University of Strathclyde

COURT

Minutes: 26th June 2007

Present: Dr A S Hunter, Convener of Court (in the Chair)
Principal, Vice-Principal Professor J Love, Mrs E J Currie, Mr P Goldfinch, Mr D Gray,
Dr R M Harley, Mr J F Livingston, Mr T J Monaghan, Mr C Moore, Ms K Morrison, Ms
M McGee, Dr P MacKenzie, Dr A McLaren, Professor M Pacione, Professor A Paterson,
Mr B Rennick, Mr M Strachan, Dr G Wilson, Mr M Wishart

Attending by invitation: Pro Vice-Principal Professor N Juster, Deputy Principal Professor R Condie, Deputy
Principal Mrs A Hughes, Deputy Principal Professor K Miller, Professor B Furman
(Dean of Science), Professor C Grant (Dean of Engineering) Professor C Harvey (Dean
of Strathclyde Business School), Professor N Hutton (Dean of Law, Arts & Social
Sciences), Mr I R M Smith (Dean of Education)

Attending: The Secretary to the University, Ms J Whitley (Deputy Secretary) Mr D Coyle (Director
of Finance), Mr G Roddick (Director of Estates Management), Mr W Sutherland
(Director Human Resources), Professor D Law (Librarian and Head of Information
Resources Directorate), Ms K MacLeod (Assistant Director of Finance), Mr G Singh
(President Elect, Students Association) Mrs G McArthur (Court Secretary)

Apologies: Chancellor, Mr J Fergus, Councillor Dr M Green, Dr P Hughes, Mr R J A Hunter, Ms F
McMenamin, Mrs P Ritchie, Dr C Vance, Deputy Principal Professor A Ferguson,
Deputy Principal Professor J McDonald, Mr A Taylor (Director of Marketing &
Communications)

CM 4000 WELCOME

On behalf of Court the Convener welcomed to the meeting Mr G Singh, the incoming
President of the Students’ Association, and Ms K MacLeod, Assistant Director of
Finance.

CM 4001 CONVENER OF COURT, VICE-CONVENER OF COURT AND DEPUTY
CONVENER OF COURT APPOINTMENTS

Mr Livingston, Mr Monaghan and Mr Rennick were not present for discussion of this
item.

Convener of Court (CM3845)

At its meeting in June 2006 Court had appointed Mr J F Livingston as Convener of Court
(Elect) for the period 1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007. On the recommendation of the
Convener of Court Nominations Group, Court

RESOLVED that, under the terms of Statute XIII.6 (1), Mr J F Livingston be appointed
Convener of Court for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2009.
.2 Vice-Convener of Court

Under the terms of Statute XIII.6 (2), and on the recommendation of the Convener of Court Nominations Group, Court

RESOLVED that Mr T J Monaghan be re-appointed Vice-Convener of Court and Treasurer for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008.

.3 Deputy Convener of Court Appointments

On the recommendation of the Court Membership Group, Court

RESOLVED that

i. Mr T J Monaghan be re-appointed Treasurer for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 in the first instance;
ii. Dr G Wilson be re-appointed Deputy Convener (Staff) for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010;
iii. Mr B Rennick be appointed Deputy Convener of Court (Estates) for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010.

CM 4002 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2007 were approved.

CM 4003 STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (CM 3980)

At the last meeting Court had received the Annual Report from the Statutory Advisory Committee on Safety and Occupational Health (SACSOH). A number of matters had been raised and the Head of Safety Services had provided further information in response to these points. Court welcomed this further information.

CM 4004 ADVANCED FORMING RESEARCH CENTRE (CM 3981)

Court received a report on progress with the development of the Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC). It was noted that a Technical Leader had been appointed for this project and that a number of Tier 1 and Tier 2 partners had provided firm commitment to this project, with others still actively considering it. The Convener informed Court that he and Deputy Principal McDonald had met recently with the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise (SE) to discuss this project and to convey to SE that the University was committed to it, but that certain conditions applied. The SE Board would be meeting later in the week and would also discuss this project.

It was noted that it was likely that decisions regarding progress with this project would need to be taken during the summer period. The Estates Strategy Committee already had a sub-committee that had delegated authority which could take action as necessary subject to report back to the main Committee at its first meeting next session. Court

RESOLVED that

i. the Estates Strategy Sub-Committee, which comprised the Deputy Convener of Court (Estates), the Convener of Court, the Principal, the Treasurer and the Secretary to the University, be authorised to take such decisions as necessary to
progress this project during the summer period subject to report back to the first 
meeting of the Estates Strategy Committee and Court next session;
ii. Professor C Grant, Dean of Engineering, be added to the membership of this 
Sub-Committee for this matter.

**CM 4005 PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Court noted a report from the Principal which included the following information:

- Court was delighted to note that Mr J Wilson, International Student Adviser, had 
been awarded the MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list; and Professor D 
Sherrington, Pure and Applied Chemistry, had been elected a Fellow of the 
Royal Society;
- Representatives of the Funding Council had visited the University on 8 May to 
discuss the University’s new strategy. This had been a very positive meeting;
- The recent Research Day held at the University had been a great success and the 
Principal paid tribute to Professor T Bedford, Dr A Mulholland and others 
involved in organising this event;
- The Principal had attended the recent joint meeting of the Funding Council with 
the Principals and Chairs of Court of Scottish Higher Education Institutions. This 
meeting had been both informative and productive;

Additionally, the Principal informed Court that the Senior Officer portfolios were not yet 
finalised, due to the timing of the recent election for the Pro Vice-Principal and the need 
to discuss and agree portfolios with each of the Senior Officers. It was the intention that 
these would be finalised shortly and would be issued to Court for information.

Also, the Convener reported that staff in Research & Innovation were working towards 
the launch of the Strathclyde Innovation Fund in the autumn.

**CM 4006 UNIVERSITY STRATEGY (CM 3979)**

Deputy Principal Professor Miller provided Court with an update on progress with the 
implementation of the new strategy. In particular the following points were noted:

- The Faculties, academic departments and CAS departments all had to have their 
strategic plans submitted by the end of this month;
- The Chairs of the Change Management Team (CMT) sub-groups and the 
Principal had met and had agreed that for 2007/08 a more task based approach to 
implementing the strategic plan would be adopted, under the supervision and 
management of the Principal;
- Two sub-groups were currently working on streamlining and ensuring effective 
business processes were in place for two areas in particular. These were 
processes for the recruitment of postgraduate instructional students (under the 
leadership of Professor Furman), and for the recruitment of staff (under the 
leadership of Professor Grant);
- The Finance and Estates and Regeneration Group (a sub-group of CMT) was 
currently in the process of revising the Resource Allocation model used within 
the University in order to ensure that resource allocation was more consistent 
with the University’s strategic priorities. It was the intention that this new model 
would be in place for allocating resources for session 2008/09 onwards;
- The promotion criteria for academic staff would be reviewed and would 
thereafter, be issued for consultation;
Following meetings with Heads of Departments a range of topics had been identified which would form the basis for a series of development meetings. Two priority areas had been identified – these being financial management and performance management;

A number of excellence reviews were about to commence. The first reviews would start in mid/late August with others starting in September or later. It was the intention that all reviews would be completed by the end of the calendar year 2008. Those departments/areas in the first wave of reviews had already started preparing information for the review. Others would be brought on stream at an appropriate stage.

Court welcomed this information and noted that it would review progress at its residential meeting in November.

CM 4007  
**ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2007/08 AND FOUR YEAR FORECASTS**

The Director of Finance presented the Annual Budget for 2007/08 and the Four Year Financial Forecasts 2006/07 – 2009/2010 to Court.

.1 Annual Budget 2007/08

In presenting the Annual Budget he highlighted some of the key factors influencing the budget. Overall the income would increase by 6.1% but this included some units coming into the budget for the first time. The income from the Funding Council had increased by 4.2% which was slightly below the sector average, this was largely due to a below average increase in the RAE related element of the grant. The interest receivable had increased, due to higher cash balances, and there had been significant increases in non-core income. In looking at expenditure the pay award would have a significant impact on the budget, as this represented a year on year increase of 4.4%. However, utility costs were expected to fall (at least in the short term). For session 2007/08 the budget revealed a savings target of £2.7M. However, within this there was wide variation across and between the Faculties and CAS areas. It was noted that two Faculties (LASS and SBS) had sought permission to carry-forward deficits into the following session (2008/09).

.2 Four Year Forecasts 2006/07 – 2009/2010

In presenting the Four Year Forecasts the Director of Finance highlighted some of the main factors affecting this. These included the pay award, the Estates Development Framework, restructuring costs and the interest earned on cash balances which was anticipated to fall during this period once spend on the EDF occurred. An operating deficit was projected from session 2008 which was anticipated to reach £8.8M by 2010, however this sum included restructuring costs. This deficit was planned and was manageable. Staff costs would need to be reduced and so it was anticipated that another ERVS scheme would operate in the future. However, given the changes in the pension arrangements and the need for the University to pick up the strain costs involved in early retirement agreements, this would have a significant impact on any ERVS scheme that the University could afford to run in the future. It was noted that the University will have generated £60M in asset sales by the end of session 2009/10. This included the recent sale of land at Stepps, the future sale of land at Kilmardinny and the Jordanhill Campus. However, this funding had to be reinvested in the University estate and so would be used to fund the EDF.
.3 Discussion and Conclusions

In discussion Court was assured that resource allocation would be influenced by the strategic plan. Indeed some £1.65M had been earmarked for strategic investment in session 2007/08 and a revised resource allocation model was being developed which would be consistent with the University’s strategy and would be implemented in session 2008/09. Within the Four Year Forecasts an aggressive target had been set for increasing research income over this period. The Change Management Team (CMT) were working with the Faculties to ensure that there was a consistent vision of the future priorities across the University and a recognised need to raise the University’s profile overall. It was generally accepted that there was a need to reduce staffing costs and it was hoped that as many of the posts affected could be achieved by voluntary means. In light of the new Scottish Government there were still uncertainties about the impact this would have on the future funding of higher education. This was being closely monitored by the University.

It was acknowledged that this was an ambitious financial plan for the future but one that was achievable and would create a strong institution with a healthy asset base. On the recommendation of the University Management Committee, Court

RESOLVED that

i. the University Budget for 2007/08 be approved as presented;
ii. the Four Year Financial Forecasts for 2006/07 – 2009/2010 be approved as presented for submission to the Funding Council.

On behalf of Court the Convener thanked the Director of Finance and his team for all their efforts in producing the budget and the Four Year Forecasts.

CM 4008 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Court noted the Performance Monitoring report on the University’s financial performance.

CM 4009 SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL: FEEDBACK ON MONITORING

The Convener informed Court that the Funding Council had recently sought information from institutions regarding the Funding Council’s requirements for information as part of its monitoring of institutions. The Convener informed Court that he was satisfied with the University’s response to the Funding Council on this matter, as was Mr Livingston, Convener of Court (Elect). It was agreed that this response could be sent to the Funding Council.

CM 4010 ESTATES DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (CM 3936, 3843)

The Director of Estates Management presented a report on progress with the Estates Development Framework (EDF). He provided Court with an overview of progress with a number of projects contained within the EDF. This included a summary of the various disposals that had taken place since the 1990’s and those that were planned for the near future; an update on progress with the foundation tasks required to support the EDF; and the milestones for the major projects already approved in the EDF, i.e. the new Sports
and Health facility, the SIPBS building and the new Faculty of Education building. Court was reminded that

- it had approved the plans for the new SIPBS building at its meeting in January;
- it would be asked to approve the plans for the new Sports and Health facility in the autumn, once discussions with local FE Colleges and the Funding Council had progressed further;
- the plan for the new Faculty of Education building would be brought to Court in the autumn for approval. Quayle Munro were assisting the University review the procurement options for this new build.

There were a number of uncertainties in the construction market at present but all reasonable steps were being taken to minimise the risk to the University. There was also a need for Estates Management to manage expectations within the University. Future developments had to be consistent with the University’s strategy and the excellence agenda, as well as being sustainable. There was an identified need to improve utilisation and reduce the University’s overall footprint. It was the intention to extend the planning horizon beyond 2014, in order to provide a longer term view of the University’s potential development. In looking to the longer term there could be further disposals and consideration was being given to charging for space and possibly also for utility usage.

It was acknowledged that the construction market was in danger of over-heating but the University had selected four major contractors to work with it in developing and delivering the major projects in the EDF. It was also the intention to ensure, as far as possible, that future developments were sustainable. The University was concentrating on three major developments – the new Sports and Health facility, the SIPBS building and the new building for the Faculty of Education. However, other projects also needed to continue and the University had to continue to invest in maintenance. Plans to develop the Colville building had been put in abeyance at present but the building would be maintained as it had to be kept operational and safe for staff and students to work in. It was noted that a revised maintenance strategy was being finalised for each building which would ensure that they were being properly maintained within the available budget.

In light of the above discussion, Court

RESOLVED that the Estates Development Framework be approved as presented.

On behalf of Court the Convener thanked the Director of Estates Management and his team for all their efforts in developing and delivering the EDF and other estates projects.

CM 4011 ESTATES STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Court received the report from the meeting of the Estates Strategy Committee held on 29 May 2007. In particular Court discussed the following:

.1 Building Condition Report (CM 3994; ESCM 109)

Court noted that the Committee was continuing with the planned programme of backlog maintenance and had identified the next set of works to be carried out. On the recommendation of the Estates Strategy Committee Court

RESOLVED that Estates Management be authorised to proceed with the backlog maintenance works identified below at a total cost of £2.765M. The works being:

- Lift refurbishment in the Graham Hills Building (both passenger and goods lifts);
- James Weir building lift refurbishment;
- John Arbuthnott Building, Robertson Wing - redecoration and ceilings;
- John Arbuthnott building, Todd Wing – external envelope repairs;
- Livingstone Tower – Fire Safety improvements (Phase 2);
- McCance Building – replacement of roof covering, reupholster seats in lecture theatre, electrical distribution works (level 3), and refurbishment of mechanical ventilation plant.

.2 Stepps (ESCM 123)

Court was pleased to note that the sale of land at Stepps had now been successfully concluded and that the University would receive £8.55M for this sale. This had been a particularly difficult sale with a range of issues raised and which had taken a number of years to conclude. The Deputy Convener (E states) paid tribute to the Estates Management team, and particularly Mr K Campbell, for achieving such a successful outcome.

CM 4012 ESTATES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Court noted the Performance Monitoring report from Estates Management. In particular the Director of Estates Management informed Court that it was likely that more key performance indicators were likely to be introduced for estates and it was anticipated that more benchmarking with the private sector would occur in the future.

Court was aware that Audit Scotland had been undertaking an exercise where they had looked at the estate holding of each of the HE institutions in Scotland. Their report would be published in the autumn and it was anticipated that it might present some challenges for the University. However, the University was preparing for this.

CM 4013 FACULTY OF LAW, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: NEW POSTGRADUATE INSTRUCTIONAL COURSES TO BE HANDLED OUTWITH SFC ECONOMY (SM11149)

Both Senate and the University Management Committee had supported the proposal from the Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences to introduce two new postgraduate instructional courses outwith the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) economy. On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that the delivery of the MSc in Investigative Journalism, and the MSc in Refugee and Migration Studies (Social Research) outwith the SFC economy be approved, and that this would result in the fee income being subject to the standard University levy of 15% with the remainder allocated to the relevant department(s).

CM 4014 ARCHITECTURE – ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH TAYLOR’S COLLEGE, MALAYSIA (SM 11150)

The Department of Architecture had been considering their current articulation agreement with Taylor’s College in Malaysia. There was now an opportunity to revitalise this agreement and a financial incentive was considered an appropriate approach. On the recommendation of Senate, Court
RESOLVED that
i. a 10% fee reduction be offered to students from Taylor’s College, Malaysia, articulating into the third year of the BSc in Architectural Studies (in 2007/08 this would equate to a fee of £8,875); and
ii. for every 10 students, a Faculty fee waiver for a member of Taylor’s College staff to study for an MSc at Strathclyde would be provided.

CM 4015 COURSE FEES (SM11151, 11185, 11186)

.1 Additional Course Fees 2007/08
On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that the additional fees for 2007/08 (as detailed in the file copy of the minutes) be approved.

.2 Fee for Collaborative MPharm Degree with International Medical University

Court noted that discussions had taken place at both Senate and the University Management Committee regarding the fee arrangements for the non-accredited MPharm degree with the International Medical University, Malaysia. The fee was a composite fee which included the overseas tuition fee and accommodation costs, and would apply to the students when based at Strathclyde in 2010-2011. Additionally the composite fees proposed for the 2+2 model of the Collaborative MPharm degree (should it be accredited by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain) was also discussed. This would apply to students who started on this scheme at IMU in December 2007 and December 2008, arrive at Strathclyde in September 2009 and September 2010, and graduate in July 2011 and 2012. On the recommendation of Senate and the University Management Committee, Court

RESOLVED that

i. the composite fee for the existing non-accredited Collaborative MPharm degree with the IMU for 2010-11 should be £18,154 (representing an overseas fee of £14,774 and accommodation costs of £3,380);
ii. the composite fee for each of years 2009-10 and 2010-11 of the new 2+2 programme for arrivals in September 2009, should be £12,090 (comprising an overseas fee of £9,660 and accommodation costs of £2,430);
iii. the composite fee for each of years 2010-11 and 2011-12 of the new 2+2 programme for arrivals in September 2010, should be £12,600 (comprising an overseas fee of £10,045 and accommodation costs of £2,555).

.3 Amendment to Course Fees in Law, Arts and Social Sciences, and Exceptional Course Fee for MSc in Investigative Journalism

Court received a request, endorsed by both Senate and UMC, for amendment to the course fees for 2007/08 from the Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences in respect of all part-time postgraduate courses, but with an exceptional fee arrangement proposed and agreed for the MSc in Investigative Journalism (see also CM 4013). On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that the following fees should be applied:
Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences  Home  Overseas
2007/08  2007/08
All part-time postgraduate courses £1,620  £4,350
Except
MSc in Investigative Journalism* £2,585  £4,350
(* The part-time Overseas fee for this course will be £4,350.)

CM 4016  PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAVEL AWARD (SM11167, 11210)

On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that

.1 the Prizes listed below, and as detailed in the file copy of the minutes, be approved with immediate effect:

- Glasgow City Council Silver Medal for Architecture
- ASSA Prize for Best DMP Student (£50 Book token)
- GIA (Glasgow Institute of Architects)
  The T L Watson Prize (£50)
  2nd Year Design Prize (£100)
  3rd Year Design Prize (£100)
  Design Prize (£100)
  Final year Parchment (£120)
- the Peter Bain Prize (£100) – Department of Human Resource Management;

.2 the Prize listed below be amended as detailed:
  The Astronomical Society of Glasgow Prize (increase in value from £20 to £50);

.3 the following Prizes be deleted with immediate effect:

- Century Jubilee Award for research into Mathematics and its applications (from Regulation 21.5.1)
- John C Eaton Scholarship (from Regulation 21.5.6);

.4 the Travel Award listed below, and as detailed in the file copy of the minutes, be approved with immediate effect:

  Neil Hood Memorial Fund.

CM 4017  CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE EMERITUS PROFESSOR (SM11176)

On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that the title Emeritus Professor be conferred on the following members of academic staff with effect from 30 November 2007 or their retirement, whichever is the later: - Professors D Mearns, J Rhodes, I Murdoch, J Anderson and E Renshaw.

CM 4018  GLASGOW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK: CRICHTON CAMPUS (SM11187)

Court was informed that, due to a number of recent changes outwith the University’s control with respect to operations at the Crichton Campus, the Joint Management Group of the Glasgow School of Social Work (GSSW) had recommended that the School should
not continue to make its provision available on the campus once the current cohort of
students had completed their course (MA in Social Work). Both Senate and UMC had
concurred with this proposal. This meant that the Memorandum of Understanding
regarding the creation of the Glasgow School of Social Work would require to be
amended to reflect this change. On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that

i. there would be no further intake to the Crichton Campus MA in Social Work
programme and the 27 students currently undertaking this course would be
awarded a joint degree of the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde on
successful completion;

ii. the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the creation of the Glasgow
School of Social Work (section 12) be revised to reflect this change.

It was also noted that, once the Senate and Court at Glasgow University had approved
this decision, staff of the GSSW would inform the Scottish Social Services Council of the
decision not to take any students into the MA in Social Work at Crichton Campus with
effect from session 2007/08.

CM 4019 DEAN OF SCIENCE: ELECTION (SM11196)

On the recommendation of Senate and under the terms of Statute XVI and Ordinance 7,
Court

RESOLVED that Professor I Hunter be appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science for the
period 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2012, after serving as Dean-Elect of the Faculty during
the academic session 2007/08.

CM 4020 APPOINTMENT OF PRO VICE-PRINCIPAL (SM11181.1)

On the recommendation of Senate and under the terms of Statute V and Ordinance 7,
Court

RESOLVED that Professor K Miller be appointed Pro Vice-Principal of the University
for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008, and thereafter should serve as Vice-
Principal.

CM 4021 NATIONAL CENTRE: CHANGE OF NAME (SM11201)

On the recommendation of Senate, Court

RESOLVED that the National Centre for Training and Education in Prosthetics and
Orthotics be renamed the National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics with effect from 1
August 2007.

CM 4022 GLASGOW GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW: PROPOSED NEW
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Court noted that a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Universities of
Strathclyde and Glasgow had been prepared outlining the revised programme delivery
arrangements previously agreed between the two Law Schools with effect from session
2007/08. The University Management Committee had suggested that the revised
Memorandum of Understanding should be effective for an initial five year period, with a
review taking place in the year before this agreement was due to expire. It was noted that
there were also a small number of residual matters to be finalised and these would be taken forward by Professors Miller and Hutton on behalf of the University. On the recommendation of the University Management Committee, Court

RESOLVED that the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Glasgow Law School and the University of Strathclyde Law School be approved in principle, subject to incorporation of any minor amendments that might be necessary following the finalisation of details associated with this agreement, and following approval by the Court of the University of Glasgow.

CM 4023 STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION BUDGET FOR 2007/08

Court received the proposed budget for the Students’ Association for 2007/08. It was noted that commercial services income continued to fall but that the Students’ Association had plans to address this matter. A range of cost-saving measures would be undertaken including some staff restructuring. The Association also wished to invest some £150k in upgrading catering facilities and improving space for advice and support services for students. On the recommendation of the University Management Committee, Court

RESOLVED that

i. the Students’ Association budget for 2007/08 be approved as presented
ii. the Association be permitted to invest £150k of its reserves in improvements in its building, subject to the Director of Finance being satisfied with the detailed proposals.

CM 4024 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

On the recommendation of the University Management Committee, and having been assured that the Audit Committee was satisfied with this policy, Court

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Policy be approved with immediate effect and the Systems and Procedures guidance necessary to implement the policy be enacted.

CM 4025 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Court received the report from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 5 June 2007. In particular Court noted the following:

.1 External Auditors

It was noted that Audit Committee had discussed the Engagement Letter with the External Auditors and had asked for some minor amendment to be made. Once amended this letter would be signed by the Principal. Court also noted and approved the Audit Plan for 2007 from the External Auditors.

.2 Bioaccelerate (CM3995)

Court was pleased to note that Audit Committee had been satisfied with the procedures put in place in light of the experience of the Bioaccelerate contract. Internal Audit would audit these procedures in due course in order to ensure that they were working effectively.

CM 4026 STAFF COMMITTEE

Court noted the report from the meeting of the Staff Committee held on 11 June 2007. In particular Court noted the following:

.1 Investing in People’s Development (S1291)

Court noted that the HR team, and particularly Mr G Whyte, were undertaking excellent work in the area of staff development, and particularly the Heads of Departments development programme. It had also been agreed at an earlier stage that the University should seek re-accreditation for Investors in People status. In order to achieve this all staff would need to engage with the development programme. It had been agreed that Deputy Principal Professor Miller would write to all staff to emphasise the importance of Personal Development Planning and encourage them to engage fully with the process. Court endorsed this action.

.2 Redefining Staff Categories and New Performance Review Procedures (S1295)

It was noted that, now that the process of pay modernisation was virtually complete, Staff Committee had discussed in some detail the difference between Job Level Descriptors (a description of levels of work content) and staff categories (a categorisation defined by the employment contract) particularly in relation to Academic Staff. Staff Committee was now reviewing current promotion criteria in light of the excellence agenda.

CM 4027 COURT MEMBERSHIP GROUP

Court received the report from the meetings of the Court Membership Group held on 13 March and 5 June 2007.

.1 Nominated/Elected Members

Court noted the changes in the nominated/elected membership.

.2 Co-opted Members of Court

It was noted that the period of membership of six co-opted members was due for review this year. Of these, three co-opted members had indicated that they would not be continuing their membership of Court beyond this session, these being Mrs Currie, Dr A S Hunter and Mrs P Ritchie. On the recommendation of the Court Membership Group, Court

RESOLVED that, under the terms of Statute XIII.1 (ix),

i. Mr T J Monaghan’s period of membership of Court be extended for the period to 31 July 2008 in the first instance;
ii. Mr B Rennick and Dr C Vance’s period of membership of Court be extended for a further three years, i.e. to 31 July 2010;
iii. Mr R Crawford be co-opted to membership of Court for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 in the first instance.
The provisional membership of Court for session 2007/08 is attached at Annex 1.

It was noted that there were still two vacancies to be filled. Two potential new members of Court had been identified and the Convener of Court and other Court Officers would meet with these individuals soon to discuss the possibility of them joining Court. Should this meeting be favourable then information would be circulated to Court prior to its next meeting with a view to these members being invited to join Court so that they could attend the next meeting in October.

.3 Membership of Court Committees

On the recommendation of the Court Membership Group, Court

RESOLVED that

i. Audit Committee – Mr R Crawford continue as a member of the Audit Committee and Mrs P Ritchie be co-opted to membership of the Audit Committee until the financial statements were completed (i.e. the November 2007 meeting);

ii. Estates Strategy Committee – Mr D Dunbar’s period of co-option to the Committee be extended for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2009;

iii. Convener of Court Nominations Group – Dr P Hughes be appointed to the membership of this Group for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 in the first instance.

The provisional membership of Court Committees for 2007/08 is attached at Annex 2.

CM 4028 FACULTY OF SCIENCE REPORT: FURTHER INFORMATION (CM 3958)

Court noted further information provided by the Dean of Science clarifying one aspect of the Faculty’s report to Court at the March meeting.

CM 4029 AMENDMENT TO CHARTER AND STATUTES: APPOINTMENT OF DEANS (CM 3983; SM11193)

At its last meeting Court had passed a Special Resolution recommending changes to the University Charter and Statutes I, XV and XVI regarding the appointment of Deans and updating terminology to reflect the changes within the University. As stipulated in the University Charter these amendments had been notified to Senate and publicly displayed within the University for 28 days. No objections had been raised. Court therefore,

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Charter, Articles 12,13 and 14, and to Statutes I, XV and XVI, regarding the appointment of Deans and the updating of terminology used, be forwarded to the Privy Council for approval.

CM 4030 SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS AND DEPARTMENTAL VISITS 2007/08

Court noted its schedule of business for 2007/8 and the departments that it would be visiting during session 2007/08.
CM 4031 CONVENER’S ACTION

The following action taken under delegated authority by the Convener of Court was homologated by Court:

Head of Department appointment
Physics: Professor D Birch reappointed for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010.

CM 4032 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9 October 2007 at 10.00 a.m. followed by lunch and a visit to the Sports Centre.

CM 4033 FAREWELLS

On behalf of Court the Convener thanked the following members of Court whose period of membership would end on 31 July 2007: Mrs E Currie, Dr M Green, Mrs P Ritchie, Dr R M Harley, Professor G Hogg, Dr A McLaren and Ms M McGee; and also Mr C Moore whose period of membership would end on 30 June 2007. The Convener also paid tribute to Professor Juster who was attending his last meeting of Court.

CM 4034 DR A S HUNTER

On behalf of Court the Principal paid tribute to Dr A S Hunter who would shortly be leaving Court. As Convener of Court Dr Hunter had worked tirelessly on behalf of Court and all his efforts were very much appreciated. Court wished him well in the future.