

SENATUS ACADEMICUS

Notes of the meeting held on 15 June 2005

Present: Principal, Professors Logan and Houlihan, Dr JG Roberts, Professors Gane, Haites, Rodger, MacGregor, Buckland, Macinnes, MacDonald, Howe, JB Webster, Dr B Fennell, Professors Secombes, Mitchell, Dr IA McFarland, Mrs L Stephen, Professors Archbold, Blaikie, Ms L Clark, Professor Duff, Dr JC Forbes, Dr J Liversidge, Professor Lurie, Dr D Hay, Dr WD McCausland, Dr MR Masson, Dr D Pearson, Dr LJ Philip, Dr J Skakle, Mr SC Styles, Dr SP Townsend and Dr RPK Wells.

Apologies: Professors Lyall, Hubbuck, Forrester, Templeton, Sleeman, Baker, Ritchie, Bruce, Sharp, Killham, Fraser, Alexander, Flin, Ayres, Saunders, Beaumont, Dr P McGeorge, Professor Imrie, Ms DW McKenzie Skene, Dr WF Long, Mr G Pryor, Dr P Benson, Mr WTC Brotherstone, Miss R Buchan, Mr J Chalmers, Dr G Coghill, Dr P Edwards, Dr J Geddes, Dr X Lambin, Dr J MacDowall, Dr P Mealor, Mrs ML Ross, Dr H Sinclair, Dr HM Wallace, Professor Wiercigroch.

In opening the meeting, the Principal indicated that the meeting was not quorate. Notes of the meeting, rather than formal Minutes, would therefore be taken. The Principal informed members that he would take Convener's action on behalf of the Senate to approve the various recommendations and that the notes would be formally homologated at the next quorate meeting of the Senate. In regard to the Honorary Degree nominations, the Principal informed members that the voting would go ahead as planned and that he would take Convener's action on behalf of the Senate to approve the nominations without the need for future homologation at a future meeting of the Senate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

943. The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2005 were approved.

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL

944.1 In his opening statement, the Principal reported that Robin Harper MSP has been elected for a three year period with effect from 1 July 2005.

944.2 He invited Professor Logan to update members on progress made in regard to the Senate Effectiveness Review. Professor Logan drew Senate's attention to the composition of the Working Group (minute 941 refers) and informed Senate that the first meeting of the group was scheduled to be held in late June. The Working Group would take forward the tasks set out in its remit and would come forward with detailed proposals to Senate in due course.

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF COLLEGE

945.1 The Principal introduced the Statements by Heads of College by reminding Senate that a huge amount of work had taken place since restructuring in August 2003. However, while members of Senate were probably aware of the work being done in their own School and College, it was important that they were briefed on the work being done and progress being made across the whole University.

College of Arts & Social Sciences

945.2 Professor MacGregor in opening his statement set out a number of key performance indicators. In explaining these, he highlighted increases in postgraduate taught and research numbers and increased research applications and awards. This, he informed Senate, was most positive indicating significant success and growth but this did raise issues in regard to both quality and quantity of the Estate.

945.3 Professor MacGregor outlined academic staff movement within the College since August 2003. This showed the overall turnover of around 36%. When broken down to the individual School level, he outlined that the biggest area of investment had been in the School of Law in recognition of its growing research income, and increasing postgraduate recruitment. The figures presented, however, showed there to be, across the College as a whole, only a net gain of one member of staff at professional level whereas there was a net gain of 21.8 at lecturer level with a net loss of 18.5 at senior lecturer level.

945.4 Professor MacGregor outlined other areas of recruitment including the appointment of four new Heads of School with the Heads of School in the other two Schools being reappointed for a further period. He further indicated that appointments were currently being made to the posts of Director of Research and the Director of the Graduate School. He also highlighted a number of changes within the College Administration Team, including the recent appointment of a new College Registrar.

College of Life Sciences & Medicine

945.5 Professor Haites opened her statement by outlining a number of recent appointments to Chairs made in the Schools of Psychology, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine and Medical Sciences. She highlighted the significant number of fellowships achieved by the College and highlighted that four staff in the College had recently been made Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. She outlined that while there had been some staff turnover this had not had a significant impact on research activities. In addition, she also highlighted that the recent promotions round had recognised the enormous quality of staff within the College. She was also pleased to report that a number of members of the College had been appointed as Chairs or members of sub-panels for the forthcoming RAE exercise.

945.6 She informed Senate that the College had achieved £30 M of research income from 62 grants awarded since August 2004. Of these grants, half were for more than £500,000 and two were over £1M. In addition, she was pleased to report recent successful inter-School collaboration including the recent achievement of a Proof of Concept Award.

945.7 In regard to Estates issues, Professor Haites reported on the recent upgrades to the Cruickshank Building and the teaching laboratories in the Zoology Building and that other upgrades are underway.

945.8 She highlighted the successful quality audit of the MBChB programme by the General Medical Council which had identified seventeen areas of good practice and had praised the enthusiasm and loyalty of staff and students. She further highlighted the positive outcome from the recent Internal Teaching Review of the School of Psychology.

College of Physical Sciences

945.9 Professor Rodger, in opening his statement, stated that the past year had been one of significant change for the College of Physical Sciences. There had been 30% staff turnover through the restructuring process. Of the 28 new appointments made, nine of these were Chair appointments, many of which were at world-class level. Three of these appointments had brought together significant strength in the area of topology within Mathematics.

945.10 He reported that the College was sound financially with savings targets having been achieved in full and income (including student fee income and research income) was ahead of target. He highlighted new undergraduate and postgraduate income streams including a successful EPSRC LTA bid for £1,700,000. A number of new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes had been established and 21 Postgraduate research studentships had been made available by the College. Professor Rodger highlighted a number of areas of success in regard to research income generation including recent successful Proof of Concept Awards. He also highlighted a number of other areas of development.

945.11 He further highlighted the forthcoming celebrations in recognition of 500 years of Mathematics at Aberdeen.

UPDATE OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-09

946. Professor Logan briefly outlined the progress made since the last meeting of the Senate in regard to the update of the Strategic Plan. The draft update to the Strategic Plan had been considered twice by all relevant committees and suggested revisions made at these meetings had been incorporated. The Plan presented was therefore the final draft. Professor Logan invited comment from Senate but no issues were raised.

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT

(24 May 2005)

1. Enhancement-Led Institutional Review

947.1 The Senate noted that the Court had received the Key Themes letter from the Quality Assurance Agency which had provided an early indication of the key findings of the recent Enhancement-led Institutional Review of the University. The Court was pleased to note that the Team had expressed *broad confidence* in the effectiveness of the institution's systems for maintaining quality and standards, which was the highest of the three ratings available.

2. Strategic Plan 2004-2009

947.2 The Senate noted that the Court had received and commented upon a draft update of the Strategic Plan 2004-2009.

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

(27 May 2005)

1. Review of the Code of Practice on Student Discipline

948.1 On the recommendation of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning (UCTL) the Senate was invited to approve a number of revisions to the Code of Practice on Student Discipline. These revisions were proposed following consideration of a number of issues which had arisen following operation of the Code of Practice as approved by the Senate in June 2003.

948.2 Concern was raised by one member that, in regard to cases of non-academic student discipline (such as noise disturbance) the requirement to normally give seven days notice of the date and venue of the hearing (as outlined in 5.5.1.1 of the Code of Practice) was not practical in such situations and it was requested that consideration be given to a shorter time frame in such cases.

948.3 Professor Gane noted that this issue had not been brought to the attention of the Working Group at the time of their deliberations but that he would be willing to give consideration to it now. In approving the revised Code of Practice and agreeing to forward the draft Resolution 'Code of Practice on Student Discipline' to the University Court the Senate agreed to empower Professor Gane to give consideration to the further revision proposed.

2. Grade Spectrum (Postgraduate Taught Programmes)

948.4 In June 2004 the Senate approved a recommendation from the University Committee on Teaching and Learning (UCTL), that students be required to meet the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) for the award of Honours degrees. At that time it was agreed that the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) [ASC(Pg)] should be invited to consider the same for postgraduate awards.

948.5 In regard to the proposed revisions, concern was raised by one member in regard to the use of the term 'element of assessment'. It was proposed that there may be a degree of ambiguity between the use of the term in the revised Procedures for Determining Progression and Award in Modularised Postgraduate Taught Programmes of Study (Grade Spectrum) and that used in the proposed revisions to General Regulation 9 for Taught Postgraduate Awards as outlined in the draft Resolution. In regard to the latter, it was proposed that the term was less loosely defined.

948.6 In approving the revised *Procedures for Determining Progression and Award in Modularised Postgraduate Taught Programmes of Study (Grade Spectrum)* and the draft Resolution 'Review of Procedures for Determining Progression and Award in Modularised Postgraduate Taught Programmes (Grade Spectrum)', the Senate agreed to empower the Convener of the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) to give consideration to the issue of ambiguity which had been raised.

948.7 The Senate agreed to ask the Court that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, the draft Resolution be passed forthwith, so that the amended provisions may be applied to students being admitted to postgraduate taught programmes of study in September 2005.

- 948.8 In the light of the revisions to the Grade Spectrum being proposed, a member raised concern about the use of the Grade Spectrum for the award of degrees and, in particular, expressed concern about the potential for inconsistency when the Grade Spectrum was applied across disciplines. He stated that while use of the Grade Spectrum within a single discipline does not cause difficulties as the same number of elements are used in all case, when it is applied across disciplines, depending on the number of elements of assessment used, there may be differences in the degree class achieved.
- 948.9 In responding, Dr Roberts proposed that the matter be referred to the next meeting of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning for consideration.

3. Enhancement-led Institutional Review – Key Themes Letter

- 948.10 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received a copy of the Key Themes Letter received by the University following the ELIR visits undertaken by the QAA. It Senate also noted that the University would receive a draft of the final report on 27 June 2005. There would be an opportunity for the University to respond to the draft before the final report is published in September 2005.

4. Review of Learning and Teaching Strategy Interim Report

- 948.11 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received an interim report from the Learning and Teaching Strategy Review Group. This report set out a draft Action Plan highlighting the main actions required for implementation of the strategy. The Senate noted that the UCTL had agreed that the Action Plan should be circulated to Schools and Colleges for comment, with feedback to be forwarded to the review group by the end of August 2005.

5. Educational and Staff Development Unit Annual Report (2004/2005)

- 948.12 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received the Annual Report for 2004/2005 from the Educational and Staff Development Unit (ESDU). The Senate noted that the UCTL had agreed that the Report should be circulated to College Teaching and Learning Committees for information.

6. Review of SENAS Forms

- 948.13 The Senate noted that the UCTL had approved minor revisions to the SENAS form and the associated Guidance Note. These revisions would require Schools to provide enhanced details of the elements making up in-course assessment but do not, at this stage, require Schools to include details of the word length of in-course essays or dissertations.
- 948.14 The Senate noted that the UCTL had agreed to oversee the production of a Guidance Note on Assessment which would include guidance on issues such as word limits, taking into account guidance as it becomes available from the Quality Enhancement Theme on Assessment and the forthcoming Project on Formative Assessment.
- 948.15 The Senate noted that the UCTL had further agreed that guidance would be drawn up by the Registry in consultation with Colleges, to clearly identify responsibilities of Schools, College Directors of Teaching and Learning and ASCs in the approval of SENAS forms.

7. Final Report from the Working Group on External Examining

- 948.16 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received the Final Report from the Working Group on External Examining which contained several recommendations arising from the revisions to the QAA Code of Practice on External Examining.

The main recommendations contained in the report included:

- Revisions to the External Examiner's report form including amended deadlines for the submission of report forms to the University, with undergraduate forms to be submitted by 31 August and postgraduate forms by 30 November each year. Additionally, provision will be made to enable the electronic submission of External Examiner's reports.
- That the route for feedback to External Examiners following consideration of the Head of School/Phase Co-ordinator's response by the ASC be revised to become the responsibility of the ASC rather than the Head of School.
- That Heads of School should be responsible for ensuring that examples of particular good practice highlighted in External Examiner's reports are disseminated, with QUEST being invited to provide guidance on ways by which such good practice might be disseminated within Schools and more widely across Colleges and the University as a whole.

8. Interim Report from the Working Group on Student and Graduate Feedback

948.17 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received an Interim Report from the Working Group on Student and Graduate Feedback setting out a proposed new Student Course Evaluation Form (SCEF). The Senate also noted that the UCTL had agreed that the Report should be circulated to College Teaching and Learning Committees with comment being fed back to the Working Group, with a view to a further report being brought to the UCTL in October.

9. Disclosure of Marks and Feedback to Students

948.18 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received a paper outlining changes made to the Data Protection Act by the [UK] Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to requirements to disclose marks for and feedback on performance in individual elements of assessment in written examinations. The Senate noted that the UCTL had agreed that current University policy on releasing individual marks from such assessments should be reviewed and that consideration be given to providing better feedback to students on assessments. This would be taken forward during session 2005/2006.

10. Guidance Note on Fitness to Practise for Students in Education

948.19 The Senate noted that the UCTL had approved a Guidance Note for Education Students

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Degree, Diploma and Certificate Regulations

1. Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Education (BEd)

949. The Senate approved amendments to the Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Education (BEd), as under, on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate):

Regulation 2

From the existing regulation delete 'satisfactorily complete a medical examination, and'.

Regulation 6 (a)

From the existing regulation delete 'including the Programme Year 1 requirement in School Experience'.

2. Supplementary Regulations for the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)

950. The Senate approved amendments to the Supplementary Regulations for the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education, as under, on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate):

Regulation 1

To the existing regulation for '(or the equivalent for the PGDE (Primary) part-time programme)' substitute '(or the equivalent for the PGDE part-time programmes)'.

Regulation 8

In the first sentence of the existing regulation add 'full-time' after 'PGDE (Secondary)'.

To the existing regulations add a final paragraph as follows:

'Candidates on the PGDE (Secondary) part-time programme whose progress is judged to be unsatisfactory during School Experience 1 as detailed in the Schedule of Courses appended to these regulations, may be allowed to progress and make good any unsatisfactory performance in the subsequent period of School Experience. If performance is subsequently judged to be satisfactory, credit will be awarded to School Experience 1 as appropriate. Candidates who fail to complete satisfactorily School Experience 2 may, exceptionally, be given an opportunity to repeat School Experience 2 with the permission of the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate)'.

3. General Regulations for Research Degrees

951. The Senate approved amendments to the General Regulations for Research Degrees, as under, on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate):

Regulation 2

For the existing regulation substitute the following:

'Before being admitted to a research degree candidates must possess one of the following in an appropriate discipline:

- (a) a Master's degree at postgraduate level of a University in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, or comparable degree, *or*
- (b) a first or upper second class Honours degree of a University in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, *or*
- (c) the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of a University in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, *or*
- (d) a degree of a University or College elsewhere recognised by the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) as equivalent, *or*
- (e) a diploma or certificate recognised in like manner as equivalent to a degree, *or*
- (f) such other qualifications as in the opinion of the relevant Postgraduate Officer on the recommendation of the Head(s) of the School(s) concerned afford sufficient evidence of their availability to profit from the programme they propose to pursue. Where the degree held by an applicant is not awarded with classified Honours, the Postgraduate Officer may accept such a degree for the purposes of this section, if satisfied that the applicant reached a sufficiently high standard.'

4. Proposed Validation: International Christian College

- 952.1 The University Management Group has agreed in principle to a request from the International Christian College (ICC) to validate its undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research provision, with the view to all ICC students registering for degrees and awards of the University of Aberdeen.
- 952.2 Since the academic programmes will come under the remits of both the undergraduate and postgraduate Academic Standards Committees, the ASCs have agreed in principle to the establishment of a joint Validation Panel, with the detailed composition being agreed by the Conveners of the two ASCs in consultation with the Registry. This will allow the Panel to be established and to commence its work before the next meeting of the ASCs.

5. New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes

953. 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)

Celtic

Introduction of new level 2 course '19th Century Gaelic Literature and Society'

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Advanced Gaelic Writing Skills for Native Speakers A', 'Gaelic Translation: Theory and Practice A', 'Introduction to Old Irish I A', 'Introduction to Old Irish IIA' 'Gaelic Publishing: From the Popular Press to Official Documents A' and 'Medieval Gaelic Sagas A'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Advanced Gaelic Writing Skills for Native Speakers B', 'Gaelic Translation: Theory and Practice B', 'Introduction to Old Irish I B', 'Introduction to Old Irish II B', 'Dissertation in Celtic Studies', 'Dissertation in Gaelic Studies', 'Dissertation in Celtic Civilisation' and 'Medieval Gaelic Sagas B'.

Withdrawal of courses: CE2023 and CE2523.

Centre for Lifelong Learning

Introduction of new level 2 course: 'Pastoral Care in Context'

Cultural History

Withdrawal of course CU4524.

Divinity and Religious Studies

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Comparative Semitic Languages' and 'Languages for Advanced Biblical Study',

Withdrawal of courses: DR2027, DR2525, DR 2526 and DR2527.

Education

Introduction of new level 1 courses: 'Learning How to Learn', 'Learning How Others Learn', 'School Experience 1 Erasmus' and 'School Experience 2 Erasmus'.

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Early Stages School Experience for the PGDE (P) by Part-Time Distance Learning', 'Middle Stages School Experience for the PGDE (P) by Part-Time Distance Learning', 'Upper Stages School Experience for the PGDE (P) by Part-Time Distance Learning' and 'Design for BSc Technology with Education'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Pre-School Experience for the PGDE (P) by Part-Time Distance Learning', 'Learning and Teaching in Primary Schools for the PGDE (P) by Part-Time Distance Learning', 'Learning and Teaching in Secondary Schools', 'Secondary School Experience One for the PGDE (S) by Part-Time Distance Learning', 'Secondary School Experience Two for the PGDE (S) by Part-Time Distance Learning', 'Teaching English in Secondary Schools', 'Teaching Gaelic in Secondary Schools', 'Teaching Home Economics in Secondary Schools', 'Teaching Mathematics in Secondary Schools' and 'Teaching Physics in Secondary Schools'

French

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Level 3 French Language 16'

Withdrawal of courses: FR2005, FR2505, FR3531 and FR3547.

Gender Studies (formerly Women's Studies)

Introduction of new level 1 course: 'Revolting Women: The Women's Movement in Modern Britain'.

Withdrawal of the course WS1002.

German

Withdrawal of courses: GM3032, GM3033 and GM3532.

Hispanic Studies

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Level 3 Spanish Language 2A'.

Withdrawal of courses: SP2014, SP3064, SP3073, SP3074, SP3570, SP3571, SP3589, SP4073, SP4074, SP4570, SP4571 and SP4589.

Management Studies

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Gender, Work and Organisation'.

Mathematics

Introduction of new Level 3 courses: 'Analysis and Algebra 1', 'Analysis and Algebra 2', 'Mechanics and Set Theory', 'Applicable Mathematics' and 'Set Theory'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Mathematics Education'.

Withdrawal of the course MX3015.

Medicine

Introduction of new Level 4 courses: 'Introductory French for Medical Students', 'Advanced French for Medical Students', 'Introductory Spanish for Medical Students', 'Advanced Spanish for Medical Students', 'Introductory German for Medical Students', 'Advanced German for Medical Students', 'Introductory Gaelic for Medical Students', 'Advanced Gaelic for Medical Students', 'Essay Project on the History/Culture of Medicine/Health', 'Society and Nature', 'Introduction to Art History: Case Studies in Western Art; Renaissance to Modern', 'Studying Gender', 'Studying Social Life', 'Perceived Cultural Differences – for Medical Students', 'Counselling Skills for the Medical Profession' and 'Communicating in British Sign Language'.

Philosophy

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Formal and Philosophical Logic'.

Withdrawal of courses: PH2004 and PH2506.

Politics

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Globalisation and Democratization'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Democratization' and 'Human Rights'.

Withdrawal of courses: PI4034, PI4043, PI4527 and PI4528.

Sociology

Introduction of new level 1 courses: 'Introduction to Sociology 1' and 'Introduction to Sociology 2'.

Introduction of new level 2 courses: 'Studying Social Life 1' and 'Studying Social Life 2'.

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Thinking Sociologically', 'Social Research Methods' and 'Modernity and Social Theory'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'European Societies'.

Withdrawal of: SO1003, SO1505, SO2002, SO2502, SO3016, SO3065, SO3516, SO3517, SO3518, SO3519, SO3520, SO4013, SO4020, SO4506 and SO4520.

(B) UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE AND DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Degree of MA

Introduction of new honours programme: 'Celtic Civilisation – Gaelic Studies'.

Withdrawal of honours programme: 'Geography – Gender Studies'.

Education

Introduction of amended and new programmes: 'Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary) by Part-Time Distance Learning' and 'Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) by Part-Time Distance Learning'.

(C) POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Education

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Developing Capability for Improvement'; 'Education Leadership'; 'Leading to Improve Learning: Part 2'; 'Leading and Managing to Improve Learning: Part 1'.

Engineering and Physical Sciences

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'The Electronic Society'; 'Multi-Agent Systems'; 'E-Technology Workshop'; 'Data Interpretation and Communication'; 'Healthcare Informatics'; 'e-Science and Grid Computing'; 'MSc Project in E-Technology'.

Withdrawal of courses CS5002, CS5820, CS5913 and CS5914.

Language & Literature

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Jane Austen and the Development of Fiction'; 'Early Modern Women Writers: the Age of Aphra Behn'

(D) POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Education

Introduction of new PgDip/PgCert in Professional Development (School Management)

Engineering and Physical Sciences

Introduction of new MSc/PgDip/PgCert in E-Health Technology
Introduction of new MSc/PgDip/PgCert in E-Science Technology

REPORT FROM THE JOINT PLANNING, FINANCE AND ESTATES COMMITTEE (3 May 2005)

1. Funding for Teaching and Research 2004/05

954.1 The Senate noted that the JPFEC had received an analysis of the impact on the University of the SHEFC allocation of Main Grants in Support of Teaching and Research for 2005/06 as announced in circular letter HE/08/05 (available online at <http://www/shefc.ac.uk/library/shefc/circular/2005>). The Committee noted that Universities were required, as a condition of grant, to devise and implement strategies to address the Scottish Executive's priorities for (i) equality of opportunity and fair access, (ii) continuous improvement of learning and teaching, (iii) research and knowledge transfer, and (iv) human resources policies and management.

2. Cross Border Student Flows: Higher Education Tuition Fee Levels

954.2 The Senate noted that the JPFEC's attention had been drawn to the Scottish Executive Consultation on Cross Border Student Flows: Higher Education Tuition Fee Levels. The Committee discussed the potential consequences for Scottish-domiciled students, Scottish Universities and more specifically, the University of Aberdeen of (i) the introduction of higher tuition fees in England, and (ii) the Scottish Executive's subsequent reaction.

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE (19 May 2005)

955. The Senate noted that the Student Recruitment and Admissions Committee had agreed to recommend to the University Court that Professor FB Watson be appointed as the Admissions Selector for Divinity *vice* Dr Ian McFarland and that Dr Glynn Hesker be appointed as the Admissions Selector for the MA degree *vice* Mr George Martin, with Dr Ken Aitken continuing to support the MA Selector.

APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMITTEES

956. The Senate approved 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 2005-2006 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

DEADLINE FOR REFUSAL OF CLASS CERTIFICATES

957. The Senate approved the recommendation that the deadline for the notification to the Registry of the refusal of Class Certificates, for those courses that had been given approval by the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate) for Class Certificates still to be refused by Schools, be as follows:-

First half-session courses: 5.00 p.m. on 20 December 2005, i.e. on the Tuesday following the last day of teaching
(other than those below)

Second half-session courses: 5.00 p.m. on 16 May 2006, i.e. on the Tuesday following the last day of teaching
(other than those below)

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

Phase II 2M: 6 June 2006
Phase II 3M: 28 February 2006
Phase III: 6 June 2006
Phase IV: 13 June 2006

GRAMPIAN RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

958. The Senate approved a recommendation that Dr Steve Townsend should represent the University on the Board of the Grampian Racial Equality Council.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES: NOVEMBER 2005

959. The Senate noted that degrees will be conferred at the Graduation Ceremonies in November 2005 as follows:-

Friday 25 November at 3.00 p.m.: Arts & Social Sciences, Education, Divinity and Law

Saturday 26 November at 11.00 a.m.: Science, Engineering and Medicine.

ELECTION OF SENATE ASSESSORS TO THE UNIVERSITY COURT

960. The Senate noted that Mr TC Brotherstone and Professor C Secombes had been elected as Assessors to the University Court for the period 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2009.

ELECTION OF SENATE ASSESSOR TO THE JOINT PLANNING, FINANCE AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

961. The Senate noted that Professor C Secombes had been elected as a Senate Assessor to the Joint Planning, Finance and Estates Committee for the period 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2009.

GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

- 962.1 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 Senate Office of the Registry (see Appendix to Minutes of June 2005).

- 962.2 The Senate agreed to confer the degrees on, and award the diplomas and other qualifications to, the persons stated.

963. In closing the meeting, the Senate recorded its good wishes to Dr Roberts who was attending his last meeting before his retirement.