

**SENATUS ACADEMICUS**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2006**

Present: Principal, Professors Logan, Haites, Rodger, MacGregor, Hubbuck, Bruce, Buckland, Sharp, Killham, Watson, Saunders, Frost, Mrs M Pearson, Professors Secombes, Hughes, Dr WF Long, Professors Burgess, Archbold, Dr P Benson, Professor Blaikie, Mr WT Brotherstone, Ms L Clark, Dr JC Forbes, Professors Lurie, Salmon, Dr P Edwards, Dr J Farmer, Dr WD McCausland, Dr H McKenzie, Dr MR Masson, Dr WG Naphy, Dr LJ Philip, Mrs ML Ross, Dr J Skakle, Dr M Syrotinski, Dr SP Townsend, Dr RP Wells, Miss F Keefe and Mr R Miller.

Apologies: Professor Houlihan, Ms CA Macaslan, Professors Gane, Sleeman, Baker, Racey, Flin, Ayres, Carey Miller, Beaumont, Dr P Schlicke, Mrs L Stephen, Mr J Chalmers, Dr J Cleland, Dr S Lawrie, Dr J Cleland, Dr S Lawrie, Dr D Hay, Dr P Mealor, Dr H Sinclair, Dr HM Wallace and Mr P Richards.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

991. In approving the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2006, Senate noted that, in regard to the minute concerning student membership of the Senate, the Junior Vice-President (Education & Employability) was also in attendance (Minute 988 refers).

**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

992.1 The Senior Vice-Principal presented the annual report from the University Committee on Teaching and Learning for the academic year 2004/05 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) as the Vice-Principal (Learning & Teaching) had given her apologies due to illness.

992.2 In summarising the report, Professor Logan drew attention to the following:

- (i) a decrease in the proportion of academic appeals being considered by the Senate Academic Appeals Committees, which was attributable to changes in the procedures for handling academic appeals approved by the Senate in 2003/2004;
- (ii) a rise in the number of discipline cases brought at both undergraduate and postgraduate level;
- (iii) equal opportunities monitoring in regard to the gender balance, age profile, ethnic background and disability status of students submitting appeals or complaints, or being considered for breach of academic discipline: while the small number of students involved in these processes made it difficult to draw specific conclusions from the data, the UCTL would continue to monitor the situation;
- (iv) the successful outcome of the University's Enhancement-Led Institutional Review, which had been a major focus of the quality enhancement activities during 2004/05, in which the University had received the best possible judgement of "broad confidence";
- (v) the continuing development of the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy, with a focus during 2006 being on Personal Development Planning.

- 992.3 During discussion, members of Senate were reminded that different procedures were applicable in regard to the investigation and judgement of plagiarism at levels 1 and 2 compared with other levels, which provided for the investigation of plagiarism at levels 1 and 2 to address educational issues in regard to how to avoid plagiarism in future. It was also acknowledged that postgraduate international students might require similar educational guidance, as many would be unfamiliar with the British higher education system. This matter would be referred to the relevant University committees for further consideration.
- 992.4 It was also noted that, although five of the six academic disciplinary allegations against postgraduate students in 2004/05 were not upheld, each case was judged by a Vice-Principal on its relative merits and could not be taken as evidence that the allegations had been wrongly determined in the first instance.

### **FIRST REPORT OF THE SENATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW GROUP**

- 993.1 The Senior Vice-Principal, as Convener of the Senate Effectiveness Review Working Group, presented the Group's first report to the Senate (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).
- 993.2 In drawing Senate's attention to the remit of the Group that had been established by the Senate, Professor Logan expressed his thanks to the Group for their work to date.
- 993.3 Senate noted that the Group had met on four occasions. In addition, members had met with a number of constituencies to seek their views on the effectiveness of the Senate. The Working Group had also sought feedback via two web-based questionnaires.
- 993.4 Professor Logan outlined the background to the review and the approach taken by the Working Group, as detailed in the Report, and then presented each of the Group's recommendations.
- 993.5 After discussion, the Senate approved the following recommendations:

#### Recommendation 1:

That a Senate Business Committee be established comprising the Senior Vice-Principal (Chair), the Senate Assessors on the JPFEC (see also Recommendation 11 below), the University Secretary, the President of the Students' Association and the Conveners of the following committees: University Committee on Teaching and Learning; Student Recruitment and Admissions Committee; Academic Standards Committees; University Committee on Research, Income Generation and Commercialisation; Information Strategy Committee. The primary role of the Senate Business Committee would be to agree Senate Agendas for approval by the Principal.

#### Recommendation 2:

That, in order to engage Senate in open debate and to inform future policy development by sub-committees for subsequent approval by the Senate, at least one topic should be identified (possibly at the start of each academic year) for discussion of a major strategic issue at each Senate meeting. This would not preclude such topics being included on the agenda *ad hoc* in response to, in particular, national consultations and major issues that emerged during the course of an academic year that the University should address. [Topics would be suggested by the Senate Business Committee, which would also decide, as deemed appropriate, whether an external speaker (e.g. from the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Executive, Universities Scotland, the Higher Education Academy) should be invited to address the Senate on a topic of current interest or debate within the HE Sector]

### Recommendation 3:

That, at least once a year, the Senior Vice-Principal, the Heads of College, the other Vice-Principals and the University Secretary should submit and present a brief report for consideration by the Senate, the timing of such reports to be determined by the Senate Business Committee in preparing Senate agendas.

### Recommendation 4:

That Senate Assessors may be asked to introduce items that had been included on a Senate Agenda in regard to issues discussed or to be discussed at the University Court and/or the Joint Planning, Finance and Estates Committee.

### Recommendation 5:

- (i) That four Standing Meetings of the Senate should be held each year at 2.00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays, the timing of which would enable business to be referred to, or information exchanged between, the University Court and the JPFEC in a timely manner:
- November (22 November in 2006)
  - end-February/early March (28 February in 2007)
  - early May (2 May in 2007)
  - mid-June (13 June in 2007)
- (ii) That tea/coffee and sandwiches should be made available at each Senate meeting, from 1.30 p.m. to allow Senate members to engage informally with colleagues prior to each Senate meeting.

In approving the above, the Senate agreed that the Standing Orders of the Senatus Academicus should provide for meetings of the Senate to be held at any time at the instance of the Principal or on a requisition signed by ten or more members of the Senate, and should stipulate the notice required for holding any such meeting.

### Recommendation 6:

That an increased range of business currently submitted to the Senate for formal approval be devolved to other Committees or for Executive action by individuals, as indicated in Appendix D to the Report (copy filed with the principal copy of the Minutes).

### Recommendation 7:

That the decisions taken in regard to business listed in Appendix D to the Report should be posted on a Senate Bulletin Board (available to members of the University community on the web, with staff being informed of new items via 'dept-info'); and that any member of Senate should be permitted, within 14 days of a decision being posted (28 days in July or August), to request that an item be referred to the next full meeting of Senate for discussion. Items not challenged within that time period would then be taken as approved, with a single hard copy being retained as an annex to the formal Minute of the next Senate meeting.

### Recommendation 8:

That the proposed Bulletin Board should also include a range of business, as specified in Appendix D to the Report, which was currently reported to the Senate for information.

### Recommendation 9:

That the Senate membership should comprise the following:

(a) *Ex officio* [**Total proposed membership: 38 (currently 79)**]

- Principal (Convener)
- Senior Vice-Principal
- Heads of College (3)
- Other Vice-Principals (3)
- Heads of School (12)
- College Directors of Teaching & Learning (3)
- College Directors of Research (3)
- Heads of Graduate Schools (3)
- Conveners of the Academic Standards Committees (2)
- Directors of Undergraduate Programmes (7, one of whom is currently the Convener of the ASC(Ug))
- The University Librarian

(b) Elected Members

- 76 teaching and research (including honorary and part-time) staff (i.e. twice the number of *ex officio* members excluding current holders of Established Chairs) elected approximately *pro rata* by, and on the basis of, the total electorate within each School, to serve for a four-year period, with half retiring every second year and with retiring members eligible for re-election for one further four-year period.

In regard to the above, Senate agreed that Single Transferable Vote (STV) be used to ensure an adequate spread of disciplines and grades among the elected members. This would ensure that if, for example, three seats were to be filled within a School at any election, any grouping of 25% + 1 within that School would obtain representation.

(c) Student members

- That a decision regarding student membership of the Senate be deferred until the Working Group had considered proposals from the Students' Association.

In approving Recommendation 9, and after discussion, the Senate did not endorse the proposal that holders of Established Chairs appointed prior to 1 March 2006 should retain their existing right to membership of the Senate *ex officio*. Instead, this matter was referred back to the Working Group to seek clarification from Human Resources as to whether the University could vary the terms and conditions of current holders of Established Chairs, to remove their right of membership of Senate *ex officio*. If this could not be implemented, consideration would be given to asking current holders of such Chairs if they would be prepared to voluntarily relinquish their right of membership of Senate, given that the Senate, in approving Recommendation 9, had agreed to recommend to the Court that the automatic right of membership of Senate should not be included in the terms of appointment of those appointed to Established Chairs (either existing or new) in the future.

By approving Recommendation 9, Senate agreed that the following who were currently members of the Senate would no longer be eligible for membership in the capacities indicated: the Director of IT, and the Principals or their nominees of Institutions of Higher Education whose degrees were validated by the University (currently SAC; UHIMI; Al-Maktoum Institute). [Membership of the latter institutions was currently prescribed by Ordinance - Recommendation 14 refers].

#### Recommendation 10:

That, in order to ensure representation from each College, nominations for Senate Assessors should be sought from, and elected by, Senate members within each College; and that, in order to ensure such College representation, nominations to fill future vacant posts would be sought on this basis as and when vacancies arose.

#### Recommendation 11:

That the Senate should recommend to the University Court that the composition of the JPFEC be revised to provide for the appointment of three Senate Assessors, one from each College.

#### Recommendation 12

That, of the six Senate Assessors on the University Court, one should be nominated from and elected by the Established and Personal Professors who were members of Senate within each College, and one should be nominated from and elected by the Readers and Lecturers who were members of Senate within each College.

In approving the above Recommendation, the Senate noted that this would be contingent on the University Court, following its Effectiveness Review, recommending no change to the number of Senate Assessors on the University Court; and would require to be revisited if any such changes were proposed by the University Court.

#### Recommendation 13

That Assessors currently elected by the Senate to the Court or the JPFEC should continue in that capacity for the remaining duration of their assessorship, and should continue to be members of the Senate for the duration of their assessorship if they ceased to be eligible for membership of the Senate following the approval of Recommendation 9 (a) and (b).

#### Recommendation 14

That a Resolution be drafted in regard to the number and distribution of elected members of the Senate, pending the promotion of a University Court Ordinance and subsequent approval by the Privy Council in regard to the composition of the Senate; and that, for the changes to be effective from the next academic year, the draft Resolution be considered by the University Court on 7 February 2006 and by the Senate on 1 March 2006, which would allow the Resolution to be passed by the University Court on 21 March 2006.

In regard to the number and distribution of elected members of the Senate, it was agreed that the distribution proposed by the Working Group in Appendix E to its Report (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes) should be reviewed by the Senior Vice-Principal after concern was expressed at the relatively high number of seats proposed for the School of Medicine.

[After note: Following the meeting, a proposed distribution of seats by School based on the number of FTE staff and students in each School was agreed by the Senior Vice-Principal and the Heads of College, and would be included in the draft Resolution to the University Court. The Senate would be asked to approve the revised distribution at its meeting on 1 March 2006.]

#### Recommendation 15:

That all new members of Senate should receive some form of induction into the history of the Senate and its role, and the roles of individual constituencies (e.g. elected members, Senate Assessors and student members in terms of their electorate, and student members).

**REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT**  
(13 December 2005)

**1. University Annual Accounts 2004/05**

994.1 The Senate noted that the Court had approved the University's Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2005. Copies were available from the Director of Finance.

**2. Policy on Academic Appeals**

994.2 The Senate noted that the Court had approved, on the recommendation of the Senate, revisions to the Policy on Academic Appeals.

**3. Resolution No 243 of 2005**  
**[Code of Practice on Student Discipline]**

994.3 The Senate noted that the Court had approved the Resolution [Code of Practice on Student Discipline], it having been previously revised by Senate and considered by the General Council and made generally available in terms of Section 6 of the Universities (Scotland ) Act 1966.

**4. Ordinance No 135 of 2005**  
**[Power to Extend the University of Aberdeen by Affiliating Colleges**  
**and Other Educational Bodies]**

994.4 The Senate noted that the Court had approved the Ordinance [Power to Extend the University of Aberdeen by Affiliating Colleges and Other Educational Bodies], it having been previously considered by Senate and the General Council and made generally available in terms of Section 6 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966. No other representations had been received during the required period of consultation and it had now been submitted to the Privy Council.

**5. Ordinance No 136 of 2005**  
**[Power to Incorporate into the University of Aberdeen Other Universities,**  
**Colleges and Other Educational Bodies]**

994.5 The Senate noted that the Court had approved the Ordinance [Power to Incorporate into the University of Aberdeen Other Universities, Colleges and Other Educational Bodies], it having been previously considered by Senate and the General Council and made generally available in terms of Section 6 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966. No other representations had been received during the required period of consultation and it had now been submitted to the Privy Council.

**6. Code of Practice on Equality and Diversity in the Research Assessment**  
**Exercise Submission Process**

994.6 The Senate noted that the Court had received a paper from the Working Group set up to take forward the development of an internal Code of Practice on preparing submissions and selection of staff for inclusion in the Research Assessment Exercise.

994.7 The Court had approved the Code of Practice on Equality and Diversity in the Research Assessment Exercise Submission Process, which was available on the web at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/admin/court/rae/>

## REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING (9 December 2005)

### 1. Policy on Student Complaints

- 995.1 The Senate approved changes to the University's Policy on Student Complaints, on the recommendation of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).
- 995.2 The changes were proposed because the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 included provision to extend the remit of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) to include further and higher education establishments. This replaced the Universities Scotland Scheme for Independent Review of Student Complaints in Scotland. The SPSO, unlike the Universities Scotland Scheme, extended the provision for investigation of complaints to those from staff and members of the public, not just students and, as such, included both applicants and former students.
- 995.3 At present the University's Admissions policy provided details of the procedures to be followed by applicants wishing to complain but no formal procedures currently existed for complaints by former students. In order to address this and to align the complaints procedures for applicants, students and former students, it was proposed to extend the current Policy on Student Complaints to cover all three categories.

### 4.2. Monitoring Students Progress – Review of Trial Abolition of Class Certificate Refusal

- 996.1 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received a report on the operation of the trial system for monitoring students' progress together with the suspension of the sanction of class certificate refusal. The Committee had considered four options for the future operation of the system. Following discussion, the Committee had agreed to recommend to College Teaching and Learning Committees that the University either (i) continued with no change to the current trial position or (ii) that the system for student monitoring should be amalgamated with the class certificate system. This was also the recommendation from the Heads of School when they discussed the issues at their meeting on 24 November 2005. Accordingly, College Teaching and Learning Committees would be asked to consider the UCTL's recommendations in early 2006, with responses being taken to the meeting of UCTL in February. The UCTL's final recommendations would be forwarded to the Senate in March 2006.

### 2.3. Working Group on Student and Graduate Feedback

- 996.2 The Senate noted that the UCTL had received an update from the Working Group on Student and Graduate Feedback. The Committee had noted a draft of Section A of the Student Course Evaluation Form (SCEF) which had been redesigned to have fewer questions with fewer tick boxes and more space for student comments. The Committee had agreed that the new version of the form was better than that currently in use. The Committee further agreed that consideration should be given to the mechanisms to be used for distributing forms and collecting completed returns. Current procedures allowed course co-ordinators to undertake the distribution and collection processes which, it had been agreed, was not best practice.

## REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

### 1. Degree; Diploma and Certificate Regulations

- 997.1 The Senate approved, for its part, and agreed to forward to the University Court, the draft Resolution 'Changes in Regulations for Various Degrees' (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes), which enacted the changes in Degree Regulations recommended by the Academic Standards Committee since June 2005.

997.2 The Senate also empowered the Conveners of the Academic Standards Committees to consider and approve, on its behalf, any drafting amendments to the above document which may be suggested by the Business Committee of the General Council in the course of its consideration of the draft Resolution, or which may come to light following circulation of the Senate papers.

## **2. New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes**

997.3 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)**

#### Agriculture

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Biology and Ecology of Plant Disease'.

#### Anthropology

Introduction of new level 2 courses: 'Understanding Social Relations' and 'Understanding Social Relations (For Medical Students)'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Anthropology and Landscape'.

Withdrawal of courses: AT2002 and AT2507.

#### Biology

Introduction of new level 2 courses: 'Foundation Skills for Life Sciences'; and 'Research Skills for Life Sciences'.

Withdrawal of courses: BI2004 and BI25B3.

#### Celtic

Introduction of new level 1 courses: 'Celtic Scotland', 'Roman, Celts, Druids, and Warriors'.

Introduction of new level 2 course: 'From Renaissance to Romanticism in Scotland, Wales and Ireland'.

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Celtic Myth in the Modern World: From Ossian to the New Age A', 'Religion and the Celts to AD1200 A' and 'Modern Irish Language A'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Celtic Myth in the Modern World: From Ossian to the New Age B', 'Religion and the Celts to AD1200 B' and 'Modern Irish Language B'.

Withdrawal of courses: CE1027, CE1527 and CE2525.

#### Centre for Lifelong Learning

Introduction of new level 1 course: 'Introduction to Pastoral Care'.

Withdrawal of courses: KL100R, KL150R, KL3006 and KL3506.

#### Chemistry

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Advanced Chemistry 1', 'Advanced Chemistry 2', 'Advanced Chemistry 3', 'Advanced Chemistry 4', 'MChem Group Practicals and Problem Solving',

'Integrated Chemistry', 'Honours Chemistry Research Project for Combined Degrees', 'MChem Mini-Project', 'Chemistry A (Non-Graduating)', 'Chemistry B (Non-Graduating)', 'Chemistry C (Non-Graduating)', 'Professional Skills in Chemistry', 'Honours Chemistry Research Project'.

Withdrawal of courses: CM4015, CM4016, CM4017, CM4020, CM4021, CM4022, CM4023, CM4024, CM4508, CM4509, CM4512, CM4513, CM4514, CM4515, CM4516 AND CM4517.

### Cultural History

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Aspects of Culture'.

### Divinity and Religious Studies

Introduction of new level 2 courses: 'Psalms and Wisdom (With Texts in English or Hebrew)' and 'Old Testament Theology'.

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'Introduction to Modern Tibetan' and 'Introduction to Modern Nepali'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'God, Christ and Salvation' 'Conquer, Cure or Liberate: the Beginning and Ends of Vajrayana' and 'Myth'.

Withdrawal of courses: DR2019, DR2029, DR2519, DR2529 and DR4546.

### English

Introduction of new level 1 course: 'English for Academic Study'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Dickens' and 'American Nightmare: Countercultural Fiction in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America'.

Withdrawal of courses: EL40PC, EL40WA and EL48PH.

### Film Studies

Introduction of new level 2 course: 'Other Cinemas'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Crouching Tigers, Hidden Dragons: The Spectacle of Performance in Martial Arts Cinema'.

Withdrawal of course: FS2502.

### Geography & Environment

Introduction of new level 3 courses: 'River Ecosystems and Management A', 'The Changing Countryside A'; 'Landscape Science: Theory, Methods, Applications A'; 'Strategic Planning of Future Landscapes A'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'River Ecosystems and Management B'; 'The Changing Countryside B'; 'Landscape Science: Theory, Methods, Applications B'; 'Strategic Planning of Future Landscapes B'.

Withdrawal of courses: GG3030, GG4024, GG3542, GG4542, GG3512, GG4533, GG3534, GG4509, GG3535, GG4516, GG3016, GG4025 and GG3525.

### Hispanic Studies

Introduction of new level 1 course: 'Textual and Visual Representation in Modern Spain'.

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Contemporary Latin American Cinema: The New Wave A'.

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'Contemporary Latin American Cinema: The New Wave B'.

Withdrawal of courses: SP1020 and SP3566.

### History

Introduction of new level 1 course: 'History of the United States from 1945 to the Present'.

Withdrawal of course: SA19HI.

### Law

Introduction of new level 2 course: 'Legal Argument'.

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'Honours Health and Human Rights', 'Media Law (Honours)', 'Honours Theories of Rights', 'Honours Renewable Energy Law' and 'Honours Copyright, Designs and Allied Rights'.

Withdrawal of courses: LS2512, LS4027/LX4027, LS4542, LS4544/LX4544, LS4548.

### Marine Resource Management

Withdrawal of course: MR4001

### Music

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'Acousmatic Composition and Performance'.

### Philosophy

Introduction of new level 3 course: 'W V Quine: Logic, Language and Epistemology'.

### Physics

Introduction of new level 4 course: 'School Experience Project'.

### Sociology

Introduction of new level 4 courses: 'The Sociology of the City' and 'Rural Society'.

## (B) UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE AND DEGREE PROGRAMMES

### Arts & Social Sciences

Introduction of new designated MA programmes: 'Spatial Planning', 'Property and Spatial Planning', 'Rural Surveying', 'Rural Surveying and Spatial Planning', 'English and Language and Linguistics', 'English and Film Studies'

Withdrawal of the MA single honours programme: 'Environmental Planning', 'Environmental Management'.

Withdrawal of the MA joint honours programmes: 'French – Gaelic Studies (Mode B)', 'Gaelic Studies – German (Mode B)', 'Gaelic Studies – Hispanic Studies (Mode B)', 'Planning and Development', 'Rural Planning and Economic Development', 'Rural Land and Business Management'.

Withdrawal of the distinct ordinary and honours BSc MRM programmes: 'Marine Resource Management (Marine & Environmental Management)', 'Marine Resource Management (Marine & Fisheries Management)', 'Marine Resource Management (Marine & Coastal Planning)'.

Redesignation of the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Marine Resource Management (BSc MRM) to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Marine & Coastal Resource Management (BScMCRM).

### Science

Introduction of a new joint BSc honours programme: 'Physics with Education'.

Introduction of a new BSc combined honours programme: 'Chemistry with Mathematics'.

### Law

Introduction of new ordinary programme: 'LLB with Options in Music'.

Introduction of new honours programme 'LLB Honours with Options in Music'.

## (C) POSTGRADUATE COURSES

### School of Biological Sciences

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Advanced Ecological Concepts'; 'Wildlife Conservation and Management'; 'Laboratory Techniques': 'Core Practical Skills'.

### School of Geosciences

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Land and Environmental Economics'; 'Planning and Land Law'

Withdrawal of courses: LE5016; LE5020; GG5013

### School of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Web Technology'; 'Programming in Java 2'; 'Foundations of Computing Science'; 'Group Project in Information Systems'; 'Intelligent Architectures'; 'Introduction to Database Systems'; 'Project in Geospatial Information Systems'.

### School of Medical Sciences

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Introduction to Bio-business'; 'Medical Molecular Microbiology'; 'Extended Essay'; 'Special Study Module 1: Microbial Physiology and Biotechnology'; 'Molecular Microbiology – special topics'; 'Data Analysis'; 'Molecular Approaches to Microbiology'; 'Research Project in Medical Molecular Microbiology'; 'Essay in Medical Molecular Microbiology'.

### School of Medicine

Withdrawal of course: MT5504

### Business School

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'Personnel Economics'; 'Thinking Strategically for Business'; 'Business Strategy and Organisation'.

### School of Divinity, History and Philosophy

Introduction of new level 5 courses: 'End of Empire: Russia 1900-1917'; 'Early Modern Thought'.

Withdrawal of courses: DR5053/DR5553; HI5520

### School of Law

Introduction of new level 5 course: 'Corporate Governance (Distance Learning)'.

### School of Social Science

Introduction of new level 5 course: 'Supervised Reading'

## (D) POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### School of Geosciences

Introduction of new programme: PgCert in Research Methods (Human Geography)

### School of Divinity, History and Philosophy

Introduction of new programme: MLitt/PgDip in Medieval Studies

## **REPLACEMENT OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 998.1 The Senate approved, for its part, a proposal to replace the Information Management Committee with a Joint Information Strategy Committee (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes), which had been approved by the University Court, for its part, on 13 December 2005.
- 998.2 In approving the above, the Senate noted that the Joint Information Strategy Committee, at its first meeting, would consider the mechanism by which staff might be co-opted to the Committee.

## **PROGRESSION AND ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH ABERDEEN COLLEGE**

- 998.3 The Senate approved, for its part, on the recommendation of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Committee, a revised Progression and Articulation Agreement with Aberdeen College (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). The agreement superseded the existing agreement and had changed in respect of the individual articulation routes and in regard to the Section on Intellectual Property, the latter on the advice of Research and Innovation. The articulation routes had been agreed, in principle, by the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate) and the College Teaching and Learning Committees, Heads of the relevant Schools, and relevant Admissions Selectors.

## **ELECTIONS OF READERS AND LECTURERS TO THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS**

- 999.1 The Senate approved the following timetable for the Election of Readers and Lecturers to the Senatus Academicus to serve from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2010, to conform with the terms of Section I (a) of Ordinance No. 111 which required that an election should take place in 2006 (on a date in the Summer Term as may be determined by the Senate):-

Friday 21 April 2006	Issue of Nomination Papers to all Electors
Wednesday 3 May 2006 at 5.00 p.m.	Close of receipt of Nominations by the University Secretary
Friday 5 May 2006	Issue of Voting Papers to all Electors

## UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENT OF ENDOWMENTS

1000. The Senate noted the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2005, which were approved by the University Court on 13 December 2005, and which could be accessed at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/finance/accounts2005.hti>. Members who wished to discuss any matter arising from the Accounts were asked to contact the Director of Finance by 16 February 2006 and, after such discussions, to indicate if they wished any issue to be discussed at the next meeting of the Senate. Copies of the Statement of Endowments for the year ended 31 July 2005 could be obtained on request from the Secretary to the Director of Finance (r.davis@abdn.ac.uk or telephone extension 2115).

## WINTER GRADUATION CEREMONIES

1001. The Senate noted that the Chancellor had conferred degrees on the following at graduation ceremonies held in the Mitchell Hall, Marischall College:

### Friday 25 November 2005

Honorary Degree of Doctor *Honoris Causa*: Tracey Robb  
Honorary Degree of Doctor *Honoris Causa*: Robert Sinclair  
Honorary Degree of Master of the University: Bryan Dargie  
First and Higher Degrees in Arts & Social Sciences, Education, Divinity and Law.

### Saturday 26 November 2005

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws: James Boyle  
Honorary Degree of Doctor *Honoris Causa*: George Stevenson  
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science: Colin Blakemore  
First and Higher Degrees in Science, Engineering and Medicine.

## GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

- 1001.1 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).
- 1001.2 The Senate agreed to confer the degrees on, and award the diplomas and other qualifications to, the persons stated.