THE SENATE

Minutes: 13 December 2018

In the Chair: Professor Richard A Williams

Present Also:
- Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi *
- Dr Lyonell Boulton
- Dr Jim Cameron
- Dr Antonin Chapoy
- Professor Patrick Corbett
- Mr Shai Davidov
- Professor Susan Dewar
- Dr Christopher Dodd
- Dr Catherine Donnelly
- Professor Dugald Duncan
- Dr Ahmed ElSheikh
- Dr Alan Forster
- Professor Ian Galbraith
- Dr Fadi Ghaith
- Dr Alan Gow
- Dr Aude Le Guennec
- Dr Amos Haniff
- Professor Gillian Hogg
- Dr Paul Hopkinson *
- Dr David Jenkins
- Professor Julian Jones
- Professor Ammar Kaka *
- Dr Nasir Al Lagtah *
- Professor Angus Macdonald
- Professor Stuart Macgregor
- Professor Heather McGregor
- Professor Robert MacIntosh

In Attendance:
- Ms Ann Marie Dalton-Pillay
- Ms Lucy Graham
- Dr Maggie King
- Ms Kathy McCabe

Observers:
- Dame Frances Cairncross (Chair of Court)
- Mr Anthony Kingston D’Santos (President, Student Council, Dubai) *

* Indicates participated remotely

Apologies:
- Professor Scott Arthur
- Dr Tessa Berg
- Dr Frédéric Bosché
- Professor Malcolm Crisp
- Ms Sue Collier
- Dr Shumei Gao
- Mr Mubin Mohd Hanafiah

MIN REF

M18/70 WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting, making special mention of those colleagues joining remotely from Dubai and Malaysia.

The Chair also welcomed to the meeting the Chair of Court, Dame Frances Cairncross. Dame Frances had not been able to attend the recent joint meeting of the Court and Senate that had...
considered elements of the emerging Strategy 2025, and therefore was particularly keen to hear at first hand the Senate Strategy discussion, which would form the major part of this meeting. The Strategy 2025 would be submitted for approval at the forthcoming Court meeting. The Chair further noted that Mr D’Santos (Student President, Dubai) was also observing, in advance of becoming a member of the Senate (along with some further Student members) subsequent to the anticipated approval and enactment of the revised Charter and Statutes.

The apologies for absence were recorded.

M18/71 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Received The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018.
Approved The Senate approved the minutes as a correct record.

M18/72 MATTERS ARISING
M18/72.1 Information Services – resilience for conducting business across our campuses (Minute 18/51)
Received The Director of Information Services (IS) gave the Senate a brief verbal update on the steps under way to ensure resilience for inter-campus communication in support of the academic experience.
Noted The Senate noted that proposals for investment were being progressed through the proper channels. The Senate noted that the Director of IS recently had given a detailed presentation on the topic to the University Committee for Quality and Standards (UCQS), and that this could be provided to Senators if desired.
The Senate thanked the Director of IS for the update.

M18/73 REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR [Paper: SEN/18/44]
Received A report from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, which gave the Senate a summary of key issues and news for the University and the wider HE sector.
Noted The Principal thanked all colleagues who had supported the recent graduation ceremonies in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia, and which had been highly successful.
The Principal thanked all colleagues who had contributed to the development of the Strategy 2025, which would be considered later in the meeting. The Principal emphasised the importance of developing well considered plans to support development, listening and dialogue with all our staff at all locations.
The Principal noted the success of the event to celebrate external engagement, held recently in the Oriam. The cases celebrated were emphasised as excellent examples of what can be achieved when colleagues work collectively together across academic disciplines and services. It was noted that a summary document on the impact of the Year of the Sea was available, and this showed that over 19,000 people connected to the University through various events under that initiative. Congratulations were offered to all who had worked so hard to make the Year of the Sea – and the other initiatives – such a success.
The Senate was informed that the theme for 2019 would be the Year of Health.
The Senate noted the Report.

M18/74 STRATEGY 2025 [Paper: SEN/18/45] [Presentation]
Received The Principal introduced the proposed Strategy 2025 and complemented the circulated document with a presentation. {NB the slides are logged on the Senate SharePoint site}
Noted The Principal reported that the proposed Strategy 2025 was the culmination of many months of listening and discussing, and that he was delighted to present the Strategy to the Senate. The Principal noted the context that the previous few years had been difficult for higher education as a whole, and difficult for Heriot-Watt in addressing cost savings and uncertainties. He emphasised however, that the process of developing the Strategy had clearly reaffirmed Heriot-Watt as a distinctive, pioneering, global University with a significant history of success, and many strengths, including specialist research, that the new Strategy sought to build upon. The
Strategy process had also highlighted that the University was a global community of Staff and Students and that there was a desire to be values-led, with values that are bold to suit the new Strategy, yet congruent with the values of the past, and which encouraged the engagement of internal and external communities.

The Principal reported that the timing on the Strategy was highly important as the University was having to operate in a challenging external environment across all campuses. The challenges included changing demographics, the prospect of changing funding regimes in the rest of the UK (RUK), the on-going uncertainties around Brexit, a possible economic downturn, rising operating costs, and most recently, the reported 1.8% real terms cut in HE funding from the Scottish Government. Notwithstanding these challenges, the Principal emphasised confidence in the ability of the University to take the opportunities that lay ahead. He emphasised, however, that this would require great focus and commitment to collectively work to effect changes. The Principal asserted that the Strategy provided a framework on which could be built year-on-year operational plans. The Strategy explicitly built significantly on the strengths of the University and recent investment in digital Student facilities, the GRID, the Lyell Centre, the Robotarium, the proposed unified Business School, the new Learning and Teaching Academy, and further initiatives around online learning and access pathways.

The Principal thanked the Senate for its previous guidance in the excellent discussion with Court members in November 2018 around the Vision, Mission and Ethos statement. That discussion had helped to frame the aspiring vision ‘to be world leading within all our areas of specialism’, which underpinned the whole Strategy. The Mission ‘to create and exchange knowledge that benefits society’ honoured the pioneering Scottish roots of the University, and this informed the Ethos to ‘put our community of students, staff and alumni at the heart of everything we do.’ and ‘Our distinctive strengths will continue to build a global University that pioneers innovation in education, research and enterprise.’

The Principal outlined the refreshed Values that underpinned the Vision and Mission, and which would shape the spirit in which colleagues would work to put the Strategy into effect. The Values: Inspire, Belong, Collaborate, Celebrate, were positive and ambitious, and were intended to provide a ‘golden thread’ to help bring together the community of Staff and Students, towards a common sense of purpose.

The Principal took the Senate through some example milestones for Year 1 of the Plan. He emphasised that the Strategic Plan was sufficiently robust to shift and bend in responses to changes in the HE sector and the external environment. The annual operational planning cycle would allocate resources and responsibilities to deliver against the targets. The example milestones showed some of the initiatives that were anticipated to be attained in 2019. It was noted that the examples given were not an exhaustive list.

The Principal emphasised that communication was key to the successful implementation of the Strategy. Through the online roll-out, all colleagues would be able to engage with the Strategy and to recognise and connect how their role fits with it. Building awareness and ownership would assist the Strategy to be ‘living’.

The Senate noted that key targets of the Strategy were expressed in a set of performance indicators (SPIs) that sat across the four Strategic Themes. The SPIs would help measure and monitor the successful delivery of the Strategic Plan year-by-year. One area still under development was the measurement of how the University community was being values-led.

The Vice-Principal gave the Senate detailed explanation as to the creation of the SPIs, emphasising that the Strategy would drive the SPIs, and that benchmarking was important to determine the performance of the University in relation to other broadly comparable universities. It was noted that the target for Operating Surplus in 2024/25 should read ‘between four and five percent’ as opposed to the ‘over five percent’ stated in the paper.

The Senate discussed the proposed Strategy and supporting SPIs. The University’s global nature highlighted, and it was noted that the Strategy reaffirmed the continuing development of operations at the Malaysia and Dubai campuses, as well as online provision. The initiatives to build capacity in learning and research in Malaysia were commented on, and it was suggested that activities at that campus could usefully inform practices and developments elsewhere. It was emphasised that sharing good practice across the campuses would continue to be a cornerstone of the University’s ongoing development. It was suggested as crucial to ensure
that colleagues at the Dubai and Malaysia campuses were actively engaged in overall
developments, and it was noted that the forthcoming launch of the Strategy would provide an
excellent opportunity to underline this important aspect, as would the Strategy implementation.
The Senate noted that the top-level SPIs each reflected one or more of the Strategy 2025
themes, and would be underpinned by interim measures that would illustrate the gradient of
change. The SPIs had been drafted to be congruent with the heritage of the University, as well
as with the revised Vision, Mission, Ethos and Values. They therefore reflected – as did the
Strategy – the nature of the University. It was noted that the Court would receive regular reports
on the SPIs, and that they would be published online as a transparent on-going measure of the
University’s progress and success.

In discussion it was suggested that action towards gender equality should be kept high on the
agenda, and that one or more suitable performance indicators should be introduced, one of
which might usefully draw on the Scottish Funding Council Gender Action Plan.

The Student Union President commended the Strategy as reflecting the ambition of the Student
body, and welcomed the consultation process that had engaged with Students and Student
representatives in every campus. It was anticipated that the Student Partnership Agreement
would ensure that consultation and engagement would continue positively to affect the
implementation of the Strategy.

In discussion it was put forward that the Staff would deliver on the educational aspirations of
the Strategy, and a suggestion was made that a useful way to transform learning and teaching
could be to apply resources to develop teaching excellence in the same way that the
Bicentennial Research Leaders scheme was intended to generate transformational change in
the University’s research provision.

In considering individual SPIs it was queried whether the desired income growth and operating
surplus would be attainable in an environment where many adverse forces were impacting the
HE sector. It was noted that there were anticipated to be on-going challenges, not least
demographic changes, Brexit and an on-going squeeze on government spending across the
UK. It was emphasised however, that the University should be ambitious in its targets. As well
as enhancing the University’s current activities, the Strategy provided for growing initiatives
currently in development, such as online provision and Graduate Apprenticeships. In addition,
there would be opportunities to grasp new initiatives, such as those offered by the Robotarium,
and the new academic recruits through the Bicentennial Research Leaders scheme. Overall
enhanced efficiency and doing some things differently would also contribute to the goals being
met. It was emphasised that the Strategic themes were interconnected.

It was noted that income and expenditure had been modelled with different scenarios over the
period to 2025 (including year-on-year salary increases), and that the annual Operational Plans
would reflect changing factors. The annual planning process would therefore ensure that targets
for Schools and Professional Service areas would be kept under review and adjusted as
appropriate to meet the overall annual and Strategic targets. It was emphasised that the track
record and resilience of the University gave confidence that the targets could be met.

The measurement of wider access at the Dubai and Malaysia campuses was considered. It was
noted that the funding arrangements for Students at these campuses were different to those
studying in Scotland, and that there was not, therefore, readily comparable data. It was
suggested that one possible measurement might be the numbers of Students with scholarships,
however it was recognised that further work was required to develop robust SPIs for this.

The Senate agreed to endorse the Strategy 2025, and to recommend to the Court that it
approves the Strategy at its meeting on 14 December 2018.

M18/75  LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY [Paper: SEN/18/46] [and Presentation]

The Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching) and the Head of Academic Quality presented
the proposed Learning and Teaching Strategy that had been developed under the auspices of
the University Committee for Learning and Teaching (UCLT), and which was aligned with the
Strategy 2025. {NB the slides are logged on the Senate SharePoint site}

Noted  It was emphasised that the Learning and Teaching Strategy is a core pillar of the overall
Strategy, and that there had been extensive consultation (on each campus and online) to inform
its development. An operational plan underpinned the Learning and Teaching Strategy, and its implementation would be overseen by the UCLT.

The Senate noted the process by which the Strategy had been developed, and the overarching tenet that ensured Students were at the centre of the Strategy. It was noted that considerable focus would continue to be put on how Students learn, and that pedagogical research would help to inform future developments. The focus would be on inspiring learning.

**Considered**
The Senate discussed the detail of the paper. It was suggested that the University’s Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) would assist the development of Staff across all Schools and all campus locations. It was identified as key to further embed the culture of enhancing learning. It was suggested that the terminology in the Strategy of ‘Teaching’ as a core priority alongside ‘Curriculum’ and ‘Assessment’ might have been better phrased. It was re-emphasised that the framework was designed to support enhancement of Learning and Teaching. A query was made with regard to how the LTA might relate to provision of the Higher Education Academy (HEA). It was suggested that Staff would continue to be encouraged to attain the measurable professional indicator that was provided by Fellowship and Senior Fellowship of the HEA, and that the internal work of the LTA would help with that process.

**Agreed**
The Senate approved the Learning and Teaching Strategy.

**M18/76 STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT [Presentation]**
The Student Union President and the Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching) presented and update on the Student Partnership Agreement. (NB the slides are logged on the [Senate SharePoint site](#)).

**Noted**
The Senate noted that a key aspect of the Strategy is working in partnership, and the development of the Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) has been an important step forward in this regard. The SPA has also marked a step-change in the relationship between the University and the Student representative bodies.

The Senate noted that the key themes of the SPA were ‘Academic’, ‘Community’, and ‘Wellbeing’. The Senate noted outline of activities and initiatives that had been underway, including a University Wellbeing Summit that had been held on the Edinburgh campus in December 2018, and which had involved representatives from a wide range of support services, the Student Union and Sports Union. Events on the other campuses were also noted. It was suggested that an underlying approach could be expressed as ‘doing the basics well’.

The Senate thanked the President of the SU and the Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching) for the update presentation.

**M18/77 RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE STRATEGY [Presentation]**
The Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation) and Deputy Principal (Enterprise and Business) presented a Strategy Implementation Plan towards ‘Excelling in Research and Enterprise’. (NB the slides are logged on the [Senate SharePoint site](#)).

**Noted**
It was noted that the Research and Enterprise Strategy would be a core pillar of the overall Strategy, and that the University Committee for Research and Innovation (UCRI) was still in the process of developing a Strategy document for approval. There had been wide consultation to inform the creation of the Strategy, and it was intended to build upon the existing strengths as well as developing and expanding new areas of opportunity and growth. The Research and Enterprise Strategy would continue the interdisciplinary approach and close collaboration with industry and business, as well as the public and voluntary sectors, providing a seamless evolution from fundamental research to innovation and enterprise. The international and partnership approach was emphasised, as was the supportive culture and provision of state-of-the-art infrastructure and equipment.

It was anticipated that, over the period of the Strategy, a major expansion in capacity and reputation would be delivered by the creation of up to six research institutes that will become internationally leading, building on areas of existing excellence and providing seamless connections to business.
The Senate noted the intention to deliver the Strategy by providing support and an environment in which to develop and recruit world-class researchers.

In addition it was emphasised that enterprise would be developed through cultivating partnerships, utilising the creative spaces – such as those offered through the GRID – and developing a global enterprise and innovation programme to create a culture of institutional entrepreneurialism that maximises the economic benefit of our research.

It was noted that the UCRI would maintain an overview of the implementation of the Strategy, and as a Senate Committee, would ensure that regular reports on progress were provided to the Senate.

The Senate considered the information provided, and the themes were welcomed. A need to engage with the third sector was emphasised as a key element of research activity for large sections of the University.

Sufficient support for the recruitment and retention of Bicentennial Research Leaders was identified as key to ensuring this Strategy. It was suggested that sabbatical arrangements could usefully be used across the University to permit high performing researchers to further develop their work. It was suggested that not all Schools currently utilised sabbaticals.

The Senate thanked the Deputy Principals (R&I and E&B) for the update presentation and looked forward to receiving the proposed Research and Enterprise Strategy at a future meeting.

M18/78

ENHANCING STAFF SATISFACTION [Presentation]

The Deputy Principal (Engagement & Staff Development) presented the Senate with an overview and analysis of the key themes emerging from the recent Employee Survey, as well as some of the actions intended positively to address the findings. {NB the slides are logged on the Senate SharePoint site}

The Senate noted that a key aspect of successfully implementing the Strategy was to seek to ensure a positive working environment. The findings of the Employee Survey suggest that there was much work to be done to help foster that. The presentation, and ensuing discussion, offered an opportunity to help to take matters forward.

The Deputy Principal (E&SD) provided the Senate with background to the Survey, noting that it was undertaken in conjunction with Athena SWAN 2018 survey questions, and that the timescales had been determined by Athena SWAN submission requirements. The engagement questions had drawn on work undertaken by the Institute for Employment Studies.

The presentation gave the Senate an overview of responses split at country-level, and between academic and professional service colleagues. It was noted that many colleagues had taken the opportunity to provide further feedback in the ‘open comments’ sections, and this feedback would help to inform future actions.

The intention was noted for follow-up work to seek to gain better understanding about why people feel the way they do, and to identify suitable actions at a University-wide level and at local level. Collaborative work to enhance staff satisfaction was intended to commence in the new year. The Athena Swan elements would be addressed separately. It was suggested that the exercise would be run on an annual basis, and that benchmarks would be sought to permit comparison with other universities.

The overarching themes for follow-up work were noted to include enhanced communication, and work towards a more balanced workload and improved workplace culture and people management. It was noted that specified senior colleagues had been tasked with leading strands of work on these themes, and that localised action would be led by the respective Heads of School and Directors of Service.

The Senate discussed the topic. It was suggested that there needed to be a link between consultation and decisions made. Although the thematic action groups were being led by executive members in order to ensure that actions would be effected, it was emphasised that the whole University had a stake in each of the overarching themes and that work would therefore be undertaken with the whole University community. It was suggested as important to gauge the aspirations of Staff and to take the opportunity to match these aspirations.

A number of Senators expressed a desire to be able to view and analyse greater detail of the outcomes of the Survey for academic Staff. It was noted that each of the Schools currently was
THE CREATION OF A UNITARY BUSINESS SCHOOL IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES [Paper: SEN/18/47]

Received

The Head of School of Social Sciences (SoSS) and the Executive Dean of Edinburgh Business School (EBS) introduced the paper, which followed on from the discussion at the previous meeting, where Senate had given broad endorsement to the academic case for the proposed creation of a Unitary Business School as a component part of the School of Social Sciences. The paper sought the confirmation of the Senate of its endorsement in order that a proposal could be put to the Court to seek approval for the creation of a Unitary Business School within the School of Social Sciences.

Noted

The Secretary alerted Senate to an amendment to the paper so as to make clear that the Chair of the Advisory Board for the Unitary Business School would not normally be invited to attend meetings of the Court. The Senate noted this amendment.

The Senate noted that the Finance Committee of the Court had considered in the previous week the Business Case, and had agreed to recommend that the Court give approval.

The Senate noted that subsequent to its previous meeting, the topic had been subject of considerable further consultation, which had included discussions with the Trustee-to-Trustee Steering Group. The paper sought to address the concerns and comments that had been raised at the previous Senate meeting.

The Senate was reminded of the academic rationale for the proposal, which would permit the small number of high quality academic EBS Staff fully to contribute to the larger combined entity, and the high quality SoSS Staff also better being able to contribute to the current EBS provision, with benefits to both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Collaboration and synergy would generate further benefits over time. The scale of the unified Business School would also provide an attractive proposition to prospective Students, Staff and entrepreneurial partners. In addition, the benefits were recognised of being able to market all business programmes with the Business School brand. Not least it was recognised that currently there was a potentially confusing image projected to prospective applicants to business programmes under SoSS. Further benefits related to the research activity in EBS becoming eligible to contribute towards the REF, and the combined Business School being able to build upon the existing reputation, access to industry and worldwide reach.

The Head of School and the Executive Dean informed the Senate that should the Court give approval to the proposal to create the Unitary Business School, then a transparent process of consultation would commence with the Staff and Students of the existing component parts to work through how the Unitary Business School would be created, and how it would operate.

Considered

A number of Senators contributed to discussion. The President of the Student Union reported that initially there had been scepticism among Students towards the proposal. However, following discussions with the Executive Dean, the benefits had been recognised, and Students were content to support the proposal. The President of the Student Council in Dubai added that the Students of SoSS and EBS in Dubai were enthusiastic at the prospect of the Unitary Business School. Senators based in Dubai and Malaysia cited the existing collaboration on those campuses between SoSS and EBS colleagues as demonstrating the synergy and other benefits that could accrue from creating the Unitary Business School.

In discussion it was noted that there would continue to be a large suite of face-to-face taught postgraduate programmes and that there was opportunity for greater innovation in the learner experience, including greater use of digital elements to augment programmes. It was further assessing the ‘local’ data, and that once there had been reasonable opportunity for School-level actions to be considered and agreed, the data could be pooled together and presented for the Senate to look at in the round. It was suggested that this would help to identify shared themes across the Schools. It was queried whether there were elements in the findings that might not fit into the themes, and if so, where these would be picked up.

Looking ahead, it was noted that the questions in the survey would have to remain consistent in order to permit year-on-year comparison and reporting of the relevant SPI.

The Principal thanked the Senate for the constructive discussion and emphasised that he, and the UE as a whole, was listening to the concerns of Staff.
noted that the online delivery platform currently supporting the distance learning operations of EBS would be retained in a separate charity in order to provide continued support for the Unitary Business School. The governance details were a matter for the Court rather than the Senate, however, the Senate would be kept informed as this arrangement developed.

Senators offered support for the proposal, with some queries raised as to the consultation with Staff over the creation of the Unitary Business School. It was again noted that the Combined Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee (CJNCC) would play its proper role as the matter progressed. It was further noted that the Head of School and the Executive Dean would prepare a suitable paper for circulation to Staff in the respective Schools to provide suitable commentary and explanation of the arrangement and how it would work (should Court give approval).

It was noted that the Senate would be kept informed of progress.

Agreed

The Senate agreed to endorse the creation of a Unitary Business School within the School of Social Sciences, and to recommend to the Court that it approves the proposal at its meeting on 14 December 2018.

M18/80

REPORT FROM ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE [Paper: SEN/18/48]

Received

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2018, and draft Ordinances, and modified regulations Committee reported that unfortunately the circulated paper had omitted some proposed revisions to Ordinances (C2, C4, M1, and P8) which were tabled at the meeting and posted on SharePoint for Senators to view.

The Senate noted that the main driver for revising the Charter and Statutes had been to embed the requirements of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act"). The opportunity had also been taken to make other provisions, including to future-proof certain terminology. A revision had been made to permit the Committees of Senate to sub-delegate powers delegated to them by the Senate. Accordingly, as the Senate had previously seen, some Ordinances had been revised, and some new Ordinances prepared in order to support implementation of these provisions. It was recognised that, even at this advanced stage, the SGLD or the Privy Council might request further amendments to the proposed Ordinances. If that were the case, the Senate and the Court would be updated accordingly.

The Chair of the Ordinances and Regulations Committee reported that unfortunately the circulated paper had omitted some proposed revisions to Ordinances (C2, C4, M1, and P8) which were tabled at the meeting and posted on SharePoint for Senators to view.

The Senate noted that the main driver for revising the Charter and Statutes had been to embed the requirements of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act"). The opportunity had also been taken to make other provisions, including to future-proof certain terminology. A revision had been made to permit the Committees of Senate to sub-delegate powers delegated to them by the Senate. Accordingly, as the Senate had previously seen, some Ordinances had been revised, and some new Ordinances prepared in order to support implementation of these provisions. It was recognised that, even at this advanced stage, the SGLD or the Privy Council might request further amendments to the proposed Ordinances. If that were the case, the Senate and the Court would be updated accordingly.

The Senate noted that the revision to Ordinances included the following:

i. in B9 to ensure accordance with the revised Statute 4;
ii. in C2 to ensure the continued membership of the Senate of Deputy Principals and the Vice-Principal (Dubai) and the Vice-Principal (Malaysia);
iii. in C4, to permit the sub-delegation of powers by Standing Committees of the Senate; regularise the use of Chair’s action; and to reinstate the rule whereby when a Committee of the Senate was deciding on a matter delegated by the Senate, then only those Committee members who were also members of the Senate would be entitled to vote;
iv. in C6 to provide for the appointment of Student members to the Senate in line with the 2016 Act;

v. in M1 to reflect the terms of the 2016 Act with regard to Academic Freedom;
vi. in P8 to define the ‘Primary Academic Units’.

Noted

The remainder of the business conducted by the Committee was noted.

Agreed

Recognising that further amendments may be required by the SGLD or the Privy Council, the Senate agreed to recommend to the Court approval of: the proposed new Ordinance C6 (Appointment of Student Members of the Senate); and the proposed modifications to:
Ordinance B9 (Joint Committees of the Court and the Senate); Ordinance C2 (Appointment of holders of academic posts to the Senate as determined by the Court); Ordinance C4 (Standing Committees of the Senate); Ordinance M1 (Academic Freedom); and Ordinance P8 (Primary Academic Units and Academic Units).

Agreed

The Senate agreed to recommend to the Court approval of the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Ordinances and Regulations Committee.

M18/81

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM BUSINESS AND EFFECTIVENESS (SCIBE) [Paper: SEN/18/36]

Received

The report of matters considered by the SCIBE by correspondence since the previous meeting of the Senate in September 2018.

Noted

The Senate was invited to approve the appointment to membership of the SCIBE of Dr Nasir Al Lagtah for the period until 31 July 2021. Dr Al Lagtah would become the fourth elected member of the Senate to join the SCIBE, joining Professor Arthur; Dr Haniff; and Dr Ghaith.

The Senate noted that the SCIBE had agreed to recommend to the Court the re-appointment of two Heads of School for a further five years, and the re-appointment of one Head of School for a short period whilst an internal recruitment process was conducted. The Principal informed the Senate that the confidential feedback provided by the Deans resulting from the consultation exercises conducted by the Deans in each of the Schools in question, in accordance with Ordinance F8, had been very helpful in informing the recommendation. It was emphasised that the SCIBE had remained impartial in this process. It was further emphasised that the information provided in confidence to the Principal had been listened to, and would help to inform future developments in the respective Schools.

The remainder of the business conducted by the Committee was noted.

Agreed

The Senate approved the appointment to membership of the SCIBE of Dr Nasir Al Lagtah for the period until 31 July 2021.

M18/82

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING [Paper: SEN/18/50]

Received

The minutes of the meeting of the University Committee for Learning and Teaching (UCLT) held on 7 November 2018.

Noted

The Chair of the Committee highlighted in particular the work of the Committee over the preceding eighteen months in developing and consulting upon two revised policies: Temporary Suspension of Studies; and Fair Access Admissions. It was noted that the terms of these revised policies were consistent with the Learning and Teaching Strategy.

The remainder of the business conducted by the Committee was noted.

Considered

The Senate discussed elements of the proposed policy for Temporary Suspension of Studies (TSS), and welcomed the improved practice it would bring, especially in reducing the time required for processing TSS applications to within a time frame of ten days. It was noted, however, the revised policy did not provide for the relevant requirements relating to retrospective TSS applications. It was recognised to be important to provide Students with clear requirements if they wish to apply for retrospective suspension of studies, emphasising that this would normally be considered only in exceptional circumstances and would require additional supporting evidence and support from the Student’s Programme Director, Supervisor, or personal tutor. Additionally, it was agreed that Students would need to provide clear reasons why they had been unable to apply for a temporary suspension of studies in advance of the matter arising. A further point was raised, and agreed, that the TSS policy should make clear that it properly provides for maternity leave.

Agreed

The Senate approved the modified policies for: Temporary Suspension of Studies (with the above further modifications); and Fair Access Admissions.

M18/83

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY AND STANDARDS [Paper: SEN/18/51]

Received

The minutes of the meeting of the University Committee for Quality and Standards (UCQS) held on 26 September 2018.

Noted

The report of business conducted by the Committee.
M18/84 UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION [Paper: SEN/18/52]
Received
The minutes of the meetings held on 23 August 2018 and 21 November 2018.

Noted
The report of business conducted by the Committee

M18/85 UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE [Paper: SEN/18/53]
Received
The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2018.

Noted
The report of business conducted by the Committee, which included consideration of: modified programme proposals.
The Chair’s Actions taken between meetings as reported in the minutes related to: the approval of amendments to registration of Students.

M18/86 POSTGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE [Paper: SEN/18/54]
Received
The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2018.

Noted
The Senate received and noted the report of business conducted by the Committee, which included: new and modified programme proposals; and programme withdrawals.
The Chair’s Actions taken between meetings as reported in the minutes related to: the approval of amendments to registration of Students.

Agreed
The Senate thanked the respective Chairs, members and clerk of the Postgraduate and Undergraduate Studies Committees for their hard work and diligence in progressing the work of the Committees, which were shortly to be disestablished following the establishment of the new Studies Committee from 1 January 2019.

M18/87 REPORT OF APPOINTMENTS OF ACADEMIC STAFF IN 2018 (SHAREPOINT ONLY)
Noted
The Senate received and noted the report without comment.

M18/88 CLOSING REMARKS
Noted
The Principal and Vice-Chancellor thanked all present for participating in the meeting, and wished all a very enjoyable and restful break, and a Merry Christmas.

M18/89 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
Noted
The further meetings of the Senate in Session 2018/19 would be held on:

- Wednesday 27 February 2019; Thursday 11 April 2019;
- Wednesday 12 June 2019; Wednesday 11 September 2019;
- Thursday 12 December 2019; Wednesday 26 February 2020;
- Thursday 23 April 2020; Wednesday 17 June 2020.

It was noted that the normal timing of meetings was 9.30 am to 12.00 noon (UK time), and the Edinburgh location would normally be the South Pod, EBS (if available).

Signed by the Chair .......................................................... Date .................................