

**AC (22/23) Minute 2**

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Minute of the meeting held on Thursday 1 December 2022**

**Present:** Prof Sir Gerry McCormac (Chair), Dr Andrew Desbois, Professor Paul Dudchenko, Professor Liz Forbat, Dr M Lovatt, Dr E Macleod, Professor M MacLeod**,** Ms Tash Miller, Professor R Norman, Professor N Parish, Professor J Philips, Professor L Sparks, Ms J Stevenson, Dr I Tabner, Professor J Tinson, Professor Neville Wylie.

**In attendance:** Ms I Beveridge, Ms J Morrow, Ms E Schofield, Mr D Soutar (secretary).

**Apologies:** Professor K Blair, Professor I Docherty, Professor J Donaldson, Dr A Gilburn, Professor A Green, Professor A Jump, Professor D McGhee, Professor Mark Priestley, Mr Michael Sammels, Dr D Telford.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **MINUTES** | **AC (21/22)**  **Minutes 1** |
|  | The minutes from the previous meeting held on 14 September 2022 were approved. |  |
|  |  |  |
| **2.** | **MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA** |  |
|  | Council noted the following matters arising:   * Following Council’s endorsement of the ELIR 4 Follow-Up Report and the University’s annual report on institution-led review for the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), at its meeting on 14 September 2022, the reports were approved by University Court on 25 October 2022. The reports were subsequently submitted to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and SFC as appropriate. The ELIR 4 Follow-Up Report had been published on the QAA’s website. |  |
|  |  |  |
| **3.** | **STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR AND**  **AN UPDATE ON THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT** | **Oral Report**  **AC (22/23) 14** |
|  | Council received a briefing from the Chair and an update on the external environment, which covered developments relating to matters including:   * Winter graduations had taken place on 24 and 25 November 2022 with around 1100 graduates attending. The ceremonies had once again been celebrations of our graduates’ achievements and the return to in-person graduations continued to be enjoyed. * It had recently been announced that NHS Forth Valley had been placed under stage four of NHS Scotland’s National Performance Framework for Governance, Leadership and Culture. There were various strands of activity ongoing as part of the University’s partnership with NHS Forth Valley and it was not anticipated that the recent announcement would affect the partnership. * Discussions were ongoing at the national level in respect of the dispute regarding pay and pensions upon which the recent industrial action had been based. There was a common interest among the parties in maximising salaries and pensions, but affordability and sustainability were also key. * Council noted the updates. |  |
|  |  |  |
| **4.** | **RESEARCH CONCORDAT ANNUAL REPORT** | **AC (22/23) 15** |
|  | Council received the report on progress in the two-year action plan on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers which was signed in 2020.  The importance of the Concordat was recognised in respect of both REF and the increasing interest from UKRI in research proposals including references to it.  The Research Environment Group was leading on the action plan with a number of sub-groups progressing particular strands. Key areas of focus included support for early career researchers, environment and culture, mental health strategy, professional development and the development of the induction guide.  Council noted the report. |  |
|  |  |  |
| **5.** | **ANNUAL REPORT ON ACADEMIC COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS TO COURT** | **AC (22/23) 16** |
|  | Council received a report on its effectiveness in the preceding academic year, 2021/22.    It was noted that the report outlined Council’s remit, membership and operation in 2021/22, and summarised key items of business that had been considered.  A number of members’ periods of appointment would come to an end in the current academic year and as such an election would take place ahead of 2023/24.  Council considered and approved the report for onward submission to University Court. |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **6.** | **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **6.1** | Council received the report from the Education and Student Experience Committee meeting held on 9 November 2022.  Council noted the report. | **AC (22/23) 17** |
|  |  |  |
| **6.2** | Council received the report from the University Research Committee meeting held on 3 November 2022.  It was noted that the volume and value of successful research bids was falling and awareness of the current position had been raised with colleagues.  The outline business case (OBC) for National Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Hub (NATIH) – one of the three City Deal projects that the University was leading – had been approved by the Scottish Government. The project would therefore proceed and refinements to the OBC were being progressed in order to prepare the full business case (FBC).  An open meeting would take place on 13 December 2022 to discuss and generate ideas around the new Research Strategy and colleagues were welcome and encouraged to attend.  The Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) PhD student cluster competition had generated good discussion amongst colleagues across the University that could be built upon going forward. Consideration of the applications received would take place during December 2022 and studentships would be advertised in early 2023.  Council noted the report. | **AC (22/23) 18** |
|  |  |  |
| **6.4** | Council received the report from the Joint Policy, Planning and Research Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022 and the Committee’s Annual Report for 2021/22.  Council noted the reports. | **AC (22/23) 19**  **AC (22/23) 20** |
|  |  |  |
| **7.** | **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS** | **AC (22/23) 21** |
|  | Council received a paper noting the appointment of Professor Jayne Donaldson to the Joint Policy, Planning and Research Committee (JPPRC). Professor Donaldson had been appointed to one of the two Faculty Dean positions within the composition of JPPRC.    Council noted the appointment. |  |
|  |  |  |
| **8.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** |  |
|  | There were no other items of business. | |
|  |  | |
| **9.** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** |  |
|  | Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 2pm |  |
|  |  |  |