

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

UNIVERSITY COURT

A meeting of the University Court was held at 2pm on 9 September 2025 in the Ustinov Room, Bonar Hall, and *via* Microsoft Teams.

Present: Dr Ian Mair (Acting Chair);
Alain Bainbridge (online);
Maggie Chapman;
Gregory Colgan;
Tánaiste Custance;
Marcus Flucker (online);
Claire Martin;
Ron Mobed (online);
Dr Andrea Mohan (online);
Dr Carlo Morelli;
Professor Nigel Seaton;
Amina Shah (online);
Jay Surti (online); and
Dr Martine van Ittersum

In Attendance: Kirsteen Campbell (Interim Chief Operating Officer);
Elise Gallagher (Director of People);
Lee Hamill (Interim Director of Finance);
Richard Maconachie (SFC)(*qua* observer);
Roddy Isles (Head of Corporate Communication);
Dr Alison Ramsay (Senior Policy Officer (Corporate Governance))

Apologies: Dr Neale Laker and Dr Veena O'Halloran

251. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE ACTING CHAIR OF COURT

The Acting Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and requested that members maintain the confidentiality of the Court deliberations.

252. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Acting Chair invited members to declare if they had, or could be perceived to have, any conflicts of interest in relation to any items on the agenda, beyond those already or previously declared. No new conflicts were declared.

253. MINUTES

(i) **The Court decided:** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 31 July 2025; and

(ii) **The Court decided:** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 8 August 2025.

One member requested a number of amendments to the minutes of the above meetings, including the recording of their dissent to the University Response to the Gillies Report and to the University Recovery Plan. The member also requested that the tally of votes in each meeting be formally recorded and was advised that this was not standard practice. The member was also reminded that the minute was not intended as a verbatim transcript of the meetings in question but rather a summary of the main discussion points and decisions taken.

[Secretary's note: minor amendments to the above minutes were made subsequent to the meeting.]

254. **UPDATE ON RECRUITMENT TO THE COURT**

The Senior Policy Officer (Corporate Governance) & Clerk to Court introduced the above update on recruitment to the lay membership of the University Court. Members were advised that applications had closed on 1 September, at which point 11 applications had been received to fill six vacancies. The shortlisting process had taken place on 5 September and nine candidates had been identified for interview. The Acting Chair of Court advised members that the Appointing Committee had welcomed the number and calibre of applicants and that interviews would be held shortly.

One member expressed dissent regarding the selection of candidates for interview and requested that the Appointing Committee apprise the Court of its rationale in excluding two of the applicants from interview. Members of the Appointing Committee advised that the standard of applications had been extremely high but that some of the skills offered by candidates were already represented on the Court by members with similar qualifications and experience.

Members were then apprised of progress made to date in the recruitment of the next Chair of Court and noted that the Appointing Panel would be conducting interviews with the three applicants on 10 September. As part of this process, applicants would also meet members of senior management, academic and professional services staff and student representatives, as well as the Interim Principal & Vice-Chancellor. The Appointing Committee would seek comments from each of these groups to inform its decision on which applicants had demonstrated that they met the relevant criteria to proceed to an election and members were reminded that an election could only take place when more than one candidate was deemed to have met the criteria. In the event that only one candidate was identified, or where candidates withdrew to leave a single candidate, the recruitment process would require to be re-opened.

Resolved: to note the report.

255. **RESERVED BUSINESS: UPDATED FINANCIAL SCENARIOS AND PROJECTIONS**

The University claims exemption under s33 (1) (b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Members are therefore required to treat the discussion and associated papers as strictly confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The status of this item will be reviewed at regular intervals and will be released when the exemptions are deemed to no longer apply, and following the approval of the Chair of Court.

Resolved: to note the report

256. **RESERVED BUSINESS: DRAFT LETTER OF RESPONSE TO SFC**

The University claims the exemptions in Sections 30 and 33(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Members are therefore required to treat the discussion and associated papers as strictly confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The status of this item will be reviewed at regular intervals and will be released when the exemptions are deemed to no longer apply, and following the approval of the Chair of Court.

Resolved: to note the draft letter

257. **RESERVED BUSINESS: UPDATE ON CASH POSITION**

The University claims the exemptions in Sections 30 and 33(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Members are therefore required to treat the discussion and associated papers as strictly confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The status of this item will be reviewed at regular intervals and will be released when the exemptions are deemed to no longer apply, and following the approval of the Chair of Court.

Resolved: to note the cashflow position.

258. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i) Recruitment of Chair of Court and Lay members of Court

The Senior Policy Officer (Corporate Governance) & Clerk to Court advised members that a further update on recruitment to the Court would be provided at the next meeting.

ii) DUSA Funding

The DUSA President advised Court that constructive conversations had taken place with UEG around the DUSA grant.

Thereafter, no other business was declared.

259. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting would be confirmed in due course.

Dr Ian Mair
Acting Chair of Court
University of Dundee