

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SENATUS ACADEMICUS

**Minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 1999**

Present: Professors Macdonald, Sloane, Logan and Houlihan, Dr JG Roberts, Professors Catto, Hubbuck, Cameron, Johnstone, Marshall, Miller, Thomson, Fergusson, Urwin, Penman, Britton, Hendry, Jolliffe, Meek, Forte, Racey, Jordan, Fraser, Bryden, Graham, Lomax, Simpson, Rodger, Ingram, Archbold, Lee, Watson, Adams, Logie, Mather, Duff and Salmon, Dr N Dower, Mr JM Gash, Dr GP McQuillan, Mr J Perera, Mr CA McLaren, Dr AR Akisanya, Mrs FM Alexander, Mr WTC Brotherstone, Dr G Hesketh, Dr CT Imrie, Dr AM Kiger, Dr PR Kinnear, Dr WF Long, Dr PFA MacConnell, Dr MR Masson, Dr DA Nunez, Dr JA Petty, Dr PVW Schlicke, Dr J Sheehan, Dr JDF Skatun, Dr RW Slee, Dr SP Townsend, Dr ER van Teijlingen, Dr J Watson, Mr D Welsh, Mr C O'Sullivan and Mr J Truscott

Apologies for absence were received from the Principal, Professors Walker, Kidd, Templeton, Stephens, Sleeman, Seaton, Russell, Baker, Helms, Cusine, Ritchie, Sharp, Gane, Webster, Hukins, Dukes, Gilbert, Flin and Blaikie, Dr CD McCaig, Dr DR Abramovich, Dr LH Chappell, Dr H Galley, Dr D Heddle, Dr S Lawrie, Dr JM Liversidge, Mr WS McKerrow, Mrs ML Ross and Dr IR Torrance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

112. The Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 1999 and of the special graduation ceremony held on 26 March 1999.

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S STATEMENT

**Unavoidable Absence of Principal**

113. Professor Macdonald tendered the Principal's apologies to the Senate for his unavoidable absence owing to an important commitment in the United States. The Principal had indicated that his absence was an exceptional circumstance, and in the light of this he had asked Professor Macdonald, as Senior Vice-Principal, to take the chair.

**Northern College**

- 114.1 Professor Macdonald reminded Senate that the Merger Proposal Document with Northern College was now publicly available for consultation, with a request for comments by Friday 14 May 1999. An open meeting for all staff within the University had already been arranged on that date. Given the lateness of the promised meeting in the preliminary consultation phase, he indicated that comments submitted early the following week would still be most welcome.

- 114.2 Comments received would be considered by the Tripartite Group, which comprised representatives of the Universities of Aberdeen and Dundee and of Northern College. The Document would be revised, as appropriate. It would then be considered formally by the senior academic and governing bodies of the three institutions. At this University it would be considered by the Senior Management Group, the Finance & Estates Committee, the Joint Policy & Resource Committee, the Senate and the Court. If the approval of all three governing bodies were forthcoming, the final agreed Document would be submitted to the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council and to the Scottish Office for their consideration, with a current intended vesting date of 1 August 2000.
- 114.3 Without wishing to enter into debate at this meeting Professor Macdonald indicated that the Document was not so much a strategic plan but more an inter-institutional treaty, as the agreement of all three institutions was required. Core to the success of the project was the absence of any barriers to the creation of an excellent Faculty of Education. Furthermore Government had now clearly recognised an impending shortage of school-teachers with the virtual certainty that additional funded student numbers would become available and thereby, an additional income stream to the Faculty and to the University.

### **University Strategic Plan**

115. Professor Macdonald reminded Senate that the University was required to submit an institutionally-approved Strategic Plan to the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council by the end of June 1999. He invited members to submit to him any comments on or suggested revisions to the current Plan, which was available on the University's website. Senate would receive the draft revised Plan for formal consideration at its next meeting, before onward transmission to the University Court.

### REVIEW OF THE UNDERGRADUATE MODULAR STRUCTURE

- 116.1 The Senate considered the Report of the Working Party, established by the Committee on Teaching and Learning (UCTL), to review the undergraduate modular structure. Professor Macdonald introduced the Report, drawing attention to the breadth of the membership of the Working Party and the extent of the consultations which had taken place within the University. The core objective of the review had been to re-examine the University's modular structures and to determine in particular whether there were avoidable barriers to increased flexibility. The Committee on Teaching and Learning had welcomed the Report and had recommended that the Senate approve the recommendations within it.
- 116.2 Before moving to consider the specific recommendations, Professor Macdonald invited general comment. A wide-ranging debate ensued, whose principal points of record were as follows:
- (i) There was concern that no general analysis had been undertaken of the costs and benefits of the introduction of modular structures. It would have been helpful to have measured actual outcomes against those postulated when the University had taken the original decision to modularise.

- (ii) Anxiety was expressed at the extent of the bureaucracy involved by modularisation. It was agreed that the Teaching Committee should keep this under review, though it was noted that most of the bureaucracy relating to academic quality assurance was externally imposed.
- (iii) The suggestion was made that consideration should be given to reviewing the present three-term structure with half-sessions super-imposed. It was agreed that the Committee would consider this, although it was noted that an important constraint would be the UCAS proposals for a new post-entry qualification system.
- (iv) The view was put that research should be undertaken into determining whether or not modularisation had led to the encouragement of surface and rote learning, with the implicit view that it had. This was agreed.
- (v) Concern was expressed at the barriers to cross-Faculty flexibility in course provision caused by different timetabling systems. It was noted that timetabling had posed a range of technical problems. The most basic were those caused by the conflicts between courses which were “blocked” and those which were “threaded”. An investigation of possible solutions to these problems would be undertaken.
- (vi) Concern was expressed at the impact of teaching on local and national holidays during term-time, in particular the effect on both students and staff with child care responsibilities. Professor Macdonald indicated that this matter was already under consideration.
- (vii) Surprise was expressed that no attempt had apparently been made to determine whether or not modular structures were an aid or hindrance to student recruitment. In response it was noted that applicants to the University often cited flexible degree structures as a key determinant in their choice of institution and that further information would be secured on attitudes of applicants to other institutions.

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116.3 Professor Macdonald then drew the general discussion to a close and Senate turned to the individual recommendations of the Report. Given its length and complexity he secured agreement to deal first with those recommendations which Senate felt able to approve without detailed discussion.

116.4 The following recommendations were accordingly approved:

- (a) That specialised honours programmes be designed on the principle of developing a student’s knowledge and understanding of a subject in a progressive manner through a tight discipline of specific pre- (and co-) requisites, but that honours programmes based on courses which did not require specific pre-requisites should be permitted, subject to justification by the parent Department(s) to the satisfaction of the relevant Undergraduate Programme Committee and Academic Standards Committee (Recommendation 1).
- (b) That the University should retain its existing range of undesignated non-honours degrees but await clarification of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework before re-defining the requirements for these degrees; meanwhile, Departments should be encouraged to propose designated programmes to complement any proposals for new honours programmes (Recommendation 2).

(c) That the University review its portfolio of courses and degrees which could be studied on a part-time basis if the survey of part-time provision being undertaken by the Centre for Continuing Education identified a sufficient demand to justify the additional costs of preparing and delivering suitable courses and programmes (Recommendation 3).

(d) That, in the first instance, the Deans of the Faculties of Science & Engineering and Medicine & Medical Sciences should establish a joint Working Group to form a plan for the design of biological science programmes, based on academic considerations. This should identify preferred patterns of delivery and indicate the implications for the timetabling of teaching accommodation (Recommendation 5).

(e) That the Deans of the Faculties of Arts & Divinity and of Social Sciences & Law be invited to comment on the implications of the above plan in regard to the delivery and timetabling of courses within their Faculties and for the development of inter-disciplinary programmes across the University (Recommendation 6).

(f) That the current anomaly whereby Level 1 and (to a lesser extent) Level 2 courses were linked strictly to contact hours should be abandoned and the credit-rating of all courses should relate to notional student effort, with one credit being equivalent to approximately 36-40 hours of notional student effort, excluding revision and assessment periods (i.e. 3 hours per week over 12 weeks: 6 hours over 6 weeks etc. (Recommendation 7).

(g) That since a change of the Science and Engineering structure as proposed in Recommendations 8 and 9 of the Report (see below) might only be acceptable if Departmental funding arrangements were revised, all Deans should initiate a debate on resource allocation (Recommendation 10).

(h) That the practice of aggregating credits for the degrees of BSc and BSc Agr into “units of study” be abandoned and the Regulations for those degrees be revised accordingly (Recommendation 13).

(i) That the Conveners of the three Academic Standards Committees should consider the implications of credit-rating vacation courses (e.g. field courses and work experience) which were a compulsory component of a programme on the same basis as for taught courses i.e. 1 credit  $\equiv$  36-40 hours of notional student effort (Recommendation 14).

(j) That the (undergraduate) Academic Standards Committees should consider limiting the maximum duration of vacation courses (e.g. field courses or work experience) which were a compulsory part of a programme to two weeks and that vacation study in excess of this period should only be “recommended” (Recommendation 15).

(k) That the Academic Standards Committees be asked to review the planning cycle process to ascertain if it could be streamlined further without weakening the University’s course and programme validation procedures (Recommendation 16).

(l) That staff be given clearer guidance on how their performance as Advisers might lead to recognition being given in the promotions exercise and that the Director of Personnel Services be asked to undertake appropriate consultation and seek approval for service as an Adviser of Studies to be included in the conditions of employment of academic staff (Recommendation 17).

(m) That the Academic Standards Committees, during the course and programme validation process, should attempt to identify any duplication or overlap in teaching between courses and should ask the relevant Departments to liaise with one another in such instances (Recommendation 20).

116.5 Senate then considered in detail the following recommendations and agreed to act as indicated below:

(a) That Departments be permitted in principle to offer 24-week courses in the final year of honours programmes, subject to (1) justification being provided on academic grounds to the satisfaction of the validating committees, (2) the identification of a means of assessing students at the end of the first half-session for those who wished to exit a 24-week course at that point, and (3) it being demonstrated that 24-week courses would not inhibit student choice with regard to their final year honours programme (Recommendation 4).

116.6 After a brief debate Senate approved the above recommendation on the understanding that individual Departments could make the academic case for final honours years, comprising entirely 24-credit length courses. It would be for Academic Standards Committees to determine whether or not to approve them.

(b) (i) That the University should move to a 24-credit first year structure for science and engineering students, based on six 4-credit courses as the norm, and that years 2 and above should be based on a 24-credit load throughout the University; and that the Deans of the Faculties of Science and Engineering and of Medicine and Medical Sciences be invited to discuss this recommendation within their Faculties and to report to the UCTL in due course (Recommendation 8).

(ii) That, in view of the above, the relevant Faculties should initiate a debate on the nature of the education which should be provided for science students in year 1 (Recommendation 9).

(iii) That, normally, all new courses be based on a standard course size of 4 credits at Level 1 (requiring 144 - 160 hours of notional student effort) and 3 or 6 credits as the standard size at all other Levels (requiring 108 - 120 and 216 - 240 hours of notional student effort, respectively), with courses of other values being permitted, subject to Departments justifying variation from this standard structure to the satisfaction of the validation committees (Recommendation 11).

(iv) That Departments be asked to consider whether existing courses at Level 2 which did not comply with the requirements in recommendations 7 and 11 could be amended to comply with the proposed structure (Recommendation 12).

116.7 A long and detailed debate of this group of recommendations followed and the Committee was asked to reconsider them in the light of the following comments:

There was concern that reducing the standard number of courses taken by Level 1 students in Science could result in a range of the following outcomes: subsidiary subjects could be omitted from core curricula; course flexibility could be reduced; competitive advantage in student recruitment *vis-a-vis* the other ancient Scottish universities could be lost. Indeed the suggestion was made in this context that consideration should be given by the humanities faculties to increasing the standard load of courses from 3 to 4 per half-session.

- 116.8 In the light of these comments it was agreed that Deans should initiate discussions in all Faculties with regard to the group of recommendations above. It was also agreed that consultations should be as wide and open as possible.
- (c) That no change be made to the Class Certificate system i.e. Departments should continue to refuse Class Certificates where students failed to attend and duly perform the work prescribed for a course (including failure to submit in-course prescribed degree assessments where the published deadline for submission is within the 12-week teaching period for the relevant half-session), and that candidates should continue not to be permitted to present themselves for assessment in any course unless they had obtained a Class Certificate for that course (Recommendation 18).
- 116.9 Considerable disquiet was expressed at the recommendation that no change be made. Members were invited to submit their comments in writing to the Academic Registrar so that the matter could be considered again by the Committee.
- (d) That the Student Course Evaluation Form (SCEF) Exercise should continue to be used to elicit feedback on all courses each year; that the Academic Standards Committees should consider identifying good practice and commending Departments in their reports, where appropriate; that Departments should consider adding a question to the SCEF to ask if the form for a particular course provided students with an adequate means of giving feedback; and that in an attempt to reduce the possibility of student questionnaire fatigue, Departments should consider whether or not their mechanisms for “closing the feedback loop” to students were as effective as possible (Recommendation 19).
- 116.10 Concern was expressed that there should be wider consultation on the most appropriate methods for carrying out course evaluation. It was proposed that rather than evaluate individual courses at honours level, means should be sought of securing individual programme evaluations. Indeed the further proposal was made that rather than undertake individual course evaluation consideration should be given to conducting year evaluations after students had had time to reflect maturely on their educational experiences.
- 116.11 While accepting that these proposals should be considered further Professor Macdonald urged nonetheless that this recommendation be approved. It was put to the vote and passed by a large majority.

#### REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Senate approved the recommendations of the Committee on Teaching and Learning at its meeting on 26 March 1999, as under:

#### **Students' Work Affected by their Undertaking Paid Employment**

117. The Senate approved the following policy statement, which had been revised in light of discussion at the meeting of the Senate on 3 March 1999:-

*The University acknowledges the financial burden placed upon students and sympathises with those who encounter financial difficulties. It recognises that many full-time students have to undertake part-time paid employment to provide financial support for their studies. The University's guideline is that full-time students should spend no more than 15 hours per week undertaking employment during term-time. Where a potential conflict may arise in regard to fulfilling the attendance and/or performance requirements of a particular course, students should seek advice from the relevant Course Co-ordinator or Head of Department, as appropriate, at the earliest opportunity. Notwithstanding this, academic standards cannot be compromised and students' first priority must be to fulfil the academic obligations of their studies. Consequently, students must ensure that their employment commitments do not conflict with the requirements of their studies.*

### **Consultation Paper on Qualifications Frameworks (Postgraduate Qualifications)**

118. The Senate (a) received the Consultation Paper on Qualifications Frameworks: Postgraduate Qualifications, which had been circulated to all higher education institutions by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and (b) approved the draft response to the Consultation Paper which had been prepared by the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate) and endorsed by the University Committee on Teaching and Learning.

### REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

The Senate approved the recommendations of the Academic Standards Committees, as under:

#### **Dates of Terms**

119. The Senate approved recommendations on behalf of the Undergraduate Programme Committee in Arts & Social Sciences and on behalf of the Undergraduate Programme Committee in Science that the dates of terms in the Academic Year 1999-2000 for year 2 of the MA programme in European Languages with Education (offered in collaboration with Northern College) and year 1 of the BSc programmes in Animal Care and Equine Science (offered in collaboration with Aberdeen College) be as follows (variations from the standard dates are underlined):

European Languages with Education	30 August 1999 to 17 December 1999
	5 January 2000 to
24 March 2000	
	10 April 2000 to 9
June 2000	
Animal Care/Equine Science	21 September 1999 to 22
<u>December 1999</u>	
	6 January 2000 to 24
March 2000	
	7 April 2000 to 9
June 2000	

**Academic Postgraduate Officers**

120. The Senate approved recommendations by the relevant Deans, following consultation, that the undernoted be appointed academic Postgraduate Officers for the Areas of Study and from the dates stated:

Professors N Webster and M Pope as Postgraduate Officers for Medicine *vice* Professors Greaves and Whalley with effect from 1 March 1999, with Professor Webster serving as the representative of Medicine on the Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate);

Professor D Shaw as a Postgraduate Officer for Science *vice* Professor A Brown with effect from 1 April 1999;

Dr D MacPhee as a Postgraduate Officer for Science *vice* Dr D Sinclair with effect from a date to be determined.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME COMMITTEES: 1999-2000

121. The Senate approved recommendations by the relevant Deans for membership of the Academic Standards Committees and Undergraduate Programme Committees, as under:

##### **Academic Standards Committee (Postgraduate)**

Professor PA Racey (Convener) [until 30/09/02]

Professor DS Hewitt [until 30/09/02]

Dr BS Rosner [until 30/09/01]

Dr T O'Donoghue [until 30/09/02]

Professor RJ Rowan-Robinson [until 30/09/01]

Professor NR Webster [until 30/09/02]

Professor D Shaw [until 30/09/02]

To be nominated (SRC representative)

##### **Academic Standards Committee (Arts & Social Sciences, Divinity and Law)**

Professor DW Urwin (Convener) (also Convener - UPC [Arts & Social Sciences]) [until 30/09/02]

Dr IR Torrance (Convener - UPC [Divinity]) [until 30/09/01]

Professor PR Duff (Convener - UPC [Law]) [until 30/09/02]

Dr RAV Cox [until 30/09/00]

Dr JH Farrington [until 30/09/01]

Dr D Ditchburn [until 30/09/02]

Mr DA Newlands [until 30/09/00]

To be nominated (SRC representative)

##### **Academic Standards Committee (Science, Engineering and Medicine)**

Dr WF Long (Convener) (also Convener - UPC [Science]) [until 30/09/02]

Professor AA Rodger (Convener - UPC [Engineering]) [until 30/09/02]

Professor LD Ritchie (Convener - UPC [Medicine]) [until 30/09/01]

Dr B Golden [until 30/09/02]

Dr H McKenzie [until 30/09/01]

Dr CE Mullins [until 30/09/01]

Dr MJ Hole [until 30/09/01]

To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **Undergraduate Programme Committee (Arts & Social Sciences)**

Professor DW Urwin (Convener) (also Convener – ASC [Arts & Social Sciences, Divinity and Law]) [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr J Roach (Director of Studies - Advising) [until 30/09/01]  
 Dr M Ray [until 30/09/00]  
 Dr J Morrison [until 30/09/01]  
 Professor A Blaikie [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr P Allmendinger [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr M Gorman [until 30/09/01]  
 To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **Undergraduate Programme Committee (Divinity)**

Dr IR Torrance (Convener) (also Convener - Students' Progress Committee) [until 30/09/01]  
 Professor DW Urwin (Convener - ASC [Arts & Social Sciences, Divinity and Law]) [until 30/09/02]  
 Professor W Johnstone [until 30/09/01]  
 Dr M Harper [until 30/09/02]  
 To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **Undergraduate Programme Committee (Law)**

Professor PR Duff (Convener) [until 30/09/02]  
 Professor DW Urwin (Convener - ASC [Arts & Social Sciences, Divinity and Law]) [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr JJH Pearson (Convener - Students' Progress Committee) [until 30/09/01]  
 Mr DP Lessels [until 30/09/01]  
 Mr W Walton [until 30/09/00]  
 To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **Undergraduate Programme Committee (Science)**

Dr WF Long (Convener) (also Convener – ASC [Science, Engineering and Medicine]) [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr SB Wilson (Director of Studies - Advising) [until 30/09/00]  
 Dr KR Page [until 30/09/01]  
 Professor GW Gooday [until 30/09/01]  
 To be nominated [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr J Reid [until 30/09/01]  
 Dr JH Farrington [until 30/09/01]  
 To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **Undergraduate Programme Committee (Engineering)**

Professor AA Rodger (Convener) [until 30/09/00]  
 Dr WF Long (Convener - ASC [Science, Engineering and Medicine]) [until 30/09/02]  
 Dr PW Bellarby (Director of Studies - Advising) [until 30/09/00]  
 Professor HW Chandler [until 30/09/00]  
 Dr T Stuchbury [until 30/09/02]  
 To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **Undergraduate Programme Committee (Medicine)**

Professor LD Ritchie (Convener) [until 30/09/01]  
 Dr WF Long (Convener - ASC [Science, Engineering and Medicine]) [until 30/09/02]  
 Professor DA Alexander (Convener - Students' Progress Committee) [until 30/09/01]  
 Dr AM MacLeod [until 30/09/00]  
 Professor S Della Salla [until 30/09/00]  
 To be nominated (SRC representative)

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF NORTHERN COLLEGE**

122. The Senate approved the recommendation of the Principal that Professor Macdonald be nominated to membership of the Board of Governors of Northern College in terms of the Colleges of Education (Scotland) Regulations 1987, for a period of four years or for a shorter period, should the proposed disaggregation of Northern College and merger with the Universities of Aberdeen and Dundee proceed.

### **ABOLITION OF RESEARCH CENTRES**

- 123.1 The Senate, for its part, approved closure of the following Research Centres:
- Centre for the Study of Religions  
 Centre for Literature and Medicine
- 123.2 It was noted that the Faculty of Arts & Divinity had made these recommendations in the light of the departure of key staff from the University.

### **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH ABERDEEN COLLEGE**

124. The Senate, for its part, approved the proposed Partnership Agreement with Aberdeen College, a draft of which had been approved by the College's Principal on behalf of the College.

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION NO      OF 1999 [SECOND AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO 50 OF 1972 (MATRICULATED STUDENT – STATUS DEFINITION)]**

125. The Senate, for its part, indicated its concurrence with the above draft Resolution.

### **DATES OF SENATE MEETINGS 1999-2000**

126. The Senate approved a recommendation that it meet at 2.00 p.m. on the following dates in the academic year 1999-2000:

Wednesday 13 October 1999  
 Wednesday 17 November  
 Wednesday 26 January 2000  
 Wednesday 1 March 2000  
 Wednesday 3 May 2000  
 Wednesday 14 June 2000  
 Wednesday 12 July 2000 (if required)

#### REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT

The Senate noted the decisions of the University Court at its meeting on 23 March 1999, as under:

#### **Resolution No 213 of 1999** **[Changes in Regulations for Various Degrees]**

127. The Senate noted that the Court had passed the above Resolution.

#### **Highland and Islands Research Institute**

128. The Senate noted that the Court had approved the establishment of a collaborative Highlands and Islands Research Institute.

#### **Strategic issues for Scottish higher education**

129. The Senate noted that the Court had approved the University's responses to the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council's Consultation Papers 5/98: Funding for the Future, and 6/98: Strategic Issues for Scottish Higher Education, subject to a minor amendment requested by the Faculty of Medicine & Medical Sciences to underline disparity of funding for medicine between England and Scotland.

#### REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEES

The Senate noted the decisions of the Academic Standards Committees, as under:

#### **New and Discontinued Courses and Programmes**

130. The Senate noted that the Committees, on the recommendations of the relevant Faculties, had approved changes to the list of courses and programmes available, as under (the list did not include courses which had been re-numbered solely because of a change in the half-session in which they were taught):

#### Computing Science

Redesignation of the postgraduate programmes 'Intelligent Systems & Applications - Specialist Variant' and 'Intelligent Systems & Applications - Conversion Variant' as 'Intelligent Systems & Applications' and 'Information Technology and Intelligent Systems', respectively.

Continuing Education

New courses at level 1: 'An Introduction to the Short Story and the Novel - CMC', 'An Introduction to Poetry and Drama - CMC'.

New courses at level 2: 'Hebrew Prophets 1: An Introduction', 'Hebrew Prophets 2: The Book of Isaiah'.

Divinity with Religious Studies

New course at level 1: 'Earliest Portraits of Jesus: Introduction to the Gospels' (replacing DR1515).

Reinstatement of the level 1 course 'Introduction to Christian Theology' (DR1512) (replacing the new course DR1520, previously approved).

New course at level 2: 'Reading New Testament Greek'.

New course at level 3: 'Jesus and God in Early Christian Experience' (replacing DR3540).

Withdrawal of level 3 course: 'The Victorian Hymn' (DR3046).

Engineering

Amended courses at level 4 in Engineering Management, Engineering & Project Management.

Withdrawal of the Certificate in Process Engineering.

English

Withdrawal of level 3 course: 'Seamus Heaney: Poetry and Prose' (EL3819).

New courses at level 4: 'The Glasgow Novel', 'Dissertation in Language and Linguistics'.

New course at level 5: 'Postgraduate Research in English'.

French

Withdrawal of level 3 course: 'Reading French Poetry' (FR3017).

Geography

Withdrawal of level 3 and 4 courses: 'Volcanic Processes, Landforms and Hazard Assessment' (GG3007), 'Polar and Quaternary Science' (GG4504).

Hispanic Studies

Withdrawal of level 3 courses: 'Gender and Visual Representation: The Work of Frida Kahlo and Tina Modotti' (SP3043), 'Interpreting Skills in Spanish and English' (SP3046).

History

Modified course at level 3: 'Early Modern Ireland' (replacing HI3020).

Land Economy

Modified course at level 1: 'Ocean Biology' (replacing MR1505).

Law

Withdrawal of level 4 courses: 'Scottish Legal History' (LS4029), 'Maritime Law' (LS4532).

Availability of LLM programmes over a 36 month period; permission to count towards the LLM up to 12 credits taken at another approved institution overseas, subject to the approval of the Head of the Department and Postgraduate Officer.

Management Studies

New course at level 5 'Decision Making for Educational Management'.

Medicine & Medical Sciences

Modified courses for Phase II of the MBChB: 'Community Course II', 'Community Course III', 'Principles of Medicine IV'.

Music

Withdrawal of level 1 courses: 'Music and Musical Life in the 20th Century: 1900-1945' (MU1011), 'Music and Musical Life in the Renaissance' (MU1014), 'Harmony and Counterpoint 1' (MU1015), 'Form and Structure in Western Music: Variations, Concertos' (MU1016), 'Arranging and Orchestration 1' (MU1017), 'Music and Musical Life in the 20th Century, 1945-1985' (MU1511), 'History and Repertoire of Music in the Nineteenth Century' (MU1512), 'Music and Musical Life in the Early Baroque' (MU1513); withdrawal from 2000-2001 of the level 1 course 'Form and Structure in Western Music: Sonatas, Symphonic Poems' (MU1516).

Withdrawal of level 2 courses: 'Creative Composition 1' (MU2001), 'Composition - Harmony and Counterpoint 2' (MU2502), 'Creative Composition 2' (MU 2503).

## AUGUST 1999 DIET OF EXAMINATIONS

- 131.1 The Senate noted that it had agreed at its meeting on 18 November 1998 that the results of the August 1999 diet of examinations (courses at Levels 1 to 4 and Level 5 [Undergraduate]) should be submitted to the Examinations & Timetabling Office no later than Wednesday 1 September 1999.
- 131.2 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 Monday 13 September 1999.

NORTHERN COLLEGE MERGER

- 132.1 The Senate noted that the Merger Proposal Document with Northern College was available on the University's web-site at the following address:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/admin/ncmerger.hti>

- 132.2 The deadline for the receipt of comments was Friday 14 May 1999.

GRADUATIONS *IN ABSENTIA*

- 133.1 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 1999).
- 133.2 The Senate conferred the degrees on, and awarded the diplomas and other qualifications to, the persons stated.