

University of St Andrews

**MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL
COUNCIL HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2008, 11.00AM IN THE PRINCES SUITE,
ROYAL OVERSEAS LEAGUE, EDINBURGH**

The Chancellor of the University was in the Chair.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Rev. Ian G. Scott.

The Chancellor welcomed 60 members to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Council's last statutory meeting held on 28 June 2008

The minutes of this meeting, held in St. Andrews, were received and *agreed* as a correct record.

2. Business Committee

(a) Report of the Committee's meeting held on 25 October 2008

The Council considered and approved the report of the meeting held on 25 October 2008, taking particular note of the following items of business highlighted by the Convener, Mr Martyn Strachan:-

(i) Destination for Statutory Meetings

The Business Committee had established a small working group to consider the most appropriate destination for the statutory meeting of the General Council to be held in November 2009 and 2010. In addition, consideration would be given to the possibility of holding a Statutory meeting in the United States, particularly in view of the forthcoming 600th Anniversary celebrations.

(ii) General Council Projected Income & Expenditure

The Convener provided members with further explanation on the projected income and expenditure for the period to 2012. The plan to move to on-line election of General council assessors may incur a one-off additional expenditure in order to notify all General Council members of the changes in the rules regarding voting. It was therefore anticipated that the cost of running elections in the future would result in a reduction in future budget figures.

(iii) General Council Registration Fees

Members noted the recommended levels of the General Council fees for 2009-2010. It was also noted that the indicative fees for the subsequent years may be revised if a change in student numbers appeared to warrant it. In addition further consideration would be given to the level of sponsorship for the Garden Parties, once full costing details were available.

(iv) Tribute to the Principal

On behalf of the Business Committee and the General Council, the Convenor formally paid tribute to the retiring Principal, Dr Brian Lang.

(b) Election of Members to the Business Committee

Members noted the timetable for the nomination and election of three new members to the Business Committee to serve for a four-year period from 1 July 2009.

3. Committee of the Alumnus Association

(a) Reports

Miss K. M. Patrick, Convener of the Committee, presented reports of the Committee's meetings held on 30 August 2008 and 11 October 2008 approving these reports the Council noted the key features scheduled for the 2009 edition of the Alumnus Chronicle.

(b) Membership Elections 2009

Miss Patrick reported that the election of members to the Committee would move to on-line voting in conjunction with the Business Committee elections. This would result in many more people having access to participate in the election although the ability of members to attend meetings in St. Andrews was critical.

4. Principal's Address

Dr Brian Lang Principal of the University, addressed the meeting. He opened his remarks by expressing delight that, as he reached the end of his tenure, he could once again report that the University was still flourishing.

The University had, during the last year, achieved the highest ever income from Research Grants including a £5 million grant towards a project in structural proteomics. In teaching, the University reputation remained high. The demand

for places was extremely buoyant with eleven applicants per place and a higher number of places being accepted than would normally be anticipated. This had put an increased pressure on the student accommodation and plans would be brought forward in due course to provide additional student residential accommodation.

The Principal reported on the nationally diverse student body at the University. More than 16% of the student body was from the USA and 27% were from outside the European Union. This said a lot about the reputation and quality of the teaching and for the teams of staff involved in recruiting and marketing the University overseas.

The Principal reported on a range of projects that had come or were coming to fruition. These included the recent formal opening of the Arts Building, the opening of MUSA the University museum and the building of the new medical school. The new University Rector, Mr Kevin Dunion had also just been appointed.

The future looked difficult with no new income streams being anticipated from Government. However, the University would continue to fundraise and would continue to be as entrepreneurial as possible in the way affairs were run. The international financial situation would make planning for the future difficult although the University's primary concern would be to remain close to the core mission and ensuring the quality of the institution's research and teaching remained high.

The Principal concluded, what would be his final address, by thanking the members of the General Council for their steadfast loyalty to the University and the people of St. Andrews.

5. Presentation on the 600th Anniversary

Mr Stephen Magee, Vice Principal (External Relations) and Registrar of the General Council introduced the plans for the 600th Anniversary celebrations which would include ceremonial and fundraising elements. Mr Magee introduced Mr Chris Goldie, a Director of Comptons, the firm of Consultants who had been appointed, who would lead the 600th anniversary campaign arrangements and developments.

Mr Goldie outlined the 600th anniversary campaign from a Fundraising and a ceremonial perspective. The fundraising campaign target was £100 million to fund a variety of projects including a new Medical Research Institute, the redevelopment of the University Library, the establishment of a scholarship and Professorship Endowment Fund and funds to support a range of elements of student life within the University including sport, music and the Students' Association. This balance of capital and endowment would hopefully assist the University to move swiftly and smoothly to its 9th Century of operation.

Mr Goldie outlined the preparatory work completed to date, the development of an Anniversary website, the establishment of a small campaign office in recognition of the Alumni based in London in particular. Over the next four years campaign managers would run specific campaigns. The main campaign would be launched in November 2009 by which time it was hoped £25 million would already have been raised.

Mr Goldie outlined the role that General Council members could play in relation to the 600th Anniversary. It was hoped that the campaign would embrace everybody and that everyone would find opportunities to be supportive and participate in the celebratory events as well as assist in the promotion of the fundraising. Activities would take place throughout the world recognising the international alumni base.

6. Any Other Business

The Chancellor closed the meeting by thanking Council for their ongoing support, which was greatly valued, particularly at a time of great change.

7. Next Meeting

The next statutory half-yearly meeting would take place on Saturday 27 June 2009 at 11.00 a.m. in Parliament Hall, South Street, St. Andrews.

The meeting closed with the pronouncement of the benediction.

Sir Menzies Campbell
Chancellor