

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SENATUS ACADEMICUS

**Minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2000**

Present: Principal, Professors IR Macdonald, AR Forrester, Sloane, Houlihan and Sewel, Dr JG Roberts, Professors Cameron, Johnstone, Miller, JV Forrester, Fergusson, Penman, Baker, Jolliffe, Racey, Sharp, Macinnes, Killham, Jordan, Fraser, Graham, Lomax, Rodger, FB Watson, Leboutte, Ingram, Archbold, Logie and Salmon, Dr GJA Burgess, Dr JRW Hunter, Dr GP McQuillan, Dr AR Anderson, Dr JB Craig, Dr H Galley, Dr D Heddle, Dr G Hesketh, Dr MA Hutchison, Dr CT Imrie, Dr AM Kiger, Dr PR Kinnear, Dr S Lawrie, Dr PFA MacConnell, Dr MR Masson, Dr J Ohlmeyer, Dr JA Petty, Dr J Sheehan, Dr JDF Skatun, Dr A Venneri, Dr J Watson, Mr A Cole-Hamilton, Mr G Couper, Ms S Arrowsmith and Ms K Finan.

Apologies for absence were received from Professors Catto, Logan, Walker, Templeton, Thomson, Sleeman, Seaton, Urwin, Russell, Meek, Ritchie, Seymour, Webster, Little, Hukins, Ashford, Bryden, Alexander, Booth, Flin, Adams, Blaikie and Torrance, Mr D Mannings, Dr L Foley, Dr DR Abramovich, Mr WTC Brotherstone, Dr LH Chappell, Dr JM Liversidge, Dr IL Marr, Mrs ML Ross, Dr ER van Teijlingen, Dr HM Wallace.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

268. The minutes of the meeting of 1 March 2000 were approved.

**STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL**

**Resignation of Professor Penman**

269. The Principal informed the Senate that Professor Penman had accepted a senior position at The Robert Gordon University and would be leaving the University soon. He expressed his thanks to Professor Penman for his immense efforts and support during his tenure at the University, and the Senate recorded its congratulations and best wishes to Professor Penman on his new appointment.

**Jean Monnet Chair**

270. The Principal reported that Professor Rene Leboutte recently had been appointed to the Jean Monnet Chair of European Construction in the Department of History and expressed his congratulations to Professor Leboutte on this accolade.

**Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh**

271. The Principal announced that the Chancellor, Sir Ian Wood (a distinguished alumnus) and Professors Ingold, Killham and Petrie recently had been elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The Senate recorded its congratulations to the new Fellows.

### **Institute of Medical Sciences Phase 2**

272. The Principal reported that although the University's bid for Joint Infrastructure Funds for Phase 2 of the Institute of Medical Sciences project had been ranked highly, the bid had been unsuccessful. Nevertheless, the University Court had agreed in principle that the University should plan to proceed with Phase 2 in view of the success of Phase 1, subject to satisfactory financial arrangements.

### **Northern College Merger**

273. The Principal reported that a decision concerning the merger of the Northern College campuses with the Universities of Aberdeen and Dundee had been delayed and that the originally proposed Vesting Day of 1 August 2000 would not be achieved. The situation might be clarified at a meeting with the SHEFC Mergers Committee on 12 May.

### **University Positioning and Priorities**

- 274.1 The Principal reported that the University's position of 26<sup>th</sup> in the recently published The Times Good University Guide was an improvement of ten places compared with its position in 1999. The University had correspondingly moved from sixth position to fourth position in the table of Scottish Universities.
- 274.2 The Principal emphasised that he was extremely proud of the University and of its achievements. While the interpretation and use of league tables must be treated with some caution the University's position was a move in the right direction. Nevertheless, the intention was that the University must aim to be ranked higher. The current positioning could be seen to be a positive reflection of the policy to allow Deans to recruit the best possible staff and expand faculty at a time when student numbers had been declining marginally. However, this change in staff : student ratio could not be continued indefinitely. While there was evidence that student recruitment was becoming more buoyant, Deans had been asked to ensure that Faculty budgets were in balance within three years. This might mean modest belt-tightening, but was sound management practice. But it must not detract from the primary focus of improving the intellectual quality of teaching and research. There was also a need to focus energy in generating income other than by attracting more students.
- 274.3 The Administration was supporting the University's goals and proposals would be brought to the University Court on a range of policies, including those relating to equal opportunities and appraisal. The University Secretary would welcome any input from Senators in regard to reducing the administrative burden on departments.
- 274.4 As part of improving communication, the first issue of a new, more regular, newsletter entitled *Exchange* would be published soon. Comments, and suggestions for contributions, should be sent to the University Secretary.

### **CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

- 275.1 The Senate received a proposal from Professor Houlihan to merge the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, to create a Department of Agriculture & Forestry from 1 August 2000. Professor Houlihan invited comments from Senators.

- 275.2 In response, Professor Miller expressed some regret at the proposal in view of the long tradition of Forestry and Agriculture being studied in separate Departments. However, he believed the proposals to be exciting and indicated that staff would strive hard to ensure that the merger were successful. He considered that there may be limited scope for teaching efficiencies and that, initially, recruitment and retention of students might be affected adversely until the full benefits of the new Department were realised. He asked that the document be revised to reflect these concerns before being submitted to the University Court.
- 275.3 Professor Houlihan confirmed that there were no new immediate plans to change the current degree programmes offered in Forestry and Agriculture. Opportunities for joint teaching would be explored and both Departments were considering how student numbers might be increased in due course. He believed that there was an aura of excitement among the staff in that the merger should lead to a strengthening of research activity from an existing, very strong foundation. Academic issues had been the driving force in preparing the proposal. Professor Houlihan confirmed that the document would be reviewed in light of Professor Miller's comments.

### **PHASE 2 OF THE STUDENT RECORD SYSTEM**

- 276.1 The Senate received for information a paper from Professor Houlihan, in his capacity as Convener of the Project Board, on developments concerning Phase 2 of the Student Record System. The proposals were focused primarily on the development of Admissions and Recruitment Systems designed to manage and maximise the University's student intake from the point of an initial enquiry. The paper also indicated other planned work in regard to the Student Record System, which was largely the outcome of a consultation exercise with users of the current system.
- 276.2 In presenting the paper, Professor Houlihan indicated that the current plethora of application forms would be reduced to four: one form for all direct applicants for undergraduate study (i.e. non-UCAS applicants, including SOCRATES and other visiting international students); one form for all applications for postgraduate study; one form for continuing education programmes; and one form for Access programmes. The main implication of the proposals for departments related to postgraduate applications, whereby applicants would send their form direct to the Postgraduate Registry rather than the current position of being sent to departments. An applicant's details would be entered onto the Admissions System and then sent to departments for consideration in the usual manner. The main advantage of this change would be that, for the first time, there would be a central record of postgraduate taught and postgraduate research applications: this would allow improved monitoring of applications.
- 276.3 In response to comments from Senators, Professor Houlihan confirmed that the Postgraduate Registry would need to process application forms as soon as they were received, to allow decisions to be made by departments as quickly as possible.

**REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT  
(21 March 2000)**

**Resolution No. 220 of 2000  
[Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Education (BEd)]**

277. The Senate noted that the Court had approved the above Resolution.

**Resolution No. 221 of 2000  
[Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (BA) in the field  
of professional studies in Education]**

278. The Senate noted that the Court had approved the above Resolution.

**Resolution No. 222 of 2000  
[Changes in Regulations for Various Degrees]**

279. The Senate noted that the Court had approved the above Resolution.

**Revised Library Regulations**

280. The Senate noted that the Court had approved the revised Library Regulations.

**REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

**Inter-Institutional Agreement : Degree of MSc in European Forestry**

281. The Senate approved, for its part, and agreed to recommend to the University Court, a draft Inter-Institutional Agreement to govern award of the Degree of MSc in European Forestry, the text of which had been considered and approved by the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate).

**New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes**

282. The Senate noted that the Academic Standards Committees, on the recommendation on the relevant Faculties, had approved changes to the list of programmes and courses available, as indicated in Appendix I [copy filed with the principal copy of the Minutes].

**Postgraduate Structured Management Frameworks**

283. The Senate noted that the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) had agreed that Postgraduate Structured Management Frameworks should be introduced for research degrees other than the PhD. The new frameworks would be based on the Postgraduate Structured Management Frameworks for the Degree of PhD by full-time and part-time study which were already in existence.

### AUGUST 2000 DIET OF EXAMINATIONS

- 284.1 The Senate noted that it had agreed, on 13 October 1999, that the results of the August 2000 diet of examinations (courses at Levels 1 to 4 and undergraduate Level 5) should be submitted to the Examinations and Timetabling Office no later than Wednesday 30 August 2000.
- 284.2 It was essential that results were submitted on time so that, where necessary, students could be called to Progress Committees, which were scheduled to meet in the week beginning 11 September 2000.

### GRADUATION CEREMONIES JULY 2000

285. The Senate noted that the following would promote honorary graduands and give addresses at the July graduation ceremonies, as indicated below:-

<u>Honorary Graduand</u>	<u>Promoter</u>	<u>Date</u>
Mr Jeremy Peat (LLD)	Professor C Roberts	Monday 3 July at 11.00 a.m.
Dr George Bruce (DLitt)	Dr JG Roberts	Monday 3 July at 3.00 p.m.
Ms Lisa Milne (DMus)	Dr RB Williams	Monday 3 July at 3.00 p.m.
Professor Alasdair MacIntyre (DLitt)	Professor LG Graham	Monday 3 July at 6.30 p.m.
Mr Donald Cruickshank (LLD)	Professor GRD Catto	Tuesday 4 July at 11.00 a.m.
Mr Norman Gillies (LLD)	Professor IR Macdonald	Tuesday 4 July at 3.00 p.m.
Baroness Young of Old Scone (LLD)	Professor The Lord Sewel	Tuesday 4 July at 6.30 p.m.
Professor Christopher Edwards (DSc)	Professor GRD Catto	Wednesday 5 July at 11.00 a.m.
Professor Carl Djerassi (DSc)	Professor AR Forrester	Wednesday 5 July at 3.00 p.m.
Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws (LLD)	Professor Lord Sewel	Thursday 6 July at 11.00 a.m.
The Very Revd James Harkness (DD)	Professor IR Torrance	Thursday 6 July at 3.00 p.m.
Professor Peter Stein (LLD)	Professor CHW Gane	Thursday 6 July at 3.00 p.m.
Sir David Carter (DSc)	Professor SD Logan	Friday 7 July at 11.00 a.m.

<u>Ceremony</u>	<u>Address</u>
Monday 3 July at 11.00 a.m.	Professor T Salmon
Monday 3 July at 3.00 p.m.	Dr A Spence
Monday 3 July at 6.30 p.m.	Principal
Tuesday 4 July at 11.00 a.m.	Mr D Cruickshank
Tuesday 4 July at 3.00 p.m.	Professor LG Graham
Tuesday 4 July at 6.30 p.m.	Professor IJ Alexander
Wednesday 5 July at 11.00 a.m.	Professor NAR Gow
Wednesday 5 July at 3.00 p.m.	Chancellor
Thursday 6 July at 11.00 a.m.	Baroness Kennedy
Thursday 6 July at 3.00 p.m.	Professor DAS Fergusson
Friday 7 July at 11.00 a.m.	Professor GRD Catto

### GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

- 286.1 The Senate received a list of those qualified to receive degrees and diplomas who had applied to have them conferred *in absentia* (see Appendix to the Minutes of June 2000).

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

**DATES OF SENATE MEETINGS**

287. The Senate approved a recommendation that it should meet at 2.00 p.m. on the following dates in the academic year 2000-2001:-

Wednesday 11 October 2000  
Wednesday 15 November 2000  
Wednesday 24 January 2001  
Wednesday 28 February 2001  
Wednesday 2 May 2001  
Wednesday 13 June 2001  
Wednesday 11 July 2001

## REPORT FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

### 1. New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes

The Senate is invited to note that the Committees, on the recommendations of the relevant Faculties, have approved changes to the list of courses and programmes available as under (the list does not include courses which have been re-numbered solely because of a change in credit value, or teaching or assessment arrangements).

#### Accountancy

New course at level 3 in Social & Environmental Accounting (replacing AC3025)

#### Celtic

New courses at level 1 in Introductory Gaelic Oral Practice 1 and 2 (replacing CE1002 and 1502)

#### Computing Science

Withdrawal of the course CS2503

#### Continuing Education

New courses in European Studies: Modern Times, European Studies: The Eighteenth Century Enlightenment, European Studies: Culture & Industrialism

#### Land Economy (Marine Resource Management)

Introduction of new courses in Professional Project Planning and in Marine Resources

#### Management Studies

Withdrawal of the level 5 courses MS5014, 5112, 5023, 5427, 5821, 5822, 5823, 5827, 5033 and 5034

#### Plant & Soil Science

Withdrawal of the level 5 course SS5503

#### Degree of MA with Honours

Introduction of a new programme in Celtic Civilisation

#### Degree of M Litt

Introduction of a new programme in Philosophy

#### Degree of LL M

Deferral until 2002 of the introduction of the programme in Property Law

#### Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas

Withdrawal of the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma programmes in Human Resources.

Introduction (subject to merger with Northern College) of a Postgraduate Certificate programme leading to the award in appropriate disciplines of an Additional Teaching Qualification (Secondary)

### 2. Postgraduate Structured Management Frameworks

The Senate is invited to note that the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) has agreed that Postgraduate Structured Management Frameworks should be introduced for research degrees other than the Ph D. The new frameworks will be based on the Postgraduate Structured Management Frameworks for the Degree of Ph D by full-time and part-time study which are already in existence.