APPROVED
CIRCULATED

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 2 December 2022 at 9.00am

PRESENT:
Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal Research & Innovation and Deputy Vice Chancellor) (Convenor); Professor P Andras (Dean, School of Engineering & the Built Environment and School of Computing); Dr J Brodie (School Head of Learning & Teaching); Dr S Campbell Casey (School of Applied Sciences); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr R Haddrill (School of Health & Social Care); Professor G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences); Professor N Karodia (Vice Principal Learning & Teaching and Deputy Vice Chancellor); V Khattar (ENSA); M Leavitt (of Health & Social Care); Dr M Leggate (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); Dr K Leitch (School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment); Dr S Logie (Director, Student Services & Academic Registrar); Dr N Pitropakis (School of Computing); Professor A Snowden (Professoriate); B Stillie (School of Arts and Creative Industries).

IN ATTENDANCE:
D Cloy (Head of Governance and Risk); A Quickfall (Head of Planning and Business Intelligence); C Taylor (Director of Information Services).

APOLOGIES:
Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor); Dr C Backhaus (Business School); Dr Peter Chapman (School of Computing); Professor C Cross (Dean, Business School); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment); N Graham (Vice-Principal, International); M Greenhalgh (Director of Strategy and Planning and Secretary to Court); Professor A Machin (Dean, School of Health & Social Care); Dr D Maclean (Dean, Schools of Arts and Creative Industries); Dr K Macleod (School of Arts and Creative Industries); Dr F McQueen (School of Applied Sciences); Professor L Mora (Business School); Dr X Pierron (Business School); Dr S Wells (School of Computing); Dr G Wright (School of Applied Sciences).

1. **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

1.1 The Convenor welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted from the Principal who was in Singapore for graduations. Welcome was extended to Dr Rosalind Haddrill and Michael Leavitt (elected academic staff members from the School of Health and Social Care) who were attending their first meeting.

1.2 It was noted that ENSA were yet to confirm the student campus representative Academic Board members for the 2022/23 session but that it was hoped these would be in place in time for the next meeting.

1.3 The apologies were **noted.**

PART A: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION

2.   MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2022   AB(22/23)17

2.1   The minutes were **approved**.

3.   MATTERS ARISING

3.1   There were no matters arising.

4.   PRINCIPAL'S REPORT   AB(22/23)19

4.1   Members **noted** the Principal's written report. The development of a National Performance Framework by the SFC was highlighted as was the challenging funding outlook. The more positive tone of discussions between the UK and EU regarding the UK's participation in the Horizon Europe research funding programme was also noted.

5.   STUDENT ENROLMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23   AB(22/23)20

5.1   Academic Board received the paper which summarised student enrolments, current and forecasted end-of-year, against student targets for the academic year 2022/23 and which set out performance against relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and against Scottish Funding Council (SFC) targets. The shortfall against SFC targets resulting from reduced recruitment and continuation rates was noted.

5.2   Discussion followed during which the challenge of recruiting to Teacher Education due to lack of government support to promote the teaching profession and reduced attractiveness of the profession as a career choice was noted. The potential financial impact of failing to achieve SFC numbers was also highlighted. Regarding the challenges to recruitment in SCEBE resulting from the reduction in college direct entrants, it was noted that the coming recession would likely lead to a recovery in college recruitment, expected to take around three years. It was agreed that immediate key priorities to address the achievement of recruitment targets were to look for ways to enhance year 1 entry through medium term actions and to focus on retention from year 1 to year 2. The range of approaches being taken to monitor and secure student engagement to improve retention were outlined. It was also suggested that consideration should be given to ways of working with Schools to help close the pandemic induced skills and development gap to ensure a smooth transition of students from School to University. Graduate Apprenticeships were also noted as an area of opportunity for achieving student number growth.

5.3   Academic Board **noted** the update.

6.   UPDATE ON PLANNING & BUDGETING PROCESS

6.1   Academic Board received an update on the planning and budgeting process for 2023/24.   It was noted that discussions on the future size and shape of the University over the coming 8-10 years would take place as part of the upcoming planning activity and would feed into project VISION (future estates and infrastructure investment project). It was noted that discussions would commence in January, and that there would be discussion at Academic Board

in due course. It was also noted that a draft proposal for the establishment of a Graduate School was being considered and would come to Academic Board later in the year following consultation with Schools and Services.

6.2   Academic Board **noted** the update.

7.   STRATEGY DELIVERY UPDATE: LEARNING & TEACHING   AB(22/23)21

7.1   Academic Board received the paper which provided an update on progress on the implementation of the Learning and Teaching Strategy.

7.2   Discussion followed during which the successful completion of user testing for the Curriculum Management System over the past few weeks, and the positive feedback received from academic staff, was noted. Thanks were extended to all involved in the project. It was noted that the Environmental Sustainability Strategy was aligned to, and supported, the Learning & Teaching Strategy. Regarding the need for students to travel between campuses for lectures, it was noted that consideration was being given to sustainable inter-campus transport options. It was agreed that the Dean of the School of Applied Sciences (Convenor of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group) would provide an update to Academic Board on this at its next meeting. **ACTION Dean, SAS.**

7.3   Academic Board **noted** the update.

8.   STRATEGY DELIVERY UPDATE: RESEARCH & INNOVATION

8.1   Academic Board received a presentation which provided an update on progress on the implementation of the Research & Innovation Strategy.

8.2   Discussion followed during which it was noted that there would be a move to focus research support towards mid to late career academics, and an update on this would be provided at the upcoming Vice-Principal's View session. It was noted that improved curriculum design was key to freeing up further research time and it was agreed that colleagues should reflect on ways to increase promotion of our research staff in the media to attract students.

8.3   Academic Board **noted** the update.

9.   LEAGUE TABLE PERFORMANCE   AB(22/23)22

9.1   Academic Board received the paper 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. The particular impact of resource per student metrics on league table performance was noted, and it was recognised that as the University continued to invest in academic staff and resources to improve the student experience and its research performance continued to grow an improvement in our league table positions would follow.

9.2   Discussion followed during which it was noted that ongoing planning discussions would inform further staff and infrastructure investments. The importance of optimising the reporting of data which was used for league tables was also recognised.

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

10.   SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2022-23

10.1 Academic Board received and **noted** an update on the development of the University's Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council for 2022/23, which would be submitted following approval by Court on 19 December. It was noted that a new performance and accountability framework would be developed in the new year.

11.   CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: NEW DEVELOPMENTS

11.1 Academic Board received and **noted** an update on the Curriculum Development Project. It was noted that recommendations would be brought to Academic Board for consideration in March 2023.

12.   STUDENT PROGRESSION UPDATE   AB(22/23)23

12.1 Academic Board **noted** the paper which provided an update on actions relating to student retention and progression, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

13.   ELIR ACTIONS UPDATE   AB(22/23)24

13.1 Academic Board received and **noted** the paper which provided an update on progress made against the recommendations arising from the University's Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR), which would be shared with the Quality Enhancement & Standards Review team in December 2022.

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.

14.   ESEC MINUTE 16 NOVEMBER 2022   AB(22/23)25

14.1   The minutes of the Education and Student Experience Committee held on 16 November 2022 were **noted**.

PART C   ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

15.   TOP RISKS MONITORING REPORT (1 OF 3)*   AB(22/23)27

15.1 Academic Board **noted** the first monitoring report on top risks for 2022/23.

16.   SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022/23:

Noted as: 10 March 2023 and 02 June 2023 at 09.00.

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