

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

COURT

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2012

The meeting was attended by 50 members and 47 apologies for absence were received.

11-12/8 **Report from the Vice-Chancellor**

The Court **received** an update on general developments from the Vice-Chancellor, with particular reference to the following:

- undergraduate applications for entry in 2012;
- current budgetary position and expenditure to enhance the student experience;
- major capital projects nearing completion (new Langwith College and York Sports Village);
- invitation for the University to become a member of the Russell Group with effect from August 2012;
- recent announcement that he would step down at the end of 2013.

With regard to the process for recruitment of Professor Cantor's successor as Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of Council confirmed that the wider University community would be consulted on the person specification for the role and that, with the support of recruitment consultants, a joint committee of Senate and Council would bring forward a recommendation for approval by Council, in accordance with University statutes.

11-12/9 **Presentation from the Department of Archaeology**

The Court **received** a report from the Head of the Department of Archaeology (Professor Julian Richards) on the profile of the department, including presentations from members of the department on their research (Professor Geoff Bailey – coastal prehistory; Professor Matthew Collins – bioarchaeology; Dr Kate Giles – archaeology of buildings; Dr John Schofield – applied heritage studies).

In response to a query from a member of the Court, it was noted that a number of factors explained the department's success in recruiting students, including its research-informed teaching, opportunities for practical teamwork and modern facilities.

11-12/10 **Development and Alumni Relations**

The Court **received** a presentation from the Directors of External Relations (Joan Concannon) and Development (Mary Haworth) on the University's alumni relations activities, including:

- emphasis on broader role played by alumni beyond generation of benefaction funding;
- re-configuration of the Development and Alumni Relations Office;
- establishing links between different generations of alumni;
- the Festival of Ideas as means to engage with successful alumni;
- different fundraising methods (from tele-campaigns to bespoke approaches to individuals);
- funding projects linked to the objectives of the University Plan;
- arrangements for match-funding and legacy giving;
- opportunities for fundraising as part of the University's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2013;
- combination of 'home-coming' events on campus with events elsewhere, including overseas;
- identification of 'champions' for fundraising activities within cohort groups of alumni.

During discussion the following points were **noted**:

- a) Telephone fundraising campaigns were a means of establishing contact with a large number of alumni over a relatively short period of time. The student volunteers enjoyed and benefited from this form of engagement and it also provided a means of reputation-building with the alumni community.
- b) Funding awarded annually from the alumni fund helped to support the activities of a wide range of student groups and societies, and subsequent feedback confirmed the high levels of gratitude with which it was received.
- c) Relationship-building with successful alumni who could provide links to different employment sectors would become increasingly important in the new student funding environment, which sharpened the focus on graduate employability.

11-12/11 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Friday 7 December 2012.