MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COURT  
3 May 2013

Present: Richard Hunter (Convener)  
Principal Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Vice-Principal Professor Kenneth Miller, Ronnie Cleland, Dr Jack Perry, David Gray, Malcolm Wishart, Jeremy Beeton, Dr Archie Bethel, Robin Crawford, Gillian Hastings, Margaret McGarry, Dr Jane Morgan, Marion Venman, Councillor Stephen Curran, Dr Rose Mary Harley, Niall Sturrock, Malcolm Moir, Rebecca Maxwell Stuart, Professor Niamh Nic Daeid, Dr Veena O’Halloran, Professor Lisa Woolfson, Professor James Thomson, Professor Jim Fraser

Attending: Chancellor Lord Hope of Craighead, Hugh Hall, David Coyle, Professor Susan Hart, Professor Tony McGrew, Professor Iain Hunter, Professor Scott MacGregor, Professor Tim Bedford, Professor David Littlejohn, Sandra Heidinger, Simon Jennings, Dr Stuart Brough, Dr David McBeth, Jim McConnell, Tom Collins, Steve Graham, Lewis Allan

Apologies: None

Welcome and apologies

The Convener welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Minutes / Matters arising

• The minutes of the meeting on 26 February 2013 were approved.
• There were no matters arising.

2. University House

The Chief Operating Officer introduced a proposal to acquire a property to replace the University House situated on the Jordanhill campus. Court noted that the property would be of equivalent value to the existing University House and that the University House at Jordanhill is no longer suitable given the consolidation of the University on the John Anderson campus. Members noted that the proposal should be regarded as a transfer of existing University property closer to the John Anderson campus and that the treatment of the property for taxation purposes has been discussed with HMRC. Members commented that the University should be clear in explaining the cost of the property and the primary use of the property for hosting University business as appropriate. Court formally approved delegated authority to allow the Convener of Court plus the Treasurer or Deputy Convener (Estates) to finalise the acquisition of a property up to a maximum value of £1.25 million with a maximum total expenditure of £1.5 million including refurbishment costs.

3. Draft Code of Governance Update

Court received an initial analysis of the University’s compliance with the recently published draft Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. The Director of Strategy and Policy updated Court on the response to the draft Code from other Scottish institutions, staff and student unions and the expected response from the Scottish Government. The Convener requested that Members send more detailed comments on the draft Code to the Director of Strategy and Policy after the Court meeting. The Convener proposed that Court Business Group undertake further work examining the University’s compliance with the draft Code and make recommendations to Court. Members commented that Court could formalise the assessment of its own performance, as featured in the draft Code. Members were also supportive of...
introducing a role similar to ‘Senior Independent Director’ in the UK Corporate Governance Code, as featured in the draft Code. Court approved the proposal that Court Business Group should undertake further work examining the University’s compliance with the draft Code and make recommendations to Court.

4. Strathclyde Business School – Proposal for Additional Works

Court considered a business case for an additional £2 million to be allocated for expenditure on improvements to Strathclyde Business School. The Chief Financial Officer informed Court that extra space for postgraduate research students is required given the planned increase in the student numbers identified in the University’s Outcome Agreement. Court was informed that the project was delayed by fire damage to the James Weir building and the subsequent extra pressure on teaching space. Members noted that existing academic staff will supervise the additional postgraduate research students and that the expenditure will be self-financing if it enables the growth in student numbers planned. Members queried whether the scale of financial benefit based on student number growth could be attributed solely to the building, but supported the proposal as an important part of the University’s strategy to grow postgraduate research student numbers, consistent with the Outcome Agreement. Members discussed the calculation of scholarship funding in the business case. Court formally approved the business case and the expenditure of £2 million to undertake the additional work to Strathclyde Business School.

5. Court Membership Group and Court Business Group Reports

The Convener drew Court’s attention to the following reports provided for information:
- Court Membership Group Report of 18 April 2013
- Court Business Group Report of 18 April 2013

6. Convener’s Actions

Court homologated the actions outlined in the report and homologated two additional approvals for the Director of Human Resources to act as a Redundancy Officer on behalf of Court. These approvals related to two cases within the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting of Court will take place on Tuesday 25 June, 09.30.

LA, 8 May 2013