



**APPROVED  
CIRCULATED**

**AB(22/23)61**

**Edinburgh Napier University  
University Court**

## **Academic Board**

**Minutes of the meeting held Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at 9.00 am in the Rivers Suite  
Craiglockhart Campus and by Teams videoconference**

### **PRESENT:**

Professor N Antonopoulos (Vice Principal Research & Innovation and Deputy Vice Chancellor) (Convenor); Professor A Al-Dubai; Professor P Andras (Dean, School of Computing, Engineering & the Built Environment) (until item 8); Dr J Brodie (School Head of Learning & Teaching); Dr Peter Chapman (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement) (until item 8); Dr A Fonzone (School of Engineering & the Built Environment) (online until item 9); Dr S Campbell Casey (School of Applied Sciences); Dr R Haddrill (School of Health & Social Care) (online); Professor G Hutchison (Dean, School of Applied Sciences); Professor N Karodia (Vice Principal Learning & Teaching and Deputy Vice Chancellor); V Khattar (ENSA Sabbatical); M Leavitt (School of Health & Social Care); Dr K Leitch (School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment); Dr S Logie (Director, Student Services & Academic Registrar) (online); Professor A Machin (Dean, School of Health & Social Care) (online); Dr D Maclean (Dean, Schools of Arts and Creative Industries) (online); Dr K Macleod (School of Arts and Creative Industries) (online); Dr F McQueen (School of Applied Sciences) (online); J Martin (Student Representative) (online); Professor L Mora (Business School); Dr X Pierron (Business School); Professor P Robertson (Professoriate); Dr N Pitropakis (School of Computing).

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

D Cloy (Head of Governance and Risk); C Taylor (Director of Information Services); A Quickfall (Head of Planning); A McLachlan (Head of Student Recruitment and Admissions); Dr C Neill.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Professor A Nolan (Principal & Vice Chancellor); Dr C Backhaus (Business School); Professor C Cross (Dean, Business School); N Graham (Vice-Principal, International); M Greenhalgh (Director of Strategy and Planning and Secretary to Court); Dr J Hails (School of Arts & Creative Industries); Dr M Leggate (School Officer responsible for Quality Enhancement); B Stillie (School of Arts and Creative Industries); 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.
- 1.2 The apologies were **noted**.

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

### **2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2023 AB(22/23)43**

2.1 The minutes were **approved**.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **3.1 Minute 10: Pathway College**

Members noted that Court's Finance & Property Committee had approved the Pathway College to proceed at its meeting on 25 May and that work was underway to finalise and sign the agreement.

### **4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AB(22/23)45**

4.1 The Convenor introduced the Principal's written report and highlighted the challenging financial environment and the range of reviews and strategies concerning reforms to higher education in Scotland which were ongoing.

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

### **5. ANNUAL PLAN PRIORITIES AB(22/23)46**

5.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented the primary outcomes of the Planning and Budgeting process carried out in 2022/23 relating to plans and budgets for 2023/24 and key performance indicators for the University Strategy, Shaping our Future: Driving Distinctiveness, which was approved in 2020. Key points from the report were highlighted and it was noted that decisions concerning future infrastructure investments would follow the outcomes and recommendations from the ongoing work to define the University's future academic size and shape. In response to a query it was clarified that the figures in the graduate employability KPI related to UK students. It was noted that data on graduate employability was also held for international students which the Head of Planning would share with the Board.

5.2 Thereafter Academic Board **noted** the annual plan and associated Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 which would be formally approved by University Court on 26 June.

### **6. SIZE AND SHAPE DISCUSSION**

6.1 Academic Board received an update on the consultation process followed and an overview of the key points arising from discussions to date towards defining the future academic size and shape of the University. It was noted that a draft document capturing the outcomes these discussions was being developed which would be presented to Court on 26<sup>th</sup> June and brought to Academic Board at its October meeting for further discussion.

6.2 In discussion members recognised the importance of continuing to be a comprehensive university and reflected on the opportunities and challenges of interdisciplinarity, noting examples of good practice. The importance of

embedding an entrepreneurial mindset and maximising connectivity with business and industry were also recognised.

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

**7. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT: AB(22/23)47  
PGT PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT**

7.1 Academic Board considered the paper which reported on the work of the taught postgraduate (TPG) academic portfolio review that was completed during this year. The paper summarised the process that was undertaken and the outcomes agreed with the schools.

7.2 Academic Board **noted** the report.

**8. DOCTORAL COLLEGE PROPOSITION AB(22/23)48**

8.1 Academic Board received the paper which proposed the establishment of a Doctoral College within the University, for initial launch in September 2023.

8.2 Discussion followed during which members welcomed the proposal. The reporting lines of RPG leads and administrative support were clarified and the relative merits of different reporting line options for administrative support roles were considered. It was noted that an early activity of the Doctoral College would be to define its measures of success in detail but that a marked improvement in research culture and environment was anticipated within its first few years. Members noted the good progress being made to improve research student management through enhancements to the student records system and agreed the importance of clearly articulating the benefits of the Graduate College to students to strengthen perceptions of its value. The benefit to staff in creating a community through College membership was recognised. It was agreed that the term of office of for the College Lead role should be 4 years to be consistent with other similar academic leadership roles within the University.

8.3 Thereafter, Academic Board **approved** the establishment of the Doctoral College as proposed in the paper.

**9. STRATEGY DELIVERY UPDATE: INTERNATIONALISATION**

9.1 Academic Board received a presentation which updated on progress, challenges and opportunities with the implementation of the Internationalisation Strategy.

9.2 Discussion followed during which members were assured that appropriate due diligence and scrutiny had been undertaken regarding the pathway college proposal. It was also noted that, in the event of higher than anticipated conversion of international applicants, there were mechanisms in place to enable numbers to be capped.

9.3 Academic Board **noted** the update presentation.

**10. QUALITY FRAMEWORK ANNUAL REVIEW** **AB(22/23)49**

- 10.1 Academic Board received the paper which reported on the outcome of the routine monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Quality Framework during 2022/23.
- 10.2 Academic Board **noted** the annual report on the effectiveness of the Quality Framework and **approved** that the changes to the Quality Framework presented in Appendix 1 may be signed off as the final version of the Quality Framework prior to its publication.

**11. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS 2023/24** **AB(22/23)50**

- 11.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented proposed amendments to the University's Academic regulations for academic session 2023/24, following approval by Quality and Standards Committee. In response to a comment it was noted that the penalty under 7.5.5 for late submission of coursework would be considered further at next review.
- 11.2 Academic Board **approved** the amendments to the Academic Regulations as detailed in Appendix one and two and **granted permission** for additional amendments to regulations pertaining to the Embedded Pathway College, Assessment Policy, Extenuating Circumstances, Extensions and Deferrals Regulations, and Research regulations as noted in paragraph 6 to be approved via Convenor's Action prior to or during 2023/24. Permission was also granted for Convenor's Action to be taken prior to or during 2023/24 to approve final small amendments to the new Student Academic Integrity & Graduate Academic Integrity Regulations.

**12. ANNUAL REPORT ON QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY TO THE SFC** **AB(22/23)51**

- 12.1 Academic Board received the paper which presented a draft of the Annual Report on institution-led review and enhancement activities to the Scottish Funding Council.
- 12.2 Academic Board **approved** the draft report for onward transmission to Court.

**13. STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON ACADEMIC BOARD** **AB(22/23)52**

- 13.1 Academic Board received the paper which updated on actions agreed with ENSA to secure engaged student representation on Academic Board following discussion of the issue at the last meeting of Academic Board.
- 13.2 In discussion it was noted that discussions were taking place between the University and ENSA to establish if there were any implications arising from the proposed payment of financial recompense for committee attendance to elected student representatives on the maximum allowable terms for paid elected student union office under the Education Act 1994. It was clarified that the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 required that the student representatives on the Academic Boards of Scottish universities be elected.
- 13.3 Thereafter, Academic Board
- i) Noted** the actions agreed with ENSA to improve student representation on Academic Board

ii) **Approved** the proposed amendment to Academic Board's constitution detailed in the paper

iii) **Approved** the proposed amendment to the constitutions of Quality & Standards Committee and Education & Student Experience Committee as detailed in the paper.

**14 ACADEMIC CALENDAR TO 2028/29**

**AB(22/23)53**

14.1 Academic Board **approved** the Academic Year Calendar for 2028/29 in the rolling six-year academic calendar and **approved** a change in terminology to refer to the Christmas and Easter breaks as Winter and Spring break from 2023/24 onwards.

**15. HONORARY AWARDS FOR APPROVAL\***

**AB(22/23)54**

15.1 Academic Board **approved** the Honorary Award nominations recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee for onward transmission to Court for ensorsement.

**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.

**16.** Minutes of Research & Innovations Committee meeting held on 23 March 2023

**AB(22/23)55**

The minutes were **noted**.

**17.** Minutes of Research & Innovations Committee meeting held on 25 May 2023

The minutes were not available in time for presentation to the meeting and would be put forward to the next meeting of Academic Board.

**18.** Minutes of Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Student Experience Committee meeting held on 17 May 2023

**AB(22/23)57**

The minutes were **noted**.

## **PART C ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **19. GRADUATE OUTCOMES**

**AB(22/23)58**

19.1 Academic Board **noted** the paper which summarised the latest results from the Graduate Outcomes survey, covering Edinburgh Napier graduates from 2020/21.

### **20. COLLABORATIVE PROVISION COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT AND REGISTER OF ACTIVITY\***

**AB(22/23)59**

20.1 Academic Board **noted** the paper which provided Academic Board with the University's Register of Collaborative Provision to update on the range of collaborative activity undertaken at School and University level and the awards of the University made to those who study with partners both in the UK and overseas.

### **21. TOP RISKS MONITORING REPORT (3 of 3)\***

**AB(22/23)60**

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

### **22. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022/23**

Noted as:

13 October 2023

24 November 2023

08 March 2024

07 June 2024

All Fridays at 9.00am, Rivers Suite, Craiglockhart Campus

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