University of Strathclyde

COURT

Minutes: 20 November 2009

Present: Dr J F Livingston (Convener of Court), Principal, Vice-Principal Professor K Miller, Dr J Fergus, Councillor J Findlay, Mr D Gray, Dr D Grierson, Mr R Hunter, Professor R Kalin, Mr T Monaghan, Ms M McGarry, Professor M Poustie, Dr C Prior, Mr N Sturrock, Dr S Tagg, Mr P Whyte, Dr G Wilson, Mr M Wishart.

Attending by invitation: Deputy Principal Professor A Ferguson, Deputy Principal Mrs A Hughes, Professor D Gani (Deputy Principal Designate), Professor P Winn (Deputy Principal Designate), Professor J Love (Special Adviser), Professor C Grant (Dean of Engineering), Professor S Hart (Dean of Strathclyde Business School), Professor I Hunter (Dean of Science), Dr J Mills (Vice-Dean of Law, Arts & Social Sciences), Mr B Green (Vice-Dean of Education), Professor S MacGregor (Dean Designate, Engineering).

Attending: Dr P West (Acting Chief Operating Officer), Mr D Coyle (Chief Financial Officer), Ms J Whitley (Director of Corporate Services), Mr G Roddick (Director of Estates Services), Ms S Heidinger (Acting Director of Human Resources), Dr J Edwards (Policy Officer), Mrs G McArthur (Governance and Policy Manager).

Apologies: Mr R Cleland, Mr R Crawford, Mr D Dunbar, Dr P Hughes, Dr J McInnes, Mr L McMonagle, Dr C Tedford, Ms L Whiteford

CM 4360 MEMBERSHIP

The Convener informed Court that Dr Vance had resigned from membership of Court. He also informed Court that Professor Bourne had stood down as Dean of Education, and Mr B Green, Vice-Dean of the Faculty, would be acting up until a new Dean for the merged Faculty was appointed.

CM 4361 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER (CM 4289; 4193)

Court received the Corporate Risk Register. In presenting this report Dr West, Acting Chief Operating Officer, informed Court that the approach to risk identification and management within the University had been reviewed during the past year. Ernst & Young had assisted the University in this review and had organised a meeting with senior University staff and members of the Audit Committee to discuss a different approach to risk management. It was considered that these ideas offered the University the opportunity to make significant changes to the risk management process that could add value to the excellence agenda. The ideas emerging from this meeting were currently being assessed by the Head of Internal Audit and further information would be brought to Court in the future.

The Corporate Risk Register now before Court had been prepared using the existing approach and methodology within the University. The Audit Committee had maintained a close interest in the preparation of the current Risk Register and was satisfied with it as presented. On the recommendation of the Audit Committee, Court

RESOLVED that the Corporate Risk Register be approved.
The Convener informed Court that, following receipt of an anonymous allegation against the Principal, an independent inquiry had been initiated following the terms of the University's Public Interest Disclosure Policy. The inquiry had been led by the Vice-Convener, who had been joined by two external experts nominated by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It had been a rigorous investigation and had concluded that there was no basis to the allegations against the Principal. The Principal had been completely exonerated. Court welcomed the findings of this investigation and confirmed its support for and confidence in the Principal.