

MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COURT

30 August 2021

Meeting held by videoconference

Present: Dame Sue Bruce (Convener), Paula Galloway (Vice-Convener), Professor Sir Jim McDonald (Principal), Neelam Bakshi, Kirsty Bannatyne, Virginia Beckett, Linda Brownlow, Melfort Campbell, Ronnie Cleland, Alison Culpan, Andrew Eccles, Gillian Hastings, Stephen Ingledew, Mary Jo Jacobi, Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Susan Kelly, Professor Scott MacGregor, William McLachlan, Benn Rapson, Malcolm Roughead, Peter Young, Brenda Wyllie

Attending: Professor Tim Bedford, Karen Boyle, Professor Douglas Brodie, Dr Jeff Fergus, Adrian Gillespie, Professor David Hillier, Professor Atilla Incecik, Ray McHugh, Dr Veena O'Halloran, Professor Ian Rivers, Gordon Scott, Professor Eleanor Shaw, Professor Iain Stewart, Steven Wallace, Dr Daniel Wedgwood

Apologies: Elaine Blaxter

Welcome and apologies

The Convener welcomed Court members and attendees to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to those who had recently been appointed to Court.

No interests were declared.

1. Charles Huang Foundation (CHF) Donation

This Principal summarised the background to this extraordinary meeting of Court. The University had been offered a substantial philanthropic donation from Dr Chun-Hua (Charles) Huang, a double graduate (MBA and PhD) of Strathclyde, through his charitable foundation, CHF. If agreed, the size of this donation would be highly significant not only to Strathclyde but also in the context of donations received historically in UK Higher Education. It was therefore likely to attract external attention and scrutiny. The donation reflected Dr Huang's gratitude towards the University and, in particular, towards his PhD supervisor, the late Professor Stephen Young. It was noted that the donation was not only highly significant in itself, but also marked a new relationship with a major international charitable foundation.

The Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) summarised the intended investments to be made with the donation, which had been agreed with CHF. These included a mix of research-related and teaching-related investments, with facilities, awards and programmes within the Strathclyde Business School carrying the names of Professor Young or Dr Huang, and a significant investment in the TIC Zone development within the Glasgow City Innovation District, which would be associated with building naming rights.

The CCO also summarised due diligence carried out by the University with the involvement of independent external agencies.

Members noted that the diligence work had been thorough and provided significant reassurance. Reflecting on the potential risks of any high-profile donation of this scale, members enquired as to the University's ability to withdraw from any aspect of an eventual agreement. Members were informed that standard withdrawal clauses were to be included in the agreement. **[Reserved]**

Members enquired as to preparations for publicising the donation and handling any external scrutiny that might arise. It was noted that a communications plan had been prepared and potential reactions carefully

considered. It was recognised that additional scrutiny could arise as a result of the involvement of Dr Huang's companies in government contracts that were crucial to the UK's response to the Covid-19 crisis. These dealings had been considered in detail as part of the University's diligence and lines for external communications developed accordingly. It was noted that the donation provided the opportunity to celebrate the pivotal contribution of higher education and, in particular, that of effective supervisors and academic mentors, given the donor's desire to celebrate Professor Young's contribution to his success.

Members also enquired about and received reassurances on the recognition of the CHF's charitable status in its home country, the USA, and in the UK.

Details of the intended timing of the donation, if agreed, were also discussed.

Court **approved** acceptance of the proposed gift under the arrangements set out in the paper.

[Reserved]

Date of next meeting
Tuesday 5 October 2021