

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

GENERAL COUNCIL

Members of the General Council are called to a statutory half-yearly **MEETING** on **SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2005** at **11.00AM** in **THE BALBEGGIE ROOM, WEST PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE, 319 PERTH ROAD, DUNDEE.**

*AGENDA*

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	
1. Intimation that Mr Edward D Murray falls to vacate office as an assessor of the General Council on the University Court on 31 July 2006. (Nomination forms for the resulting vacancy are available from the Clerk, to be returned not later than 1 March 2006.)	
2. Minute of the last ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2005.	
3. Business Committee	
(a) Report of meeting held on 5 November 2005	
(b) To fill a casual vacancy in the committee's membership, until 30 June 2006, following the resignation of Mr Martin B Passmore.	
4. Reports of the meetings of the Committee of the Alumnus Association held on 10 September and 15 October 2005.	
5. Address by Principal Brian Lang.	
6. Any other competent business.	

*Benediction*

IAN M WRIGHT  
Clerk to the General Council

Old Union Building  
79 North Street  
St Andrews  
KY16 9AL

**The next statutory meeting of the Council will be on Saturday 24 June 2006 at 11.00am in Parliament Hall, University of St Andrews.**

**Item 2**

**MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD ON 25 JUNE 2005, 11.00AM IN PARLIAMENT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS**

The Chancellor of the University was in the chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Principal of St Mary's College.

**1. Minute of last Statutory Meeting of the General Council, 27 November 2004.**

The minute of this meeting, held in York, had been circulated and was agreed as a correct record.

**2. Business Committee**

(a) **Report** - the Council considered and approved the report of its Business Committee's meeting held on 16 April 2005. In particular, the following matters were highlighted :-

(i) **Council Meeting in USA** - it was agreed to defer this proposal to allow North American alumni groups time to develop.

(ii) **Election of Committee Members** - with regard to this matter, and the wider issue, now raised, of possible use of video conferencing *etc*, Council members were invited to address any further proposals to the Registrar, Mr Stephen Magee.

(iii) **Tributes** - the Council endorsed the committee's tributes to Mr Douglas Mason and Mr John Matthews.

(b) **Membership** - it was reported that the following committee members retired by rotation at 30 June 2005 : Mr M A W Booth, Ms R J Roland and Mr M P L Strachan (the last of whom, as serving convener, was eligible for immediate re-election). On behalf of the Council, the convener thanked them for their service.

Intimation was then given of the following seven nominations received for the resulting three vacancies : Mr Martyn P L Strachan, Dr Henry A S Payne, Mr Jocelyn D Seligman, Dr Jane E Potter, Mr Peter A Blair, Dr Ralph Covino, Mr E Duthie. There being no further nominations, in a ballot vote at the close of the meeting the following votes were cast :-

Mr Martyn P L <b>STRACHAN</b>	38
Dr Henry A S <b>PAYNE</b>	17
Mr Jocelyn D <b>SELIGMAN</b>	9
Dr Jane E <b>POTTER</b>	26
Mr Peter A <b>BLAIR</b>	28
Dr Ralph <b>COVINO</b>	16
Mr E <b>DUTHIE</b>	39

Accordingly, Mr Duthie, Mr Strachan and Mr Blair were duly elected to serve as members of the committee for four years from 1 July 2005.

### 3. **Committee of the Alumnus Association**

- (a) **Report** – the Council received and approved the report of this committee's meeting held on 22 January 2005. The Council was pleased to learn of the positive feedback received about this year's *Alumnus Chronicle* and endorsed the convener's thanks to the editors and all contributors. It was also gratifying to note the continuing growth worldwide of alumni clubs and to hear about the many reunions taking place either at this specific weekend in St Andrews or wider afield throughout the year. In conclusion, the convener thus paid tribute to the enthusiastic work carried out by the Alumni Relations Office.
- (b) **Convenership** – the post of committee convener falling vacant at 30 June 2005, it was reported that the retiring convener, Miss Kathleen Patrick, had duly been nominated for a further five-year term. There being no further nominations, Miss Patrick was duly elected so to serve.

### 4. **Principal's Address**

Dr Lang addressed the Council, referring first to a successful and special week of graduation ceremonies, now ending; he thanked all University staff concerned with its organisation. The Principal then spoke of the continuing popularity of St Andrews as students' first choice of university with applications now at an unprecedented high level. As further evidence of St Andrews' burgeoning academic reputation worldwide, 30% of the student population now was from countries outside the UK. The University remained committed to excellence in both Teaching and Research, students being admitted irrespective of their origins or background; links with Fife schools were being strengthened. Nevertheless, the University faced tough competition internationally, not least from south of the border as a consequence of English universities now being permitted to charge higher tuition fees and consequently having greater financial clout than in Scotland. Despite the apparent lack of appetite among any of the political parties, it was vital that the Scottish Executive was engaged in a positive debate about university funding within Scotland in order to prevent deterioration in the strengths and reputation of Scottish universities. At St Andrews itself, there was continuing investment in new buildings and student facilities : in Computer Science, Management (the Gateway building) and redevelopment of David Russell hall of residence. A new Arts building was expected to open beside the Library in 2007. Increasingly, however, the University was looking to Fundraising efforts in order to sustain its ambitious plans, essential if St Andrews is to remain at the forefront of higher education in Scotland and beyond.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the pronouncement of the benediction.

SIR KENNETH DOVER  
President of Council

#### **Item 3 (a)**

#### **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The committee met on 5 November 2005.

- Present:** Mrs J M Watkinson (vice-convener and elected member); Principal Brian Lang (item 12(a) only); Professor D B Thomas (Chancellor's Assessor); Mr G R C Scott (co-opted member); Mr P A Blair, Mr E S A Henley, Mrs J L MacDonald, Mr D S Mundie, Mr J M North, Mr M P L Strachan, Mr E D Wilson (elected members).
- In attendance:** Mr S R Magee (Registrar of the General Council); Mr I M Wright (Clerk of the General Council).
- Apologies:** Mr E D Murray, Miss K M Patrick (Council Assessors on Court); Mr R B Christie, Mr C E Duthie, Dr M J B Lowe (elected members).

Mr Blair was welcomed to his first meeting.

## 1. ELECTION OF CONVENER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Following the expiry on 30 June 2005 of the past convener's term of office as an elected member of the Business Committee, nominations for Mr Strachan's successor had been sought. On the proposal of Mrs MacDonald, seconded by Dr Lowe, and there being no further nominations, Mr Strachan (whose re-election as a member of the committee had been confirmed at the Council's meeting on 25 June 2005) was duly re-elected as convener of the Business Committee, until 30 June 2009.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

- (a) **Elected Members** - as a consequence of Mr Passmore's resignation, on 13 October 2005, as an elected member of the committee (to permit him to stand as a candidate in the election for Rector of the University - see item 10 below), notice was given of a casual vacancy among the elected members of the committee, serving until 30 June 2006; nomination forms were now available from the Clerk. The vacancy would be filled at the Council's meeting on 26 November 2005.
- (b) **Co-opted Members** - Mr Matthews having ceased to be a co-opted member of the University Court at 31 July 2005 and thus a co-opted member of the Business Committee, it was agreed that the convener should invite either Mr Cabrelli or Mrs Davis (both co-opted members of the Court and graduates of the University) to succeed Mr Matthews as a co-opted member of the committee.

## 3. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE'S LAST MEETING, 16 APRIL 2005

- (a) This report, previously considered and approved by the General Council, was received and agreed as a correct record.
- (b) Arising from this report the following matters were discussed :-
- (i) **Information for Graduands** - it was agreed that Mr North, in consultation with the Alumni Office, should finalise a new Information leaflet about the General Council which the University would distribute to graduands in 2006.
- (ii) **Reception for Final Year Undergraduates** - the committee agreed that, rather than institute its own reception, the General Council should associate itself with the June graduation garden parties. This would involve making an annual financial contribution towards the overall costs in return for which

each graduand would be entitled to free entry to a garden party which would be advertised as a General Council event. To advance this proposal an *ad hoc* group – comprising Mr Strachan, Mr North, Mr Wilson and Mr Magee – was set up to ensure that the quality and content of these garden parties would reflect well on the Council and would be a vehicle whereby the Council's profile could be raised with new members.

(iii) **Election of Members of the Business Committee** – the committee agreed that it was desirable to move towards an election process which would allow for electronic voting in elections for members of the Business Committee. It was agreed therefore to invite to the next meeting representatives of the Alumni Office and Information Technology Services to consider this further, including any financial implications.

#### 4. MINUTE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL'S LAST MEETING, 25 JULY 2005

This minute was received and agreed for transmission to the Council's next meeting for formal approval.

#### 5. NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, 26 NOVEMBER 2005

It was confirmed that this meeting would be held in Dundee (following the successful practice since 1997 of holding the Council's statutory winter meeting furth of St Andrews). Individual notices had been sent to members living in Dundee and the surrounding areas north of the Tay.

The formal agenda for the meeting was received and approved.

#### 6 SUB-COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- (a) **Report** – the committee noted and endorsed the sub-committee's report (on file) of its consideration of University Court Resolutions 2005 Nos. 1, 2 and 3.
- (b) **Membership** – as a consequence of Mr Passmore's resignation as a member of the Business Committee (see item 2 (a) above), the committee agreed to elect in his stead as a member of the sub-committee Dr Lowe, until 30 June 2008.

#### 7. GENERAL COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2004-5 AND REGISTRATION FEE 2006-7

The committee considered an Expenditure and Income Statement for the General Council and the Alumnus Association for the year ended 31 July 2005. In particular, it was noted that a greater number of graduands in 2006 had resulted in a correspondingly large increase in registration fee income and that this trend was expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The resulting surplus in the accounts would allow for the proposal (item 3 (b)(ii) above) to sponsor the graduation garden parties. It was further agreed that it was desirable, with particular reference to marking the University's 600th anniversary in 2011, to build up a reserve fund. Mr Scott agreed to clarify with the Quaestor & Factor the present state of such funds within the Council's accounts and also to enquire about how an annual budget for the production of the *Alumnus Chronicle* was determined. Finally, the committee asked that in future statements reference should be made to the Council's reserve cash position.

## 8. GENERAL COUNCIL WEBSITE

It was confirmed that currently the University's website includes information about the General Council. Following a suggestion by Mr Wilson, it was agreed that this might usefully include profiles of members of the Business Committee. Mr Wilson was asked to discuss this further with the Registrar.

## 9. THE CAREERS CENTRE (formerly Careers Advisory Service)

Mr Paul Brown, who recently succeeded Mr Jack Daniels as Director of Careers, joined the meeting to speak about recent initiatives and new activities within the Centre. The committee commended the Director's refreshing and vigorous approach designed to facilitate not only students' career needs and aspirations but also to foster effective links with potential employers.

The committee also received statistics relating to the destination of St Andrews graduates 2004.

## 10. UNIVERSITY COURT BUSINESS

The convener reported on recent business considered by the University Court, notably the expected sale of Hamilton Hall; the new Arts Building due for completion in 2006; medical education in St Andrews; University links with Africa; and the implementation of regulations governing houses in multiple occupancy.

It was also reported that Mr Simon Pepper OBE (recently retired Director of the World Wildlife Fund Scotland) had been elected to succeed Sir Clement Freud as Rector of the University.

## 11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The committee agreed to meet in 2006 on 8 April and 4 November.

## 12. OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **The Chancellor** – the Principal reported that Sir Kenneth Dover, Chancellor of the University, had intimated his wish to retire on 31 December 2005, after 25 years in office. Having paid tribute to Sir Kenneth's chancellorship, the committee noted the procedure for electing his successor, in terms of Court Ordinance No. 114. Accordingly, it was agreed that an *ad hoc* group – comprising the Principal and Vice-Chancellor (chair), Mr Strachan, Mr Mundie, Mr Magee – should oversee the arrangements for the election and any related matters.
- (b) **Academic Dress** – it was agreed to draw to the attention of the Academic Registrar the committee's concerns about (i) the dress code applied at graduation ceremonies; and (ii) the present arrangements for the hire and purchase of gowns, both undergraduate and graduate. It was further suggested that the University itself might institute an in-house scheme of this kind.
- (c) **Items for the Agenda** – the convener reminded members of the need to propose agenda items firstly *via* himself in order to confirm their competency

and also to establish whether or not some matters might more profitably be raised with individual University officers.

M P L STRACHAN  
Convener

**Item 4**

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

The Committee met on Saturday 10 September 2005.

*Present* Miss Kathleen Patrick (Convener), Ms Lesley Lind, Mr Rory O'Hare, Mr Martyn Strachan, Mrs Jane Watkinson, Mr Alex Yabroff and Mrs Elaine Cartwright (Secretary)

*Apologies* Miss Rona Mackenzie and Mr Calum Wilson

**1 Alumnus Chronicle 2005**

The publication had been well received.

**2 Alumnus Chronicle 2006**

The production timetable was tabled and a range of possible features and contributors identified.

**3 Alumni Update**

More than 400 alumni had attended one or more events and reunions held during the last weekend in June. Details were given of Bejant Receptions hosted by alumni and of forthcoming events in London and the USA.

**4 Development Update**

Information was received about fundraising activities, notably for the new Arts building and the Scholarship campaign.

**5 Date of next Meeting**

The Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 15 October 2005.

The Committee met on Saturday 15 October 2005

*Present* Miss Kathleen Patrick (Convener), Ms Lesley Lind, Miss Rona Mackenzie, Mr Rory O'Hare, Mr Martyn Strachan, Mrs Jane Watkinson, Mr Calum Wilson and Mrs Elaine Cartwright (Secretary)

*Apology* Mr Alex Yabroff

**1 Alumnus Chronicle 2006**

Content was agreed. It would include articles about the Mediaeval History Department, Aspects of Research in the University, Sustainable Development, Student Generated Music, John Burnet Hall and Alumni working in Museums and Galleries.

**2. Date of next meeting**

The Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 21 January 2006.

Miss K M Patrick  
Convener

## OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS