****

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held on 6 June 2018**

**Present:** Professor G McCormac (Chair), Prof C Cauldwell, Prof M Cusack, Dr A Desbois, Professor J Donaldson, Professor A Green, Ms J Hagerty, Ms K Howie, Professor M MacLeod, Mr M McCrindle, Professor H Nehring, Professor R Oram, Professor J Phillips, Professor M Priestley, Professor S Punch, Ms A Smallenbroek, Ms J Stevenson, Mr D Wright

**In Attendance:** Ms I Beveridge, Ms E Hensens (Secretary), Ms J Morrow, Ms E Schofield

**Apologies:** Professor A Bowes, Professor L Bauld, Professor S Bolton, Dr P Coffee, Dr D McArdle, Dr T Parkes, Professor L Sparks, Professor T Whalley

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** | **AC (17/18) Minutes 3** |
|  | The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2018 were approved**.**The Chair welcomed Daniel Wright to his first meeting of Academic Council as Vice President Education of the Students’ Union.  |
|  |  |  |
| **2.** | **MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA** |  |
|  | Council noted that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda. |
|  |  |  |
| **3.** | **STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR** | **AC (17/18) 24** |
|  | **Sport Centre Transformation**The Chair confirmed planning approval from Stirling Council had been received for the £20m transformation of sports facilities on campus, with early electrical work already taking place.**Campus Central** Planning approval from Stirling Council had also been received for the £21m plan to transform the student and staff experience with the provision of new study, learning, engagement and student support spaces through the ‘Campus Central’ project. The project would begin in early 2019 and would be completed in Autumn 2020.**City Deal**The heads of terms for the development of a new Institute of Aquaculture and Global Aquatic Food Security and an International Environment Centre had been agreed with a total value of £22m of capital investment. The Chair offered his thanks and congratulations to all those involved in securing this funding. **Guardian League Table**The Chair noted the University’s move of 14 places up to 40th in the latest Guardian 2019 University Guide. |
|  |  |
| **4.** | **STAFF SURVEY OUTCOMES** | **AC (17/18) 25** |
|  | Council received an update on the recent Staff Survey outcomes.The final staff survey response rate was 74%, with over 50% for each faculty/directorate. The results of the survey had been communicated to staff along with a summary overview of next steps.Action plans would be developed at faculty / directorate level from which the emerging themes would be the subject of focus groups to identify further developments and enhancements.Council discussed the comparability of results across the sector and the value of benchmarking outcomes. Members noted a number of areas within the results including the management and communication of change within the institution; the well-being of staff; and consideration of what defines a ‘good place to work’. Council noted feedback from staff regarding the communication of outcomes via the ‘Round-up’ newsletter. |
|  |  |
| **5.** | **ADMISSIONS POLICY** | **AC (17/18) 26** |
|  | Council approved the Admissions Policy as outlined in AC (17/18) 26 for onward transmission to University Court.Council noted that the University had met the expectations of the Universities Scotland report on Working to Widening Access, however this policy would ensure a transparency of approach to activities in this area. Council discussed the importance of supporting students to achieve success following admission and considered the broader challenges faced by the sector in this regard. It was noted the University approach to admissions was under discussion with representatives of Stirling Council and local schools, and that this would continue in future. |
|  |  |
| **6.** | **HONORARY APPOINTMENTS** | **AC (17/18) 27** |
|  | Council approved;* The criteria of Honorary Appointments as outlined in Appendix B
* The additional terms and conditions of appointment as outlined in paragraph 13
* The amendments and additions to the management of appointments as outlined in paragraph 15
* The guidance for the consideration of the withdrawal of appointments as proposed in paragraph 16

Academic Council endorsed the Honorary Appointment titles as proposed in paragraph 8 and the amendment of Ordinance 22 as outlined in Appendix A for onward transmission to University Court. |
|  |  |
| **7.** | **ACADEMIC DRESS** | **AC (17/18) 28** |
|  | Council approved the proposed changes to Academic Dress as outlined in AC (17/18) 28 for the University’s new degrees of: Doctor of Professional Health Studies (DPHS); Master of Public Health (MPH); Doctor of Diplomacy (DDipl); Master of Arts (MA); Master of Applied Social Research (MASR). |
|  |  |
| **8.** | **GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY** | **AC (17/18) 29** |
|  | Council received an update on the introduction of the Graduate Outcomes Survey.Council agreed further consideration would be given as to the engagement of Programme Directors and Associate Deans for Learning and Teaching in the activities led by the Careers and Employability Team to support the University’s Employability Strategy.**Action: Deputy Secretary** |
|  |  |
| **9.** | **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES** |
|  |  |
| **9.1** | **EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE** | **AC (17/18) 30** |
|  | Council received the report from the meeting of the Education and Student Experience Committee held on 2nd May 2018.The report provided a summary of the final meeting of the year and noted the approval of the Admissions Policy (item 5 of this agenda). The report from Student Support Services and the rising demand for services by students requiring mental health support would be a consideration for the University in coming sessions with the development of a new institutional strategy for mental health and wellbeing. |
| **9.2** | **RESEARCH COMMITTEE** | **AC (17/18) 31** |
|  | Council received the report from the meeting of the Research Committee held on 10th May 2018.Council noted that research awards have increased in value by 50%+ in comparison to Quarter 3 last year with the current figure around £8m, and more detailed analysis was expected.Arrangements for postgraduate research would be led by the Deputy Principal (Research) in future and the role of Head of Graduate School was being reviewed. Support for the Stirling Graduate School in relation to Postgraduate Research would transfer to Research and Innovation Services.The remaining Research Centre applications had now been considered and feedback provided with ongoing support in place for centre directors.Council congratulated and thanked all those involved in the recent success of Research Week 2018 and welcomed the ongoing development of the ‘Inaugural Lecture’ programme. |
| **9.3** | **JOINT POLICY PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** | **AC (17/18) 32** |
|  | Council received the report from the meeting of the Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee (JPPRC) held on 29th May 2018.The Making It Happen operational plan for 2018/19 was considered and endorsed for onward submission to Court with minor amendments. Two new international partnerships were considered and approved in the UAE and Singapore, and Council noted the work that would take place to explore the development of the ‘Stirling Community’ for partnership delivery across the institution. |
|  |  |
| **10.** | **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES** | **AC (17/18) 33** |
|  | Council noted the changes made to the Discipline Committee and Appeal Board under Chair’s Action and approved the additional appointments as outlined in AC (17/18) 33.Council noted appointments to the Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee made under Chair’s Action. |

**Erica Hensens**

**Head of Academic Quality and Governance**

**Academic Registry**

**June 2018**