

COURT**Minutes**

In the Chair: Dame Frances Cairncross

Date of Meeting: 29 June 2020

Present also: Dr Richard Armour
Ms Tracey Ashworth Davies
Professor Patrick Corbett
Mr Graeme Dickson
Professor Fadi Ghaith
Dr Amos Haniff
Mr Steve Heathcote
Dr Paul Hopkinson
Mr Grant Innes
Professor Julian Jones
Ms Emily King

Dr Amanda Lyness
Mr Cameron Millar
Mr Roger Murray
Professor Máiréad Nic Craith
Ms Marta Phillips
Mr Alan Robertson
Ms Jandy Stevenson
Ms Lara Stroudinsky
Mr Mike Tumilty
Mr Graham Watson
Professor Richard Williams

Officer in attendance: Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi
Ms Sue Collier
Ms Lucy Everest
Professor Gill Hogg
Professor Ammar Kaka

Mr Andrew Jefferson
Ms Ruth Moir
Professor Garry Pender
Professor John Sawkins

Others in attendance: Mr Richard Claughton (for item M20/55)

M20/45 WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the following in particular:

- Ms Ruth Moir and Ms Lucy Everest, who were present in the joint capacity of Acting Secretary of the University;
- Ms Emily King, President of the Student Union, and Ms Lara Stroudinsky, Vice-President Wellbeing of the Student Union, who were attending their first meeting of the Court since taking up their roles and membership of the Court.

The Chair confirmed that Mr Richard Claughton, Global Director of HR, would join the meeting for the discussion on paper Ct4/20/38.

The Chair reported that the University's Financial Plan from 2020/21 would be considered by the Court at the additional meeting scheduled on 23 July 2020.

The Chair reminded Court members of the extreme sensitivity of papers to be considered at the meeting on 29 June and the need to maintain strict confidentiality and security of the information being shared.

M20/46 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Ann Marie Dalton Pillay, Ms Morag McNeill, Ms Dawn Skidmore, and Lord Iain Vallance, who had been invited to attend the meeting.

M20/47 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Court approved as accurate records the minutes of the meetings of Court held on 27 March 2020 and 15 May 2020.

M20/48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair of Court invited declarations of interest. No interests were declared.

M20/49 MATTERS ARISING

- 49.1 The Principal reported that an update report on the outcomes of the 15 May 2020 Strategy Day discussions will be provided to the Court at its meeting on 23 July 2020.
- 49.2 Ms Ruth Moir, Acting Secretary of the University, updated the Court on recent work undertaken by the Covid LIFT Group, which included five lay members of the Court (Dame Frances Cairncross, Mr Graham Watson, Mr Cameron Millar, Mr Grant Innes and Ms Morag McNeill) and senior members of the Executive.
- She reported that the Group had been meeting regularly to work together to identify financial challenges, to explore potential areas of saving and to position the University for future financial sustainability. These outputs are being fed into financial planning, informing the Financial Plan which will be considered by the Court at its next meeting on 23 July 2020.
- 49.3 Ms Lucy Everest, Acting Secretary of the University, reported on the work being undertaken since receipt of the Cubane Consulting benchmarking report on professional service provision. A 'task and finish group' led by the Deputy Principal (Research & Innovation) has been meeting fortnightly to consider the data and to identify areas where efficiency gains may be made.

M20/50 COURT ACTION LOG

The Court received and noted the Court Action Log which had been updated as of June 2020.

- 50.1 In relation to Action Log item SD/19/10 and the review of leading indicator data, Ruth Moir reported that leading indicators would be reviewed further on the heels of the current priority of re-tuning Strategy 2025. Both will then be presented together.
- 50.2 In relation to Action Log item M19/103.5 and review of the University's 'Risk Appetite', a member urged that the Court considers discussing this sooner than the November 2020 timescale suggested by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

M20/51 UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (Paper Ct4/20/27)

The Court received and discussed an update report from the Principal which summarised many of the University's activities in response to the Covid-19 crisis. The Principal relayed thanks to University colleagues who were working hard to manage continually changing circumstances and with a particular focus on the wellbeing of students, graduates and staff. He also thanked the Court members for their fortitude under current circumstances. He reported on a recent opportunity to speak to the Chair of the Scottish Funding Council and the Council's understanding of the current strain on governing bodies to make wise judgements that balance the need to manage short term requirements with the imperative to achieve medium to longer term institutional sustainability.

He drew particular attention to recent uplifts in league tables and in the achievements of staff members. Since release of his report the University had learned of a further rise in the Golden Age Universities table and had also received news of a significant new tranche of research income in the Lyell Centre.

The Principal reported on the recent work of the University Executive to develop the inputs from the Court at the May 2020 Strategy Day. The outcome will be a clear and focused vision of the University's strategic intent post-Covid-19. The Principal had also been developing financial options for the future with the Executive. It is his intention to be open in ensuring that plain conversations take place about the realities to be faced ahead; an approach based on four areas:

1. to deliver the ethos of our Strategy 2025 focused on a post-Covid-19 world context. An update report will be provided to the Court at its meeting in July 2020;
2. to agree and implement effective structures and systems for academic and professional services delivery. This will mean ensuring we are effective, efficient and agile for the future across the whole University;
3. to prioritise and maintain flexible provision to match demand and to maximise income growth. This will mean stopping some programmes, investing in others with growth potential, and being more nimble and flexible etc; and
4. to focus on delivering excellence to ensure the University is world leading in all its areas of specialism using global teams. This will mean stopping some activities and growing others which are excellent or show promise.

The Principal reported on the establishment of three task and finish groups reporting to the University Executive and providing input to the planning process which were examining the above matters. Input from staff members more widely is being made to the work of these groups.

He reported that planning options are being developed based on best estimates of income. This task is not easy as the external environment is constantly changing and hard data is limited. It is known that the future appears tough: student applications from the rest of the UK (RUK) are down 40%; Masters applications are up marginally but the intentions of international students are unclear and vary by home location, so these applications could be reduced by up to 40%. He reported that by the time the Finance Committee meets in mid-July 2020, some options will have been worked up along with ways of progressing a rolling budgeting system. The University must anticipate staff reductions as the level of income loss and the need to reshape the University will be acute for 2020/21.

The Principal also reported that government and Funding Council support to institutions had so far been modest. This had included £75m support to the sector in Scotland to support research, of which Heriot-Watt's share would be around £4m. The Court noted that the Scottish Government had announced a review of Further and Higher Education Support, via the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). This would be a two-part process: a focus on the Covid-19 response for 2020/21 and provision on a four to five year timescale. With elections coming up in 2021 any "big ticket" issues would likely be resolved by December 2020. Meanwhile, the SFC and the government have underscored the need for universities to be flexible, connect with the economy and those out of work, and to utilise international connections.

The Principal reported on regular meetings with other Principals of Edinburgh institutions to discuss mutual areas of academic and operating provision in the city, where institutions might act together, for example, in establishing a common Scottish Foundation Programme for Edinburgh or beyond, in joint chartering of aircraft for international cohorts through approved air corridors, and for collective support of staff as anxiety levels grow. These meetings will continue.

The Court noted that the University is looking to grow income further and that, where this is possible, it will impact mostly on 2021/22, and not on next year. One area of growth may be through the additional marketing for Masters in all the University's locations with a number of programmes starting in January 2021, and the University's innovative *Future Made for Success* programme with industry. The Principal invited lay members of the Court to bring these opportunities to the attention of any new graduates they may know.

In response to a point raised about shared services across the sector, the Principal reported that, while there are already collective procurement arrangements in place, different institutions have different ERP systems which would not be easy to bring together. It is not easy to envisage significant areas of integration, at least in the short-term, although plans for harmonisation over the longer term might be a desirable collective goal. In the meantime, potential for wellbeing, for example, to be an area developed for collaboration might be a more realistic aim.

The Provost of the Malaysia Campus reported positively on the development of the Digital Foundation Programme and use of a temporary taster programme for students which has been attracting positive feedback from participating students.

The Chair of Court concluded the discussion by emphasising the size of the University's annual pay costs and the scale of the challenge to constrain spend and make the scale of savings required to fill a substantial reduction in income. To achieve the required level of savings will require very hard decisions. In the light of this it will be important for the University to maintain harmony between those who must take those decisions and the wider University staff.

M20/52 REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR OF COURT (Oral report)

The Chair had no remarks in addition to those which were to be covered in the context of other items on the agenda.

M20/53 REPORT FROM THE SENATE (Paper Ct4/20/28)

The Court received a report from the Senate which related to the meeting of the Senate held on 17 June 2020. It was noted that the full minutes of the meeting would be provided to the Court in due course.

53.1 Ordinance modifications

The Court approved modifications to the following Ordinances which were proposed with the purpose of aligning the Ordinances to the recently revised Policy and Procedures relating to Honorary, Visiting and Emeritus Titles:

- *Ordinance F4: Emeritus Titles* (formerly Professor Emeritus)
- *Ordinance F6: Honorary Titles*
- *Ordinance F7: Visiting Titles* (formerly Visiting Professor)
- *Ordinance M1: Academic Freedom*

53.2 Matters reported for information

The Court noted other items in the report which were presented for information.

M20/54 REPORT FROM THE STUDENT UNION (Paper Ct4/20/29)

The Court received an annual report from the Student Union for the year 2019/20.

The Student Union (SU) President and the Vice-President Wellbeing drew attention in particular to:

- the launch in the year of the new SU strategic plan (set out in an annex to the report) and brand. Increased student engagement in the year had been linked to the strategy and brand work;
- the award of Campaign of the Year by the National Union of Students for the work carried out in conjunction with the University on postgraduate pay and experience;
- being shortlisted for a Marketing Society Star Award for the brand development work;
- a substantial increase in the growth of student societies and four new societies based in the Scottish Borders Campus. Funding from the Alumni Fund had been secured to support faith related activities;
- the impact of Covid-19 on the progress of plans for the new Student Life building. This would have a knock-on effect of the SU's ability to meet increasing demands on the student experience;
- SU concerns about discussions the University has been undertaking with an external entity and the potential for a competing retail unit at the Edinburgh Campus. As the Student Union shop funds a large part of the SU's activity it is believed by the SU that this will have a negative impact on SU finances;
- the restructuring of SU roles to embed responsibility for Scottish Borders Campus student support across several student officer roles. A new Student Parliament structure had also been launched, supporting a more democratic approach to guiding the direction of the SU;

- success in applying for an ACU Gender Programme Grant to pilot sexual harassment bystander training to students and relevant staff. Sessions held earlier in the year had been successful and more funding has been secured to widen out training further;
- further increases in the year in student hardship funding requests. The funding received had been used to distribute online supermarket vouchers for students suffering extreme hardship;
- the vision of the SU to keep the student experience at the forefront of its activities, in the period ahead to encompass a responsive blended learning student experience and the student presence outside of classrooms. In the current context, it is recognised that this is a difficult time for students with potential impact on mental health. The SU is currently working with the University to draft the new Student Partnership Agreement for the year ahead; and
- the impact of Covid-19 on SU finances. The SU had been operating within budget and projecting a small surplus in 2019/20. However, since then the SU building and student shop had been closed. The government furlough scheme had been used and 100% of wages were being met with SU payments for student wages at the point of reporting in the region of £55k. The SU is currently projecting a loss of up to £40k in the current financial year and a larger loss in 2020/21. Trading would normally underwrite the charity by in excess of £200k per annum.

The Vice-Principal reported on a recent meeting he had had with the SU Chair of the Trustee Board, Chief Executive and Finance Director on the budget plan for the SU. This had showed a projected deficit for the next financial year, while still indicating a financially sustainable longer-term position. He highlighted the University block-grant element of the SU's finances. If necessary, this can be adjusted in the future to support the SU. He reported that the University and the SU shared a common interest in relation to student support and the student experience, and any future development which would impact negatively on SU commerce would not be supported by the University. Discussions with other parties remain at a very early stage. The Chair of the Infrastructure Committee also reported on the aim to pursue commercial opportunities on the campus which benefit all parties.

The Principal emphasised the University's aim to maintain an effective partnership with the SU and with the Sports Union. It would continue to work with each on financial matters. He advised that any plan to establish a further commercial body at the Edinburgh Campus will require careful review. He reported on plans to launch an Appeal at the beginning of the Bicentennial Year in 2021 and a Campaign at the end of the Bicentennial Year. Both will be absolutely focused on student needs. The Principal and the Executive Dean, Heather McGregor are joint project leaders of these initiatives which he would report on again in due course.

M20/55 IMPACT OF COVID-19: PROGRAMME OF COST SAVINGS (Paper Ct4/20/38)

The Court noted and discussed proposals which set out a programme of change to deliver cost savings in the context of the substantial financial impact of the Covid-19 crisis. The Court noted that financial losses could be in the region of £15-30m in 2020/21 and that there is an imperative to ensure that the University is resilient, flexible and effective to achieve a financially sustainable future

The Court approved:

- in principle, that a programme of change will be required in order to achieve costs savings and that such savings could result in compulsory redundancies within the University;
- a proposal that specific proposals for consultation will be proposed by the University Executive and will require approval by the Court. It was noted that the Court may not delegate authority to another body in relation to decisions on compulsory redundancy; and
- the recommendation that the Court Interim Business Committee of the Court (CIBC) be delegated to oversee the process by which proposals are identified and put out for consultation. The CIBC would advise on proposals and endorse recommendations to be made to the Court for approval.

The Global Director of HR reported that plans are under development which will lead to a series of proposals in relation to Schools and Professional Services. It will remain the aim to look for voluntary redundancy routes where possible; however, a widescale call for voluntary redundancies is not considered appropriate to meet the University's aims. It was emphasised that compulsory redundancy would remain a measure of last resort, with other options such as closure of vacancies, redeployments or reduced hours being among all the options considered. The Court noted engagement with staff through a series of meetings that have been initiated to ensure that

colleagues are aware of the financial challenge and have the opportunity to propose ideas and options to deliver efficiencies and cost savings.

The Global Director of HR reported that UE-approved plans would be fed through to the CIBC for agreement to proceed with consultation with the University Trade Unions, before being relayed to the Court for final decisions. The CIBC would relay any contentious issue to the full Court in the first instance. The Court requested that further guidance be provided to define “contentious” issues referable to the Court. The Global Director of HR suggested a few broad scenarios as examples in this category: changes to the academic portfolio which require consultation with the Senate and changes that could capture public interest/perceptions.

The Court noted that the Staff Committee will be consulted on any proposed changes to the relevant policies and procedures which apply to the process, and on matters of staff wellbeing and values.

It was acknowledged also that the four principles set out by the Principal in his report to the Court (above) established appropriate criteria against which to evaluate proposals. The Principal agreed on the need to undertake plans and associated communications in as transparent a way as possible, to consider potential non-pay savings fully and to link change plans firmly to the portfolio modernisation programme, engaging with the Senate. It was reported that work on the portfolio modernisation review has been accelerating, which will help to align both processes and that a larger piece of work on the redesign of the University’s academic structure which has been held in abeyance in recent months will be resumed soon.

In response to a question, the Principal confirmed the aim that services be available to all parts of the University; therefore, there ought not to be any scenario arising of disproportionate impacts of any part of the University through service rationalisation.

The Court noted that costs savings were expected to make a limited impact on the next year 2020/21, especially as there will be upfront costs involved in achieving savings so there will be two separate planning streams for savings: one for the next year and another for savings over the longer term. It was noted that, following two forthcoming meetings of the Finance Committee, the Court would consider the Three-Year Financial Plan.

A Court member emphasised the point in relation to public messages that the University should make clear its intention to play a key role in the wider post-Covid economic recovery and its strategically driven decision-making where compulsory redundancies are a last resort and not a knee jerk reaction to current circumstances.

M20/56 REPORT FROM THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE (Paper Ct4/20/30)

The Court noted and discussed a report from the Remuneration Committee which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 18 May 2020.

56.1 Global Reward Policy and Senior Staff Review Procedures

The Court approved the proposed Global Reward Policy and Senior Staff Review Procedures which will be used to inform the senior staff pay and reward in autumn 2020. The Policy and Procedures had been reviewed in 2019 in the context of Strategy 2025 and no material changes had been proposed in 2020.

The Court noted the report that the University Executive had made salary sacrifices for the three months to the end of July 2020 of either 10% or 20%; similar offers had been made by some Level 9 and Level 10 colleagues. The Court asked that its thanks be relayed to those colleagues who had volunteered salary reductions. The Court also noted the agreement that in the 2020 senior pay review round salaries will be held at the current spine point with no bonuses.

56.2 Retention Payments Procedures

The Court approved proposals in relation to Retention Payments Procedures as set out in the report, subject to the following changes being made:

- in the Procedures and elsewhere, any reference to “up 25%” should read “up to 25%”; and
- the wording in the Procedures should reflect the *exceptional* nature of retention payments (while taking a realistic approach to the risks that the University seeks to mitigate through this measure).

XXX Reserved section (Ref: Sections 30,33, FOI(S)A).

The Court agreed that the Global Director of HR should consult with the Chair of the Remuneration Committee to agree an appropriate form of annual reporting to the Court of retention payments made.

56.3 Committee Terms of Reference

The Court approved proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Remuneration Committee, the most notable of which was an addition which emphasised value for money considerations in the context of severance and early retirement payments.

M20/57 REPORT FROM THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE (Paper Ct4/20/35)

The Court noted a report from the Audit and Risk Committee which related to the meetings of the Committee held on 22 April and 16 June 2020. All items were presented for information; however, the Chair of the Committee took the opportunity to draw attention to particular matters reported.

The Committee Chair drew particular attention to the current year External Audit plan. This remained in draft form mainly due to the Covid-19 situation which is preventing full evaluation at this stage.

She reminded the Court that this will be the External Auditor’s first external audit for Heriot-Watt and only since their appointment had Covid-19 arisen and control issues in the finance area been fully uncovered. As a result, the scope of the work to be undertaken had changed as well as the risk profile.

She reported that the University’s risk profile is seen as very high and that requires more careful checking and larger than usual audit samples. This would have an impact on the audit price which is currently being renegotiated.

XXX Reserved section (Ref: Section 30, FOI(S)A).

In response to a question about the external audit approach generally in the current climate, the Chair of the Committee reported that specific circumstances, such as the VAT issue reported recently, had an impact on the audit work required for Heriot-Watt, as well as wider factors shared across the sector. The Court noted that the Committee will maintain oversight to ensure additional costs are constrained to reasonable levels and is supportive of the work of the Global Chief Financial Officer in this respect.

M20/58 DELIVERING STRATEGY 2025 IN DUBAI (Paper Ct4/20/31)

The Court noted an update report on the Dubai Campus from the Programme Board.

The Assistant Principal (International Development) and Acting Secretary of the University reported that the campus fit-out plan is proceeding to plan and robust planning is in place to manage risks arising from the Covid-19 crisis. The option of a second building at Knowledge Park (KP) which would provide additional space for socially distanced face-to-face teaching is under review, including additional cost factors.

XXX Reserved section (Ref: Section 30, FOI(S)A).

M20/59 REPORT FROM THE GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Paper Ct4/20/32a)

The Court noted a report from the Governance & Nominations Committee which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 28 April 2020.

59.1 Court and Court committee positions

The Court approved the recommendation for an extension of the appointment to the Court of Ms Jandy Stevenson for one year from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 and her continued appointment as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the same period.

The Court noted and endorsed the proposal that Court and Court Committee vacancies (current, and those arising in 2021) should be advertised in autumn 2020 with a view to appointments being agreed before the end of the current calendar year. It is not timely to advertise at the current time.

59.2 Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor appointments

The Court noted plans to progress with the appointment process for Pro-Chancellors aligned to the University's activities in Dubai and Malaysia. It would be timely to progress with appointments at this time. Meanwhile work will continue to progress on the appointment of the next Chancellor of the University. It was noted that a meeting of the Pro-Chancellor Selection Committee to consider potential candidates will take place on 2 July 2020.

The Principal reported that he expected the process towards the appointment of the next Chancellor of the University to advance significantly over the next three months.

59.3 Court Attendance and Participation Policy

The Court approved proposed changes to the Court & Court Committee Membership Policy. The changes had been proposed by the GNC in the light of current circumstances where: online meetings have become an operational norm; improved IT is supporting online participation; there is diversity in the geographical location of Court members; and the University has a firm commitment to environmental sustainability and to achieving a reduction in the University's carbon footprint at all locations.

59.4 Court Diversity Report

The Court received and noted the annual report on the gender composition of the Court and its committees showing the trend from 2018/19 through to the forward look for 2020/21. The Court was reminded of the requirements of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 which establishes the "gender representation objective" by 31 December 2022 for a public board of 50% of non-executive members [appointed, not elected] who are women.

The Global Director of Governance & Legal Services reported that further work is required in relation to reporting on other protected characteristics, there being a conflict between transparency of reporting and privacy, in particular as data samples are very small. The GNC will also consider whether enhanced arrangements are necessary to attract a more diverse range of individuals to present themselves for elected Court positions.

M20/60 COURT APPOINTMENTS (Paper Ct4/20/32b)

The Court ratified, subject to receipt of written acceptance of the terms and conditions of the appointment, the appointments to the Court of the following:

- Ms Emily King and Ms Lara Stroudinsky (student members of the Court) for one year from 1 June 2020;
- Professor David Cobham (Academic Trade Union member of the Court) for three years from 1 August 2020;
- Mr Juergen Munz (Professional Service Trade Union member of the Court) for a period of three years from 1 August 2020; and

- Professor Marc Desmulliez (staff member appointed by the staff of the University) for three years from 1 August 2020.

The Court approved, subject to receipt of written acceptance of the terms and conditions of the appointment, the appointment of Dr Brian Henderson as the alumni appointed member of the Court. His membership would run for a period of three years from 1 August 2020.

The Chair of Court on behalf of the Court thanked Mr Roger Murray for his past contributions as a very valuable member of the Court, who is now about to step down from his membership in the alumni member category. It is hoped that the University will be able to continue in other ways to draw on the expertise he has brought to his roles.

Mr Murray responded that he had enjoyed his experience of very constructive work for the Court. Since the Chair had recently asked for feedback he had given thought to the advice he would leave for the Court as it looks to the future.

He highlighted the successful way in which the University had responded to the Covid-19 crisis so far. He voiced his support for the four central themes of Strategy 2025 and the University's stated values, both of which ought to be firm guides for the future. Meanwhile, the Court had made the right decision in approving the proposed approach to cost savings that had been presented at the 29 June meeting to put University finances back on a firm footing. He drew attention to matters of institutional culture and tone and past instances where this might have fallen short. He advised that both will be critical to future leadership of the University's staff.

Mr Murray concluded by saying that he would like to be able to continue to contribute and to make a positive difference to the University, as he had done in different ways over the course of many years. He hoped to have an opportunity using his experience and expertise to join the Court again in the future depending on the will of the Court.

M20/61 COURT MEETING DATES (Paper Ct4/20/33)

The Court noted advice on the proposed approach to scheduling future Court meeting dates. The Court noted scheduled Court meeting dates to 2023; however, the Court was supportive of the proposal to consult with all Court members during the summer period 2002 with a view to establishing a fresh future schedule from 2021 onwards. The proposed review arose from Governance & Nominations Committee concerns to better support diversity and inclusion across the Court membership and engagement, e.g, Friday meetings are not an ideal choice for Dubai Campus colleagues.

The Court noted that a schedule of future dates will be presented that the meeting of the Court in September 2020.

M20/62 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

62.1 Court rolling programme of business (as of June 2020) (Paper Ct4/20/34)

The Court noted the rolling programme of forward business of the Court as of June 2020. An additional meeting of the Court will be held on 23 July 2020 and during the summer, by correspondence, the Court will be consulted on the SFC Annual Report on Institution-Led Quality Review.

62.2 Valedictions

It was noted that there is a chance that Dr Amanda Lyness might not be able to attend the last (23 July 2020) meeting of the Court in the current session. The Chair of Court took the opportunity to convey the thanks and appreciation of the Court to Dr Lyness who will complete her term of Court membership on 31 July 2020 for her valuable contribution to the work of the Court over the last three years.

62.3 Report from the Staff Committee (Paper Ct4/20/36)

The Court received and noted a report from the Staff Committee, which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 18 May 2020.

Following and invitation to comment or raise a question about the report, the Principal and Ruth Moir, Acting Secretary of the University reported the intention to further review the committee touch points/ oversight of Health & Safety matters in the University which remained very high priorities across the University.

62.4 Report from the Global Student Liaison Committee (Paper Ct4/20/37)

The Court received and noted a report from the Global Student Liaison Committee, which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 27 April 2020.

62.5 Press interest in slavery connections

In response to a question from a member about press interest in slavery connections to James Watt the Principal reported that in advance of the University's Bicentennial Year, the University had prepared a new narrative piece about the history and legacy of this figure which he would be happy to share with interested Court members.

62.6 Recognition of work to develop Responsive Blended Learning

The Chair of Court took the opportunity to relay thanks on behalf of the Court for the tremendous work undertaken by University colleagues over recent months to develop responsive blended learning. Thanks is due especially to the Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching), Professor John Sawkins, and to the Director of the Learning & Teaching Academy, Professor Martha Caddell.

M20/63 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Thursday 23 July 2020 (additional meeting).

Date

Signature