MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COURT  
26 JUNE 2012

Present: Dr Fraser Livingston (Convenor)  
Principal Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Mr Ronnie Cleland, Mr Robin Crawford, Dr Jeff Fergus, Mr David Gray, Ms Gillian Hastings, Ms Margaret McGarry, Professor Kenneth Miller, Ms Catriona Morton, Mr Jack Perry, Dr Christopher Prior, Mr Charandeep Singh, Mr Niall Sturrock, Dr Stephen Tagg, Mr Gerry Wilson, Mr Malcolm Wishart, Professor Lisa Woolfson.

Attending: Mr David Coyle, Dr Jo Edwards, Mr Hugh Hall, Professor Susan Hart, Ms Sandra Heidinger, Professor Iain Hunter, Professor Scott MacGregor, Dr David McBeth (for item 9), Professor Tony McGrew, Mr Malcolm Moir, Dr Veena O'Halloran

Apologies: Councillor Jonathan Findlay, Professor James Fraser, Dr Rose Mary Harley, Mr Richard Hunter, Dr Peter Hughes

1. Minutes/ Matters arising

Court noted its recognition and sense of pride for the Principal's Knighthood, awarded in recognition of his very significant contributions and achievements to the fields of education, engineering and the economy.

The minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2012 were approved. There were no matters arising.

2. Principal's Report

The Principal provided an update on key activity since the Court meeting in February 2012, covering engagement with HE policy and national strategic developments, contact with government and other political representatives, staff engagement, research partnerships and funding, knowledge exchange and meetings with external partners.

Court also noted the references made by the First Minister, on his visit to California, to the Scottish alliance with Stanford University and the major initiative led by Strathclyde's Institute of Photonics.


The Chief Financial Officer presented an outline of proposed budget and financial forecast, which was supported by the Treasurer.
Following discussion of key areas, including controlling costs by means of business process review, monitoring the liquidity covenant and increasing margins on research awards, Court approved the draft budget and financial forecasts.

4. Strategy Refresh

The Principal reflected on the strategic session of Court in May and presented an update on the progress of the re-presentation of the University Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The new approach would be adopted from 1 August 2012 and Court would be updated on progress against targets at the strategic session in November 2012.

Court supported the approach presented by the Principal, pointing specifically to how the University’s reputation could be managed in the UK and internationally, how staff at all levels of the institution could engage with the strategy and the important role the Accountability & Development Review would play in this process.

5. Business Report and development of the new University/ Scottish Funding Council Outcome Agreement

The Chief Financial Officer presented the proposed draft format for Court Business reports, and provided a rationale for the revised approach to business reports and their relationship to the SFC Outcome Agreement currently under development.

Court endorsed the revised approach to the Business reports, and suggested further consideration be given to both aligning the key sections with the 5 pillars of activity highlighted in the Strategy re-presentation and the relationship to key targets within the Outcome Agreement when defined. Court also commented on the potential advantages of considering the Business Reports and the Corporate Risk Register consecutively on the agenda. Related to this, Members noted the importance of setting ambitious but achievable targets in the Outcome Agreement and that both the Business Report & Risk Register would play an important role in Court’s monitoring of progress on the delivery of agreed deliverables.

6. Estates Projects

The Chief Financial Officer introduced each of the Estates projects. Court noted the importance of testing the success of individual forecasts and assumptions at strategic points after each of the projects had been completed. It was noted that this would be taken forward through the Estates Committee.

a. John Anderson Masterplan

Court approved the Business Case for a Masterplan to consolidate research and teaching facilities for the Physics Department within the John Anderson Building leading to the vacation of the Colville Building.

b. James Weir Masterplan

Court noted the opportunity to engage with a strategic partner in this project, particularly in relation to sponsorship of new teaching laboratories. Court approved the recommendations.
c. **AFRC Phase 2 Development**

Court noted that a full Business Case for the building extension would be brought forward to Court in the autumn and that subsequent approval would be dependent on confirmation of any conditions attached to the funding. Court approved the recommendations.

7. **Review of Alumni Engagement & the role of the Graduates Association**

The Chief Operating Officer presented the proposal for the establishment of a short-life working group in relation to the University’s alumni engagement and the development of the Graduates association.

Court endorsed the establishment of a short-life working group to explore potential developments which would report back to the November meeting of Court. Court also agreed that the existing levy on the graduation fee should be made available for distribution for wider alumni activities.

8. **Single Campus Project**

Executive Dean Professor Tony McGrew presented an update on the Single Campus project, outlining the scale and complexity of the collocation. Professor McGrew noted the key factors underpinning the success of the project have been: clear and effective governance; and a planned communications strategy. Professor McGrew congratulated the project team for the work they have done in coordinating the move. Court noted the update.

9. **Commercialisation Strategy**

The Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange Services joined the meeting to present the proposed Commercialisation Strategy to Court.

Court noted the positive direction that this approach provides and, following discussion, Court approved the recommendations.

10. **Loyal Address**

Court approved the Loyal Address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the behalf of the University of Strathclyde on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of her Reign.

11. **Annual Health & Safety Report**

Court noted the report presented by the Chief Operating Officer.

12. **USSA Financial Statements**

The USSA President presented the Financial Statements. Court approved the statements.

13. **Corporate Risk Register**
The Chief Operating Officer presented the Corporate Risk Register. Court approved the Risk Register.

14. Court Membership Group

The Convenor presented the outcomes of the meeting of the Court Membership Group to appoint new lay members of Court. Court approved the recommendations for new lay members and for Committee membership. Court also commended the new recruitment approach taken and the calibre of nominations and applications received.

15. Convenor’s actions

Court approved all actions taken by the Convenor.

16. Valedictions

The Convenor took a moment to thank all members of Court for giving their time, energy and commitment to Court. Those leaving include: Gerry Wilson; Jeff Fergus; Peter Hughes; Stephen Tagg; Chris Prior; Charandeep Singh; and Cat Morton.

Deputy Convenor Gerry Wilson also recorded the formal thanks on behalf of Court and the University for the Convenor’s outstanding contribution at a critical time in the University’s history and noted that his patience, determination and good humour were very much admired and appreciated. Dates for Court meetings 2012/13 can be found on the Calendar of Dates.

Jo Edwards
June 2012