

Annual General Meeting Minutes

MEETING TIME/DATE	18:30, 26 November 2020 (UK time)	LOCATION	By Teams
ATTENDEES	Mike Ross (President); Patrick Corbett (Vice-President); Gregor Colville (Secretary); Joe Pacitti; Emily King (President, Student Union); Kieran Robson Renner; Brian Henderson; Billy Mwape; Phillip John; Karen Schmidt; Zeinab Shabbir		
IN ATTENDANCE	-		
APOLOGIES	-		

A. Meeting Summary	Action Owner
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This meeting was the 2020 Annual General Meeting of The Watt Club.

1. Welcome

- a. The President of The Watt Club, Mike Ross, welcomed members to the 2020 Annual General Meeting.
- b. With 44 Watt Club members calling in, the meeting was deemed quorate.

2. Speaker – Grant Innes, Chair of Court

- a. The Chair of the Court of the University, Grant Innes, who is also a Heriot-Watt alumnus, presented a talk covering his career and his involvement with Heriot-Watt. In particular, Grant focused on the important role alumni play in the life of the University. Grant commented that as well as himself, other alumni are members of Court, including the Watt Club appointed member, Brian Henderson.

Grant gave members a preview of the new University fundraising campaign - the Sir Walter Scott Circle – which aims to provide financial assistance so that many more students can access education, successfully complete their studies, and become one of the leaders of tomorrow.

- b. The President thanked Grant for his presentation and said he looked forward to working with him during his appointment as Chair of Court.

3. Watt Club Council

- a. The President gave a short overview of the Watt Club Council, its members and role.
- b. There were no questions from members.

4. 2019 Minutes

- a. The President presented the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.
- b. There were no matters arising, or any questions from members.
- c. The 2019 Minutes were approved by 30 votes to zero.

5. President's Report

- a. The President gave a short overview of the Watt Club Council, its members and role.

The President commented that during the five years since the Watt Club governance as revised, Council has been fortunate to have had excellent members who have helped to drive the Club forward.

- b. The President introduced new members of Council:

Brian Henderson – Member of Court

Dr Amanda Lyness – Graduate member of the University Staff

Gregor Colville – Secretary & Treasurer

Billy Mwape and Kieran Robson Renner – Ordinary Members of Council

- c. The President thanked the retiring members of Council:

Norman Chipakupaku – Immediate Past President (serves one year after term of office)

Roger Murray – Member of Court

Cameron Millar and Ebbe Bergshaven – Ordinary Members of Council

Heather Kay – Secretary & Treasurer

- d. The President commented that challenges do remain, especially in ensuring Council reflects the diversity and experience of The Watt Club membership. Council continually its membership, especially co-opted members, to ensure that gaps are filled. A review will take place in 2021 of the current composition of Council, with any changes to be proposed to the 2021 Annual General Meeting.
- e. The President commented that the main areas for Council and Watt Club activities in 2021 will be the University's bicentenary and continued focus on developing the Club, subject of course to the easing of pandemic restrictions.
- f. There were no questions from members.

6. Branches

- a. The Secretary presented an overview of activities branches have undertaken since 2019. Naturally, events had been severely restricted due to the pandemic. However, some branches had managed to maintain some activities.
- b. The Vice-President commented that there were renewed efforts to establish a Staff Branch at the University, and that discipline-based rather than geographical-based branches would be considered going forward.
- c. The Secretary commented that there was increase scope for online/remote events. The pandemic had greatly increased the availability and competence in using webinars and conferencing software, which opens the door to engaging a wider range of members around the world.
- d. There were no questions from members.

7. Budget

- a. The Treasurer presented the final accounts for the 2019-20 financial year.

The main point to note was the significant underspend due to the reduction in activities due to the pandemic. The Watt Club Council and the Development & Alumni Office agreed to amend the Financial Memorandum to allow for unspent funds to be accrued to Financial Year 2020/21 for the purposes of funding three internships to support the Watt Club's digital presence.

- b. The Treasurer presented the Council-approved budget for the 2020-21 financial year. The value of the subvention received from the University remains unchanged at £15,000.
- c. There were no questions from members.

8. Governance

- a. The Secretary presented a number of amendments to the Constitution.
- b. There were no questions from members.
- c. The amendments were approved by 34 members, the other attendees abstaining.

As the amendments were approved by more than two-thirds of the members attending an Annual General Meeting, they will be submitted to the Court of the University for endorsement.

9. Development & Alumni Office Update

- a. The Director of Development & Alumni, Kerryn Kirkpatrick, presented an overview of alumni-related activities, plus an insight to the bicentenary events being planned for 2021.
- b. There were no questions from members.

10. AOCB

- a. There being no other competence business, the President closed the meeting at 19:55.