

University of St Andrews

University Court

REINFORCED EXTRAORDINARY COMMITTEE OF COURT (RECC)

Note of the THIRD meeting of RECC held on Wednesday 13 May 2020

The Committee met remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Dame Anne Pringle, *Senior Governor (Chair)*; Professor Sally Mapstone, *Principal*; Professor Stuart Monro, *Deputy Chair of Court and Convenor of G&N (part only)*; Mr Adrian Greer, *Chancellor's Assessor*; Mr Jonathan Hewitt, *General Council Assessor*; Professor Mark Harris, *Senate Assessor*; Ms Donna Pierz-Fennell, *Non-Academic Staff Assessor*; Mr Jamie Rodney, *President, Students' Association*; Mr Nigel Morecroft, *Non-Executive Member and Convenor of RemCom*; Professor Sir David Wallace, *Non-Executive Member and Convenor of ARC*.

In regular attendance: Professor Lorna Milne, *Master of the United College*; Mr Alastair Merrill, *Vice-Principal Governance*; Mr Derek Watson, *Quaestor & Factor*; Ms Margaret Sinclair, *Executive Officer to the University Court & Senate*.

In attendance: Professor Brad Mackay, *Senior Vice-Principal and Vice-Principal International Strategy and External Relations*.

1. Minutes of RECC Meeting 2

- 1.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2020 as a correct record.

2. Matters considered

2.1. Update

The Committee received a verbal update from the Principal:

- This continued to be a very busy time in dealings with the UK and Scottish governments over a financial support package.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The Research and Knowledge Exchange Sustainability Task Force, announced as part of the suite of measures, met on 12 May. Richard Lochhead, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science; Karen Watt, CEO of the SFC; and Lorna Gibbs, the senior civil servant in the Scottish Government represented Scottish interests on the task force.
- The Scottish Government had announced one-off funding of £75m to the HE sector in respect of research and innovation. This was new money and represented a 25 per cent increase in the SFC's 2020/21 budget for research and innovation.
- Discussions with the Scottish Government over further supportive financial measures continued. [REDACTED]
- Internally, eight weeks into the UK's lockdown, the University's collective focus had shifted from managing the acute phase of the crisis to planning (i) for the easing of the current restrictions and (ii) how to function in a world shaped by Covid. Detailed work was being undertaken in this regard with a series of new workstreams, each with a PO lead focusing on teaching and student experience; research; estate and accommodation; staff and student wellbeing; epidemiology; community; external relations; and communications.
- In conclusion, the Principal expressed gratitude to staff for the exceptional work being undertaken [REDACTED]

3. Record of Decisions

3.1 RECC 19/08-Coronavirus Financial Approach

The Quaestor presented the paper which provided an update to the position presented to RECC on 29 April (on file, RECC/19/05). The Committee noted the report and verbal update.

3.2 RECC 19/09 – Admissions Update and Longer-Term Scenario Planning

The Senior Vice-Principal presented the detailed paper (on file, RECC/19/09, Student Numbers). The Covid -19 pandemic had resulted in unprecedented uncertainty in the 2020/2021 admissions and matriculation cycle, with extensive disruption both in the UK and internationally. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Following discussion, the Committee noted the report, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.3 Academic, Student and Professional Services Perspectives.

The Committee noted the verbal updates¹ provided by the Senate Assessor, the Non-Academic Staff Assessor and the President of the Students' Association [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. Furloughing Update

The Committee noted the verbal update by the Vice-Principal Governance on progress on the University's use of the UK Government's job retention scheme.

- 560 individual furloughing letters had been issued, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Requests for furloughing for a further 200 staff hourly paid staff were currently being progressed.

[REDACTED]

- Following pressure from the University, UCEA had now clarified the eligibility of grant funded research worker for furloughing. 369 individual cases were now under review by HR to assess whether they would meet the criteria specified in the guidance.
- The Government has extended the furloughing scheme until October and further guidance was anticipated by the end of May. Progress on furloughing continued to be discussed at weekly meetings with the campus trade unions.

4. Date of next meeting

The Committee will meet on Friday 29 May at 3 pm, via Microsoft Teams.

Margaret Sinclair

Clerk to the RECC

18 May 2020