

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

COURT

Minutes of the annual meeting held on 29 November 2013

The meeting was attended by 71 members and 29 apologies for absence were received.

13-14/1 Membership

A list showing the current membership of the Court was **received** for information.

13-14/2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 May 2013 were **approved**.

13-14/3 Appointments

The Court approved the recommendations from the University Council that:

- a) Mr Greg Dyke be re-appointed as Chancellor of the University for one year from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015;
- b) Mr Deian Tecwyn be re-appointed as a Pro-Chancellor (and therefore *ex officio* member of the University Council) for two years from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2016.

13-14/4 Acting Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Court **received** the Annual Report 2013 and an oral report from the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Dr Jane Grenville) covering the following areas:

- University performance in the National Student Survey and newspaper league tables;
- student recruitment;
- research performance and the Research Excellence Framework;
- financial situation (M13-14/5 below also refers);
- the student experience and changing nature of the 'student contract' in a high-fees environment;
- role played by the Colleges and alumni;

- importance of clubs, societies and sports facilities and the contribution of the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor concluded her presentation by offering thanks to Court members for their active involvement in the life and work of the University community.

[Note: A brief presentation was then shown with pictures encapsulating the University's 50th anniversary celebrations and also examples of the various ways it had demonstrated its impact regionally, nationally and internationally.]

13-14/5 Treasurer's Report

The Court **received** the audited accounts of the University for 2012/13 and an oral report from the Treasurer, Mr David Dickson.

The Treasurer drew the Court's specific attention to the following:

- the University's first balance sheet and income and expenditure account (1963/64);
- highlights from the accounts;
- results for the year (income, expenditure and surplus);
- balance sheet at 31 July 2013;
- projected cash flow to July 2017;
- potential investment to July 2023;
- key features from the last five years;
- financial impact of higher than expected student recruitment;
- economic outlook and borrowing rates;
- developments in respect of the University and USS pension schemes.

In response to questions from members of the Court, the following points were **noted**:

- The value of one investment had declined the previous year, but this was not material to the accounts.
- As regards capital expenditure, there was no capitalisation of interest going forward.
- The liability of the University's pension fund had been reduced following increases in contributions by both the employer and employees and other changes to the scheme. The outcome of the triennial evaluation of the USS scheme was currently awaited, with

appropriate contingency arrangements having been made in the University's budget.

13-14/6 Annual Report from the Students' Union

The Court **received** an 'Impact Report' from the Students' Union for 2012/13 and an oral report from the current President, Mr Kallum Taylor.

The President's report covered the following areas of SU activity:

- awards and celebrations;
- clubs and societies;
- volunteering and RAG;
- sporting events and achievements;
- social events;
- work in the community;
- marketing and communications;
- democracy, representation and campaigns;
- welfare and advice;
- finance and resources;
- commercial services;
- future plans in the context of University growth.

13-14/7 Annual Report from the Graduate Students' Association

The Court **received** the Annual Report from the Graduate Students' Association for 2012/13 and an oral report from the current President, Mr Yuan Wang.

The President drew particular attention to the following:

- staffing issues and review of electoral processes;
- professionalization of officer support functions;
- increase in student casework and resourcing implications;
- active collaboration with University support services;
- establishment of a PhD network and graduate community fund;
- future plans including in respect of graduate common rooms and course representatives.

13-14/8 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Friday 9 May 2014.

NOTE: Following the meeting, a Morrell Fellowship award was presented to University benefactor, Patrick Shepherd (citation address delivered by Dr David Duncan, Registrar & Secretary).