

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COURT

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 February 2021
at 3.00 pm by Webex Video Conference**

Present: J Boyle (Chair); R Adams; Professor N Antonopolous; Lord Brodie; J Chittleburgh; Professor S Cross; A Duggal; H Fyfe; C Guest; A Houghton; C Ibanez; Dr S Jiwa; D Mohan; Dr S Moir; S Nairn; Dr H Patrick; G Scholefield; Professor A Scullion; Professor L Yellowlees.

Apologies: S Brannan; G Cullen; J Morrison-Ross; Professor A Nolan; M Thomson; N Woodcock.

In attendance: D Cloy (Secretary to Court); D Bird (ENSA CEO); G Boag (Dean, Business School); G Day (Interim Director of People & Services); N Graham (Vice Principal (International); M Greenhalgh (Interim Dean , SEBE & SACI); G Hutchison (Dean, SAS); S Logie (Director of Student Services & Academic Registrar); A Machin (Dean, SHSC); D Maclean (Dean, SACI); A McGoff (Director of Finance & Operations); M Mackay (Administrative Assistant); C Millar (Head of HR Capability & Engagement); J Rees (ENSA Chair); C Taylor (Director of Information Services); Professor A Tobin (Vice Principal, Learning & Teaching); R Tomlinson;

The following single item formal business meeting of Court was followed by a Court/SLT strategy session with presentations and discussions on Brand Value Proposition and Brexit led by Naomi Graham and Geoff Day.

1. ENSA CONSTITUTION

- 1.1. Court received the paper which reported that, following Court's approval in principle of the revised Constitution of Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) at its meeting on 2 November 2020, ENSA had held a referendum of the student body to gain approval for the new Constitution as required under the current Constitution. It was noted that the full 10% membership requirement voting in favour of the new Constitution had not been achieved, and this had been particularly difficult given the inability to physically promote the referendum to students on campus due to the ongoing pandemic, however out of the 56% of the target number that had voted, 96% had voted in favour of the change which was seen as an indication of support for the changes from among the student body.
- 1.2. Discussion followed during which concern was expressed that the 10% voting threshold as required by the Current Constitution had not been met, and there

was reluctant to approve at this time on that basis. It was agreed that the legal position and any risks to Court and ENSA from approving the new Constitution without the referendum requirement having been fully met required further consideration, and that legal advice would be sought from the University's solicitors. Court recognised the difficulty in achieving the 10% voting figure and discussed potential adjustments to the provision in the new Constitution, either in terms of changing it to a simple majority vote, or a potentially lower, more achievable threshold. It was recognised that it would be desirable to be able to run the upcoming Sabbatical elections on the basis of the proposed revised schedule to the new Constitution, and agreed that options in terms of any approvals permitted under the current Constitution for enabling that element to progress in the meantime should be explored. It was agreed that the Constitution would not be approved at this meeting and that the Chair of Court would consider next steps with ENSA.

2. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS / OTHER UPDATES

2.1. The dates of future Court meetings were **noted**.