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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 Ammar Kaka, Vice-Principal (Dubai)*
Professor Gill Hogg, Deputy Principal (Engagement and Staff Development)
Dr Gillian Murray, Deputy Principal (Enterprise and Business)
Professor Gareth Pender, Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation)
Professor John Sawkins, Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching)
Professor Malcolm Chrisp, Head (Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure, and Society)
Professor Robert MacIntosh, Head (Social Sciences)
Professor Heather McGregor, Executive Dean (Edinburgh Business School)
Professor Beatrice Pelloni, Head (Mathematical and Computer Science)
Professor Fiona Waldron, Head (Textiles and Design)
Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Senior Deputy Vice-Principal (Malaysia)*
- In Attendance: Mr Richard McGookin, Director of Planning
Mr Mark Adderley, Director of Human Resource Development
Ms Nuala Boyle, Assistant Principal (Development)
Mr Joe Pacitti, Assistant Principal (Strategic Projects and Policy)
Mr Brett Dodgson, Clerk
- Apologies: Professor Stephen McLaughlin, Head (Engineering and Physical Sciences)
Ms Ann Marie Dalton-Pillay, Secretary of the University
Mr Andrew Menzies, Director of Finance
Ms Ruth Moir, Assistant Principal (International Development)

* Indicates member participating remotely

MINUTE REF

M17/099 WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

M17/100 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

In a verbal report the Principal noted that degree congregations would be held at a number of locations over June 2017. It was noted that, for the first time, degree congregations at the Edinburgh campus would be hosted at Oriam. The Principal invited Heads of Schools to encourage academic colleagues to participate in relevant congregations and contribute to making these a memorable experience for graduands, their families, and other guests.

It was noted that the University remained in regular contact with the recognised trades unions regarding the current enhanced voluntary redundancy programme. It was noted that, to inform decisions as to whether to make an application for voluntary redundancy, some members of staff had sought advice on areas of academic activity which could be subject to disinvestment. It was agreed that the individual reports from each School on the findings of the 2015-16 Financial Performance Review [minute 17/095] should be made available to staff as soon as was practicable. It was noted that information on specific areas of academic activity would not become available until details had been agreed through the current planning round.

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It was noted that the Executive Dean of the Edinburgh Business School had been a member of the Scottish First Minister's delegation for a recent visit to the United States. The visit had coincided with the annual Tartan Week celebrations in New York City and had included the launch at Stanford University of a number of new doctoral studentships in the Edinburgh Business School and associated with Panmure House. There had also been a number of high-profile networking events and the UE noted that considerable interest that had been expressed in studying in Scotland given the current favourable exchange rate and the number of United States citizens of Scottish heritage.

The Principal noted a recent visit to the Galashiels campus by the Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament; congratulated the Vice-Principal (Dubai) on the Dubai campus Learning and Teaching Oscars which had taken place 9 April 2017; and thanked the Vice-Principal (Malaysia) and the Senior Deputy Vice-Principal (Malaysia) for their work in establishing the new Youth Transformation Programme and for hosting Professor Toby Peters who had delivered the latest in the series of Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lectures.

Finally, the Principal noted that the next UE strategy away day would be held 16 May 2017. It was noted that, in the same week, the Senate would have its final ordinary meeting of the 2016-17 academic year (17 May 2017) and there would be the next University Leadership Forum (18 May 2017).

M17/101 RESEARCH PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The UE considered a draft statement on the minimum levels of research performance required of academic staff.

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

M17/102 ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

The UE considered a presentation on proposals arising from a review of academic staff development provision.

It was noted that the review had considered current academic staff development activities across the University and assessed how these could be better aligned with its strategic objectives – in particular, research intensification and an enhanced student experience.

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

M17/103 GLOBAL ONLINE PROGRAMMES

The UE considered a presentation on the development of its portfolio of Masters degree programmes.

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

M17/104 UNIVERSITY EVENTS AT HERMISTON HOUSE

The UE received a report on the hosting of various University events during the refurbishment of the James Watt Centre at the Edinburgh campus.

It was noted that a number of events in May 2017 would be hosted in temporary structures to be located in the ground of Hermiston House. It was agreed that the Deputy Principal (Engagement and Staff Development) should circulate to the UE the programme of events and other details.

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M17/105 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The UE noted that, owing to the Easter break, there would be no meeting 18 April 2017; its next meeting would be a business meeting and would be held 25 April 2017. The Principal wished all members an enjoyable break.

Signed by Chair

Date