

COURT

Minutes

In the Chair:	Dame Frances Cairncross	Date of Meeting: 27 June 2016
Present also:	Ms Tracey Ashworth-Davies Ms Lucy Conan Professor Patrick Corbett Mr Diarmuid Cowan Ms Trish Gray Mr Amos Haniff Mr Grant Innes Professor Phillip John Professor Julian Jones Ms Eloise McNeaney	Professor John Perkins Ms Jane Queenan Ms Dorothy Shepherd Mr Tom Stenhouse Ms Jandy Stevenson Professor Ian Wall Mr Graham Watson Ms Rio Watt Professor Richard Williams
Officer in attendance:	Ms Sue Collier Professor Bob Craik Ms Ann Marie Dalton Professor Gavin Gibson * Professor Gill Hogg (*for item M16/96)	Professor Ammar Kaka (via Skype) Mr Andrew Menzies Professor Garry Pender * Professor John Sawkins Professor Fiona Waldron *
Others in attendance:	Ms Lorna Kirkwood-Smith (minutes)	

M16/87 WELCOME

The Chair of Court welcomed the following, who were attending their first meeting of the Court since taking up membership: Professor John Perkins; Mr Diarmuid Cowan; and Ms Eloise McNeaney.

The Chair also welcomed the following, who were attending for discussion on the item 'Research Culture and Preparing for REF' (Paper Ct6/16/81): Professor Gavin Gibson (Head of the Department of Actuarial Mathematics & Statistics); Professor Garry Pender (Head of School, Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure & Society); and Professor Fiona Waldron (Head of School, Textiles & Design).

M16/88 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members: Ms Pamela Calabrese; Ms Morag McNeill; Mr Andrew Milligan; Professor Isabelle Perez; and Mr Tony Strachan, and from Professor Duncan Hand (invited to be in attendance).

M16/89 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Court approved as an accurate record the minutes of the meetings of the Court held on 4 March and 6 May 2016.

M16/90 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair of Court invited declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

M16/91 MATTERS ARISING

The following were raised as matters arising:

- the Secretary of the University confirmed that the final version of the University's 2016/17 Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council had been posted on the Court Sharepoint site (in the 'External Governance' section).
- the Secretary of the University confirmed that, following approval of the appointment at the May 2016 meeting of the Court, Dr James Evans had joined the membership of the Staff Committee as an independent co-opted lay member.

M16/92 OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR OF COURT

The Chair of Court commented on the coming period of considerable uncertainty for the higher education sector and for Scotland and the wider United Kingdom following the outcome of the EU Referendum vote on 23 June 2016.

M16/93 REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL (Paper Ct6/16/79)

The Court received, noted and discussed a report presented by the Principal. In the context of the news update in the report on the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) proposals, the Court received and noted a tabled paper drawn from the Times Higher Education Supplement which highlighted disparity across UK universities' scores in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework and "mock" TEF benchmarked scores.

The Principal reported on the University's work on 'Thinking About Our Future'. Two working groups were a) considering ways to make greater use of technology-enhanced learning and teaching and, b) reviewing the University's portfolio of taught postgraduate degree programmes, and proposals based on their work would crystallise over the summer.

Further to the update on senior staff appointments which had been provided in the report, the Principal reported that the selection processes were nearing conclusion in relation the Deputy Principal Research & Innovation and Enterprise & Business roles, while progress was continuing to be made in relation to the other appointments reported.

Further to the update on league table performance which had been provided in the report, the Principal said that a detailed report on the University's National Student Survey (NSS) performance would be provided to the Court at its meeting on 7 October 2016.

The Principal reported that the graduation ceremonies held on 24 June 2016 had not been impacted negatively in any significant way by the Universities & Colleges Union strike action on that date. Thanks were due to staff who supported the ceremonies and whose efforts contributed to making the events successful and enjoyable for graduating students and their families.

The Principal confirmed that Universities Scotland had started to consider its communications strategy in the light of the outcome of the EU Referendum vote. This would be multi-layered focused around six different key stakeholder groups. In response to a point raised by a member, the Principal emphasised that the University, in its communications with staff, will be echoing positive communications from the Scottish government and the wider sector. This included, inter alia, providing appropriately strong reassurance to staff members from non-UK parts of the EU.

M16/94 REPORT FROM THE STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT

The President of the Student Union reported that Student Union colleagues were currently planning the 2016/17 Freshers' Week which this year would include a Freshers' Week for postgraduate student entrants. Work was also continuing on a new structure for Dubai student representation.

The Student Union Vice-President (Wellbeing) reported that the Student Union was working with Police Scotland to design a consent advice session for students. The focus of this would extend beyond sexual consent issues to include safety and welfare advice on the use of online media, such as dating and photo-sharing apps. The Chair of Court gave her view that this was an excellent and valuable addition to the Freshers' Week programme.

M16/95 REPORTS FROM THE SENATE (Papers Ct6/16/80a)b)c)d))

The Court received and noted reports from the Senate which were presented by the Principal. All items in the reports, which related to meetings of the Senate held on 23 March, 11 May and 1 June 2016, were reported for information.

95.1 Appointment of the Head of School of Engineering & Physical Sciences

The Court approved the recommendation of the Senate Business Committee that Professor Stephen McLaughlin should be reappointed as Head of the School of Engineering & Physical Sciences for a further period of five years from 1 October 2016.

M16/96 RESEARCH CULTURE AND PREPARING FOR THE REF (Paper Ct6/16/81)

The Court received, noted and discussed a paper and supporting presentation which summarised the University's performance in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) including lessons learned, and preparations for the next REF assessment which was presented by the Chair of the REF Steering Group. It was noted that the predicted submission date for assessment in REF2021 would fall in 2020. The paper set out more widely the University's strategic aim to intensify its output of excellent impactful research, therefore describing activities which are of major strategic importance to the University beyond their relevance to the next REF.

In the course of discussion, the following key observations and responses to questions arose:

- in response to a question raised, the Chair of the REF Steering Group commented that a key focus of University management is to identify realistic potential to build upon and exploit current areas of research strength with capability to have an international impact. It was not the case that internationally impactful research could be developed from the current baseline of existing research in all areas. In terms of how much Heads of Schools might be able to direct research, it had to be born in mind that research was a creative activity reliant on the motivation of individual researchers. Success in procurement of research funding was also a critical factor. Heads of School had a role to direct investment to areas of potential future impact and to encourage academic staff to consider impact in its various forms as well as making optimal use of peer review drawn from other institutions with particular strengths in a cognate area;
- the University had not yet set a University-level target for the proportion of eligible staff to be submitted in REF2021. It was noted that this would emerge in a few years' time and the proportion achieved would be based on both currently existing staff and staff members yet to be appointed. The final figure would in part be determined on the basis of judgements the University will make on the level of heterogeneity it should accept within its submissions to the REF. In REF2014 the University achieved a healthy submission rate of around 82% of eligible staff overall. It was not yet known what rule might apply to staff submissions in REF2021, but an upwards drive across the sector ought to be expected;
- the success in the future of the Global Platform appointments initiative will be important in a REF process which is recognised to favour large scale activities. In terms of the alternative mechanism to achieve scale, i.e. through joint submissions, these had proved successful for the University and partnering institutions in REF2014; however, more institutions in England were forming very large scale consortia with the opportunity to attract very substantial strategic investments. In considering further future opportunities it will continue to be important for the University to consider the relative contributions to be made by each partner. Asymmetry in such partnerships gave rise to risks for the weaker partner(s). It was also important that the collaboration should look credible and there was limited time left to develop agreements for any new areas of joint submission that the University might wish to pursue;

- It will be important to incentivise staff in the period ahead and to focus on ensuring that key staff are retained and key research teams are kept strong; and
- a range of mechanisms had been identified to support increasing impact which formed a large and possibly growing element of weighting in the REF assessment structure.

The Chair of Court thanked Professor Gavin Gibson and other colleagues for the valuable work which was under way in preparation for the next REF.

M16/97 REPORTS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (Paper Ct6/16/82)

The Court received and noted reports from the Finance Committee which related to the meetings of the Committee held on 12 April and 6 June 2016.

The Chair of the Committee drew attention in particular to the following:

- the over-riding focus of the Committee on the financial constraints under which the University will operate through the life of the Five-Year Plan;
- the impact of the EU Referendum vote in increasing areas of uncertainty. The risks would need to be managed carefully while delivering the University's Strategic Plan through the capital investments incorporated in the Five-Year Plan;
- the Committee's support for the draft Five-Year Plan as the means to move forward with delivery of the University's Strategic Plan, while recognising the need for cautious approaches in the light of growing uncertainty and consequently risks in the wider environment. The first year of the Five-Year Plan represented the proposed budget for Court approval, while the Committee encouraged University management to continue its work to review and re-evaluate the subsequent years of this Plan in the light of increasing external risks. The Chair reported that the Committee was comfortable with the level of scrutiny it had exercised over the 2016 Five-Year Plan, and of the detailed underpinning work undertaken by University management;
- the importance to delivery of the strategy of the success of the Global Platform initiative and how this initiative will develop in the future; and
- the focus of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 June to receive an update on work which had been progressed by the Vice-Principal and the Director of Finance to gauge the interest of lenders should the University choose to proceed with plans to raise a private placement bond.

The Court received and noted a copy of the Group Financial Summary Dashboard for the period ending 30 April 2016.

97.1 Finance Committee Terms of Reference

The Court noted and approved proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Finance Committee noting that the changes reflected the additional responsibility of the Committee for oversight of disbursements and development activities overseen by the Endowment Committee.

M16/98 FIVE-YEAR PLAN 2016/17 to 2020/21(Paper Ct6/16/83)

The Court received discussed and approved a final draft Five-Year Plan covering the period from 2016 to 2021 which was presented by the Vice-Principal and the Director of Finance. It was agreed that approval extended to approving the budget for 2016/17 and the indicative financial plans set out for each of the following four years on the basis that each of these years will be reviewed and revised on an iterative basis and resubmitted for Court consideration as part of the process of rolling review and budget setting, and that the University would not increase its borrowings beyond its existing arrangements without further approval by the Court.

The Court noted that the Five-Year Plan had been approved for onward presentation to the Court by the University Executive and the Finance Committee at their meetings held in May and June 2016 respectively. The Court noted that the Finance Committee was supportive of the Plan and the level of further borrowing required but had sought further assurance on the appetite of investors for future long-term loan funding, the terms and structure associated with the borrowing, and the University's ability to service the additional debt. It had therefore been agreed that the Committee would meet

on 24 June 2016 to consider the options available with a view to making a more comprehensive recommendation to the Court.

In his presentation the Vice-Principal drew attention to:

- uncertainties arising from the EU Referendum result. These were not expected to have any immediate impact however;
- work led by the Director of Finance to identify potential sources of future capital finance;
- agreed Phase 1 capital expenditure, which was focused on student facing learning and teaching support projects, will continue for delivery as planned in 2016/17. While a few projects in Phase 2 would need to be delivered within a relatively short timescale, Phase 2 projects were in the main focused on generating capacity for growing staff and student numbers from 2017/18 and beyond; and
- the intention that work would continue in consultation with the Campus Committee to consider the future delivery of capital projects, their priority in the Five-Year Plan, and project phasing arrangements, with a view to an updated report being presented to the Court at its first meeting in 2016/17. The University Executive would need to consider the financial and staff resource needs associated with the developing programme of capital developments.

The Director of Finance updated the Court on work undertaken to identify long term loan options. **Reserved section: ref sections 30, 33, FOI(S)A** to augment the current undrawn revolving credit facility that the University already had in place. The Court noted that this form of borrowing was typically used by large corporations and was being used by a growing number of universities as a method of borrowing. The Director of Finance had spoken to a range of potential investors, inviting expressions of sentiment. Following an initial group of "roadshow" presentations to a range of lenders all had expressed some level of initial interest. Early discussions had not yet touched on the matter of interest rates but these were thought likely to be in the region of 3.5% - 3.7% approximately.

The Court agreed with the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the University should enter into further discussions with financial intermediaries and investors with a view to considering the options and terms available for a private placement bond in further detail. The Court agreed that if the University was in a position and there was a pressing need to reach a decision on a bond agreement before the next scheduled meeting of the Court in October 2016 then an additional meeting of the Court should be scheduled in the summer recess period. Members of the Court were asked by the Secretary following the meeting to confirm with her their availability over the summer period.

The Court noted advice from the Secretary of the University who confirmed that a Risk Register would be developed focused on the potential future implications of the EU referendum vote result. It will be the responsibility of the Risk and Project Management Strategy Group in the first instance to identify and manage the new risks. The Court noted reports from the Vice-Principals Dubai and Malaysia that no significant impact was expected on the business of the Dubai or Malaysia campuses although the likelihood of any negative impact in the future was difficult to gauge at present. In the very short term a positive benefit was expected, because of the drop in the value of Sterling. It was noted that further detailed consideration will need to be given to determining the value of EU related business to the University overall in terms of net income from research and teaching activities which might come to be at risk in the future.

M16/99 ORIAM TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS (Paper Ct6/16/84)

The Court received and noted a paper reporting on required business transfer arrangements in relation to the Oriam Centre which was presented by the Director of Finance and the Secretary of the University. These were necessary transfers of assets to be arranged in preparation for the opening of Oriam. The Court noted that the Conditions Precedents approved by the Court in December 2014 (amended in March 2015) stated that, in the event that any such documentation fell out-with the scope of transactions then envisaged and approved further specific approvals would be invited from the Court.

The Court noted the business transfer from Heriot-Watt Sports Village Limited to Heriot-Watt Services Limited, including arrangements with the Heart of Midlothian Football Club. Resolutions had been received from the respective Boards in relation to this business transfer.

The Court was invited to approve the transfer to Heriot-Watt Services Ltd of the business of operating the Centre for Sport and Exercise and the related assets including the land and building. Court members were reminded that both Heriot-Watt Sports Village Ltd and Heriot-Watt Services Ltd were wholly owned subsidiary companies of the University. In due course steps would be taken to dissolve Heriot-Watt Sports Village Ltd as part of remaining tidy-up work to be completed. The Court noted that no transfer of staff was involved; employees at Oriam fell into the categories of staff seconded by the University, or new staff employed directly by Oriam.

It was unanimously agreed in relation to:

- a. the proposed transfer by the University to its wholly-owned subsidiary Heriot-Watt Services Limited (Company Number: SC271030) ("**HWS**") of the business of operating the Centre for Sport and Exercise and the related assets including the land and building; and
 - b. the transfer by the University's wholly-owned subsidiary Heriot-Watt Sports Village Limited (Company Number: SC204327) ("**SVL**") of its business and assets, including the arrangements with Heart of Midlothian PLC ("**Hearts**") to HWS;
- (together the "**Transfers**")

that,

- (i) the terms of, and transactions contemplated by the following draft documents proposed to be entered into by the University;
 - (a) a business transfer agreement between the University and HWS;
 - (b) a guarantee by the University in favour of Hearts guaranteeing the performance by HWS of its obligations under the construction and facilities agreement with Hearts dated 8 November 2002 ("**Hearts Agreement**"); and
 - (c) a disposition by the University in favour of HWS in respect of the transfer by the University to HWS of the property at Riccarton, Edinburgh detailed therein (together, the "**Documents**"), together with any related documents, be approved on the terms and conditions stated therein
- (ii) the University is to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the Documents and any related documents (to which it is a party);
- (iii) each of the Secretary of the University or the Director of Finance be authorised to negotiate and agree any remaining terms and conditions which remain outstanding at his or her sole discretion in relation to the Documents and any related documents;
- (iv) the Secretary of the University or the Principal be and are authorised individually to execute the Documents and any other relevant documents required to be executed on behalf of the University in relation to the Transfers; and
- (v) the Secretary of the University or the Principal be and are authorised, on behalf of the University, to sign and/ or despatch all documents and notices to be signed and/ or despatched by it under or in connection with the Documents.

The Court noted that the Finance and the Audit and Risk Committees had each considered the transfer proposal at their meetings in June and both Committees had agreed to recommend the transfer arrangement to the Court for approval.

M16/100 REPORTS FROM THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE (Paper Ct6/16/85)

The Court received and noted reports from the Audit and Risk Committee which related to meetings of the Committee held on 14 April and 9 June 2016. All items in the reports, which were presented by the Chair of the Committee, were presented for information with the exception of the Travel and Expenses Policy and the Ethical Business: Gifts and Hospitality Policy.

100.1 Travel and Expenses Policy

The Court noted and approved, for immediate implementation, a draft revised Travel and Expenses Policy which was recommended to the Court for approval by the Audit and Risk Committee. The Court noted that the substantially revised policy followed a review of the experiences of the current policy and took account of tax and legislative changes that had taken place since the Policy was last approved in 2010.

The Court noted that recent political developments were having an impact on the strength of Sterling which might continue into the future. It was noted that this could have a consequent impact on the availability of overseas hotel rooms within the currently quoted acceptable price range. The Director of Finance agreed that the rate of exchange was an area which would need to be considered in the future with the possibility that exchange rate advice will need to be provided alongside the Policy.

100.2 Ethical Business: Gifts and Hospitality Policy

The Court noted and approved, for immediate implementation, a draft Ethical Business: Gifts and Hospitality Policy which was recommended to the Court for approval by the Audit and Risk Committee. It was noted that the Policy applies to the acceptance of gifts and/or hospitality by University staff, third parties or students whilst undertaking business on behalf of the University. The Court noted, in response to a comment raised, that some academic colleagues had sought written policy guidance specifically in order to support them to manage situations where they might be offered gifts by students.

M16/101 REPORTS FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Paper Ct6/16/86)

The Court received and noted reports from the Governance and Nominations Committee which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 20 April 2016 and items of business conducted by correspondence which were agreed by the Committee on 7 April 2016.

101.1 Court Equality and Diversity Champion

The Court approved the recommendation that Ms Tracey Ashworth-Davies be appointed as the Court's equality and diversity champion for the agreed period of her appointment to the membership of the Court. (Due to conflicted interest Ms Tracey Ashworth-Davies was absent from the Court discussion on this matter.)

The Court noted the intention that the Equality and Diversity Champion would work to promote awareness of equality and diversity, and should have an interest in the work of the Equality & Diversity Advisory Group and advancement of the University's Equality & Diversity Action Plan which would be reported to the Staff Committee annually.

101.2 Court membership

The Court approved the recommendation of the Committee that Ms Tracey Ashworth-Davies should be appointed to serve a further three year term of membership of the Court from 1 August 2016 until 31 July 2019. (Due to conflicted interest Ms Tracey Ashworth-Davies was absent from the Court discussion on this matter.)

101.3 Court committee membership

The Court approved the recommendations of the Committee for the following appointments:

- Mr Gerard Cassels's membership of the Finance Committee should be renewed for a further three years from 1 August 2016 until 31 July 2019, subject to his willingness and availability to serve a further term;
- The Chair of the Global Student Liaison Committee should be invited to become an ex officio member of the Governance and Nominations Committee. Ms Rio Watt should therefore be invited to join the membership of the Committee with immediate effect (Due to conflicted interest Ms Rio Watt was absent from the discussion on this matter);
- Professor Angus McDonald should be invited to serve for a further year (from 1 August 2016 until 31 July 2017) as Chair of the Ordinances & Regulations Committee, subject to his membership of the Committee being extended with the agreement of the Senate for a further year;

- The memberships of Ms Coral Hill and Mr Bob Kay on the Ordinances & Regulations Committee should be renewed for a further three years from 1 August 2016 until 31 July 2019; and
- Ms Lorrie Secrest-Osman's membership of the Staff Committee should be renewed for a further three years from 1 August 2016 until 31 July 2019.

101.4 Global Student Liaison Committee

The Court approved proposed modifications to the Terms of Reference of the Global Student Liaison Committee, noting that the Terms of Reference remained work in progress and subject to continuing review.

101.5 Other items included in the report

The Court noted other items included in the report including:

- Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 assurance mapping and suggested action plan
- Pro-Chancellor appointments update report
- Scottish Code: compliance with constitutional and legislative requirements – proposed schedule of reporting to the Court
- Court Effectiveness Review
- Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Board update report
- Joint Military Education Committee membership
- Appointment of Chair of the Edinburgh Business School Board update report

M16/102 REPORT FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE (Paper Ct6/16/87)

The Court received and discussed a report from the Staff Committee which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 9 May 2016.

The Chair of the Committee drew attention in particular to the efforts of staff members at graduation ceremonies on the day of UCU strike action on 24 June to ensure that the events ran well and the student experience was not adversely affected.

102.1 Employee Engagement Survey and Action Plan

The Court received and noted a one year on update report on the outcomes of the 2015 Staff Engagement Survey and resulting Action Plan.

102.2 Other matters

Two members of the Court recommended that the Staff Committee should focus some attention on the important supporting roles of technical staff and career development opportunities for this group.

M16/103 REPORT FROM THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE (Paper Ct6/16/88)

The Court received and noted a report from the Remuneration Committee which related to the meetings of the Committee held on 3 March and 9 May 2016.

103.1 Global Reward Policy

The Court noted and approved a draft Global Reward Policy recommended by the Committee for implementation noting that the policy and its supporting procedures would underpin decisions relating to the pay and reward of all UK, Dubai and Malaysia campus based staff.

103.2 Senior Staff Salary Review Procedures: Grade 10

The Court approved draft Senior Staff Salary Review Procedures for Grade 10 staff which were recommended by the Committee for implementation.

103.3 Reporting of senior salaries: Annual Report publication

The Court noted and approved a proposed approach to reporting in the University's Annual Report of the salaries of senior management colleagues in the University. The requirement to publish such information is set out in the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and, following the introduction of a style of reporting in the 2014/16 Annual Report publication on a temporary basis, the new form was proposed for the 2015/16 Annual Report which would be submitted to the Scottish Funding Council in late 2016. The Court noted that the approaches taken by other Scottish universities in their Annual Report was considered and the proposed Heriot-Watt model was based along similar lines.

103.4 Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference

The Court noted and approved proposed modifications to the Terms of Reference of the Remuneration Committee. The changes had been proposed to reflect the intention of the Committee to comply with good practice guidance issued by the Committee of Scottish Chairs and to make provision for attendance of the President of the Student Union in the capacity of observer. The latter change was in response to a recommendation contained within the report of the 2015 Court and Court Committee Effectiveness Review.

The Secretary of the University advised that the new Student Union President would be formally invited to confirm his intention to take up this invitation.

103.5 Other items reported for information

The Director of Finance reported an error in paragraph 4 of Section 9 of the report on pension tax. The "USS" reference made in relation to the cap on the lifetime allowance should be changed to read "HMRC".

M16/104 REPORT FROM THE GLOBAL STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (Paper Ct6/16/89)

The Court received and noted a report from the Global Student Liaison Committee which related to the meeting of the Committee held on 8 June 2016.

The Chair of the Committee drew attention to the main items considered by the Committee, as set out in the report, and the Committee's especial support for work being progressed by the University to review student systems and student support and representation across all campuses. Each of those strands of work would contribute to the aim of ensuring equality of the student experience.

In support of the Chair's statements, the Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching) emphasised the key imperative to ensure that academic standards are the same across all campuses. The student experience must be sufficient to support students to achieve the relevant learning outcomes but it will not be identical across all locations or modes of learning.

M16/105 REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS FOCUS GROUP (Paper Ct6/16/90)

The Court received and noted a report from the Communications Focus Group which related to a meeting of the Group held on 14 April 2016. In accordance with earlier agreement by the Court, the Group had been reconvened for a further final meeting to review progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Group approved by the Court in February 2015 and to consider any further recommendations it wished to make.

The Court noted that the full Action Plan associated with Communications Focus Group recommendations will be presented to the Governance and Nominations Committee at its next

meeting. The University's delivery against the full set of recommendations will continue to be monitored by the Committee.

M16/106 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL ON INSTITUTION-LED QUALITY REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY ON ENHANCEMENT-LED INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW (ELIR)

The Court received and noted the following reports which were presented by the Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching):

- Annual report (2015/16) to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-Led Quality Review; and
- Follow-Up Report to the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR): June 2016.

The Court noted that both reports had been previously considered by the Senate, the University Executive, the Learning and Teaching Board and the Quality and Standards Committee.

106.1 Annual report 2015/16 to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-Led Quality Review

The Court endorsed the above report presented for onward presentation to the Scottish Funding Council as part of the national requirements for annual institutional reporting on quality, and endorsed the accompanying annual assurance statement to be signed on behalf of the Court by the Chair of Court.

106.2 Follow-Up Report to the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR): June 2016

The Court endorsed the above report presented noting that it provided the formal response of Heriot-Watt University to Outcome and Technical Reports of its 2015 Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR).

M16/107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

107.1 Court rolling programme of business (Paper Ct6/16/92)

The Court received and noted a summary report, as at June 2016, of the Court's rolling programme of business for 2015/16 through until the end of the current calendar year.

107.2 Court meeting dates for 2017/18

The Court was invited to consider and approve the following proposed meeting dates in session 2017/18 which were proposed by the Secretary of the University and to confirm their likely availability to attend the relevant Court and Court committee meetings:

- Friday 15 September 17 (reporting in Court committee meetings held in August)
- Friday 10 November 17 (Strategy Day)
- Friday 15 December 17 (reporting in Committee meetings held in October/November)
- Friday 23 February 18 (reporting in Committee meetings held in January/early February)
- Friday 18 May 18 (Strategy Day)
- Monday 25 June 18 (reporting in Committee meetings held in April/May/early June)

It was noted that the revised pattern of meetings had been proposed in response to a recommendation contained within the report of 2015 Court and Court Committee Effectiveness Review.

The Court was also invited to consider and approve a change of date to the May 2017 Strategy Day to Friday 19 May 2017.

Members were invited to provide their feedback to the Secretary of the University in order that the schedule of dates can be finalised. It was intended that the pattern of Court dinners will remain unchanged, i.e. these will be scheduled to take place on the evening before the Court meeting,

except where the June meeting falls on a Monday, in which case an extended lunch will be arranged on the same date.

107.3 October 2016 Court Dinner Meeting discussion topic

The Court agreed on a provisional basis to accept the recommendation that the topic for discussion at the next Court Dinner Meeting in October 2016 should be on the topic of 'Our Civic Engagement'. This should be reviewed in the light of any other priority matters that might arise for discussion in the interim period.

107.4 Acknowledgement and thanks

The Court expressed its thanks and appreciation for the valuable contribution made to the work of the Court by Professor Philip John who was attending his last meeting of the Court as a member appointed by the Senate.

The Court expressed its thanks and appreciation to Mrs Valerie Hallows for her valuable contribution to the work of the Court as clerk to the Audit and Risk, Finance and Remuneration Committees of the Court and clerk to the Ordinances & Regulations Committee. Mrs Hallows will retire from the University at the end of August 2016.

M16/108 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Court will take place on 7 October 2016.

Signed

Date