

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

UNIVERSITY COURT

A meeting of the University Court was held at 2pm on 11 November 2025 in the Ustinov Room, Bonar Hall, and *via* Microsoft Teams.

Present: Dr Ian Mair (Acting Chair);
Alain Bainbridge (online);
Nicholas Buckworth;
Maggie Chapman;
Gregory Colgan;
Tánaiste Custance;
Marcus Flucker;
Dr Annie Ingram;
Professor Susan Kinnear;
Noel Lawlor;
Claire Martin;
Professor Rory McCrimmon;
Ron Mobed (online);
Dr Andrea Mohan;
Dr Carlo Morelli;
Emma Preston;
Professor Nigel Seaton;
Amina Shah;
Jay Surti (online);
Rev Andrew Swift;
Dr Martine van Ittersum;
Margo Williamson; and
Irene Wilson.

In Attendance: Kirsteen Campbell (Interim Chief Operating Officer)(items 260-265);
Elise Gallagher (Director of People)(items 260-265);
Lee Hamill (Interim Director of Finance) (items 260-265);
Richard Maconachie (SFC)(*qua* observer);
Dr Alison Ramsay (Senior Policy Officer (Corporate Governance))

Apologies: None

267. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE ACTING CHAIR OF COURT

The Acting Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. In particular, Dr Mair formally welcomed Nicholas Buckworth, Dr Annie Ingram, Professor Susan Kinnear, Noel Lawlor, Professor Rory McCrimmon, the Right Rev Andrew Swift, Margo Williamson and Irene Wilson to their first meeting of the Court.

268. **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.

269. **MINUTES**

- (i) **The Court decided:** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 26 August 2025; and
- (ii) **The Court decided:** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 9 September 2025.

270. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Senior Policy Officer (Corporate Governance) & Clerk to Court introduced the above report, intended to apprise the Court of progress against actions arising from previous meetings. Members were advised that the Interim Director of Finance was in regular contact with SFC and the University's pensions providers (29 April 2025 Minute 145). Thereafter, members noted that there were no items on the action log not already on the agenda or which were not yet due.

Resolved: to note the report.

271. **RESERVED BUSINESS: CURRENT STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The University claims exemption under Section 30 (b) and Section 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.

272. **RESERVED BUSINESS: EXECUTIVE UPDATES**

The Interim Director of Finance presented Court with an interim update on key Finance matters. These included the status of SFC future funding, the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Annual Report & Accounts and external audits. Court was reminded that the University was dependent on additional public funding to continue to operate into 2025/26 and 2026/27. Under Section 25 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005, the University had received £10m in the form of a grant.

Resolved: to note the report.

[Secretary's note: The Interim Chief Operating Officer and the Interim Director of Finance left the meeting at this point]

273. UPDATE ON ELECTION OF CHAIR OF COURT

The Interim University Secretary and the Acting Chair of Court apprised the Court of progress made in the recruitment and selection of the next Chair of Court. Members noted that applications had been received from a small number of highly-qualified candidates and that interviews were due to take place on 12 November. Those candidates proceeding to election would be announced in due course and a public event or ‘hustings’ would be held on Friday 21 November at 5pm after which voting would be opened to staff and students of the University. Voting would close at 5pm on Wednesday 26 November and the successful candidate would be announced thereafter.

Resolved: to note the report.

274. MEMBERSHIP OF COURT COMMITTEES

Court received and considered the above report on considerations relating to the membership of the Committees of Court for 2025/26.

Resolved:

- (i) to approve the proposal that Margo Williamson join the membership of the Audit & Risk Committee as Convener;
- (ii) to approve the proposal that Noel Lawlor join the membership of the Audit & Risk Committee;
- (iii) to approve the proposal that Greg Colgan join the membership of the Audit & Risk Committee;
- (iv) to approve the proposal that Dr Carlo Morelli join the membership of the Audit & Risk Committee;
- (v) to approve the proposal that Irene Wilson join the membership of the Finance & Policy Committee as Convener;
- (vi) to approve the proposal that Professor Susan Kinnear join the membership of the Finance & Policy Committee;
- (vii) to approve the proposal that Emma Preston join the membership of the Finance & Policy Committee;
- (viii) to approve the proposal that Nick Buckworth join the membership of the Finance & Policy Committee;
- (ix) to approve the proposal that Dr Martine van Ittersum join the membership of the Governance & Nominations Committee;
- (x) to approve the proposal that Professor Rory McCrimmon join the membership of the Remuneration Committee;
- (xi) to approve the proposal that Claire Martin join the membership of the Remuneration Committee;
- (xii) to approve the proposal that Marcus Flucker join the membership of the Remuneration Committee;
- (xiii) to approve the proposal that Maggie Chapman join the membership of the Audit & Risk Committee and the People & Organisational Development Committee;
- (xiv) to approve the proposal that Tánaiste Custance join the membership of the Governance & Nominations Committee and the Finance & Policy Committee;
- (xv) to approve the proposal that the Rt Rev Andrew Swift join the membership of the People & Organisational Development Committee and the Finance & Policy Committee;

- (xvi) to approve the proposal that Dr Annie Ingram join the membership of the Governance & Nominations Committee and the People & Organisational Development Committee; and
- (xvii) otherwise, to approve the minutes.

275. **RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CONCORDAT ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

Court received and noted the above report on the Researcher Development Concordat 2024-25. Members were advised that submission of the report was an annual requirement in order for the University to meet its obligations as signatories of the revised Researcher Development Concordat.

Resolved: to approve the above report, subject to the report being accompanied by an explanatory note to make explicit that the report was retrospective in nature.

276. **REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY COURT STANDING ORDERS**

The Interim University Secretary advised members that the Standing Orders of the University Court required to be reviewed and would be brought to a future meeting for consideration in due course.

Resolved: to note the report.

277. **REPORTS FROM THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS**

(1) Report of the meeting of the Senate on 21 May 2025

The Court received and considered the above report of the meeting of the Senate held on 21 May 2025, prepared for the Court's information. Members noted that any actions detailed within the report would be taken forward as indicated in the minutes for the meeting of the Senate.

The Court decided: to note the report.

(2) Report of the meeting of the Senate on 10 September 2025

The Court received and considered the above report of the meeting of the Senate held on 10 September 2025, prepared for the Court's information. Members noted that any actions detailed within the report would be taken forward as indicated in the minutes for the meeting of the Senate.

The Court decided: to note the report.

(3) Report of the meeting of the Senate on 8 October 2025

The Court received and considered the above report of the meeting of the Senate held on 8 October 2025, prepared for the Court's information. Members noted that any actions

detailed within the report would be taken forward as indicated in the minutes for the meeting of the Senate.

The Court decided: to note the report.

[Secretary's note: One member intimated a number of proposed amendments in relation to the above minutes and was advised that the Court was not the appropriate locus for amendments to be requested. The member was advised that their comments should be raised at the next meeting of the Senate.]

278. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Audit & Risk Committee

- (i) The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the report from the meeting held on 29 May 2025. Court's attention was drawn to the Committee's consideration of letters from EY to those charged with governance.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (ii) The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the report of the meeting held on 3 June 2025. Court noted that the Committee had approved a mini competition for the awarding of the contract for Internal Audit.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (iii) The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the report of the meeting held on 17 June 2025. Court's attention was drawn to the Committee's consideration of reviews of accounting and expenses practices conducted by AAB.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (iv) The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the report of the meeting held on 19 August 2025. Court noted that the Committee had considered and approved a timeline for the completion of the 2023/24 External Audit and that the contract for the current internal auditors had been extended until September 2026.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (v) The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the report of the meeting held on 16 September 2025. Court's attention was drawn to Committee's consideration of a report on updated financial controls. Court also noted the Committee had agreed to extend the contract of the external auditors until September 2026.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (vi) The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee introduced the draft report of the meeting held on 3 June 2025. Court noted the Committee's discussion of the draft Internal Audit Plan.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

(2) Finance & Policy Committee

The Acting Chair of Court introduced the note of the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 14 October 2025. Court was advised that the Committee had not been quorate and that the meeting had therefore been adjourned.

The Court decided: to note the report

(3) Governance & Nominations Committee

The Acting Chair of Court introduced the note of the meeting held on 15 October 2025 and noted that the Committee had not been quorate. The meeting had therefore been adjourned.

The Court decided: to note the report.

(4) People & Organisational Development Committee

- (vii) The Convener of the People & Organisational Development Committee introduced the report from the meeting held on 24 September 2025. The Court's attention was drawn to the Committee's consideration of a paper on the resourcing of senior appointments. Court was also apprised of the Committee's discussion of the themes and actions emerging from the listening exercise conducted following the publication of the Gillies Report.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (viii) The Convener of the People & Organisational Development Committee introduced the note of the meeting held on 23 October 2025. The Court noted that the meeting had not been quorate and had therefore been adjourned.

The Court decided: to note the report.

(5) Welfare & Ethical Use of Animals Committee

- (i) The Court received the report of the meeting of the Welfare & Ethical Use of Animals Committee held on 24 April 2025.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

- (ii) The Court received the report of the meeting of the Welfare & Ethical Use of Animals Committee held on 3 July 2025.

The Court decided: to approve the minutes.

279. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Court was apprised of the recent death of a student. Members noted that Maud Verhoeven had been in her fourth year of study at the University and had been heavily involved in student life, having been President of the History Society and Chair of the Student Representative Council, as well as a number of other activities. Court members expressed their condolences to the family and friends of Ms Verhoeven.

Thereafter, no other business was declared.

280. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 2 December 2025.

Dr Ian Mair
Acting Chair of Court
University of Dundee