

UNAPPROVED  
CIRCULATED

AB(16/17)29

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY COURT

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 9.00 am in  
The Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus

**PRESENT:**

Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor) (Convenor); Professor A Sambell (Deputy Vice Chancellor); Ms A Andrews (School Academic Lead, Quality Enhancement); Dr S Cairncross (Assistant Principal); Dr N Cimini (School of Life, Sport & Social Sciences); Dr M Foster (School Academic Lead, Learning & Teaching); Professor E Hart (Professoriate); Dr G Hutchison (Dean, School of Life, Sport and Social Science); Dr S Logie (Director, School Support Service & Academic Registrar); Professor A McCleery (Professoriate); Dr I McIntosh (Assistant Principal); Dr D MacLean (School Academic Lead, Learning & Teaching); Dr B Neades (School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Professor James O'Kane (Dean, Business School); Professor B Paechter (School Academic Lead, Research); Mr Sagar KC (ENSA Rep); Ms A Sharp (School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Care); Dr S Smith (Dean, School of computing); Dr N Urquhart (School of Computing); Professor B Webster-Henderson (Dean, Learning & Teaching).

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr D Cloy (Assistant Secretary); Dr G Webber (University Secretary); Mr Manish Khatri (ENSA).

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr S Chowdhry (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Professor L Dryden (School Academic Lead, Research); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); Ms A Fraser (ENSA Rep); Dr A Gavris (Business School); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor T Humphrey (Dean, School of Health & Social Care); Mr M Innes (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor J Kennedy (Dean, Research & Innovation); Mr R Lannon (School Academic Lead, Quality Enhancement); Dr Eva Malone (School of Life, Sport & Social Sciences); Ms P Miller-Judd (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr L Muir (School of Computing); Mr C Rault (ENSA Rep); Mr R Subramani (ENSA President); Mr D Telford (Director, Information Services); Dr E Theodoraki (Business School).

**1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

*[The Vice Principal (Deputy Vice Chancellor) convened the meeting for items 1-4]*

1.1 The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Alison Andrews (School Academic Lead, Quality Enhancement) and Neil Urquhart (School of Computing) to their first meeting. Manish Khatri (ENSA Vice President) was also welcomed to the meeting.

1.2 The apologies were **noted**.

## **PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION**

### **2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2016 AB(16/17)16**

2.1 The minutes were **approved** as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

### **4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(16/17)17**

4.1 The Vice Principal introduced the written report and highlighted the recent Universities Scotland parliamentary reception at Holyrood at which the University had been well represented.

4.2 The wider political context impacting upon the sector including the Scottish Spending Review, Brexit and the UK Government's stance on immigration was also highlighted.

4.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the report.

### **5. WIDENING PARTICIPATION STRATEGY AB(16/17)18**

5.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the draft Widening Participation Strategy that had been developed to deliver upon the ambitions outlined in the University's Strategy 2020, the associated Student Experience and UK & EU Recruitment Strategies and the Corporate Parenting Plan. It also outlined the University's ambition to become the sector leader for widening participation in our communities.

5.2 Members welcomed the Strategy and thanks were extended to the Assistant Principal (Student Experience), Head of Widening Access and other colleagues who had contributed for their work in its development. In discussion it was noted that further activity would be undertaken in the area of inclusion for disabled students following the appointment to the role of Head of Student Wellbeing and Inclusion. It was also noted that the issue of continuation of students from SIMD 20 postcodes would be considered in detail by the Student Retention Steering Group.

5.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the draft Widening Participation Strategy.

### **6. REPORT ON MINI-REF AB(16/17)19**

6.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided an update on preparations for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise and the outcomes of the internal mini-REF exercise conducted in August 2016. It was noted that good progress had been made and that the University was on track to meet its 2020 target for the number of academics submitted to the next REF. The recommendations of the Stern review of university research funding and their

potential implications, including for the number of Units of Assessment or configuration of Units being considered for submission, was noted. Activity underway with regard to the Research Environment was also highlighted.

- 6.2 Discussion followed during which the good progress being made within Schools with regard to delivering the Research and Innovation objectives within the Academic Strategy was noted, and it was recognised that a strong focus on delivering these objectives should ensure a good result in the next REF, however it is configured. It was also noted that there would be further efforts to increase the numbers of PhD students.
- 6.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the update.

## **7. TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK**

**AB(16/17)20**

- 7.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided an update on developments with the implementation of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and provided an introduction to the proposed metrics as part of the assessment for institutional submissions in the TEF. The paper also identified the Scottish context, concerns and progression in working with TEF in a way that reflects the differences within the Scottish Higher Education sector.
- 7.2 Discussion followed during which a number of challenges and shortcomings associated with the proposed metrics were recognised.
- 7.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the update.

## **8. STUDENT POPULATION FORECAST & EARLY MATRICULATION NUMBERS FOR 2016/17**

**AB(16/17)21**

- 8.1 Academic Board received the paper which provided a summary of student enrolments and forecasts for the academic year 2016/17 on-campus student population segments. The paper did not consider students on overseas-delivered programmes, as it was too early in the academic session to provide accurate enrolment or projected student numbers for this population.
- 8.2 Discussion followed during which the significant income challenges arising from the shortfall in the achievement of student number targets in a number of segments was noted, and efforts to diversify through TNE and online delivery were noted. Other diversification opportunities, including Graduate Level Apprenticeships, were also noted.
- 8.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the update.

## **9. UPDATE ON PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESS**

**AB(16/17)22**

- 9.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the Planning Guidance for the upcoming planning and budgeting cycle for plans covering the period 2017/18 to 2019/20.
- 9.2 Academic Board **noted** the update.

## **PART B RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

Academic Board received the minutes of the following meetings to confirm that its sub-committees were continuing to meet their remits and were undertaking business on its behalf to the standard it expects.

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| 10. Minutes of Student Experience Committee meeting held on 15 November 2016<br>The minutes were <b>noted</b> .              | <b>AB(16/17)23</b> |
| 11. Minutes of Learning, Teaching & Assessment Committee meeting held on 5 October 2016<br>The minutes were <b>noted</b> .   | <b>AB(16/17)24</b> |
| 12. Minutes of Learning, Teaching & Assessment Committee meeting held on 16 November 2016<br>The minutes were <b>noted</b> . | <b>AB(16/17)25</b> |
| 13. Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee meeting held on 20 September 2016<br>The minutes were <b>noted</b> .          | <b>AB(16/17)26</b> |
| 14. Minutes of Research & Innovation Committee meeting held on 18 November 2016<br>The minutes were <b>noted</b> .           | <b>AB(16/17)27</b> |

## **PART C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **15. REPORT ON UNIVERSITY KEY RISKS APPROPRIATE TO ACADEMIC BOARD\***

**AB(16/17)28**

15.1 Academic Board **noted** the Top Risks monitoring report.

### **16. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016/17:**

Noted as:

10 March 2017

02 June 2017

All at 09.00, Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus.

**\*denotes a paper to which an exemption under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies.**