



University of
St Andrews

**MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL
HELD ON SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2010 at 11am
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. The meeting opened with a prayer by the Principal of St Mary's College. The Chancellor, Sir Menzies Campbell, welcomed 55 members to the meeting.

1. SIR KENNETH DOVER, FRSE, FBA, 1920-2010

A minute's silence was held in memory of Sir Kenneth Dover, Chancellor of the University of St Andrews, and thereby President of the General Council, from 1981 to 2005, who died on 7 March 2010. The Chancellor remarked upon the appropriateness of the celebration of Sir Kenneth's life, held in the Younger Hall on 13 June 2010.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2009

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

3. INTIMATION OF THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION OF GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSOR TO SERVE ON UNIVERSITY COURT

The Clerk intimated that Professor Ewan Brown had been re-elected to serve as one of the Council's Assessors on the University Court for four years from 1 August 2010.

The Chancellor congratulated Professor Brown on this appointment and noted with thanks that the hard work and commitment of both Assessors would continue to be a great benefit as the University headed towards the 600th Anniversary.

4. BUSINESS COMMITTEE

(a) Report of the Committee's meeting on 20 March 2010

The Council considered and approved the full report of the meeting held on 20 March 2010, taking particular note of the following items of business highlighted by the Convener, Mr M P L Strachan: -

(i) General Council Fee – University Court had restricted the fee for 2010-2011 to the current rate of £50. The Committee would review the level of the fee for the year 2011-2012 to be recommended to the November 2010 Meeting of the Council.

(ii) Garden Parties - the Committee was pleased to be able to contribute on behalf of the Council the sum of £20,000 to support the 2010 Graduation Garden Parties. This support was on the basis that tickets for the graduating students and their parents would remain free and that the University would continue to seek commercial sponsorship. It was agreed that support for future years would be reviewed annually and could not be guaranteed.

(iii) Report from the Working Group re 600th Anniversary Projects – the Convener drew attention to the Working Group's paper that had been circulated to members on arrival at the meeting. This paper contained supplementary information about projects that might be supported by the General Council in recognition of the 600th Anniversary and included an account of a meeting with the Director of Development. Members

were asked to submit comments to the Clerk for consideration by the Working Group prior to its next report to the Business Committee's meeting in October.

(iv) Report from the Venue and Purposes Sub-Committee - this Sub-Committee had been considering a number of issues including the General Council's position within the University, the purpose, role and the appropriate issues for it to consider as well as communications, obstacles to be overcome and the location of General Council Meetings. A productive meeting had taken place with a Working Group of the University Court's Governance and Nominations Committee. There was general agreement that greater dialogue between the University Court and the General Council was needed and a greater degree of involvement of members of the Business Committee in University matters. A further update would be presented at the next meeting of the Business Committee following further discussions by the various sub-committees.

(b) Membership 2010-11

The Convener expressed his thanks to the retiring members of the Business Committee who would complete their term of office on 30 June 2010: Mr D S Cuthbertson, Mrs J M Watkinson and Mr D G Wynd.

The Convener also recorded his thanks to the Chancellor's Assessor, Mr William Berry, who would retire from this post in July, noting the great value of Mr Berry's contribution to the work of the General Council. The Chancellor added his thanks to Mr Berry for acting as his Assessor and for his previous role on the University Court as Senior Governor. Mr Berry's retirement in July would bring to an end 10 years of dedicated commitment to the University through service on University Court. The Chancellor intimated that he had chosen Dr David Erdal to succeed Mr Berry as Chancellor's Assessor. Dr Erdal's appointment would mean he was the third generation of his family to serve on the University Court.

The Clerk to the General Council reported the results of the recent online election for three members to serve on its Business Committee. Seven candidates had stood for election and 750 General Council members voted. Mrs J M Watkinson, Ms H B MacMillan and Mr S A Livesey had been elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 July 2010.

5. COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

(a) Report of the meeting held on 16 January 2010

The Council considered and approved the report of the Committee of the Alumnus Association meeting held on 16 January 2010.

The Convener, Miss K M Patrick, reported that the 2010 *Alumnus Chronicle*, had been well received by alumni. She thanked the members of the committee for their assistance with articles and proofreading the publication and warmly commended the joint editors, Mrs E Cartwright and Ms L Lind, for their sterling work in collating the magazine and in ensuring the project was completed within budget and to a high standard. The Convener welcomed Mr Owen Wilton, the new President of the Students' Association to the committee from 1 July and looked forward to working with him in the coming year.

Finally, the Convener provided an update on the annual Alumni Reunion weekend, which was currently taking place, as was the After Many Days Club Reunion. Over 150 alumni were registered to take part in at least one event and were attending from as far afield as North America, New Zealand and Africa as well as from across Europe and the UK. Graduation years ranged from 1944 to 2007. In addition to the main reunion activities, various other alumni groups had held reunions during the year. The activities of Alumni Clubs and Network would now be supported by a second Alumni Relations Officer, Miss Emma Bright, who had recently joined the Development team from Oxford University's Alumni Office.

(b) Convener'ship of the Committee

The Clerk reported that Miss K M Patrick had been re-elected (unopposed) by the General Council to serve as Convener of the Committee of the Alumnus Association for a period of five years from 1 July 2010.

6. PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

In her address, the Principal gave a wide-ranging and informative update on the achievements of the University during the past year and the challenges it faces in the lead up to the 600th Anniversary.

The Principal began by noting the deaths of two distinguished University figures – Sir Kenneth Dover, Professor of Greek and later Chancellor, and Professor Sir James Black, Nobel Laureate and alumnus. The contributions made

by both men have been recognised through the establishment of The Sir Kenneth Dover Scholarship Fund and the Sir James Black Chair of Medicine.

The Principal echoed the thanks given by the Chancellor to Mr William Berry for his contribution to the University and added her congratulations to Professor Ewan Brown on his election as Council Assessor on the University Court.

The Principal spoke in detail about the many achievements of the University during the past year and talked in particular about her enjoyment of working with students, staff and alumni to consolidate the University's successes, embrace new opportunities, and realise new strengths. It had been a demanding but exhilarating year, culminating that week in the conferral of over 1,500 degrees on undergraduates and postgraduates, in addition to the conferral of thirteen honorary degrees and one University medal.

The University's research successes had continued in the past year with national- and international-level research being undertaken by academics working in a wide variety of areas. Research-grant income had increased to £39.6 million and the excellence of various academics was recognised through the awarding of a number of prestigious prizes and honours.

Other achievements in the past year included the successful and consistent run of league-table results, with the University ranking 4th in both *The Guardian Guide 2010* and *The Times*, 5th in *The Sunday Times* and 6th in the *Complete University Guide*. Student recruitment remained robust with an average of ten applications for every place available, and there was growth, despite increasing competition, in the number of postgraduate and overseas applications. St Andrews remained the most cosmopolitan of the Scottish universities, with over seventy-five nationalities represented in the student community.

The Principal reported that the student body had continued to demonstrate initiative and leadership in a number of areas, including: the launch of Teaching Awards, which recognise outstanding teaching at the University and offer students the chance to express their appreciation for those who have had a particularly positive impact upon their own learning experience; the continued success of the student Charities Campaign, which raised over £80,000 for its six nominated charities; the contribution made by student volunteers across all aspects of University life. In addition, the launch of the Principal's Medal, funded by three anonymous donors, allowed for the recognition of extraordinary endeavour and achievement among the students, with the first award made in June and two more to be made at the St Andrew's Day graduation in November.

Moving onto University funding, the Principal spoke of how, like other institutions in Britain and abroad, the University has had to pay close attention to its financial situation. The proportion of the University's income received from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) fell from 32% to 28%. As public spending levels are squeezed over the coming years, the University anticipates that the proportion of income derived from the SFC will continue to decline. An independent financial analysis had concluded that for every pound of government money spent on the University, the University contributes £7.50 to the Scottish economy. This important statistic would be used to make the case that the HE sector should not bear a disproportionate share of the impending cuts in public-sector funding.

The Principal reported that in light of the current economic climate a proposal was, reluctantly, to be submitted to the University Court to postpone the Main Library project, which had an estimated cost of £46 million, and to accelerate instead a smaller programme of refurbishment and investment with a revised budget of £14 million. The Principal stressed that the refurbishment of the Main Library, upon which little work had been undertaken since its opening in 1974, remained a priority. Subject to Court approval, work would begin in June 2011 to renovate the Library, expand the collections to the tune of £4 million, and provide 600 additional study spaces for students. Plans and fundraising would continue for the major refurbishment; the £46 million project has been deferred, not disregarded.

Other projects under development were outlined, including the expansion of student accommodation with additional fit-for-purpose bed-spaces at Fife Park. Autumn would see the official opening of the new Medical and Biological Sciences Building on the North Haugh, which was completed on time and on budget in February this year. Discussions were underway about a number of mixed-use options for the former Curtis Papermill site at Guardbridge which had recently been acquired by the University. The University was also involved in detailed discussions with Fife Council on plans to site a new state-of-the-art secondary school on the University campus at the North Haugh as a replacement for the current Madras School.

The Principal spoke of the continued development of plans for ambitious fundraising and events campaigns to run in parallel with the 600th Anniversary celebrations. A new Director of Development, Mr Patrick Degg, had been appointed to plan and implement the fundraising campaign, while Mr Geoff Morris, who led the recent 800th Anniversary celebrations at Cambridge University, had been recruited to lead the events programme.

The Principal closed her address by reiterating her belief that the University's alumni were its best ambassadors. She also thanked the General Council members for their continued interest in, and support of, the University.

The Principal then took questions from the floor. Areas addressed included: the revised plans for the redevelopment of the Library; potential changes to the semester system; the use of the Bute following the move of the Medical School to the new building; and other possible changes to the use of the University's estate.

The Chancellor thanked the Principal for her comprehensive report and detailed answers to the questions.

7. PRESENTATION ON THE ST ANDREWS WEST PARTNERSHIP BY THE QUAESTOR AND FACTOR

The Quaestor and Factor gave a detailed presentation to the General Council on the St Andrews West partnership that proposes to take forward the delivery of the requirements of the Fife Structure plan within St Andrews. The structure plan seeks to develop an area of 200 acres for mixed business use over a period of 20 years and may include 1000 new homes, space for the growth of Science facilities and other University activities, business park, integrated employment area, hotel, local retail, community and social infrastructure and secondary and primary schools.

The Quaestor discussed the strategic implications for the University of the proposed development and outlined the key issues associated with this plan - views, green belt, size and style, sustainability and University needs. The members were informed that various stages in the project development had still to be reached and that there would be future opportunities / fora for people to express their views.

The Quaestor and Factor took questions from members. Areas addressed included: the integrity of the plan and the criteria governing green belts; impact of this development on the existing infrastructure including medical facilities; link between the University and other developers; the Guardbridge scheme; consideration of alternatives to the western development; the continued need for affordable housing / housing for rent in St Andrews.

The Chancellor thanked the Quaestor and Factor for his interesting presentation and for answering the various questions in detail.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

No items having been intimated for consideration the Chancellor concluded the business of the meeting by thanking members for their attendance and participation in the meeting. The Chancellor also thanked the Principal and the Quaestor and Factor for their valuable contributions to the meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next statutory half-yearly meeting would take place on Saturday 20 November 2010 at 11am in Durham.

The meeting closed with the pronouncement of the benediction.

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