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**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held on 4 December 2019**

**Present:** Professor G McCormac (Chair), Professor M Cusack, Dr A Desbois, Dr P Dudchenko, Professor K Grant, Dr L Forbat, Dr A Gilburn, Professor A Green, Dr E Macleod, Professor M MacLeod, Mr J McDairmid, Professor R Oram, Professor J Phillips, Ms A Smith, Professor L Sparks, Ms J Stevenson, Dr I Tabner, Professor J Tinson, Ms C Whyte, Dr C Wilson.

**In Attendance:** Ms I Beveridge, Dr A Griffiths (Secretary), Dr D Telford, Ms J Morrow

**Apologies:** Professor A Bowes, Professor I Doherty, Professor J Donaldson, Mr J Douglas, Professor H Nehring, Professor R Norman, Dr E Macleod, Dr D McArdle, Professor M Priestley, Ms E Schofield, Ms J Stevenson, Professor T Whalley, Professor N Wylie.

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| **1.** | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** | **AC (19/20) Minutes 1** | | | | | |
|  | The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2019 were approved**.** | | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA** |  | | | | | |
|  | Council noted that the following matters were arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda:  All vacant student representation positions on Academic Council had been filled, and the four vacancies from the professoriate remained vacant with recruitment for those four vacancies continuing.  Following endorsement from Academic Council, the Annual Report to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-Led Review in 2018/19 (AC (19/20) 4), proceeded for onward transmission to University Court, where it was approved at the meeting of 23 September 2019. Following approval it was signed-off in endorsement by the Vice-Chair of Court and submitted to the Scottish Funding Council. | | | | | | |
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| **3.** | **STATEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND**  **UPDATE ON THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT** | | **Oral Report**  **AC (19/20) 8** | | | | |
|  | Academic Council ­received and noted statements from the Chair and an update on the external environment on the following matters:  **Industrial Action**  The Chair noted that eight days of industrial action occurred at the University between Monday 25 November and Wednesday 4 December 2019 as a result of two disputes, one on changes to the USS pension scheme, and another on pay and working conditions.  **Recent Awards and Accolades**  The Chair noted that the University had recently been awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for the work of the Institute of Aquaculture. It was noted that the award forms part of the UK honours system and represents one of the highest academic honours.  The Chair further noted that the University had also recently been awarded The Times and Sunday Times Newspaper’s Sports University of the Year.  In recognition of both of these awards and the staff contribution to these achievements across the University, the Chair also noted the recent announcement that all members of staff in the University were to be awarded an additional two days leave on the 23 and 24 December 2019.  **Degree Award Bids**  The ­Chair noted the University’s success in bidding for both the the BSc Graduate Apprenticeship in Data Science, and also the BSc in Paramedic Science. Staff involved in both these bids were thanked for their efforts in securing the tenders for these awards.  **EHRC Report on Racial Harassment in Universities**  The Chair ­noted the recent publication of the EHRC formal inquiry and recommendations into tackling racial harassment in universities, outlining that a response had been published by UUK who had set up an advisory group to address the concerns raised. The Chair further noted that University took the matters raised in the report very seriously and work was ongoing to ensure the University was responsive to the concerns raised in the report.  **UK General Election**  The Chair ­noted­­ the UK General Election that was scheduled to occur on Thursday 12 December 2019, and that the University sector as a whole would be surveying the outcome carefully and the potential impact the outcome may have on the sector. | | | | | | |
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| **4.** | **UPDATE ON ENHANCEMENT-LED INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW** | | **AC (19/20) 9** | | | | |
|  | Council received an update on the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review and were informed that this would take place in November 2020. It was ­­noted that ELIR requires the University to demonstrate confidence in its approach to the assurance of its quality and standards in the delivery of learning, teaching, and the student experience, and preparations were ongoing ahead of the planning visit scheduled to take place on 7 October 2020, and the final review visit scheduled to take place w/c 23 November 2020. | | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **STUDENT POPULATION AND INDICATIVE RECRUITMENT TARGETS** | | | | **AC (19/20) 10** | | |
|  | Council receiveda report on the student population and indicative recruitment targets where it was ­noted that the report contained information on the 2019/20 enrolled student population, the context and background to the 2019/20 student recruitment cycle, and the indicative recruitment targets for the 2020/21 academic year. It was outlined that the targets were developed with the advisement of a wide-range of service areas and faculties.  It was noted that the paper took into account the impact of new developments on campus, domestic expansion opportunities, and developments in international partnership opportunities.  Council ­discussed­ the potential impact of political forces beyond the University’s control on future recruitment, especially from overseas. It was noted that there were certain mitigations in response to these forces that the University was making, but that there were national and international political factors that were beyond the University’s control, and that the University were continuing to monitor and respond to these where appropriate.  Council noted the proposed 2020/21 indicative student recruitment targets, as approved by JPPRC, and noted the enrolled student population for 2019/20. | | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **INTRODUCTION OF THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF MANAGEMENT (DMan)** | | | | | | **AC (19/20) 11** |
|  | Council received a proposal to introduce the degree award of Doctor of Management (DMan). Council noted the rationale for the introduction of the degree, and that the proposal was for the purposes adding the award to Ordinance 58 of the University, following which an appropriate programme was to be developed and approved by ESEC PBSC.  Council approved the proposal for the introduction of the award of Doctor of Management (DMan) and the alteration to Ordinance 58. Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of the University. | | | | | | |
| **7.** | **ANNUAL REPORT ON ACADEMIC COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS TO COURT** | | | **AC (19/20) 12** | | | |
|  | Council received the annual evaluative report from Academic Council to University Court.  It was noted that the report contained information on the effective governance and convening of Academic Council in the academic year 2018/19, and that the relationship between Academic Council and its committees had continued to operate effectively, receiving reports from ESEC and URC at each meeting.  Council approved the Annual Report on Academic Council Effectiveness to Court for onward transmission to University Court. | | | | | | |
| **8.** | **REPORT FROM COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES** | | |  | | | |
| **8.1** | **Education and Student Experience Committee Report – 29 October 2019 AC (19/20) 13**  Council received the Education and Student Experience Committee Report from the 29 October 2019 meeting and noted in particular the committee’s discussions on the implementation of reviews of the University’s international learning and teaching provisions, the continued work in response to the 2019 NSS results, review and reform of the Annual Programme Monitoring procedures, and the continued preparedness for the upcoming ELIR in 2020.  Council noted the Education and Student Experience Committee Report for the 29 October 2019 meeting. | | | | | | |
| **8.2** | **University Research Committee Report – 29 August 2019 AC (19/20) 14**  Council received the University Research Committee Report for the 29 August 2019 meeting, and noted in particular the committee’s discussion of the increase in research grant awards, up to 54% since last year, the discussion of new processes for annual review of research centres/programmes, and progress on preparations for REF 2021. It was noted in further update to the report that the intention to submit for units to REF 2021 had recently been completed ahead of the deadline.  Council noted the University Research Committee Report for the 29 August 2019 meeting. | | | | | | |
| **8.3** | **Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee Report - 26 November 2019 AC (19/20) 15** | | | | | | |
|  | Council received the Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee Report for the 26 November 2019 meeting and noted in particular the committee’s discussion of developments in the external environment, updates on capital expenditure, student population and indicative targets, and discussion of the outcome agreement.  Council noted the Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee Report for the 26 November 2019 meeting. | | | | | | |
| **9.** | **PROPOSED SEMESTER DATES AC (19/20) 16** | | | | | | |
|  | Council received and approved the semester dates for 2021/22 and 2022/23. | | | | | | |
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| **10.** | **PROPOSED GRADUATION DATES AC(19/20) 17** | | | | | | |
|  | Council received­ and approved the graduation dates for 2020/21 through to 2022/23. | | | | |  | |
| **11.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** | | | | |  | |
|  | There was no other business presented for Academic Council to consider. | | | | | | |
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| **12.** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** | | | | | | |
|  | Council noted that the next meeting of Academic Council was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 2pm in the Court Room. | | | | | | |
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**Dr Alexander Griffiths**

**Academic Registry**

**December 2019**