

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

**GENERAL COUNCIL**

Members of the General Council are called to a statutory half-yearly **MEETING** on **SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER** at **11.00AM** in **NEW HALL (KAETSU CENTRE), UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

*AGENDA*

	Page
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	
1. Minutes of the last ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Council held on 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	
2. Report of the meeting of the Business Committee held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2002	
3. Reports of the meetings of the Committee on the Alumnus Association held on 15 <sup>th</sup> June and 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2002	
4. Address by Principal Brian Lang	
5. Any other competent business	
<i>Benediction</i>	

IAN M WRIGHT  
Clerk to the General Council

Old Union Building  
79 North Street  
St Andrews

**The next statutory meeting of the Council will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003 at 11.00am in Lower College Hall, University of St Andrews.**

**MINUTE OF STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL  
COUNCIL HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2002, 11.00AM, LOWER COLLEGE HALL,  
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS**

The Chancellor of the University presided at the meeting which was opened with prayer by the Dean of the Faculty of Divinity.

**1. ELECTION OF COUNCIL ASSESSOR ON UNIVERSITY COURT**

As reported by the Business Committee, the Council noted that Mr E. D. Murray had been elected (unopposed) to serve as an assessor of the General Council on the University Court for four years from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2002. [*Under the Court's new constitution, now approved by the Privy Council, Mr Murray will join Mr W. Berry as a Council assessor. The remaining assessors under the old constitution (Mrs Davis, Mr Mundie and Mr Matthews) will remain on the Court as co-opted members for two, two and three years respectively.*]

**2. MINUTE OF THE LAST STATUTORY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, HELD IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2001**

This minute having been circulated was agreed as a correct record.

**3. BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**(a) Report** - the Council considered and approved the report of its Business Committee's meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002, subject to the following:-

*Next Meeting of Council* - it was reported that the venue for this meeting in Cambridge on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2002 would be New Hall.

*Ordinances and Resolutions Sub-Committee* - on the proposal of the convener of the Business Committee, it was agreed that Mrs J. M. Watkinson should succeed Professor Blake as convener of this sub-committee. The Council agreed to record its appreciation of Professor Blake's convenership.

*Research Assessment Exercise* - the Council commended the work of all University staff who had ensured that St Andrews was the top-rated Scottish university in the recent RAE.

*Scottish Executive Proposals for Higher Education* - the convener invited comments from any Council member for transmission to the Secretary & Registrar.

*Retiring Assessors and Committee Members* - the Council endorsed the Business Committee's tribute to the work of Mr Matthews and Mr Mundie as Council assessors on the University Court during the past eight years (*q.v.* item 1 above); and to the work of the retiring members of the Business Committee : Professor Blake, Mr Miller and Mrs Steedman.

**(b) Membership** – the Council received details of three candidates nominated for membership of the Business Committee for four years from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002: Mr R. B. Christie, Mr M. B. Passmore and Mrs J. M. Watkinson. Since there were now no further nominations, these persons were declared to have been duly elected.

#### 4. COMMITTEE ON THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

**(a) Report** – the Council received and approved the report of this committee’s meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2002. The Council was pleased to learn of the generally positive feedback following publication of this year’s *Alumnus Chronicle*; members were urged to complete and return an *ad hoc* questionnaire now being issued. It was further reported that an Alumni Club had been formed in New York, to be followed probably by Clubs in Boston and Washington; also, it was hoped to form a new club in Edinburgh which *inter alia* would host an annual bejeant reception. In conclusion, the convener, commended the use of the University’s website for further alumni information.

**(b) Membership** – as proposed by the convener, the Council agreed that (i) Mrs J. M. Watkinson should be an elected member of the committee, for five years, and (ii) the President of the Students’ Association should be an *ex officio* member.

#### 5. PRINCIPAL’S ADDRESS

Principal Brian Lang addressed the Council. He spoke of the University’s successes during the past year both in Teaching and in Research, St Andrews consistently being rated at the top of Scottish league tables and in the top ten of UK universities. The University was committed to both excellence and diversity throughout the Arts and Humanities, as well as in the Sciences where the recent appointment of a Dean of Medicine would take forward the evolution of that subject to meet national demands and expectations. Pressures on resources, financial and otherwise, were however evident at a time of continuing reduction in public funding. Nevertheless, the University aimed to remain at the forefront of Scottish Higher Education : by recruitment of high-quality staff and the provision of first-rate accommodation and facilities. In conclusion, the Principal thanked the committee conveners for their reports and all Council members for their support and encouragement.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the benediction.

SIR KENNETH DOVER  
President

## REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The committee met on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2002.

*Present:-* Dr D J Evans (convener); Mr William Berry, Mr E D Murray (Council Assessors on Court); Mr M A Booth, Mr R B Christie, Mr D P Hamilton, Mr M B Passmore, Mr J A Stewart, Mr M P L Strachan, Mrs J M Watkinson (elected members).

*Apologies:-* Principal Brian Lang; Professor D B Thomas (Chancellor's assessor on Court); Miss K M Patrick (convener, Committee on the Alumnus Association); Mr C E Duthie, Ms R J Roland, Mrs A M Taylor (elected members); Mr G R C Scott (co-opted member).

*In attendance:-* Mr D J Corner (Secretary & Registrar), Mr I M Wright (Clerk to the Council), Ms A S Punnett (for items 5 and 6).

### 1. **Membership of the Business Committee**

(a) The committee noted its present membership, welcoming to their first meeting Mr Murray (elected as an assessor earlier in the year) and newly elected members, Mr Christie, Mr Passmore and Mrs Watkinson. Mr Berry was congratulated on his recent election as Senior Governor by the University Court.

(b) The committee endorsed the convener's proposal that Mrs C A M Davis (whom failing Mr J F Matthews) and Mr G R C Scott (alumni co-opted members of the University Court) should be co-opted to the Business Committee during their term as Court members.

(c) It was reported that Mr Barry Joss had resigned from the committee (his membership being incompatible with his candidature in the University's recent Rectorial Election, won by Sir Clement Freud). The committee agreed that Dr Margaret Connolly should fill this vacancy (until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003).

### 2. **Election of Vice Convener of the Business Committee**

On the nomination of Dr Evans, the committee agreed to re-elect Mr Strachan as its vice convener for the coming year.

### 3. **Report of the Business Committee's Last Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

(a) This report, previously approved by the Council, was received and agreed as a correct record.

(b) Arising from the report, it was agreed to recommend that, in elections for Council assessors on the University Court, voting papers should be sent not only to those persons on the Council's register with a known address in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands (as prescribed by ordinance) but also to all other persons on the register with an address outwith these countries; that being the process used in an election for Chancellor of the University. In addition, in both Assessor and Chancellor elections the Clerk should be empowered to accept votes returned timeously by fax mail; and the possibility of allowing electronic voting should be investigated.

### 4. **Minute of the Council's Last Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

This minute was received and agreed for transmission to the Council for formal approval.

5. **Next Meeting of the General Council, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2002**  
Having discussed and approved the arrangements for this meeting in the University of Cambridge, the committee also agreed the formal agenda.
6. **Future Winter Meetings of the General Council**  
The committee recommended that, following successful winter meetings furth of St Andrews, the 2003 Autumn/Winter statutory meeting should be in Glasgow since there is a large graduate population within the Strathclyde region.
7. **Sub-Committee on Ordinances and Resolutions**  
It was reported that this sub-committee had received and accepted on the Council's behalf draft University Court Resolution 2002 No.2 (Creation of Professorial Chairs). This had now received final approval by the University Court.
8. **Sub-Committee on Finance and Statistics**  
The committee agreed that (a) Mr R B Christie should serve as a member of this sub-committee until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006; and (b) Dr Margaret Connolly should fill the casual vacancy created by Mr Joss's resignation, until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003. The committee was reminded that all its elected members would be encouraged to attend the sub-Committee's next annual meeting.
9. **General Council Registration Fee 2003-4**  
In the light of a paper tabled by the convener relating to the Council's present and projected expenditure, the committee recommended that this fee, presently £42, should be increased to £43 in 2003-4 in order that income received should continue to balance expenditure.
10. **University Court Business**  
The convener, with the Secretary & Registrar, reported the following business considered by Court since the committee's last meeting:
  - (a) **University Ordinances** - the agreed changes to the composition of the University Court and concerning the Council's register were now in place following approval of ordinances 121-125.
  - (b) **Student Accommodation** - following a return this year to regular Admission patterns, the exceptional arrangements adopted last year were no longer necessary.
  - (c) **Pension Schemes** - the University had responded to the falling values in Pension funds by bringing both employer and employee contributions to the non-academic staff scheme into line with that for academic and related staff.
  - (d) **Developments in Medicine** - in order to ensure significant advances in the discipline, a Faculty (and School) of Medicine had been created and a Dean appointed to take forward growth of this area in the University.
  - (e) **Students' Association Board** - the agreed re-constitution had taken place.
  - (f) **Long Term Land Developments** - the University was discussing with the local planning authorities their respective plans for the long term use of land in the Wester Langlands area of St Andrews.
11. **University Admission Policies**  
The Secretary & Registrar led a discussion about the University's Admission and related policies. He drew particular attention to the University's top quality

ratings across all subjects in both Teaching and Research, an achievement probably unique in terms of their consistency within the UK, and to present and projected student numbers. While student applications remained buoyant and of high quality, several important issues had to be addressed e.g. attracting good quality applicants to the less popular subject areas; responding to Government policy to widen access to Higher Education, thus allowing all students, with proven ability and appropriate potential to study at St Andrews regardless of social or ethnic background, physical or mental disability, age or gender; combining traditional academic strengths with student demand for new areas of study; expanding the taught and research postgraduate student population, to match the aspirations of a research-orientated university; optimising the overseas student population to ensure a truly cosmopolitan university; and attracting additional funding to support teaching which will maintain institutional competitiveness.

12. **Strategic Planning**

(a) Having received the University's rolling Strategic Plan document 2001-2/2005-6, the committee agreed that Mr M B Passmore and Mr R B Christie (whom failing Dr D J Evans or Mr Strachan) should represent the Council in discussions about the 2003-4 edition of the Plan.

(b) At the convener's instigation, the committee recommended that the Council should sponsor a conference in St Andrews, c. November 2003, to consider the longer term strategic aims of the University: the directions to pursue up to the year 2025. Prominent guest speakers should be invited to address a wide audience from within the St Andrews community as well as representatives of all Scottish HEIs. The cost of this event should be met by the operating surplus evident in the Council's 2001-2 accounts (this being an exceptional surplus for a variety of reasons).

13. **Business Committee Meetings 2003**

The committee agreed to meet at 11.00am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2003.

D J EVANS  
Convener

**REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION**

The Committee met on Saturday 15 June 2002.

*Present* Miss K.M. Patrick (Convener), Ms J.M. Adair, Dr D.J. Evans, Dr D.W. Sinclair, Mrs J.M. Watkinson, Ms L.M. Lind, (joint Editor), Ms A.S. Punnett (joint Editor and Secretary).

*Apologies* Mr M.P. Strachan

1. **Alumnus Chronicle**

Publication of the 2002 edition was timeous and most initial feedback had been highly favourable. As part of the contract with the publishers an Evaluation

Questionnaire would be sent to a sample of alumni with UK addresses. Ideas for the content of the 2003 edition were aired.

**2. Alumni Clubs**

Meetings were being held in New York, Washington and Boston with a view to establishing Clubs in the USA and it was hoped also to form one in the East of Scotland, based in Edinburgh

**3. Development**

Information was received about some of the smaller projects for which funds had been raised, including the restoration of a stained glass window in St Salvator's Hall, the restoration of the portrait of Sir James Irvine and the refurbishment of the Old Union Café; a drum kit had also been gifted to the Music Centre.

**4. Student Representation on the Committee**

The Convener would liaise with the President of the Students' Association.

MISS K.M. PATRICK  
Convener

The Committee met on Saturday 5 October 2002

*Present* Miss K.M. Patrick (Convener), Ms J.M. Adair, Dr D.J. Evans, Mr R. O'Hare, Dr D.W. Sinclair, Mr. M.P Strachan, Ms L.M. Lind, (joint Editor), Ms A.S. Punnett (joint Editor and Secretary).

*Apologies* Mrs J.M. Watkinson

**1. Membership**

It was reported that the General Council had welcomed the proposal that student representation should in future be in the person of the President of the Students' Association and Mr. O'Hare was welcomed to the meeting in that capacity.

**2. Alumnus Chronicle 2002 - Evaluation Survey**

The preliminary analysis of the questionnaires indicated a positive response to all questions with the strongest evaluations for initial impression, photography and overall impression. The most popular sections had been *Your News* and *Olim Cives*, followed by *The Community of St Andrews*, *Reunion News* and *Honours and Inductions*. With regard to future editions, most interest was expressed in reading articles focusing on specific Schools and Departments and on the town and its residents. 83% of the respondents had indicated that they had never visited the Alumni Relations web pages; in the light of this a review of this service would be undertaken to raise its profile.

**3. Alumnus Chronicle 2003**

Features would include articles about two Schools, a historical item, an item relating to a group of overseas students, an article about alumni in a specific

sector of work, and a feature on student life. A new section entitled "Stop Press" would contain short items of interest from Press Releases and news items.

**4. Alumni Clubs**

It was reported that Clubs had been formed in New York and Boston and the feasibility of forming one in another area was being explored.

**5. Development News**

Details of staffing changes were intimated along with information about sums raised from funding initiatives.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Saturday 18 January 2003.

MISS K.M. PATRICK  
Convener



## OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS