change of title to 'MSc/PgDip/PgCert Oil and Gas Enterprise Management'.

MSc in Petroleum Geology – change of title to 'MSc in Integrated Petroleum Geology'.

School of Medical Sciences

MSc/PgDip/PgCert in Medical Biotechnology – change of title to 'MSc/PgDip/PgCert in Medical Biotechnology (with Bio-Business)'.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

122. The Senate approved the appointment of the following, on the recommendation of the relevant Head of College, from 1 August 2006 until 30 September 2009 in the first instance:

Director of Undergraduate Programmes (Law): Mr MJ Radford *vice* Professor E Metzger

DEADLINE FOR REFUSAL OF CLASS CERTIFICATES

123. The Senate approved the recommendation that the deadline for the notification to the Registry of the refusal of Class Certificates, to those students previously reported as "at risk" under the Student Monitoring Scheme, be as follows:-

First half-session courses: 5.00 p.m. on 19 December 2006, i.e. on the Tuesday following the last (other than those below) day of teaching

Second half-session courses: 5.00 p.m. on 15 May 2007, i.e. on the Tuesday following the last day of (other than those below) teaching

MBCbB programme: 5.00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the last day of teaching, i.e:

Phase II 2M: 5 June 2007
Phase II 3M: 27 February 2007
Phase III: 5 June 2007
Phase IV: 12 June 2007

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

124. The Senate noted that the Student Recruitment and Admissions Committee, at its meeting of 18 May 2006, had agreed to recommend to the Court that Dr Philip Zeigler be appointed as the Admissions Selector for Divinity, *vice* Dr Martin Mills.

APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMITTEES

125. The Senate noted that the appointment of members to Senate standing committees, Senate representatives on joint committees of the Senate with the Court, and Senate representatives on committees of the Court, for the academic year 2006-2007, would be considered and approved by the Senate Business Committee that would be established on the recommendation of the Senate Effectiveness Review Working Group.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES: NOVEMBER 2006

126. The Senate noted that degrees would be conferred at Graduation Ceremonies in November 2006 as follows:-

Friday 24 November 2006 at 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Saturday 25 November 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

ELECTION OF READERS AND LECTURERS TO THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS

127. The Senate noted that the following had been elected as members of the Senatus Academicus for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2010 unless otherwise indicated, in the constituencies stated:

<i>Business School Constituency:</i>	Mr A Arthur Dr D Molyneaux
<i>School of Divinity, History and Philosophy Constituency:</i>	Dr B Marsden Dr J Schaper
<i>School of Education Constituency:</i>	Mrs G Kirkpatrick Dr J Ravet Mrs A Valyo
<i>School of Law Constituency:</i>	Professor P Duff Mrs M Ross
<i>School of Social Science Constituency:</i>	Mr N Curtis (to 30 September 2008) Dr AD King Professor TC Salmon Professor C Wallace
<i>School of Biological Sciences Constituency:</i>	Dr J Sternberg
<i>School of Medical Sciences Constituency:</i>	Dr A Jenkinson Dr D Scott
<i>School of Medicine Constituency:</i>	Dr M Borourjerdi Dr J Cleland Dr J Liversidge Dr T MacFarlane Dr H McKenzie Dr E van Teijlingen Dr G Walsh
<i>School of Psychology Constituency:</i>	Dr P Benson (to 30 September 2008) Dr R Bull Dr D Pearson
<i>School of Engineering & Physical Sciences Constituency:</i> Dr WTA Harrison (to 30 September 2008) Professor R Levi Dr TJF Norman Professor G Robinson	Professor JA Anderson

Dr J Skakle
Dr ST Townsend (to 30 September 2008)

No nominations had been received in the School of Language & Literature or the School of Geosciences Constituencies.

GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

- 128.1 The Senate noted that details of those qualified to receive degrees, diplomas and other awards who had applied to have them conferred *in absentia* could be viewed in the Registry (see appendix to Minutes of June 2006).
- 128.2 The Senate agreed to confer the degrees on, and award the diplomas and other qualifications to, the persons stated.