

# UNIVERSITY OF YORK

## COURT

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2015

The meeting was attended by 67 members and 38 apologies for absence were received.

### 14-15/8 **Appointment of Pro-Chancellor**

The Court **approved** the recommendation that Mrs Jenny McAleese be appointed as a Pro-Chancellor (and thereby *ex officio* member of the University Council) for two years from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2017.

### 14-15/9 **Report from the Vice-Chancellor**

The Court **received** a verbal update on general developments from the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Koen Lamberts), with particular reference to the following:

- progress in implementing the new University Strategy;
- likelihood of further funding cuts following the general election on 7 May 2015;
- aspects of the University's planned response to the constrained funding environment;
- ongoing strength in recruitment of high quality staff and students.

Following his update, the Vice-Chancellor paid special tribute to Dr Jane Grenville (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and Mr Greg Dyke (University Chancellor) as they were stepping down from their respective roles in summer 2015. The Court **noted** the specific aspects of the considerable contribution made by both individuals to the development and success of the University, in particular as regards support and advocacy on behalf of students.

### 14-15/10 **Supporting the Student Experience**

As it was Mr Dyke's last meeting as Chancellor, the Court received the following presentations from officers of the Students' Union on his support for aspects of student life:

- Chris Wall (SU Student Activities Officer) on support for the general student experience (including in respect of alumni fundraising, employability and bursaries);

- Sam Maguire (SU President) on support for campus improvements and the important role played at graduation ceremonies;
- Cass Brown (York Sport President) on support for improved facilities, participation and performance as regards student sport.

As part of the presentations, Court members also viewed a student-produced promotional film for the annual Roses sporting competition against Lancaster University (which had been won by York the previous week).

**14-15/11 York and the Creative Industries**

In acknowledgement of the Chancellor’s active role in supporting the establishment of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television (TFTV), the Court received a presentation from Professor Andrew Higson (Head of the Department of TFTV) and Mr Charles Cecil (Chair of the Advisory Board of the Department of TFTV). The presentation covered the following areas:

- profile and academic focus of TFTV, combining academic, creative and technical elements;
- interaction with the creative industries (including through master-classes, placements, work experience etc);
- commercial exploitation of the high-quality departmental facilities;
- role of the departmental Advisory Board;
- examples of successful film-making in York and the wider Yorkshire region;
- UNESCO designation of York as a City of Media Arts;
- inter-disciplinary working with other academic departments (eg Computer Science);
- wide range of benefits and opportunities for students, academic researchers and local residents.

**14-15/12 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Friday 27 November 2015.

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*NOTE: After the formal meeting, Court members viewed a short film produced by York Student Television that paid tribute to Mr Dyke’s professional career and tenure as Chancellor of the University.*