

**APPROVED
CIRCULATED**

AB(21/22)27

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

**Minutes of the meeting held Friday 26th November 2021 at 9.00 am by WebEx
Video Conference**

PRESENT:

Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor) (Convenor) [until item 10]; Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal of Research and Innovation) [Convenor from item 10]; Mr M Akinpelu (ENSA Co-President); Professor P Andras (Dean, School of Engineering & the Built Environment and School of Computing); Dr C Backhaus (School Head of Research); G Boag (Dean, Business School); Dr J Brodie (School Head of Learning & Teaching); Dr S Campbell Casey (School of Applied Sciences); Dr P Chapman (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); M Greenhalgh (Director of Strategy and Planning & Secretary to Court /Interim Vice Principal International); Professor G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences); Professor N Karodia (Vice Principal of Learning & Teaching); Dr M Leggate (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); Dr S Logie (Director, Student Services & Academic Registrar); Dr D Maclean (Dean, School of Arts & Creative Industries); J Martin (ENSA Campus Representative); C Reid (ENSA Campus Representative); Professor A Snowden (Professoriate); B Stillie (School Head of Learning & Teaching); Dr S Wells (School of Computing); Dr G Wright (School Head of Research)

IN ATTENDANCE:

C Begbie (Director of People & Services); D Cloy (Head of Governance & Risk); A McKendrick (IT Business Change Consultant) [For Item 10]; C Taylor (Director, Information Services).

APOLOGIES:

Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Professor A Machin (Dean, School of Health & Social Care); Professor A McCleery (Professoriate); Dr K Macleod (School of Arts and Creative Industries); Dr C Mahoney (School of Health & Social Care); A Michael (ENSA Campus Representative); Dr L Mora (Business School); Dr X Pierron (Business School).

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed John Martin and Connor Reid (ENSA Campus Representatives) to their first meeting. Welcome was also extended to Carolann Begbie (Director of People & Services) who was observing the meeting.
- 1.2 It was noted that Mike Thomson and Neil Urquhart had demitted membership and that elections were currently underway to fill these vacancies.

1.3 The apologies were **noted**.

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2021 AB(21/22)18

2.1 The minutes were **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Minute 5.1 – Communications regarding student engagement in Trimester 2. It was noted that this would be progressed by the VP(L&T) and Academic Registrar.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(21/22)20

4.1 Members **noted** the Principal's written report. With regard to the SFC Review of coherent provision and sustainability, members noted that a range of work would now take place over the next 2-3 years in consultation with stakeholders to take forward the outcomes.

5. COVID 19: PLANNING AND RESPONSE UPDATE

5.1 Academic Board received and **noted** an update on key developments in the University's response to the ongoing Covid-19 situation since the last meeting. In response to a members' query, it was noted that communications would be provided to students about the importance of testing ahead of the holiday period.

6. SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2021-22 AB(21/22)21

6.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the draft of the University's outcome agreement with the Scottish Funding Council for 2021/22. It was noted that a new performance framework would be developed for colleges and universities for 2022/23 and beyond as an outcome of the SFC Review and that more detail should emerge in the new year.

6.2 In discussion members noted the challenges around increasing graduate level employability. The range of factors affecting this position and the scope to influence and improve this were considered.

6.3 Thereafter, Academic **noted** the draft outcome agreement with the Scottish Funding Council for 2021/22.

7. LEAGUE TABLE PERFORMANCE AB(21/22)22

7.1 Academic Board received the paper and a presentation which provided a summary of league table rankings for the University across the three main league tables in the UK as well as the Times World University rankings, and set out the University's ambition for future league table positioning and the main drivers which would enable this. The alignment of the University's strategy and KPIs with league table metrics was emphasised and it was recognised that delivering the strategy would improve the University's league table positioning.

In discussion, ongoing and planned investments in facilities which would further improve league table positioning were also highlighted.

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

8. STUDENT ENROLMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22 AB(21/22)23

8.1 Academic Board received the paper which summarised the student enrolments against student intake targets for the academic year 2021/22 on-campus student population segments. The paper reported on actuals for Trimester 1 plus a forecast for the rest of the year. With regard to the anticipated large January intake of international students, concerns about the availability of accommodation in Edinburgh at the current time were recognised and additional support which had been put in place to help international students secure accommodation was highlighted.

8.2 Academic Board **noted** the report.

9. UPDATE ON PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESS

9.1 Academic Board received an update on the planning and budgeting process for 2022-23 and noted that work would commence in January on a project to take forward the development of the Estate Strategy. Progress with the development of a set of draft principles around a Hybrid Working framework, which would be consulted on in the New Year, was also noted.

9.2 Academic Board **noted** the update.

10. CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT UPDATE AB(21/22)24

10.1 Academic Board considered the paper and presentation which provided an overview of the strategic project to enhance Curriculum Management and outlined progress towards Curriculum Management launch in September 2022. The key deliverables, benefits, and risks were highlighted.

10.2 In discussion, members welcomed the project. The importance of recognising the project as transformational change and focusing on the change management aspects was highlighted. Members sought clarity on the governance of Curriculum Management and a summary of the deliverables and timelines for the project which it was agreed would be provided to members following the meeting and in advance of the next Academic Board meeting. It was recognised that consideration should be given to the timing of elements of the process to ensure sufficient capacity for the necessary academic engagement.

ACTION: VP(L&T) & Academic Registrar to circulate document clarifying governance matters and summarising deliverables and timelines to Academic Board before next meeting.

10.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **noted** the update.

11. SOC/SEBE INTEGRATION UPDATE

11.1 Academic Board received an update on the work which had been taking place towards integrating the School of Computing and School of Engineering and the Built Environment. It was noted that consultation and discussion was progressing within the Schools and a series of consultation meetings were planned in December. It was reported that positive feedback had been received from discussions so far and that, subject to establishing broad support from within the Schools for any proposals emerging, the matter would be brought to Academic Board in due course for update or decision. Members from the Schools welcomed the consultation and looked forward to arriving at a clear outcome.

11.2 Thereafter, 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.

12. Minutes of Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Student Experience Committee held on 17 November 2021 AB(21/22)25

12.1 Academic Board **approved** the recommendation from Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Student Experience Committee that the Committee's name be changed to Education and Student Experience Committee (with the same change be applied to the School Learning, Teaching and Assessment Committees which would become School Education and Student Experience Committees) to take effect for the 2022/23 session.

12.2 Academic Board **approved** the amendment to the language used in the Learning & Teaching Strategy to refer to the Gold Standard Curriculum as the Curriculum Enhancement Framework. Members welcomed the change in language and focus on enhancement. It was noted that this amendment would be highlighted to Court.

The minutes were **noted**.

PART C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

13. TOP RISKS MONITORING REPORT (1 OF 3)* AB(21/22)26

18.1 Academic Board **noted** the first monitoring report on top risks for 2021/22.

14. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021/22:

Noted as: 04 March 2022 and 03 June 2022 at 09.00.

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