MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COURT
26 September 2013

Present: Richard Hunter (Convener)
Principal Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Ronnie Cleland, David Gray, Dr Archie Bethel,
Jeremy Beeton, Gillian Hastings, Margaret McGarry, Dr Jane Morgan, Marion Venman, Dr
Rose Mary Harley, Niall Sturrock, Kwaku Adjei, Roza Salih, Professor Niamh Nic Daeid, Dr
Veena O'Halloran, Professor Lisa Woolfson, Professor James Thomson

Attending: Hugh Hall, David Coyle, Professor Tony McGrew, Professor Iain Hunter, Professor Susan
Hart, Sandra Heidinger, Simon Jennings, Tom Collins, Lewis Allan

Apologies: Vice-Principal Professor Kenneth Miller, Dr Jack Perry, Robin Crawford, Councillor Stephen
Curran, Professor Jim Fraser

Welcome and apologies

The Convener welcomed new members Kwaku Adjei (USSA President) and Roza Salih (USSA Vice-
President).

The Convener congratulated the Principal on the recent award of Outstanding Contribution by a Business
Leader at the Glasgow Inspiring City Awards.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 25 June 2013 were approved.

2. Matters arising

The Convener reminded members of the following events in October: University Dinner and ceremony to
install the new University Chancellor, Lord Smith of Kelvin, and award of an honorary degree to Lord Hope
of Craighead.

3. Principal's Report

The Principal provided updates on the following key activities since the June meeting:

- Scottish Government Spending Review for financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16
- Outcome Agreements and engagement with the Scottish Funding Council
- Innovation Centres (Industrial Biotechnology, Construction, Oil & Gas, Big Data, Aquaculture)
- UK Technology Strategy Board Catapult Centres
- Engagement with UK and Scottish government representatives
- National Student Survey results and actions undertaken
- Principal’s Department Engagement Meetings – all Departments, Schools and Professional
  Services Directorates have been met, involving ~40 meetings
- International engagements – San Francisco and New York
- Major research funding awards
4. Outcome Agreement 2012-13 report

Court received the draft self-evaluation report for the Outcome Agreement 2012-13 and an update on the Scottish Funding Council’s priorities and approach for the forthcoming 2014-15 negotiations. Court members commented positively on the tone and content of the document and made suggestions for additional contextual information which would allow the document to be understood better without reference to the original Outcome Agreement document.

Court approved in principle the draft self-evaluation report and delegated authority for its finalisation to the Executive Team.

5. National Student Survey report

Court considered a summary report covering the University’s performance in the 2013 National Student Survey and recommendations for action. Court noted the University’s overall satisfaction score of 86% and immediate work undertaken by the University to analyse and respond to the survey results. Court members discussed the effect of teaching timetable changes following the James Weir fire and welcomed the student internship project on assessment and feedback completed over the summer period. Court considered means of informing students of action undertaken in response to the survey results and discussed the partnership approach between the University and Students’ Association and responsibilities at University and Faculty level for monitoring and improving teaching quality.

Court supported the action proposed and already underway in response to the survey results.

6. Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance

Court received a report on the final version of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and recommendations on its implementation at Strathclyde. The existing high level of compliance with the Code and the expected deadline for full compliance of 31 July 2014 was noted. Audit Committee was proposed as a suitable forum for reviewing the University’s compliance with the Code on an annual basis post-July 2014, with Court to receive regular updates on progress in implementation over the current academic year. Court considered declarations of interests by members and agreed that declarations of interests should feature as a standing agenda item. Court welcomed the expertise brought by the new University Chancellor as chair of the Governance Code’s steering group.

Court approved the recommendations for implementing the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance.

7. Convener’s Actions

Court homologated the actions outlined in the report to approve the:

- appointment of Paula Galloway as an external co-opted member of Audit Committee for a one year term in the first instance
- Director of Human Resources to act as Redundancy Officer on behalf of Court in the case of three staff members (two redundancies and one change from full-time time 0.5 part-time working) in the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) following a reduction in Scottish Government funding
- revised version of Ordinance 4 (minor changing in wording to better reflect the language of new staff policies agreed by Staff Committee)

8. Streamlining the University’s Regulatory Framework

Revisions to the University’s Ordinances and Regulations from Part 1 of the University Calendar were presented to Court. Court noted that some subsequent minor revisions will follow via Convener’s Action and commented positively on the clarity and streamlined size of the revised Ordinances and Regulations.

Court approved the revised Ordinances and Regulations.
9. Report for the Scottish Funding Council: internal review of quality

Court received and approved the institutional statement for the Scottish Funding Council comprising an internal review of quality and external accreditation activity during academic year 2012-13.

10. 2014 Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Court considered proposals to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the granting of the University’s Royal Charter. Court noted the wide range of major events and commemorations to be held in Scotland during 2014, including the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Members discussed how the celebrations could support the University’s global reach and profile, as well as strengthen strategic partnerships with a number of leading international universities.

Court endorsed the broad approach outlined in the paper and gave agreement in principle on conferment of a Fellowship on an eminent individual to mark the Golden Jubilee.

11. REF 2014 update

Court received and noted an update on main developments in the University’s Research Excellence Framework preparations over the summer period.


Court received and noted an update on recent activities in preparation for ELIR 2014.

13. Results of Survey of Court Members

Court received and noted the results of an online survey of Court members and actions undertaken in response. Members were requested to send any further feedback to the Convener for consideration.

The following reports were all noted by Court:

14. Senate Report
15. Executive Team
16. Court Business Group
17. Audit Committee
18. Staff Committee

19. Any other business

Court congratulated all student, staff and alumni members of the University recently announced as Commonwealth Games participants and volunteers.

Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 November 2013 at Ross Priory.

LA, 8 October 2013