

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 Gill Hogg, Deputy Principal (Engagement and Staff Development)
Professor Gareth Pender, Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation)
Professor Malcolm Chrisp, Head (Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure, and Society)
Professor Heather McGregor, Executive Dean (Edinburgh Business School)
Professor Stephen McLaughlin, Head (Engineering and Physical Sciences)
Professor Beatrice Pelloni, Head (Mathematical and Computer Science)
Professor Fiona Waldron, Head (Textiles and Design)
Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Senior Deputy Vice-Principal (Malaysia)*
Ms Ann Marie Dalton-Pillay, Secretary of the University
Mr Andrew Menzies, Director of Finance
Mr Richard McGookin, Director of Planning
Mr Mark Adderley, Director of Human Resource Development

In Attendance: Mr Brett Dodgson, Clerk

Apologies: Professor Ammar Kaka, Vice-Principal (Dubai)
Dr Gillian Murray, Deputy Principal (Enterprise and Business)
Professor John Sawkins, Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching)
Professor Robert MacIntosh, Head (Social Sciences)

* Indicates member participating remotely

MINUTE REF
M17/082

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

M17/083

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal in a verbal report noted a number of recent events:

1. the Edinburgh Business School had hosted a conference for its external partners; the event had been very successful and the Executive Dean of the Edinburgh Business School suggested that there could be scope for a similar event for the University as a whole;
2. the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's 2017 Forum had focussed on how Scotland could support sustainable economic growth and respond to the new UK Industrial Strategy; the Principal had opened a dialogue with the Principal of the University of Aberdeen as to how universities and industry could align their interests to support economic growth;
3. there had been a further meeting of the UK Government high level stakeholder working group on EU withdrawal, universities, research, and innovation; UK Research and Innovation had been invited to map the research capability of UK research institutes of which there were proportionally fewer in Scotland, making it important that the continuing importance of Scotland in the UK research environment was clearly articulated; and

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4. there had been a reception for students holding University- and externally-funded scholarships; those who had attended had noted the quality of support they had received from academic staff and the academic experience they enjoyed at the University; it was noted that future events could be broadened to include all scholarship students such as the holders of silver scholarships awarded by the Edinburgh Business School to mark its 25th anniversary;
5. the University had hosted a visit by a delegation from the University of Wollongong; the visit had provided an opportunity to discuss potential joint working in Dubai where both universities had campuses and the Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation) and the Assistant Principal (International Development) had been asked to prepare an initial report on research and innovation activities where there could be scope for collaboration;
6. the Principal outlined the topics of forthcoming Principal's Outlook messages in the near future; these would address the start of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the University's institutional distinctiveness, and the academic purpose of the Schools; it was noted that these subjects would also form the basis of a discussion at the meeting of the Senate to be held 29 March 2017;
7. it was noted that the 2017 Guardian University Awards would be held 29 March 2017 and that the University had been nominated in two categories: (i) the British Sign Language programme in the School of Social Sciences had been nominated in the Social and Community Impact category for its role in shaping the the British Language (Scotland) Act 2015; and (ii) the Homelessness Monitor project in the School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure, and Society had been nominated in the Research Impact category for its role in shaping the Homeless Reduction Bill;
8. finally, the Principal noted the results of the 2017 Times Higher Education Student Survey. Overall the University had been ranked 33rd in the UK and 4th in Scotland. The University had also performed well in terms of how likely students would be to recommend it to others (joint 4th); industry connections (7th); and security (8th).

M17/084 EDINBURGH AND SOUTH-EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL

The UE noted that agreement on the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal had been delayed and was not now expected to be given before the holding of local elections in May 2017. It was noted that the City Region Deal was still expected to be agreed and that the University had received no negative feedback in relation to those aspects in which it would be involved.

M17/085 THE SENATE: STANDING COMMITTEES

The UE noted that, following a meeting of the effectiveness review project board, the terms of reference and composition of the three proposed primary Standing Committees of the Senate would be presented to the Senate for approval at its next ordinary meeting. It was noted that a compromise had been agreed whereby votes on the exercise of powers or functions delegated from the Senate would be reserved to persons who were also members of the Senate. It had been agreed that this arrangement would be monitored; the Standing Committees were expected to make decisions by consensus and require votes only in exceptional circumstances. It was noted that the project board had agreed that professional services staff would not be members of the Standing Committees but would continue to attend meetings to support the effectiveness of their work. It was intended that the Standing Committees would only handle matters of an executive nature at the invitation of the UE.

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M17/086 MEDIUM-TERM SUPPORT FOR NON-UK NATIONALS WORKING AT UK CAMPUSES [Paper: UE/17/032]

The UE considered proposals to provide additional support for non-UK nationals working at the UK campuses and who could be affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

It was noted that the support would comprise:

1. on-going consultancy, audit, training, and advice to the University;
2. a number of open briefing sessions for all interested staff on current and anticipated rights, legislation, and implications;
3. initial individual one-to-one advice sessions with an immigration expert to discuss any specific cases/applications; and
4. more in-depth one-to-one support to individuals – for example, in checking or completing applications for residency/citizenship and available for a discounted fee paid by the individual.

The UE approved the additional support for non-UK nationals and agreed that the costs associated with this would be met from within the approved planning envelopes. It was agreed that proposals to offer interest-free loans would not be taken forward at the current time.

M17/087 OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2019-20 [Paper: UE/17/033]

The UE considered the University's draft Outcome Agreement for the period to 2019-20.

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

The UE agreed that a final draft of the Outcome Agreement should be prepared and circulated by the Director of Planning for endorsement by correspondence.

M17/088 ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE METRICS

The UE considered a presentation of academic performance metrics for display to staff.

It was noted that the metrics would be displayed in each School and at each campus in locations that were accessible to all staff but not to students and visitors.

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

It was agreed that the Deputy Principal (Engagement and Staff Development) should develop final versions of the displays, launch these as soon as possible, and develop a mechanism to ensure that the displays were updated as needed.

It was further agreed that the Vice-Principal should consider the ongoing resource needs associated with the production of the displays and possible longer-term visual reporting solutions.

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M17/089 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS: FEBRUARY 2017 [Paper: UE/17/034]

The UE received the University's management accounts as at February 2017.

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

M17/090 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The UE noted that its next meeting would be a business meeting and would be held 4 April 2017.

Signed by Chair

Date