

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY COURT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2024

Present: Julie Ashworth
Martin Barker
Eleanor Bentley (up to minute 292)
Susan Bodie
George Boyne
Martina Chukwuma-Ezike (in the Chair for minutes 249 to 251)
Owen Cox
Iain Grant
Luke Halliday
Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo
Iain Mackay (via Teams)
Gary McRae
Helen Martin (up to minute 298)
Lyndsay Menzies (except for minutes 279 to 282)
Caryn Miller (via Teams) (except for minute 245)
Anne Minto
Charlotte Pope-Williams
Alison Rankin
Diane Skåtun
Robert Traynham (except for minutes 247 to 257)
Adaku Ufere
Neil Vargesson
Sai Shraddha S Viswanathan
Ilia Xypolia

In attendance: Iain Torrance KCVO (up to minute 283)
Seonag Mackinnon (via Teams)
Tracey Slaven (University Secretary)
Christina Schmid (up to minute 283)

Senior Management Team members:

Nick Forsyth (for minutes 283 to 285)
Karl Leydecker
Mark White

Clerk: Bruce Purdon

Apologies: Joachim Schaper, Otto Thoresen

NOTE BY CLERK: CLOSED BUSINESS SESSION OF 18 JUNE 2024

247 The Court also met on 18 June in closed session to discuss:

- (i) The Principal's Annual Performance Review;
- (ii) The Senior Governor's Annual Performance Review

248 The minutes of those discussions are restricted to Court members and held separately.

WELCOME AND RECTOR'S REPORT

249 The Rector opened the meeting and welcomed Christina Schmid, President Elect of the Students' Association who was observing the meeting.

250 The Rector noted that a number of members would leave Court over the course of the summer and that this would therefore be the last meeting for Susan Bodie, Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo, Iain Mackay, Lyndsay Menzies, Anne Minto, Charlotte Pope-Williams, and Sai Shraddha S Viswanathan. The Court joined the Rector and Senior Governor in thanking them all for their respective contributions to the Court and to the University more generally.

251 The Rector provided a written report on recent activities undertaken in the role (CT20240619_1). The Rector noted that issues related to assessment for had been raised by some students and that these were being reviewed by the University with engagement from the Students' Association.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REMINDER OF COURT AND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

252 The Court noted the standing reminder of the responsibilities of Court and members as charity trustees (CT20240619_2). No declarations of interest in the agenda were noted.

MINUTES

253 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024 were received (CT20240619_3).

254 In discussion, it was agreed that the following amendments should be made:

- Minute 209 – to replace the word material with financial.
- Minute 231 – to remove the reference to an individual and to provide clarification to the wording with regard to staff turnover in the student recruitment team.

255 Subject to the changes above being made, the Court approved the minutes.

ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING

256 The Court received and noted a report on Matters Arising and the Court Action Log (CT20240619_4). This included an update for assurance on the University's capacity to agree and operate new transnational education and international partnerships.

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR GOVERNOR

- 257 The Senior Governor provided a report to Court on meetings and activities they had undertaken since the last meeting (CT20240619_5). The Senior Governor also reported on an Education and Business Conference, at which the University had been represented.

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND UPDATE ON THE SECTOR/OPERATING CONTEXT

- 258 The Court received a written report (CT20240619_6) on developments within the University and in the wider higher education sector, which the Principal supplemented with an oral report.
- 259 In discussion, the following key points were noted:
- With campaigning in the General Election ongoing, there was a freeze on any new Government policy announcements. It was noted that two political parties were advocating electoral policies involving increased restrictions on international students coming to the UK. The Principal noted the University was hosting an election hustings event in the coming days and potentially a further one focused on Energy.
 - The Principal also reported on the recent Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, where the University had risen to Top 10 in the UK and Top 50 in the world. The Principal noted the achievement this represented by staff across the University. In further discussion, it was noted that some other rankings, such as the QS rankings, had been more challenging for Scottish universities. The Principal noted that this was seen by many to reflect the greater investment being made by some other countries in their universities, relative to declining investment in Scotland. This was being highlighted by the sector to the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government.
 - The Principal noted that, as reported in the budgets paper later in the agenda, the University had made good progress against the savings target since the last meeting and had consolidated the institution's financial position.
 - The Principal also updated on Court on the University's partnership with AFG in Qatar, including requests in relation to the financial revenue sharing arrangements. The Principal noted the importance of the partnership to the University, directly but also because of the wider opportunities it opened up in the region.
 - The potential impact of the Migration Advisory Committee Review of the Graduate Route to a post-study visa for international students was discussed, in particular with regard to the use of recruitment agents by universities and whether this would impact negatively on recruitment. The Principal noted his concern that the negative impact had already been made due to UK Government policy in recent years.
 - Widening access to higher education and whether the level of staffing in the University dedicated to this was sufficient was discussed. The Principal noted that it remained a focus for the University and that while dedicated resource was important, entry criteria and admissions

processes were equally, if not more important, to achieving a positive change.

- The Secretary & Chief Operating Officer updated Court on plans for recruitment to staff positions in Development and Alumni Relations.

REIMAGINING OUR CAMPUSES REPORT

- 260 The Court received a paper (CT20240619_7) and presentation on the report and recommendations of the Reimagining our Campuses Project Board.
- 261 The Court was reminded that the remit of the Project had been to undertake a comprehensive re-imagining of the configuration and use of the estate across the Aberdeen campuses to ensure that management, investment, and development of them underpinned and supported the delivery of Aberdeen 2040 ambitions, encouraged interdisciplinarity and met the University community's needs in the post-pandemic world. The results of the review were intended to inform the development of the 10-Year Capital Plan.
- 262 The report detailed the approach to the review, which was undertaken in two stages. The first stage had been an information gathering phase. The second stage had been a creative re re-imagining of the future of our campuses via four working groups aligned to the key themes of Education, Research & Innovation, Sustainability (inc. Net Zero), and Inclusive, Accessible & Wellbeing. A fifth theme, Affordable, Efficient & Effective, was subsequently added in cognisance of the University's current financial context.
- 263 The Court noted that while all the outputs from the working groups would have a role in supporting development of a future Estates Strategy and Masterplan, the most significant strategic priority to emerge from the project was the need to deliver an efficient, effective and sustainable estate. Linked to this, the overarching recommendation from Reimagining our Campuses was that a series of programmes and projects be adopted to rationalise the estate with a view to maximising efficiency and alignment with Aberdeen 2040 priorities.
- 264 The report then detailed a total of 18 supporting recommendations, organised into *strategic*, *operational* and *enabling actions*.
- 265 The Court discussed the report and its recommendations in depth, with the key points from this being noted as follows:
- It was noted that representations to Court from some representatives of the Old Aberdeen community had been received. The need for proactive engagement and communication with key stakeholders not just in terms of statutory requirements, including the local communities of Old Aberdeen and Foresterhill, was recognised and would be included in the communications planning as part of any next steps. In this context, it was agreed it would be helpful to provide Court members with a communications aide memoir.

Action: Interim Director of Public Affairs

- The implications of hybrid/working from home, both positive and negative, particularly in an educational and research setting were discussed. It was suggested the challenge was how to make the campuses physical spaces where people preferred to work and which could stimulate and facilitate academic interaction that supported teaching and research ideas. It was noted that some staff held strong views on the need for single office space, with others noting it was how communal office space was designed that mattered rather than it there being single space offices.
- Court was assured that the report had recognised that postgraduate taught students had distinctive needs from the campuses. More broadly, it was confirmed that the report acknowledged that what represented 'high quality teaching spaces' would vary between academic discipline and different types of students.
- It was suggested that consideration be given to emphasising further the student dimension in the Report. The Court was assured, however, that the Students' Association had been engaged in the process and that their input had been taken into account and was documented in a further supporting paper which was considered too operational for Court. It was suggested, however, that consideration be given in any next steps to explaining where the key feedback points from key stakeholder groups, such as students, had been and how this had been taken on board.
- Court was assured that the report sought to address both current usage of sports facilities and the accessibility of the campuses. It was also acknowledged that creating more 'public realm' spaces on the campuses would be beneficial.
- The need for sustainability and net zero considerations was very much central to the project's considerations and would be part of next steps. The University intended to engage further with experts and other higher education institutions who had recent experience in this area from similar projects.
- It was confirmed that resourcing of reimagined campuses was outwith the scope of the Project and that this would be part of separate Estates master planning and Capital Planning processes.
- A number of members highlighted the breadth and scale of the Project, the extensive recommendations and that it also involved aspects of significant cultural change and technology. The importance, therefore, of both pace and the necessary professional, specialist and capital resources to deliver any agreed next steps and priorities would be critical. Court was reassured that the next stage would be to identify next steps, prioritisation, including any 'quick wins' from the recommendations, and an implementation plan.

266 The Court:

- Endorsed the report in terms of its general direction of travel;
- Noted the supporting recommendations.
- Agreed that it should receive a prioritisation and implementation plan at its September or November 2024 meetings

Action: Senior Vice-Principal

FINANCE

Budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26

267 The Court received the University's proposed budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26, together with the supporting underlying assumptions, risk analysis, and an assessment of performance metrics and loan covenant compliance (CT20240619_8.1). The report also included the 10-year cash flow projection based on the two-year plan and a draft rolling investment plan for the digital and physical estate which informed the cash flow.

268 The Court noted that the budget was based on the Financial Recovery Plan as approved by Court in February 2024 and that the strategic aspirations of the budget remained rooted in Aberdeen 2040, with a clear recognition of the need for financial sustainability to include diversification of the ways in which our education is open to all, building Transnational education and online education options, and the amplification of the academic and commercial impact of our research. The budget predicted a significant reduction in the underlying deficit to £6.7m in financial year 2024/25 and to £2.1m (deficit) in 2025/26.

269 The Court noted that while progress against the savings targets set out in the Financial Recovery Plan (£18.5m against a target of £19.7m) had been good, the outcome of the budget process included £5.3m of financial pressure to achieve the specified deficit in 2024/25. The aim was to achieve this through the primary strategic objective of growing revenues, by continuing to address the remaining Operating Costs savings up to previously allocated targets, and through natural turnover (gap savings) through 2024/25. The School and Directorate budgets also included an allocation of savings for 2024/25 to achieve the specified deficits and it was noted that the allocation of these targets in total between Schools and Directorates, and across each School and Directorate, remained to be finalised.

270 The Court noted that in 2025/26, a further £13.8m of additional income and/or savings was required to achieve the specified deficit and that this had been allocated as a £9.7m staff saving and £4.1m operating cost saving.

271 The Court noted that given the ongoing challenges in the external environment in the UK for recruitment of international students, for International Postgraduate Taught fees, the original assumption in the Financial Recovery Plan of a 15% reduction in fees from 2023/24 actuals had been increased to a 25% reduction.

- 272 The Court also noted that as reported in the Finance & Resources Committee Report to Court, it recommended the budget to Court for approval on the basis that Court should ensure its satisfaction with the budget's appendices due to these either not all being available to the Committee or received without sufficient time for the Committee to have scrutinised them fully.
- 273 The Court noted that the University was a participant in the U.S Department of Education's Federal State Aid Programme (US ED). The University had approximately 150 students receiving over \$3 million dollars of Federal Loans via the Programme and as such it was an important recruitment tool for the US Market. The report detailed that the University had been deemed to have breached the Accounts lodging deadline for the last 2 years (2021/22 and 2022/23). Whilst the 2022/23 Accounts were delayed due to the going concern issue, the 2021/22 accounts were deemed late due to a sector wide issue regarding wording in UK audit opinions. The University had appealed the position but this had been unsuccessful. As a consequence of the deemed breach, the Department of Education mandated that the University take additional measures to remain a participant in the Programme, the key one being is to lodge financial protection with it at the level of 10% of funds received. The University was, therefore, pursuing this option in the form of a letter of credit through its legal and financial advisors.
- 274 From the subsequent discussion of the report, the following key points were noted:
- Court sought assurances around the deliverability of the budget, both in terms of the projected level of revenue growth and its savings targets. It noted that additional prudence had been built in, for example in terms of the assumptions on the level of reduction in international PGT students which had been increased and decreasing the expected level of savings from staff turnover. It was acknowledged, however, that should income growth be significantly less than the levels forecast, then Senior Management would need to identify further measures to deliver the budget target. It was suggested that in such a scenario, if a further voluntary severance scheme was one of the measures required, Court would expect to see this being strategically focused.
 - It was agreed that Court should receive updates at each meeting on progress against the targets overall and within Schools and Directorates. The Chief Financial Officer would also provide further information to illustrate where there was a gap in savings still to be identified and therefore where potential pressure points in delivery of the budget were likely to be. It was suggested that sharing the timeline that had been prepared for Audit and Risk Committee with Court would be helpful.
Action: Chief Financial Officer
 - It was also asked that following the September/October student intake, the Court be updated on whether the University was in a position to

avoid a 'material uncertainty' statement being required by the auditors in the 2023/24 annual accounts. **Action: Chief Financial Officer**

- The need to ensure that investment in the University's IT infrastructure was sufficient to ensure the environment supported staff and students in a way which was competitive was noted.
- It was clarified that the level of funds disbursed to the University from the Development Trust SCIO was not within the University's control.
- The question of whether Court should have oversight of proposed changes to Professional Services Directorates was raised and it was agreed to share the most recent paper and presentation on this with Court [*Note by Clerk: Made available in Decision Time Resources area following the Meeting*]

275 Following discussion and scrutiny of the budget proposals, the Court:

- Approved a two-year budget, based on the Financial Recovery Plan, with an underlying deficit of £6.7m in 2024/25 and £2.1m in 2025/26.
- Approved the 10-year cash projection
- Noted that the budget met the new financial covenants (with a degree of headroom) and accommodated the risks, opportunities and sensitivities outlined in the report.
- Noted the position with the U.S Department of Education Federal Student Aid programme and the intention to lodge a letter of credit.

Strategic Plan Forecast to Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

276 The Court received and approved the Strategic Plan Forecast (CT20240619_8.2) financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26, for submission to SFC by 30 June 2023).

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN PLAN

277 The Court received a presentation and paper detailing the proposed plan for a major new philanthropic fundraising campaign (CT20240619_9). It also received the associated Case for Support which articulated the University's core fundraising messages, what it would seek to accomplish with the support of donors and associated campaign related visuals in proof of concept stage.

278 The Court noted that the campaign plan had been prepared to:

- (i) Establish the basic fund-raising principles, assumptions, and definitions on which a University-wide, phased campaign could be launched and delivered.
- (ii) Establish a timetable for key activities required for the campaign. This plan will be the unifying master blueprint for the University's Development and Alumni Relations programme through to the successful conclusion of Phase 1 and transition into Phase 2.
- (iii) Outline the overall "core" operational requirements for the campaign, including the organisational structure, both volunteer and professional,

and to summarise supporting requirements of each Development & Alumni Relations function with regards to the campaign.

279 The Court noted the Plan set out a strategic framework for successful implementation and delivery of the campaign, including parameters, goals and objectives, and priority projects for fundraising, all of which sat under three key themes: Our Students, Our Research, Our Innovation.

280 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE** The Campaign would be in two phases with a working goal of [REDACTED]. Phase 1 was expected to launch in early 2025 and likely to conclude in 2027 with a target of [REDACTED]. Phase 2 would launch thereafter with a target of [REDACTED].

281 The following points were noted from the Court's discussion:

- Court sought assurance on how the financial targets of the campaign had been reached and tested against the University's donor pool and prospects. It was acknowledged that the campaign was ambitious and would be challenging and would depend on the University growing its donor pool and its corporate engagement. The proposed monetary targets were considered to be comparable to the University's peers in Scotland.
- A number of potential areas were suggested where the University's reputation was particularly strong and could help the campaign, including Divinity, the Rowett Institute, Medicine (noting also the University's position as home to the first Chair of Medicine in the English speaking world) and the University's connection with five Nobel Prize winners.
- It was confirmed that charitable research grants could be included in campaign fundraising totals. It was suggested that in future progress reports to Court it would be helpful to include a breakdown of the split between this and other broad categories of funding contributing to the overall total.
- Feedback was provided and noted on the campaign visuals. It was noted that these were at proof of concept stage and would be tested further with focus groups and stakeholders.
- It was clarified that the Development Trust SCIO Board had confirmed that it was for the University to first determine what its priorities for philanthropic support were and to then engage with the Trust on the campaign plan.
- The level of staffing resource that would support the campaign was discussed. It was confirmed that the scope of the plan had been developed based on the available level of staff resource to support it. The University would, of course, look to add to that resource should its financial position enable it to do so.

- It was noted that Court included individuals who could support with advice on GDPR and how in that context to enable greater interaction with alumni.
- The role of Court members in supporting and acting as ambassadors for the campaign would be important. It was suggested that members would find it helpful to receive further guidance and support on how they could most effectively do this at an appropriate stage.

Action: Senior Vice-Principal/Campaign Director

282 The Court approved the campaign plan and endorsed the Case for Support and campaign visuals.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES for 2024/25

283 The Court held a workshop discussion to help develop the University's strategic priorities for 2024/25, within the overarching framework of Aberdeen 2040. This was informed by a briefing paper to enable and stimulate discussion (CT20240619_10) which set out three potential strategic priorities:

- Quality
- New Revenue
- Ways of Working

284 Detailed feedback on each of the three potential priorities was received from each discussion group.

285 The Court endorsed the three strategic priorities and noted that the discussion would now inform the development by management of an Operational Plan and priorities for 2024/25 which would be considered formally by Court in September.

REPORTS FROM THE SENATE AND COURT SUB-COMMITTEES

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE (INCLUDING STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER)

286 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 28 May 2024 (CT20240619_11.3).

287 The Court approved, on the recommendation of the Committee:

- Proposals for amendments to the University Financial Regulations and Delegated Authority Schedule in line with the key elements of the new institutional Costing and Pricing Policy for Work with External Entities, which had been approved for implementation under delegated authority by the Commercialisation Committee in March 2024.
- Proposals for a new format Strategic Risk Register, including eight high-level strategic risks, a revised risk template and updated guidance for risk scoring.

SENATE

- 288 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by Senate at its meeting on 8 May and 5 June 2024 (CT20240619_11.1).
- 289 The Court discussed the proposed duration of the voting period for the Rectorial election and it was confirmed this was in line with practice elsewhere.
- 290 The Court noted that Senate had held an additional meeting on 8 May to discuss the University's financial position and recovery plan. It was noted that the Senate had requested to see the Financial Recovery Plan document in either full or redacted form. Court was advised that while a number of parts of that document were commercially sensitive, the key elements of the Plan had been provided to the University community through a range of communications and presentations. The key financial elements of the Plan were in the Budget paper before Court and the intention was to share that paper, with redactions if necessary, with the community. In addition, the Financial Recovery Group had been widened to include Senate and other representation from the University community beyond management. The importance of maintaining trust and the role of transparency in doing so was noted by Court. Equally, it was concluded, that the University was providing appropriate information and transparency and that in this specific matter, was doing so to a greater extent than might be seen in many other organisations.
- 291 The Court, on the recommendation of the Senate, approved the following:
- 1) Rector Election: The timetable for the election for the triennial election for the University Rector, to take up office on 1 January 2025:
 - Voting Opens 9am on Tue, 19 November 2024
 - Voting Closes 5pm on Thu, 21 November 2024
 - Results Declared 6pm on Thu, 21 November 2024
 - 2) Resolution: Changes to Regulations for Various Degrees for introduction in academic year 2024/2025 - encompassing students studying under the articulation agreement with Harbin Engineering University; Regulations for the Degrees of Medicine and Dentistry & Physicians Associate; and Regulations for Postgraduate Study.
 - 3) Resolution 'Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic).
 - 4) That both the Resolutions at (2) and (3) be passed forthwith, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 (2) of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, so that the amended provisions may be applied with effect from the date on which they are passed by the University Court.
 - 5) Resolution: Changes to Regulations for Various Degrees – this being a Resolution approved by Court on 24 April subject to the further consultation required by the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 being undertaken through the Business Committee of the General Council and

making it publicly available for comment. That process having been concluded and with no further comments received, the Court formally approved the Resolution.

GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- 292 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by the Governance and Nominations Committee at its meeting on 3 June 2024. (CT20240619_11.2), to provide an overview of the assurances obtained.
- 293 The main item of business noted was a report on recruitment to four vacancies for Independent Members of Court and recommendations for appointment from the sub-panel of the Committee. The panel had been established with delegated authority to make recommendations for appointment to Court. It recommended appointment of:
- Lesley Birse as an Independent Member/Chair of the Remuneration Committee.
 - Ewan Cameron as an Independent Member.
 - Fiona Islam Choudhury as an Independent Member.
- 294 It was noted that the panel proposed that a further recruitment exercise be conducted for the remaining fourth vacancy. The Panel, noting the priority skills identified via the Court's Skills Matrix, and the skillsets held by the recommended appointees, proposed that the recruitment focus on a skillset of sustainability, net zero and energy transition.
- 295 In discussion, it was confirmed that the range of advertising and networks used had been extended from the 2023 process and that a more diverse pool of applicants had been gathered. The Court discussed the potential focus of recruitment on diversity rather than skills, but a number of members noted the risks of 'tokenism' that might arise from such an approach and that the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance required the Court to adopt a skills based approach.
- 296 The Senior Governor confirmed that with the appointment of the three new members, the appointment to the vacancy for the Chair of Finance & Resourcing Committee arising on 1 August would be progressed.
- 297 The Court approved:
- On the recommendation of the sub-panel of the Committee, the three appointments to vacancies for Independent Members of Court, one of which also encompassed appointment to the role of Chair of Remuneration Committee, subject to due diligence and references to confirm eligibility of appointment, following which dates for the commencement of the appointment of each new member will be confirmed in consultation with them.

- The focus and process for recruitment to the remaining independent member vacancy, this being a skillset of sustainability, net zero and energy transition.
- On the recommendation of the Committee, a change to the Committee's composition and consequential change to the wording of the Court's agreed role description for the Senior Independent Member. The composition currently included the Senior Independent Member as a member. The change proposed was for the Senior Independent Member to be either a member or have the right to attend/receive papers.

298 The Court also noted that the Committee had reviewed the Rector-Senior Governor Protocol and had confirmed that it considered the protocol to remain fit for purpose and that no changes were required.

PARTNERSHIP, NEGOTIATING & CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

299 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by the Partnership, Negotiating & Consultative Committee at its meeting on 22 May 2024.(CT20240619_11.4).

300 In discussion, it noted that in the report the University and College Union had raised concerns regarding the operation of the University's Investigation Procedure. These were noted by management and that they would be considered further by the Policy Review Group.

301 The Court, on the recommendation of the Committee, received and approved the Collective Agreement on the Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

302 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by the Remuneration Committee since February 2024 (CT20240619_11.5), and the Committee's annual report for 2023/24.

303 In discussion, it was noted that the Committee had been advised in February that some of the Principal's objectives for the year were no longer achievable given the sector's and the University's circumstances. The reporting of this to Court in February was queried but it was confirmed that there had been no change made to the objectives, it regarded their achievability and that this was interlinked with the agreement by Court of the Financial Recovery Plan

Note by Clerk: Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the relevant wording of the Remuneration Committee's June report to Court (section 4.12) was not intended to suggest a change to the Principal's objectives had been agreed in February, but instead that the Committee had agreed (in the sense that it concurred) that some of the objectives were no longer achievable given the change in the sector context.

- 304 The Court, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved its annual report for 2023/24.

COMMERCIALISATION COMMITTEE

- 305 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by the Commercialisation Consultative Committee at its meeting on 21 May 2024 (CT20240619_11.6).
- 306 The Court briefly discussed the level of engagement from Schools on growing new commercialisation activity.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING COMMITTEE

- 307 The Court received a report on the main items of business considered by the Finance and Resourcing Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2024 (CT20240619_11.7).

AOCB

- 308 In discussion, it suggested that the Court might benefit from receiving a presentation on growth plans for online delivery and the development of the University's Digital Education Strategy. It was agreed to note this as a potential item for future. **Action: Clerk**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 309 The Senior Governor proposed that the Court extend the duration of its meeting on 24 and 25 September 2024. This would now commence at 2pm on 24 September and conclude at 4pm on 25 September. All further Court meetings in 2024/25 were also to be extended to conclude at 4pm rather than 3pm.

CLOSED SESSION: ANNUAL REPORT ON COURT AND COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS

- 310 The Court then met in a closed business session for members only, with the Secretary, to consider the annual report on the review of Court and Court sub-committee effectiveness. The minute of this part of the meeting is confidential and held separately.