

Approved



UNIVERSITY COURT

MINUTES

of the meeting of the University Court held on 27 January 2022 at 2.00pm in Room 1502 of the University and *via* Microsoft Teams.

Chair: Mr M Shaw
Vice-Chair: Dr A Ingram

Ms N Ahmed	Dr A Ingram	Mr J Macgregor
Mr A Bailey	Professor T Inns	Mr A Marks
Mr J Barnett	Mr F Jakimow	Dr H Mehrpouya
Mrs A Duffy	Mr F Keir	Ms F Robertson
Mrs H Dunk	Ms V Lynch	Professor E Sim
Ms G Ghafoor	Ms C MacEachen	Dr K Smith
Mrs L Hamilton		Ms C Summers

Secretary: Mrs S Stewart
Clerk to Court: Dr A Ramsay
In attendance: Mr G Bletcher
Ms E Fraser
Ms J McKenzie

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I McDonald, Professor L Bacon (partial), Professor N Seaton and Ms R Thiel.

41 WELCOME

The Chair thanked members for attending the special meeting of the University Court and formally welcomed Professor Sim to her first meeting.

42 DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to indicate if they have, or could be perceived to have, a conflict of interest in relation to the items for discussion. None was disclosed.

43 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SELECTION PANEL FOR APPOINTMENT TO POST OF PRINCIPAL & VICE-CHANCELLOR

CT/0122/28

The Chair reminded members that the purpose of the meeting was to receive and consider the recommendation for the appointment of the next Principal & Vice-Chancellor of the University: one of the most important decisions Court would be required to make.

The Chair provided Court with a summary of the process undertaken:

summarising the number of applications received; the long-listing and short-listing processes; the psychometric tests performed; the visits undertaken by the short-listed candidates, who had had the opportunity to meet all key stakeholders including staff and students; and the interview process itself.

The Chair thanked members of the selection panel: Mrs H Dunk, Dr A Ingram, Mr F Keir, Ms C MacEachen and Ms R Thiel for their contribution. He also thanked, on behalf of Court, the panel's advisers Mrs S Stewart, Ms E Fraser and Ms J Cloke and Ms C Tickell of Perrett Laver. Finally, the Chair acknowledged the invaluable input provided by the panel's external assessor, Professor A Nolan.

The Chair reported that the panel had given very careful consideration to each candidate, assessing against the skills, experience and personal attributes approved by Court in September 2021. The panel had agreed unanimously on the preferred candidate and the Chair then put the recommendation to Court, on behalf of the whole selection panel, that Professor Liz Bacon be appointed to the post of Principal & Vice-Chancellor. At this juncture, Professor Bacon's abridged CV was tabled for members' consideration. The Chair intimated that it was the panel's belief that Professor Bacon would bring considerable strength and valuable experience as well as energy to the role; and had every confidence that she would make an outstanding contribution in delivering an exciting vision for the University – engaging with all audiences and stakeholders.

The Chair invited comments.

Thereafter, Court agreed unanimously to appoint Professor Liz Bacon to the role of Principal & Vice-Chancellor with effect from 1 May 2022. It was noted that an announcement would be made to that effect immediately and Professor Bacon was invited to join the meeting at this point, where Court expressed congratulations.

44 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair provided Court with an oral report on arrangements currently being put in place to ensure continuity of support for the corporate governance of the University, given the imminent departure of both the Head of Governance and the University Secretary. Mr Shaw advised members that an interim secretary to Court would be appointed. Three suitably-experienced individuals had been identified and would be interviewed shortly, in order to have as long a handover as possible with Mrs Stewart. Court noted that the University was seconding a staff member from Thorntons LLP to cover Dr Ramsay's responsibilities in the areas of Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Court committee servicing, and discussions would be held as soon as possible on the future structure and staffing of the Governance function.

Thereafter, Court supported the approach being taken by officers and looked forward to receiving an update at its next meeting.

Any other business

45 **DEPARTURE OF CLERK TO COURT**

On behalf of Court, the Chair thanked Dr A Ramsay for her contribution to the work of Court during her period of employment at the University since 2009 and wished her well in her new role at the University of Dundee.

46 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 16 February 2022.

**Mr M Shaw
CHAIR**