

**UNIVERSITY COURT**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2020**

**Present:** Mr H Adam (Chair), Dr Robert Black, Prof J Donaldson, Mr K Fraser, Prof A Green, Mr H Grossart, Mr S Haldane, Mr G Hastie, Mr D Kearney, Prof M MacLeod, Prof G McCormac, Ms B McKissack, Ms C Morrison, Mr J Muirhead, Prof H Nehring, Rev M Roderick, Councillor C Simpson, Ms Mary Allison, Ms P Crawford, Dr P Cowell, Ms S Gordon, Prof P Hancock, Mr G MacLeod and Ms C Whyte.

**In Attendance:** Ms C Gallagher, Ms J Harrison, Mr L McCabe, Mr M McCrindle, Mr C McNally, Ms J Morrow, Prof J Phillips, Dr J Rogers, Ms E Schofield, Prof L Sparks, Mr L Spillane, Dr David Telford, Ms F Wheater, Mr M Nichol (Clerk), Prof N Wylie, Dr L Zhuang, Ms A Smith and Mr G Duff.

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair congratulated Amy Smith, Union President on her election. Members welcomed Amy to the meeting and thanked Chloe Whyte for her contribution to Court. The Chair thanked Fiona Wheater for her contribution as Clerk of the Court and welcomed Moray Nichol.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. MINUTES UC(19/20) Minutes 5**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2020 were **approved** as an accurate record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

There were no matters arising.

***COVID-19***

**4. IMPACT OF COVID-19 Oral**

Court **received** a briefing from the Principal on the impact of Covid-19 on the Higher Education sector including the political context, the University’s response to the crisis and the approach undertaken to plan a recovery from the significant disruption caused.

Court discussed the University’s response to the introduction of social restrictions, in particular implications for the student experience, forecasted tuition fee income for the forthcoming academic year, international student recruitment, the approach to maintaining sufficient funds to meet financial commitments in a timely manner, and the revolving credit facility the University can access to support working capital needs.

 Court **noted** the briefing on the impact of Covid-19.

**5. FINANCIAL FORECAST UC(19/20)49**

Court received a briefing on the University’s financial position in the context of Covid-19 and the strategic plan forecast presented to the Scottish Funding Council in response to a request for information by 24 April 2020.

It was confirmed that, with careful and robust management of working capital, the University would be covenant compliant in 2019-20 but the University would breach the net operating cashflow covenant to debt service cost in 2020-21. The University's Executive were leading the emergency response and were liaising on a daily basis with colleagues in Government, the Scottish Funding Council and with sector bodies including Universities Scotland and Universities UK in order to plan for recovery.

 Court discussed the stress testing and sensitivity analysis of the University’s financial position that had been undertaken, the critical assumptions upon which the forecasts were based, the forecasted deficits in 2019-20 and 2020-21 and mitigating actions undertaken to date.

 Court **noted** the financial forecast for 2019-20 and 2020-21.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**6. GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UC(19/20)50**

Court received a report from the meeting of Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC) held on 13 May 2020. Court considered an amendment to the composition of the Remunerations Committee, endorsed and recommended by members of GNC, to improve the overall resilience of membership within the committee, and a number of committee appointments.

Following discussion Court:

**approved** the addition of one lay member of Court, nominated and appointed by the Governance and Nominations Committee, to the composition of the Remunerations Committee;

Court **approved** the re-appointments of two members to Court and appointment of one new member of Court; and

Court **noted** the Governance and Nominations Committee approved five appointments and two re-appointments to committees reporting to Court.

***OTHER ITEMS***

**7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There was no other competent business.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

Court **noted** that the next meeting was scheduled for 29 June 2020.

**Policy & Planning**

**June 2020**