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- In the Chair: Professor Richard A Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Present Also: Professor Julian Jones, Vice-Principal
Professor Robert Craik, Vice-Principal (Malaysia)*
Professor Duncan Hand, Interim Deputy Principal (Research and Knowledge Exchange)*
Professor Gill Hogg, Deputy Principal (External Relations)
Professor John Sawkins, Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching)
Dr Peter Morris, Interim Head (Life Sciences)
Professor Beatrice Pelloni, Head (Mathematical and Computer Sciences)
Professor Gareth Pender, Head (Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure, and Society)
Professor Fiona Waldron, Head (Textiles and Design)
Mr Andrew Menzies, Director of Finance
- In Attendance: Professor Gavin Gibson (Mathematical and Computer Sciences)
Mr Brett Dodgson, Clerk
- Apologies: Professor Ammar Kaka, Vice-Principal (Dubai)
Mr Alick Kitchin, Acting Head (Edinburgh Business School)
Professor Robert MacIntosh, Head (Management and Languages)
Professor Stephen McLaughlin, Head (Engineering and Physical Sciences)
Ms Ann Marie Dalton, Secretary of the University
Mr Richard McGookin, Director of Planning

* Indicates member participating remotely

MINUTE REF
M16/188

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the members of the UE and those colleagues who were in attendance.

M16/189

PREPARATIONS FOR THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK: STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The UE considered a presentation on preparations for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise.

It was noted that:

1. it was assumed that the next REF exercise would follow a model analogous to that used in 2014, but this had not yet been confirmed and the University's approach would need to be adaptable;
2. the REF Steering Group had identified the development of impact case studies as the most pressing priority in preparing for the next REF exercise and had developed an impact case studies action plan;
3. in some cases there had been significant variances between the predicted and actual outcomes from the 2014 REF exercise and a more robust process for pre-submission internal and external assessments of outputs and impact would be used to better calibrate predicted outcomes and to inform the overall submission strategy; and

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- work had been undertaken to model the submission sizes needed to achieve the University's targets for research quality and that the results would be used to inform the development of the University's submission strategy for the next REF exercise.

[Reserved Section – Ref. FOI(S)A, s.30 and s.33]

It was noted that a paper on preparations for the next REF exercise would be presented to the Court in June 2016; it was agreed that this paper should be presented first to the UE for consideration.

M16/190 TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY

The UE considered a report on taught postgraduate student recruitment and the review of the University's portfolio of taught postgraduate programmes [minute 16/178].

[Reserved Section – Ref. FOI(S)A, s.30 and s.33]

M16/191 STUDENT RECRUITMENT UPDATE: MAY 2016 [Paper: UE/16/120]

The UE considered a report on undergraduate and taught postgraduate student recruitment for 2016-17 entry at the Scottish and Dubai campuses.

[Reserved Section – Ref. FOI(S)A, s.30 and s.33]

M16/192 UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES UNION: INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The UE noted that the Universities and Colleges Union had confirmed that its members would be participating in strike action 25 and 26 May 2016. Meetings of exam boards which had been due to take place on those dates had been rescheduled or were in the process of being rescheduled.

M16/193 UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE: STRATEGY DAY

The UE noted that a summary report of the Strategy Day held 10 May 2016 would be circulated to members. The UE would at its meeting 6 June 2016 be invited to consider the actions arising from the Strategy Day.

M16/194 UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE: SHARED OBJECTIVES

The UE received a draft of the shared objectives for the members of the UE. This was an aide memoire to remind UE members of the commitments that had been agreed and attention was drawn to the targets for completion of Performance and Development Reviews.

M16/195 EXECUTIVE STAFF ROLE PROFILES

The UE noted that a draft schedule of role profiles for the members of the UE and the Assistant Principals had been developed and would be circulated for consideration. Members were invited to provide any comments or suggestions to the Principal. It was noted that the schedule identified the main stakeholder relationships associated with each role and that, at a future meeting, the Director of Marketing and Communication would be invited to lead a discussion on developing and maintaining influence with external stakeholders.

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M16/196 DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

The UE agreed that a recent meeting facilitated by Development and Alumni had been useful and that the materials used at the meeting should be circulated for reference.

M16/197 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The UE noted that its next meeting would be a business meeting and would be held 30 May 2016.

Signed by Chair

Date