



University of
St Andrews

600
YEARS

MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD ON SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2012 at 10:30 IN PARLIAMENT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

The Chancellor of the University, The Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC MP, was in the Chair and welcomed 59 members and guests to the meeting.

1. Minute of the last Ordinary Half Yearly General Council Meeting Held on 18 November 2011

The minute of this meeting, held in London, was received and *agreed* as a correct record.

2. General Council Assessor to the University Court

The Clerk intimated that Miss K M Patrick would demit office as a General Council Assessor to the University Court on 31 July 2012.

An online election was held for her successor from mid-May to mid-June with a small number of members electing to vote by a post ballot. 772 votes were cast under the Alternative Vote system. George Brown was eliminated after the first round of counting with 24 votes. Kenneth Cochran was eliminated after the second round of counting with 112 votes. Nigel Morecroft was eliminated after the third round of counting with 218 votes. After the fourth round of counting Nigel B Christie received 336 votes and Jane Ryder 322 votes. Therefore Nigel B Christie, MA, 1971, was elected to the position General Council Assessor to the University Court to serve for a four-year term from 1 August 2012.

3a. Report of the Business Committee Meeting

The Council considered and approved the full report of the meeting held on 24 March 2012, taking particular note of the following items of business highlighted by the Convener, Mr M P L Strachan:

(i) Sub-Committee on Ordinances and Resolutions: *Ordinance No.129 Election of the Chancellor and Election of General Council Assessors to the University Court* was approved by the Privy Council on 15 February 2012. The local rules and guidance were approved by the Sub-Committee on Ordinances and Resolutions and Business Committee which enabled the election of one General Council Assessor to take place online.

It was agreed that the 2014 elections for the General Council Assessor, Business Committee and the Committee of the Alumnus Association would take place earlier in the calendar year to improve efficiency and communication and the voting period would be shortened.

(ii) Purposes and Venue Working Group Report: The Business Committee agreed with the Working Group's recommendation that the timing of the November meeting in 2011 had worked well and should in principle be repeated subject to a final decision on timings being reached based on the characteristics of each location. It was noted that the November 2012 meeting of the General Council would take place on the evening of Friday 23 November in the Wolfson Medical School, University of Glasgow.

The Council would meet in St Andrews in June and November 2013, the November date still to be finalised, taking into account other 600th Anniversary events which may be taking place at that time. The 2014 meetings would be held in St Andrews and London. The Working Group was asked to report to the full Business committee in October 2012 on how interest in the Council could be generated among younger graduates.

(iii) University Court Business: the Business Committee received a written report following the University Court Meeting on 27 January 2012. The report covered a number of areas of Court business including the rise in student applications to the University; confirmation that the Scottish Funding Council would announce its latest round of grants on 30 March 2012; the progression of the Students' association redevelopment project to a detailed design and planning stage and an update on the Scottish Government's consultation on Post-16 education. The Committee also noted that, following the death of Dr M J B Lowe OBE, the position of Chancellor's Piper would be filled by a member of the student body chosen by a competitive process.

There being no questions the Chancellor thanked Mr Strachan for his detailed update.

3b. Membership 2012-2013

The Convener expressed his thanks to Mr Eliot Wilson and Mr Alex Yabroff who would complete their terms of office on 30 June 2012. In particular he noted the Committee's appreciation to Mr Yabroff who took part in many meetings via a conference call from the USA in the early hours of the morning. He also thanked Mr Nick Robinson, who resigned in October 2011 and Mr James North who resigned in May 2012. In closing he acknowledged the valuable contribution made to the work of the General Council by Miss Kathleen Patrick in her role as General Council Assessor and congratulated her on being awarded the University Medal during the recent graduation celebrations.

The Clerk to the General Council reported that Lyndsay Lauder, MA 1985, Jocelyn Seligman, MA 2005, and Jai Popat, BSc 2010 were elected to serve on the Business Committee for a period of four-years from 1 July 2012. Alan Frith, MA 1983, was elected to serve on Business Committee for a period of one-year from 1 July 2012 to succeed Dr Martin Lowe. The vacancy resulting from Mr North's resignation would be filled in the 2013 elections.

The Convener and the Chancellor recorded their sincere thanks for the sterling work carried out on the General Council's behalf by the late Dr Martin Lowe.

4a. Report of the Committee of the Alumnus Association

The Council considered and approved the report of the Committee of the Alumnus Association taking particular note of the following items highlighted by the Convener, Miss K M Patrick.

The 2012 edition of the *Alumnus Chronicle* was sent to over 42,500 alumni around the world and a copy had been given to all graduating students. Feedback on the publication had been positive and constructive with the alumni news section continuing to be very popular. The Convener recorded her thanks to the editors, Lesley Lind and Elaine Cartwright and the committee for their hard work and contributions. A suggestion that the Chronicle could be made available online would be taken to the next meeting of the committee for further discussion.

Alumni Clubs continued to thrive with new activity in Beijing, Luxembourg and Singapore and expressions of interest in establishing regional clubs in Florida and Greece. The New York Club had recently been re-launched and provided valuable assistance with a premier screening of the *Ever to Excel* 600th Anniversary film in the city. Finally the London Alumni Club was already making plans for a Service of Thanksgiving in commemoration of the 600th Anniversary at St Paul's Cathedral on 20 December to which all alumni and guests were invited. Full details of Club activity could be found in the *Alumnus Chronicle*.

Alumni from USA, Canada, Australia, Iceland and Germany as well as from all parts of the UK with graduating years spanning 66 years from 1994 to 2010 gathered in St Andrews for the Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012. The returning groups included a special gathering for Biology alumni, the annual After Many Days Club lunch and a dinner for those who matriculated 50 years ago. In total almost 200 people had registered for a range of events during the weekend including a Wine Tasting, Witches Tour, talk on the *Marratta* painting, Reunion Dinner, Ball and Beating the Retreat. In closing, Miss Patrick encouraged alumni to attend one of the screenings of the *Ever to Excel* 600th Anniversary film which were taking place during the Reunion Weekend.

There being no questions the Chancellor thanked Miss Patrick for the report. The Chancellor took the opportunity to congratulate Miss Patrick on the well-deserved award of the University Medal during the graduation week and to thank her for supporting his work as President of the General Council.

4b. Committee Membership 2012-2013

The Clerk reported that there was one vacancy to serve on the Committee of Alumnus Association to replace the retiring member, James North.

Two nominations were received and 651 members voted. Rev Dr Robin Hill received 434 votes and Olivier Lewis 217 votes. Accordingly Rev Dr Robin Hill, PhD 1991, was elected to serve as a member of the Committee of Alumnus Association for a five year term from 1 July 2012.

5. University Address by Professor Louise Richardson FRSE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

The Principal opened her address by congratulating the latest cohort of graduating students. 1,795 students from 85 countries, ranging from Algeria and Burma to Uruguay and Vietnam, were awarded 1,586 undergraduate degrees, 133 PhDs and 76 Masters. Honorary degrees were bestowed upon a diverse group of distinguished individuals marking their achievements in the worlds of literature, sciences, academia, law and broadcasting. In congratulating Miss Kathleen Patrick on the award of the University Medal, the Principal expressed her appreciation for Miss Patrick's commitment and dedication to St Andrews, especially through her valuable contribution to her *alma mater* as the University Court's longest serving member.

The Principal noted that in a week of celebration of the achievements of teaching and learning it was also important to take time to highlight and commend those working on the internationally recognised research which promoted the reputation of University and in turn encouraged funding and enhanced the calibre of a St Andrews degree.

Research undertaken over the last year included the discovery of tiny diamond particles in candle flames in the School of Chemistry while world leading experts in the School of Physics and Astronomy have been awarded a £5.6m grant. This grant would be used to develop new light technologies which could improve diagnosis and treatments of diseases by being able to see into the human body in more depth and detail than ever before.

A lecturer in the School of Art History has developed a technique to allow us a glimpse into the reading habits of our mediaeval ancestors through a machine which measured dirt on the pages of mediaeval manuscripts; this dirt showing the most read pages. Geologists discovered fossils between 760 and 550 million years old which are possibly proof of the first animal to have existed on earth. In the same School Earth Scientists found evidence to link the severe drought in ancient Egypt with the decline of the Old Kingdom.

In the School of Computer Science, researchers have developed a mobile app to predict fertility and another project in the School received an award for its work on how Twitter was used during last summer's riots. On a similar subject scientists in Psychology analysed the behaviour of mobs and another study undertaken by Psychology researchers linked eating 'five a day' to an improved appearance.

Biologists discovered that a female guppy could produce millions of fish even if no male were present while Marine Biologists captured media attention through their citizen science project about how whales communicate. The world-leading Sea Mammal Research Unit won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its contribution to the governance and protection of the oceans while its Director, Professor Boyd was appointed Chief Scientific Advisor at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The achievements of academics at the University have been recognised through the award of a number of prestigious prizes and fellowships. Professor John Burnside of the School of English won the highest accolade in British poetry, the TS Eliot Prize. Also from the School of English, Professor Robert Crawford, was awarded the British Academy Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship.

Professor Peter Bruce FRS, Wardlaw Professor of Chemistry, has been presented with the inaugural UK AkzoNobel Science Award for his fundamental chemistry research that could transform the range of electric vehicles and make renewable energy more viable. Professor of Chemical Biology James Naismith has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in recognition of his outstanding contribution to medical science.

The American Physical Society recognised Professor Andrew Mackenzie's outstanding contributions to physics by electing him as a fellow. Professor Chris Hawkesworth was awarded the Wollaston Medal by the Geological Society.

St Andrews continued to perform well in the latest round of league tables: 4th in the Guardian, top in Scotland and 6th overall in the Complete University Guide and 6th in the Sunday Times and Times guides. In terms of world rankings the University was placed 71st in the Leiden Ranking and was placed 85th in the Times Higher World Rankings and 97th in the QS World University Rankings, both published in late 2011.

In other developments the Principal reported that following a student vote, New Hall would be renamed in September 2012 as The Agnes Forbes Blackadder Hall after the University's first female graduate (graduated in 1895).

Also within the University estate the first phase of the refurbished library was completed 2011 with the second phase underway. A planning permission application for the refurbishment of the Students' Association building was underway and plans were under discussion about the development of the site of the former paperworks at Guardbridge in the hope of providing space for spin-out companies, green energy and possibly a brewing company.

In terms of the 600th Anniversary a number of events and fundraising activities and the University's shop, stocking 600th Anniversary merchandise, had been under the management of the St Andrews Links Trust. 600 trees were planted earlier in the year in a 600th Anniversary town and gown project. A film, supported by an anonymous donation to mark the 600th Anniversary, *Ever to Excel*, was premiered in New York earlier in the year and generated global coverage and goodwill. The film was directed by alumnus Murray Grigor and narrated by honorary graduate Sir Sean Connery who also appeared in the film.

The Principal took questions /comments from members on the following topics: development of online / distance learning courses (*there are distance learning courses in areas such as CSTPV. There are no immediate plans to develop this area further but the University would continue to watch institutions such as Stanford, Harvard and MIT*). Reason behind the changes to the academic year (*first semester exams are taken before Christmas which would help students reduce travel costs and emissions. It was also noted that it was expensive to heat halls and lecture theatres in January. The University was leading the way and it would be interesting to see if other institutions follow example*).

The Chancellor thanked the Principal for this informative and comprehensive update and for responding to the questions from the floor.

6. Presentation on the University Music centre by Dr Michael Downes, Director of Music

Dr Downes thanked the Council for the opportunity to talk about the work of the Music Centre and presented a detailed account of the diverse range of activities taking place in, and directed by, the University's Music Centre.

Dr Downes was appointed in 2008 as the first full time Director of Music and with the more recent appointment of a full time University Organist and the support of a well-qualified team of specialists, the Music Centre had been able to undertake a more ambitious and professional series of activities than had been previously possible.

Touching on the regular question about the reinstatement of a single honours Music degree, Dr Downes highlighted that the Music Centre is responsible for a number of music modules in the academic curriculum with 250 students taking at least one music module as part of their studies. There were no plans to reinstate the single honours music degree and the Music Centre was proud of the musical opportunities open to everyone across the University and local community including students, staff and locals. Anyone from the University community could sing in the Chapel Choir, play a concerto or benefit from tuition if they were good enough and these opportunities were not restricted to students undertaking the music degree.

Dr Downes outlined the three main aims for music: excellence, opportunities for all and links with the local community. In terms of excellence the Music Centre aimed to follow in the spirit of the University's motto *Ever to Excel* and specifically for the Chapel Choir to be equal to the Oxbridge Choirs. Work was on-going to collaborate with other organisations including the forthcoming performance of the Eugene Onegin Opera. These joint initiatives provided openings for students to work with professionals and the Music Centre took pride in the small but steady stream of students moving into a professional musical career and performing well in national musical competitions.

Opportunities for all the student body was provided through new instruments, new musical groups and new teachers. St Andrews was a great place to take up music for the first time and has strength in traditional, classical and unamplified music. One future objective would be to develop into amplified / pop music but the current facilities do not provide the right space for these types of music.

Moving on to the third aim, Dr Downes reported that the Music Centre probably had more links with the local community than any other area of University life and Music Centre staff spend a great deal of time working with local groups, including school children. The partnership with Scottish Chamber Orchestra (the University's orchestra in residence) was bringing the benefits of expert tuition and master classes and also allowed the

community to hear world class performers and performances in the Younger Hall. One new initiative was the St Andrews Voices festival which would take place in St Andrews in October 2012 with honorary graduate Dr Ian Bostridge acting as its Patron.

As part of the 600th Anniversary the Music Centre was seeking to establish a Choral Foundation to build on the excellence of the Chapel Choir and grow an endowment fund to provide support for vocal tuition and the Chapel tours. The provision of a much needed new dedicated space for the Music Centre was also key if music was to meet its aspirations and continue to develop and grow musical opportunities and benefits for students, staff and the local community.

Dr Downes answered a number of questions from members on the subjects including the continued existence of the Music Centre Choir and St Andrews Chorus; the Chapel Choir's aspiration to equal the quality of the Oxbridge Choirs; Music Centre's outreach and participation in activities such as the *Big Noise* project; consideration of where a new Music Centre could be housed and working with the Students' Association to share facilities for the development of amplified music space.

The Chancellor thanked Dr Downes for this fascinating insight into the broad range of activities undertaken within the Music Centre and in and around the University and town by Music Centre staff.

7. Any Other Competent Business

The Chancellor brought the meeting to a close by thanking the speakers for their contributions and the Council members for their attendance and questions.

Chancellor of the University
The Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC MP