

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SENATUS ACADEMICUS

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2008

Present: Principal, Professors Logan, Houlihan, Ms C Macaslan, Professors Gane, Haites, Rodger, MacGregor, Frost, Fynsk, Ms M Pearson, Professors Hughes, Secombes, Imrie, Salmon, Cotter, Black, Dr B Connelly, Professor Long, Dr P Schlicke, Dr D Hendry, Professor Burgess, Ms C Banks, Mr A Arthur, Dr D Molyneaux, Dr W McCausland, Dr C Brittain, Dr B Marsden, Dr J Schaper, Mrs G Kirkpatrick, Mrs A Valyo, Dr A Gordon, Dr S Lawrie, Professor A Saunders, Dr A Campbell. Mrs M Ross, Mr S Styles, Dr D Anderson, Dr A Arnason, Mr N Curtis, Dr A King, Dr E Baggs, Dr M Delibegovic, Dr P Fraser, Dr J Sternberg, Dr M Williams, Dr I Greig, Professor D Shaw, Professor S Heys, Dr T MacFarlane, Dr H Wallace, Dr P Benson, Dr R Bull, Dr P Jordan, Dr LJ Philip, Professor N Price, Professor J Anderson, Dr W Harrison, Dr S Townsend, Dr R Wells, Mr J Hardy, Mr O Lash-Williams, Miss K Ross, Miss L Bruce and Miss S Sithamparanathan.

Apologies: Professor P Beaumont, Dr P Edwards, Mr M Radford, Mr W Brotherstone, Dr J Forbes, Dr P Mealor, Dr H Hutchison, Dr M Young, Professor D Lurie, Professor J N'Dow, Dr G McNeill, Dr N Spedding, Dr J Skakle and Mr S McMenemy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

20. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2007 were approved.

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL

- 21.1 The Principal, in opening the meeting, reminded members that the BSc Applicant Day was taking place that day and that the MA Application Day would take place on 5 March. Record numbers had registered for both events. He thanked staff for their hard work in ensuring the success of these events.
- 21.2 He invited the Vice-Principal (Research & Commercialisation) to update the Senate on the significant increase in postgraduate admissions. It was noted that 275 postgraduate students had registered at the start of the second half-session. Of these, more than 200 had been from overseas. In view of the significant admissions in the second half-session, it was therefore hoped that the University would meet its target for funded PgT numbers. Looking to the future, overseas applications for September were looking encouraging. This was largely due to the high level of activity in regard to overseas recruitment. He congratulated all those who had contributed to this success.
- 21.3 The Principal invited the Senior Vice-Principal to update the Senate on the University's finances. The Senior Vice-Principal informed the Senate that the University was in a solid financial position. The Funding Letter of 2008/09 would be received in the next month. It was noted that unusually this would only focus on one year. While the content of the Funding Letter was not known, it was anticipated that the unit of resource for learning and teaching would be maintained. It was thought that institutions would be asked to make 2% savings. A modest increase in quality research money was anticipated and this was likely to be structured to give increased resource to 5 and 5* units. An increase in the Postgraduate Research Grant was also expected and there would be an increase in funding for knowledge transfer.

- 21.4 The Principal invited the Senior Vice-Principal to update the Senate in regard to the merger with the Rowett Research Institute. In doing so, he informed the Senate that the merger was being taken forward with the support of the First Minister. There had been a modest delay with the likely date of merger now being the end of June rather than April 2008.
- 21.5 The Principal informed the Senate that there had been two recent welcome announcements: (i) the decision to establish a Green Energy Centre in Aberdeen and (ii) the establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Subsea Research jointly with Dundee University and RGU through the Northern Research Partnership. He invited the Head of the College of Physical Sciences to update the Senate on these initiatives. In doing so, he informed the Senate that the Centre for Excellence in Subsea Research, supported by Subsea UK, would have its academic and administrative base located in the University. The Green Energy Centre was a Scottish/European initiative which would be located in Aberdeen. Both Aberdeen University and RGU were involved. The precise location of the Centre was not yet known. The Head of College stressed that these developments had resulted from the significant increased profile which the University now has in the area of energy research.
- 21.6 The Principal drew attention to the recent publicity in regard to the planned Dental School. He invited the Head of the College of Life Sciences & Medicine to update the Senate. In doing so, she informed the Senate that the establishment of a Dental School at the University of Aberdeen was a Scottish Government initiative. The School would be a full Dental School with graduate-level entry. The School would have a capacity for up to 80 students. The project was being taken forward in close cooperation with the University of Dundee. The first cohort would start in September 2008 which was a challenging target and she thanked staff for their hard work to date.
- 21.7 In drawing his opening statement to a close, the Principal reminded the Senate that the Curriculum Reform was now reaching an exciting stage. He encouraged staff to engage fully with the first consultation document which would be made available to staff that afternoon.

THE CURRICULUM REFORM: UPDATE

- 22.1 The Vice-Principal (Learning & Teaching) presented a brief update on the Curriculum Reform project (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). In presenting her report, she highlighted the following main points:
- The Commission was continuing to engage with Schools.
 - The Steering Group had held a most successful Work Day at which it had further developed its initial ideas for consultation. It was also continuing to receive presentations of evidence from staff across the University and was also preparing for external consultation. Formal market research was also being planned.
 - The Student Experience, the Research and the Business Industry and Professions Groups were continuing to meet. The Resources Group had now been established.
 - Other activities included the presentation by Professor McPhee from the University of Melbourne and a planned Best Practice event being arranged by the Directors of Teaching and Learning.

- 22.2 In concluding her presentation, she informed members that the first consultation document from the Commission would be made available to the University community later that day. This high-level document would address issues including graduate attributes, core modules and the overall structure of degrees. A range of ways for staff and students to contribute to the consultation would be provided including a number of open meetings and the use of the online discussion forums. The Senate would also have the opportunity to discuss the document at its next meeting. In concluding, she encouraged members of the Senate to take up the opportunity to engage actively in the consultation.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006/07 FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

23. The Vice-Principal (Learning & Teaching) gave a brief presentation of the main points in the Annual Report for 2006/7 from the University Committee on Teaching and Learning (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). In doing so, she reminded the Senate that the report presented a brief analytical review of data pertaining to student progression, academic appeals, student academic discipline and student academic complaints in 2006/07. In particular, she highlighted the following points:

- The short-term measures put in place during the summer of 2007 to address student retention did appear to have had some initial success. The progress of those students exceptionally permitted by the Students Progress Committee to return to study was being closely monitored.
- There had been a general decrease in the number of student withdrawals.
- The number of undergraduate academic appeals had fallen from that of the previous year. It was, however, noted that there had been a higher than normal number of appeals in 2005/06 due to industrial action.
- There had been increases in the number of postgraduate academic appeals and in the number of cases of academic discipline. In particular, there had been a rise in the number of cases of plagiarism. Work was ongoing to try to raise students' awareness of ways to avoid plagiarism.

UPDATE ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL PLAN: CONSULTATION ON CAR PARKING

- 24.1 The University Secretary drew members' attention to the update on Corporate Social Responsibility (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). He informed members that this paper set out the current progress and future plans in regard to addressing the University's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- 24.2 He informed members that one strand of the University's CSR commitment was in regard to the introduction of a Sustainable Travel Plan. One aspect of this was the need to establish new measures to control car parking as outlined in the Car Parking Consultation Document (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).
- 24.3 He reminded the Senate that the existing car parking controls had been virtually unchanged for 15 years. It was now necessary to introduce measures to maximise the limited parking resources on campus and to encourage a shift in behaviour towards more sustainable travel. Furthermore, he emphasised to members of the Senate that planning permission for any new build on campus was conditional on the establishment of controlled car parking measures. He informed the Senate that the income raised from car parking charges would be ring-fenced and would be used to support further sustainable transport initiatives.

24.4 He informed the Senate that the scheme set out in the Consultation Document was only one scheme and that there may be alternative models. The consultation process would run until 28 March 2008. To date, some 200 emails had been received, some of which were supportive of the proposals. He further reminded members that a number of consultation events were planned.

24.5 He then invited comment on the consultation document. There followed a wide-ranging discussion, the main points of which are summarised below:

- The aim to reduce single car occupancy by 10% was felt to be somewhat unambitious. Furthermore, it was commented that the proposed system does not specifically provide measures to encourage use of alternative means of transport.

In response, it was recognised that the proposals were not particularly ambitious. Nevertheless, they represent a compromise between what was practical and what was ideal. The wider Sustainable Travel Plan would encourage alternative forms of transport through support of the introduction of more cycle lanes and provision of additional shower facilities on campus.

- The £2 daily flat rate does not recognise the fact that some students may only come onto campus for a couple of hours each day.

In response, it was noted that this issue had already been raised and would be fed into the consultation.

- In supporting the introduction of charges, one member stressed the need to provide some reserved parking spaces for those travelling between Foresterhill and King's campuses for teaching purposes.

In response, it was noted that consideration was being given to the introduction of a shuttle bus between campuses. The £2 daily parking charge would be transferable between Foresterhill and King's. Consideration would need to be given to the provision of dedicated spaces.

- One member commented that there are some employees who have no option but to use a car. The proposed charges were twice as expensive as other University car parks. This high charge would not be helpful in terms of recruitment.

In response, the cumulative effect of a daily charge was noted. It was further noted that the location-based system such as that which currently operates at Foresterhill was also problematic.

- It was proposed that there would be a need to consider the impact of such a scheme on the working habits of staff. It may lead to a greater number of staff choosing to work at home and this would have an adverse effect on the availability of staff for students.

In response, it was noted that the issue of flexible working had already been raised and would be fed into the consultation.

- It was commented that the bus service does not operate in a way which encourages staff to use it. It can be unreliable at times and the system is not especially friendly to those with children.

In response, it was noted that the University was discussing with colleagues at First Bus and Greyhound ways to improve bus links to campus. Consideration was being given to the establishment of bus links to the railway station, between Hillhead and Foresterhill and between King's and Foresterhill. A uni-link between Hillhead, King's Schoolhill and Garthdee was also being considered. Discussions were also ongoing with Nestrans in regard to the Kittybrewster station.

- It was commented that Aberdeen is not particularly cycle-friendly. It was proposed that the University should attempt to influence the City Council to improve cycle provision on major routes in the city.

In response, it was agreed that the University would work with the Council to try to improve the infrastructure to support cyclists.

- It was proposed that in the summer there is less pressure on car park spaces. In view of this, it was suggested that consideration be given to restricting car park charges to term-time.

This point was noted.

- 24.6 In drawing the discussion to a conclusion, the Principal thanked members for their constructive comments which would be fed into the consultation. He encouraged staff to continue to engage with the consultation process.

UNIVERSITY NURSERY PROVISION

- 25.1 The University Secretary informed the Senate that two representations had been received from members of the University in regard to nursery provision (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes). In view of these, it had been felt appropriate to bring these to the attention of the Senate and to use this as an opportunity to update members on the current position in terms of nursery provision.
- 25.2 He informed the Senate that the analysis of the problem as set out in the two papers was correct. The current location of the Rocking Horse Nursery is not sufficient to meet the demand for nursery places and the infrastructure of the building is not fit for purpose.
- 25.3 The University Management Group (UMG) had considered three options for future nursery provision: (i) a new build facility operated by the University, (ii) a new build facility operated by a third party or (iii) a University build operated by a third party. UMG had agreed that any solution must be capable of being self-financing. Further evaluation of these options was being carried out with a view to more detailed proposals being brought back to a future meeting of the UMG.
- 25.4 The University Secretary stressed that the University was committed to childcare provision and that this must operate in a financially viable way. He informed the Senate that the UMG had no preferred option and that a fully costed appraisal would be prepared. This work was being taken forward in close consultation with the Chair of the Rocking Horse Nursery Trustees.
- 25.5 There followed discussion, the main points of which are detailed below:
- The University's commitment to nursery provision was welcomed. There was a need to ensure the excellence of such provision. The value of a University nursery in fostering a sense of community on campus was stressed.

In response, it was noted that the excellence of the Rocking Horse Nursery was acknowledged. It was noted that the current discussions about future nursery provision may be unsettling to staff in the nursery. It was further noted that future plans would take several years to come to fruition.

- The fabric of the existing building is in a poor state of repair, which may pose risks in regard to Health and Safety.

This point was noted.

- It was queried whether the University had given consideration to the possibility of alternative off-campus facilities. In this regard, it was noted that two local school buildings were now vacant.

In response, it was noted that the University had looked into these, however, at present the Council has no intention to release either building. Consideration was also being given to options for a new build facility.

- The expertise in the School of Education in regard to early childcare provision was stressed. It was noted that in some universities such expertise had been used to assist in a consultative role and that there may therefore be value in involving the School of Education in the process of planning future developments.

This point was noted.

- The importance of having high quality, flexible nursery provision was stressed. It was felt that this was an important factor in regard to the recruitment and retention of staff. It was stressed that it would be helpful in this regard if the University could publicly stress its commitment to nursery provision.

This point was noted.

- It was queried what 'financially viable' means.

In response, it was stated that this would mean the operation of nursery provision without the need for subsidy. If there was a need for subsidy this would need to be done in an open and transparent way.

- It was noted that there is a need for expansion of nursery provision. In this regard, it was proposed that expansion would enable the facility to become financially stronger.

In response, it was noted that a capacity of circa 100 was seen as the optimal size for a nursery. The University wished the facility to operate on a financially not commercially viable basis. There was no intention for the nursery to be profit-making.

- It was queried how the pay back in terms of staff morale and motivation of the provision of high quality University nursery provision might be determined. It was noted that a major stumbling block in this was the lack of capital commitment. Consideration should be given to raising capital from alumni donations.

In response, it was noted that nursery provision was not currently part of the current Capital Plan. The suggestion of fundraising was welcomed.

- Concern was raised about possible privatisation and the impact of this on existing Rocking Horse Nursery staff. It would be more favourable for future nursery provision to be Trust-run rather than commercial.

In response, it was stressed that the University was not currently in a position to make a decision on future nursery provision. It was, however, agreed that future planning would be taken forward in a transparent and open manner.

25.6 In drawing the discussion to a close, the Principal thanked members for their helpful comments. He acknowledged that Senate seemed unanimous in the widespread concern of members for the University to foster and enhance the already excellent nursery provision in Old Aberdeen. It was requested that responsible parties report back to Senate on progress made with respect to replacing the Rocking Horse Nursery building in due course.

REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COURT

1. Policy and Guidelines on Good Research Practice and Statement on the Handling of Allegations of Research Misconduct

26. The Senate approved, for its part, the revised Policy and Guidelines on Good Research Practice and Statement on the Handling of Allegations of Research Misconduct (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes)

2. The University of Aberdeen Dental School – A Proposal

27. The Senate endorsed the proposal to create a University of Aberdeen Dental School, to introduce a new programme of Bachelor of Dental Surgery BDS (graduate entry programme) from September 2008 and to change the title of the School of Medicine to the School of Medicine and Dentistry (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

1. Amendments to Regulations

28. The Senate approved, on the recommendation of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning, and agreed to forward to the University Court, the draft Resolutions 'Changes in to Regulations for Various Degrees', 'Regulations for the Degree of Master of Physics (MPhys)', 'Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Education (EdD)' and 'General Regulations for Awards Conferred Jointly with Other Degree Awarding Institutions' (copies filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

2. Recording of Marks on Transcripts

29. The Senate approved the proposal that, as part of the University's move towards producing a fully integrated European Diploma Supplement, academic transcripts would include details of all CAS marks attained, including those which are fails. The current transcript records the year of achievement but not the diet. As part of this change, it was also proposed to change this to include details of the diet at which marks were obtained. The Senate noted that, if this proposal was approved, its implementation would be constrained by the availability of suitable programming resources.

3. Graduation Dates

30. The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had approved the dates and allocations of students for the July 2008 graduation ceremonies.

4. Amendment to the Rules for the conduct of prescribed assessments and written examinations for degrees or diplomas

31. The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had approved amendments to the rules covering prescribed assessments and written exams to prohibit the use of all electronic devices, including mobile phones. Where applicable, calculators would still be permitted, but it would not be permissible to use a mobile phone as a calculator or for time-keeping. This amendment was intended to prevent students using electronic devices, which are often web-enabled, as a means of cheating in examinations, and hence the possession of such a device in an assessment/examination situation would become a disciplinary offence. In addition, the Committee approved further minor amendments to the "Rules for Candidates" which were intended to clarify procedures to be followed in examination venues.

5. Start and finish times of classes

32. The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had approved an insertion to the Academic Quality Handbook to formalise the convention that classes start at five minutes past the hour and finish five minutes to the hour.

6. Electronic submission of research theses

- 33.1 The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had noted that the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) had approved the proposal that, from 1 October 2008, it be mandatory for each Postgraduate Research student to submit 1 paper copy and 1 electronic copy of their sustained thesis. University regulations currently required each research student to submit two hard bound copies of their thesis to the Registry which were then deposited in the University Library.
- 33.2 It was confirmed that Examiners would still receive paper copies of a thesis to examine and that it was the final sustained version of the thesis submitted to the library that would be submitted in an electronic format.
- 33.3 The ASC (Pg) had recommended that the electronic copy of the thesis be submitted and stored in a non-editable format. The Library, DIT and Registry would be working together to agree the best format for electronic submission and storage and amend the Regulations for the Preparation and Submission of Postgraduate Theses through the Information Systems Committee.

7. Review of the Postgraduate Grade Spectrum

34. The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had noted that at their meeting in December 2007, the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) had agreed to set up a small working group to review the Postgraduate Grade Spectrum. The ASC (Pg) had approved the following membership: Professor Gordon Burgess (Convener), three Heads of Graduate School, one Postgraduate Officer from each College (Dr Douglas Hay, Professor David Lurie and Dr George Coghill), and a student member yet to be confirmed.

8. Burgess Group Final Report: Beyond the Honours Degree Classification

35. The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had considered a report summarising the final report from the Burgess Group regarding honours degree classification. The University Committee on Teaching and Learning had welcomed the development of the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) but were in agreement that this was a major change across institutions. Members also agreed that it was extremely important to remember that efficient support would have to be in place to enable students to develop these 'other' skills which it was proposed should be detailed in the HEAR.

9. Recognising non-academic contribution

36. The Senate noted that the University Committee on Teaching and Learning had approved a proposal to run a pilot scheme, in conjunction with the Students' Association, to recognise non-academic contribution. It had been agreed that feedback regarding the project, which would operate during the second half-session of 2007/08 would be reported to the Committee in September 2008.

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES COURSE AND PROGRAMME CHANGES

37. The Senate noted the changes to the list of courses and programmes approved by the Academic Standards Committee at their recent meetings, available at:
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/senastracking/report>.

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (POSTGRADUATE)

- 38.1 For its part, the Senate approved, on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) and the College of Physical Sciences, that the research area of Sustainability be validated under the terms of the accreditation agreement currently in force between the University and UHI to deliver research degree programmes. Sustainability was based at the Sustainable Development Research Centre, Lews Castle College, Perth College, Inverness College, Moray College and the Policy Web, all academic partners of/groupings within the UHI Millennium Institute.
- 38.2 The validation would remain in force for three years under the terms of the accreditation agreement between the University and UHI. The validation proposal was subject to the academic area meeting recommendations specified in the relevant report by a stipulated date. UHI had confirmed that all members of the Validation Panel were satisfied that the recommendations had been met. The report from the validation panel was available at:
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/internal/documents/RDV_report_from_sustainability_studies.doc

ELECTIONS OF NON *EX OFFICIO* MEMBERS TO THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS

39. The Senate approved the following timetable for the non *ex officio* members to the Senatus Academicus and election of Senate Assessors to Court and JPFEC as outlined below:

Election of non *ex officio* members of the Senate

Friday 18 April 2008	Issue of Nomination Papers to all Electors
Wednesday 30 April 2008 at 5.00 p.m.	Close of receipt of Nominations by the University Secretary
Friday 2 May 2008	Issue of Voting Papers to all Electors
Wednesday 14 May 2008 at 5.00 p.m.	Close of receipt of Voting Papers by the University Secretary

The closing time for receipt of Nominations and Voting Papers to be 5 pm.

Election of Senate Assessors from Professorial members of the Senate from the College of Life Sciences & Medicine to the University Court

Friday 16 May 2008	Nomination Forms issued to relevant Senators
Wednesday 28 May 2008	Submission of Nominations to the University Secretary
Friday 30 May 2008	Issue of Voting Papers to eligible Senators
Wednesday 11 June 2008	Submission of Voting Papers to the University Secretary

The closing time for receipt of Nominations and Voting Papers to be 5pm.

Election of Senate Assessors to the Joint Planning, Finance and Estates Committee

Friday 13 June 2008
Wednesday 25 June 2008

Issue of Voting Papers to eligible Senator
Submission of Voting Papers to the University
Secretary

The closing time for the receipt of Voting Papers to be 5pm.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH UHI MILLENNIUM

40. The Senate approved, for its, part, on the recommendation of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Committee, a partnership agreement with UHI Millennium Institute. The agreement established an articulation route whereby UHI students who successfully complete years 1 and 2 of the BA Gaelic and Related Studies degree, and who satisfy other entry criteria appropriate for students on programmes expected to be accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland, may be admitted to year 3 of the MA (honours) /MA (designated) Gaelic with Education degree programme. The articulation route had been approved by the Head of the School of Education and by the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate).

AWARD OF DEGREES JOINTLY WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS: SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

41. The Senate approved, for its part, the draft Scottish Statutory Instrument to enable the University to award degrees jointly with other institutions (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

42. The Senate approved the appointment of Dr M Mills as a member of the Senate Undergraduate Academic Appeals Committee (*vice* Professor J Schaper).

RECTORIAL ELECTION

43. The Senate noted that the Senate Business Committee, on behalf of the Senate, had approved, for its part, the arrangements for the forthcoming Rectorial Election and agreed that the election be conducted using the electronic voting software used by the Students' Association.

CURRICULUM REFORM – SENATE NOMINEES

44. The Senate noted that following the last meeting of the Senate, Dr Jennifer Cleland was confirmed as the third Senate Nominee on the Curriculum Reform Commission.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

45. The Senate noted that the University's response to the consultation run by the Scottish Funding Council on the Research Excellence Framework (the successor to the Research Assessment Exercise RAE) was available to read from the 'Consultations and Reports' section of the Policy, Planning and Governance web pages at the following address:
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ppg/index.php?id=31&top=3>

WORKING GROUP ON ACADEMIC PASTORAL SUPPORT

46. The Senate noted that following the last meeting of the Senate where there was discussion of a paper entitled 'Enhancing Academic and Pastoral Support for Students' that a Working Group had been established to take forward a review of the support systems provided for students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) and to come forward with recommendations for enhancements to the existing academic and pastoral support mechanisms with a view to their implementation where practicable, with effect from September 2008. A report would be brought to the next meeting of the Senate.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS AND ELECTION OF SENATE ASSESSORS TO COURT.

- 47.1 The Senate noted that the following had been elected to serve on the Senatus Academicus with immediate effect to 30 September 2010 unless otherwise stated, in the constituencies stated:

School of Divinity, History and Philosophy

Dr C Brittain

School of Language and Literature

Dr A Gordon
Dr H Hutchison

School of Biological Sciences

Dr M Delibegovic
Dr MJ Williams

School of Medical Science

Professor D Shaw

School of Medicine Constituency

Dr G McNeill

School of Law

Dr A Campbell

School of Social Science

Dr D Anderson

School of Engineering

Professor WF Deans

School of Geosciences

Dr P Jordon (to September 2008)
Professor N Price

- 47.2 The Senate also noted that Mr A Arthur had been elected as the non-professorial Senate Assessor to the University Court from the College of Arts & Social Sciences with immediate effect to 30 September 2009.

REPORT FROM THE JOINT PLANNING, FINANCE & ESTATES COMMITTEE

48. The Senate noted the actions taken by the Joint Planning, Finance & Estates Committee at its meeting on 22 January 2008 (copy filed with the principal copy of the minutes).

GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

- 49.1 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 obtained from the Registry (see appendix to Minutes of June 2008).
- 49.2 The Senate agreed to confer the degrees on, and award the diplomas and other qualifications to the persons stated.