****

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held on 11 March 2020**

**Present:** Professor G McCormac (Chair), Professor A Bowes, Professor M Cusack, Professor J Donaldson, Dr P Dudchenko, Professor K Grant, Dr L Forbat, Professor A Green, Dr E Macleod, Professor M MacLeod, Mr J McDairmid, Professor H Nehring, Professor R Oram, Professor J Phillips, Ms A Smith, Professor L Sparks, Ms J Stevenson, Dr I Tabner, Ms C Whyte, Professor T Whalley, Professor N Wylie.

**In Attendance:** Ms I Beveridge, Dr A Griffiths (Secretary), Ms E Schofield.

**Apologies:** Dr A Desbois, Professor I Doherty, Dr A Gilburn, Professor R Norman, Dr D McArdle, Ms J Morrow, Professor M Priestley, Dr D Telford, Professor J Tinson, Dr C Wilson.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** | **AC (19/20) Minutes 2** |
|  | The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2019 were approved**.** |
|  |  |  |
| **2.** | **MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA** |  |
|  | Council noted the following matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda:Item 6 from the previous meeting minute, AC (19/20) 11: Introduction of the Award of Doctor of Management (DMan), went for onward transmission to University Court and was approved. It was noted that Ordinance 58 was revised to include the DMan as an award. Item 7 from the previous meeting minute, AC (19/20) 12: Annual Report on Academic Council Effectiveness to Court, went for onward transmission to University Court where it was noted. |
|  |  |  |
| **3.** | **STATEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND** **UPDATE ON THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT** | **Oral Report****AC (19/20) 18** |
|  | Academic Council ­received and noted statements from the Chair and an update on the external environment on the following matters:**Queen’s Anniversary Prize**The Chair noted that the University received the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for the work of the world-leading Institute of Aquaculture on 20 February 2020 at Buckingham Palace. It was also noted that a function was to be held on 26 March 2020 at the Stirling Court Hotel to celebrate the receipt of the award with broader staff in the University. **Arrangements following Brexit**The Chair noted that following the UK’s departure from the EU, it was expected that there would be movement on a range of HE-relevant issues such as immigration, research and innovation, and tuition fees. It was also noted that the Scottish Government had confirmed that EU students commencing their studies in 2019/20 would continue to be eligible for home fee status. **Changes to Ministerial Posts – UK Government**The ­Chair noted the recent UK Government Cabinet Reshuffle that resulted in changes to the ministerial post of Universities, Science, Research and Innovation. It was noted that the role had been divided into two separate ministerial posts, the first, the Minister of State for Universities in the Department for Education saw Michelle Donelan appointed to the role, and the second, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Science, Research and Innovation, saw Amanda Solloway appointed to the role. It was further noted that Gavin Williamson was to continue in the role of Secretary of State for Education. **Scottish Government Budget 2020/21** The Chair ­noted the announcement of the Scottish Government Budget 2020/21 on 6 February 2020 and the implications for the funding of the education sector. It was noted that the total SFC budget would increase from £1,839m to £1,880m, and of this £1,140.4m would be allocated to Higher Education. It was further noted that whilst this represented a 2% year-on-year increase, once inflation was taken into account, there was in fact no increase to funding. **City Deal Signing**The Chair ­noted­­ that the University had co-signed the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Deal with its regional and government partners, securing a collective commitment to a £214 million investment package. It was further noted that this provided £17m for the aquaculture facility and £22m for the International Environment Centre, with the focus of the deal delivering national and international sustainability through cutting-edge environmental projects, innovation in the digital and tourism sectors, and boosting skills across the region creating a pathway for future success and resilience. **Coronavirus**The Chair noted that the Coronavirus continued to be a serious concern and this concern would increase and significantly worsen over time. It was noted that the University had put in place significant contingency plans, and that a range of support had been put in place for students and staff, including guidance on issues connected to learning and teaching matters and staff and student safety. The Chair noted that the University was ensuring that student and staff welfare was the key priority, ensuring as minimal an impact on members of the university community as possible. **Campus Redevelopments**The Chair noted that the new Atrium had opened and the majority of the building works in this area were complete. Both the Sports Centre and Campus Central were noted to have remained on track, with the Sports Centre having moved towards completion for July.  |
|  |  |
| **4.** | **ORDINANCE 1: CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION** | **AC (19/20) 19** |
|  | Council received a revised version of Ordinance 1, which was discussed and members provided feedback on the revised contents of the Ordinance. It was noted that in order for the Ordinance to be considered fully, the Schedules that accompanied it would need to be included. Discussion centred on further revisions to the Equality and Diversity statement and members were directed to pass on their feedback to the Students’ Union on this area. It was agreed that once revisions had been made to the Ordinance, and the accompanying schedules were provided, that the document would come back to Academic Council for consideration. The Students’ Union were therefore asked to note feedback from members, and incorporate this feedback into a revised version of the Ordinance with accompanying schedules to be presented at a future meeting of Academic Council.**Action: Students’ Union** |
| **5.** | **ORDINANCE 2, THE CODE OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE & ORDINANCE 30, EXCLUSION FROM UNIVERSITY CAMPUS** | **AC (19/20) 20** |
|  | Council receivedrevised versions of Ordinance 2 and Ordinance 30, where substantial changes had been made to Ordinance 2 following a period of review that started in late 2018 in response to the changes in the landscape surrounding student discipline issues. It was noted that the nature of student discipline had changed significantly in recent years, with growing numbers of cases and greater case complexity. The changes to Ordinance 2 were therefore made in response to this changing landscape, and contained a revised approach that was agreed upon through a considered and broad consultation process. It was also noted by Council that Ordinance 30 had received some minor changes to improve the clarity of the Ordinance. Council endorsed the revised versions of Ordinance 2 and 30 for onward transmission to University Court.  |
| **6.** | **ORDINANCE 58, DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES OF THE UNIVERSITY** | **AC (19/20) 21** |
|  | Council received a proposal to reclassify the Integrated Master of Science Degree from a higher degree to a first degree in order to bring its classification and award in line with sector practice. Council noted the rationale for the reclassification of the degree, and that the proposal was for the purposes changing the status of the award to a first degree on Ordinance 58 which sets out the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of the University.Council endorsed the alteration to Ordinance 58 for onward transmission to University Court.  |
| **7.** | **REPORT FROM COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES** |  |
| **7.1** | **Education and Student Experience Committee Reports AC (19/20) 22i****11 December 2019 and 25 February 2020**Council received the Education and Student Experience Committee Reports from the meetings on 11 December 2019 and 25 February 2020 and noted in particular the reforms of the sub-committee structure under ESEC and the strategic changes to the way in which ESEC operates.Council noted the Education and Student Experience Committee Reports from the 11 December 2019 and 25 February 2020 meetings.  |
| **7.2** | **University Research Committee Reports AC (19/20) 22ii****6 November 2019 and 6 February 2020** Council received the University Research Committee Reports from the 6 November 2020 and 6 February 2020 meetings, and noted in particular the committee’s discussion of the Research Committee Business, research updates from Faculties, research award income, and continued preparations for REF 2021. Council noted the University Research Committee Report from 6 November 2020 and 6 February 2020.  |
| **7.3** | **Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee Report – 3 March 2020 AC (19/20) 22iii** |
|  | Council received and noted the Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee Report for the 3 March 2020 meeting.  |
| **8.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** |  |
|  | There was no other business presented for Academic Council to consider.  |
|  |  |
| **9.** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** |
|  | Council noted that the next meeting of Academic Council was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 2pm in the Court Room. |
|  |  |

**Dr Alexander Griffiths**

**Academic Registry**

**March 2020**