

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

GENERAL COUNCIL

Members of the General Council are called to a statutory half-yearly **MEETING** on **SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2006** at **11.00AM** in **THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE, PARK PLACE, LONDON, SW1**

AGENDA

Page

Opening Prayer

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 JUNE 2006**
To receive the minutes.
2. **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**
 - (a) **Report**
To consider the report of the committee's meeting on 28 October 2006.
 - (b) **Membership**
The Council annually elects three persons to serve as members of the Business Committee for four years from 1 July. Nominations for election in 2007 are invited and should be submitted not later than 31 March 2007. Nomination forms and further details are available from the Clerk or *via* the Council's website.
3. **COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION**
To consider the reports of the committee's meetings held on 26 August and 21 October 2006.
4. **PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS**
Dr Brian Lang, Principal of the University, will address the Council.
5. **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 30 June 2007 at 11.00am in Parliament Hall, University of St Andrews.

Item 1

MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD ON 24 JUNE 2006, 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. Election of Chancellor of the University

On reference from the Business Committee, it was confirmed that, in accordance with University Ordinance, the Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE, QC, MP had been elected (unopposed) by the General Council to serve as Chancellor of the University of St Andrews, succeeding Sir Kenneth Dover with effect from 10 January 2006.

Sir Menzies Campbell was welcomed to his first meeting as President of the Council and was wished a long and successful term of office. Council also requested that its best wishes should be conveyed to the retired Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Sir Kenneth Dover.

2. Election of Council Assessor on the University Court

It was intimated that Professor Ewan Brown had duly been elected (unopposed) by the General Council to serve as one of its assessors on the University Court for four years from 1 August 2006, succeeding Mr Edward Murray who had not sought re-election. Professor Brown's *curriculum vitae* was received for information.

3. Minute of last Statutory Meeting of the General Council, 26 November 2005

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

4. Business Committee

(a) **Report** - the Council considered and approved the report of its Business Committee's meeting held on 8 April 2006. The following items of business were highlighted by the convener :-

(i) **Accounts and Future Budgets** - the committee's *ad hoc* group would be meeting shortly to prepare projected figures for the Council's future annual budgets. The committee would consider these in due course and report back.

(ii) **Forthcoming Council Meeting in London** - following the practice in recent years to convene the Council's winter meeting furth of St Andrews, arrangements were now well advanced for the Council's next meeting to be held in the Royal Overseas League in London on 25 November 2006 (11.00am).

(iii) **Graduation Garden Parties** - the committee would keep under review its agreed sponsorship of graduation garden parties which had successfully taken place on 20-23 June 2006.

(iv) **Method of Election of Members of the Business Committee** - Council approved the committee's recommendation that from June 2007 elections for members of the Business Committee, with the exception of casual vacancies, should be carried out by postal and

electronic vote rather than at the Council's June meeting, as at present. It was noted that the Registrar to the Council would be co-ordinating these arrangements and that the committee would review the *modus operandi* as necessary. Council also took note that any similar changes to voting for either the office of Chancellor or for the Council's assessors on Court would require new Court Ordinances to be approved.

(v) **Retirees** - on behalf of the Council the convener thanked both Mr E D Murray (retiring assessor on Court), and Mr R B Christie, Dr H A S Payne and Mrs J M Watkinson (retiring members of the committee) for their services.

(b) **Membership** - the Council proceeded to the election of three persons to serve as members of the Business Committee for four years from 1 July 2006.

It was intimated that five nominations had been received *viz.* :-

Mr D S Cuthbertson

Rev Dr R E Hill

Dr H A S Payne (eligible for immediate re-election as he was presently filling a casual vacancy)

Mrs J M Watkinson (eligible for immediate re-election as she was presently serving as vice-convener of the committee)

Mr D G Wynd

Members present had received a *curriculum vitae* for each of these candidates. There being no further nominations, Council proceeded to a vote by show of hands which resulted in the following votes being cast *viz.* :-

Mr D S Cuthbertson	21
Rev Dr R E Hill	19
Dr H A S Payne	12
Mrs J M Watkinson	45
Mr D G Wynd	35

Accordingly, Mrs Watkinson, Mr Wynd and Mr Cuthbertson were declared to have been duly elected to serve as members of the Business Committee of the General Council for four years from 1 July 2006.

5. Committee of the Alumnus Association

(a) **Report** - the Council received and approved the report of this committee's meeting held on 21 January 2006. The convener emphasised the importance placed by the University on its continuing links with alumni, well illustrated by the success of this weekend's many reunion gatherings. The Council was also pleased to learn that this year's *Alumnus Chronicle* had been enthusiastically received.

(b) **Membership** - it was confirmed that the Council now required to elect one person to serve as a member of the committee for four years from 1 July 2006, to succeed Mr C S Wilson who retired by rotation. There being only one nomination, Mr James Douglas was declared to have been duly elected.

6. Principal's Address

Dr Brian Lang addressed the Council. The University had just completed a successful week of graduation ceremonies with some 1,400 students receiving degrees and fifteen honorary

graduands. Thanks were due to the University staff who had worked tirelessly to ensure that these ceremonies took place, as normal and without compromising academic standards, despite the recent pay dispute. Estate issues, both academic and residential, remain paramount with large capital sums being required in order to sustain the aim of providing the best facilities for students and staff. Currently, a new Arts building, primarily to house the School of International Relations, was nearing completion adjacent to the main Library; now of immediate concern is a new building on the North Haugh for teaching and research in Medicine, to replace the Bute Building which may be refurbished for the Arts Faculty. If St Andrews is to retain its position as the top university for research and teaching in Scotland and continue to excel, government must recognise the need on the one hand for appropriate levels of public funding and on the other for less restrictive regulation in order that the University may have freedom to determine both its student numbers (with proper regard to the long term pledge to remain a small-scale university, having optimum links with the City of St Andrews) and the fees payable (with financial provision to allow equal access on merit for all students irrespective of their background).

7. Other Business

In response to a question about recent flooding problems within St Andrews, the Council was assured that the University's sustainability policies were now an integral part of overall strategy; and that in this particular instance, the University would be pleased to engage in any meaningful dialogue with the proper authorities.

The meeting closed with the pronouncement of the benediction.

SIR MENZIES CAMPBELL
President

Item 2 (a)

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The committee met on 28 October 2006.

Present: Mr M P L Strachan (convener); Miss K M Patrick (Court Assessor and Convener, Committee of the Alumnus Association); Mr G R C Scott (Co-optee); Mr D S Cuthbertson, Dr M J B Lowe, Mrs J L Macdonald, Mr D S Mundie, Mr J M North, Mrs J M Watkinson, Mr D G Wynd (Elected Members).

In attendance: Ms L F Taylor (Co-Director of Development); Mr I M Wright (Clerk of the General Council).

Apologies: Dr Brian Lang (Principal); Mr William Berry (Chancellor's Assessor); Professor Ewan Brown (Court Assessor); Mr C E Duthie, Mr E S A Henley, Mr E D Wilson (Elected Members).

Mr David Cuthbertson and Mr Graham Wynd were welcomed to their first meeting. It was noted that Mr William Berry had now succeeded Professor Brynmor Thomas as Chancellor's Assessor on Court and thus as a member of this committee.

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CONVENER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mrs Watkinson's term of office as an elected member of the committee having ended on 30 June 2006, she thus ceased to be vice-convener of the committee. Following however, her re-election by the Council on 24 June as a member for a further four-year term from 1 July 2006, Mrs Watkinson was now eligible and was willing to continue as vice-convener. On the proposal of Dr Lowe, seconded by Mrs MacDonald, and there being no further nominations, Mrs Watkinson was re-elected as vice-convener until 30 June 2010.

2. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE'S LAST MEETING, 8 APRIL 2006

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

(b) Arising from the report, the following matter was discussed :-

Academic Dress - Mrs MacDonald reported that she had yet to receive a response from the Academic Registrar; the Clerk agreed to investigate this further on her behalf.

3. MINUTE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL'S LAST MEETING, 24 JUNE 2006

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

4. NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, 25 NOVEMBER 2006

It was confirmed that the arrangements for this meeting, to be held in the Royal Overseas League, London, were well advanced. The meeting's agenda was considered and agreed.

5. FUTURE VENUES FOR STATUTORY WINTER MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Having take note of clusters of General Council members throughout the UK and in the light of cities visited since 1997, the committee recommended that the statutory winter meeting 2007-8 should be held in Manchester, and that Edinburgh should be the venue for the following year.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

The committee noted that, since its last meeting, this sub-committee had received draft University Court Resolutions 2006 Nos 1, 2 and 3, the first two concerning the foundation of professorial chairs and the third being necessary to bring the University into line with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework by renaming the taught element of Masters' courses as being Postgraduate Diplomas or Postgraduate Certificates. All three Resolutions had now received final approval by the Court.

7. REGISTRAR TO THE COUNCIL

Following the recent appointment of Mr Mark Butler as Secretary & Registrar in the University, the committee agreed to recommend that the University Court should appoint Mr Butler to succeed Mr Stephen Magee as Registrar to the General Council.

8. ATHLETIC UNION GOVERNING BOARD

It was reported that Professor C J Given-Wilson wished to stand down as the Council's nominee on the AU Governing Board. Consequently, and thanking Professor Given-Wilson for his long service, the committee recommended that the Council's new nominee should be Dr Magda Carr, lecturer in the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

9. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

In June 2006, the Council approved the committee's recommendation that, subject to further consideration of the financial and other implications, elections for members of the Business Committee (other than casual vacancy elections) should be carried out by postal and electronic vote rather than at the Council's June meeting by those persons then present.

The committee now considered papers (on file) from the Development Office. While confirming that in principle an opportunity to vote in such elections should be extended to all Council members, the committee took particular note of the probable cost of allowing postal votes: estimated at an additional £13,650 (max.) each year. The committee was also made aware both of the complexities of including election material either as part of the annual mailing of the *Alumnus Chronicle* or as a separate stand-alone mailing, and also of the impact on staff time and resources over and above the estimated financial costs.

After much discussion, the committee agreed to recommend that for the 2007 election all members with a known email address should be able to participate in the election online and should so receive all relevant election material. In addition, those members who had not registered an email address should be invited by letter to apply for the necessary ID number and password so that they too could participate online either from a personal computer or via a public library or similar facility. Voting by post should however be rejected essentially on cost grounds. The annual closing date for nominations should be 31 March with votes being received not later than eight days before the Council's statutory June meeting.

In making these recommendations, the committee was aware of (a) the Council's declared wish to fund future special projects, including a continuation of sponsorship of the graduation garden parties (see item 11 below) and a suitable marking of the University's 600th anniversary celebrations 2011-2013; and (b) the desirability of restricting so far as possible annual increases in the Council's registration fee (see item 10 below).

10. GENERAL COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2005-6, FUTURE BUDGETS AND REGISTRATION FEE 2007-8

The committee considered the Council's Income and Expenditure analysis for the year ended 31 July 2006, revealing a small annual surplus. (This analysis will be printed in the billet for the Council's June 2007 meeting.)

Taking note also of projected Income and Expenditure up to 2009-10, the committee asked that these figures should now be modified, in the light of recommendations made at items 9 and 11, and recirculated to committee members for information.

The committee recommended that the Council's registration fee for 2007-8 should be increased by £1 from the present £47 to £48.

11. GRADUATION GARDEN PARTIES

Following the Council's decision last year to contribute £10,000 towards the cost of the University's summer graduation parties, the committee was pleased to learn that these events

had reflected well on the General Council and had been a good vehicle for publicising the Council's *raison d'être*. The committee asked that it should receive from the Vice-Principal (External Relations) a brief written report on how the Council's sponsorship had allowed improvements to the amenities provided.

The committee recommended that this sponsorship should be repeated in 2007 and that it should thereafter review the Council's continuing involvement.

Ms Taylor was thanked for her most helpful papers and input to the committee's consideration of items 9, 10 and 11.

12. THE CAREERS CENTRE

Mr Paul Brown, Director of the Careers Centre, joined the meeting. He circulated papers (on file) regarding –

- (a) *Destinations of Leavers* – the committee was gratified to learn of the decreasing number of St Andrews graduates still seeking employment or appropriate further study.
- (b) *Duty Adviser Feedback Reports* – these testified to the success of the Centre's initiative to allow students to "drop in" for Careers advice at specified times.
- (c) *Achievements, Initiatives and Changes 2005-6* – Mr Brown was congratulated on the Centre's progress since his appointment in 2004.

13. UNIVERSITY COURT BUSINESS

The convener reported on the following business recently considered by the University Court:-

- **Enhancement-Led Institutional Review** – following a recent visit by a Scottish Funding Council review team, the University had been awarded the highest possible rating for its Teaching content and quality.
- **Dispute with the Association of University Teachers** – the Court had commended the work and co-operation of both students and staff (during the pay dispute earlier this year with the AUT) which had ensured that examinations and graduation ceremonies had taken place as normal and as scheduled.
- **Development Office** – an executive committee had been set up to ensure *inter alia* that fundraising priorities were aligned with the strategic aims of the University.
- **Medical Science Building** – the Court had approved in principle the construction on the North Haugh of a new Medical Building for teaching and research (to replace the Bute Building). This was considered essential to expand the volume of medical teaching, as directed by the Scottish Executive; also it represented an opportunity to create a coherent academic science community which would facilitate inter-disciplinary co-operation vital to 21st century research. The target completion date is September 2009.
- **University Non-Operational Land at Largo Road** (opposite Morrison's supermarket) - The University had sold a small area of land to facilitate the building of a new St Andrews community hospital.

- **League Tables** - the Court was pleased to acknowledge the University's high standing in recent national league tables, including once again being the *Sunday Times* Scottish University of the Year; also the high satisfaction rating awarded to the University by its students in a national survey, with St Andrews medical science students being the 'most satisfied' in Britain.
- **The Changing Shape of the University 2006-7** - In addition to last month's conclusion to the sale of Hamilton Hall and the opening of the new Arts Building, housing the School of International Relations adjoining the main library between North Street and The Scores (an area now referred to as St Katharine's Quadrangle), the Court noted both the continuing high demand for undergraduate places in the University (over eleven applications for each available place), and the increasing number of postgraduate students in line with target figures. In addition, the number of non-EU students, from throughout the world, had now reached a record level, reflecting further on the University's high international academic standing.
- **Estates Strategy to 2020-** the Court would consider in detail later this year an Estates Strategy which embraces an academic vision for the University within both the domestic and the international arena.

The committee agreed that in future it would be helpful for these Court reports to be circulated with other agenda papers in advance of meetings.

While very much welcoming the reported Estates initiatives, the committee was concerned that, if all or most Science subjects are located at the North Haugh and Arts/Divinity remain within the Town, the University might be in danger of losing a traditional strength of inter-Faculty physical mix. In the committee's view, cross-disciplinary dialogue should be facilitated in both the academic and the residential domain, thus emphasising the multivarious nature of a first-rate university. The Clerk was asked to convey these sentiments to the University Court, and also to stress the committee's wish for a fostering of Town-Gown relations, particularly when planning proposals are being considered.

14. DATES OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007

The committee agreed to meet at 10.30am on Saturday 31 March and Saturday 27 October 2007.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

University's 600th Anniversary 2011~2013 - the committee asked that it should receive at its next meeting a report from the *ad hoc* group, convened by the Vice-Principal (External Relations) to co-ordinate the University's anniversary celebrations.

M P L STRACHAN
Convener

Item 3

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

The Committee met on 26 August and 21 October 2006.

- 1 Alumnus Chronicle 2006
Feedback had been generally positive and several items had generated requests for further information.
- 2 Alumnus Chronicle 2007
Features would include articles about the University's website, notable anniversaries, the new Arts Building, student Charities work and sport.
- 3 Alumni Update
The 2006 Reunion was successful with Lower College Hall filled to capacity for the Dinner and 180 people attending the Ball in the Younger Hall. Planning for the 2007 Reunion weekend was underway. Bejant Receptions had been held in Glasgow and St Andrews for new students prior to pre-sessional week and Parents' Receptions in St Andrews on 17 September had been well attended with many registering for the Family Programme. New Alumni Groups had been formed in Denver, Colorado and Geneva, Switzerland. Details had been received of events being held in London, Boston and St Andrews.
- 4 Development Update
Information was received about current Fund-Raising campaigns.
- 5 Next Meeting
The Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 20 January 2007.

MISS K M PATRICK
Convener

OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS