

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

GENERAL COUNCIL

Members of the General Council are called to a statutory half-yearly **MEETING** on **SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2004** at **11.00AM** in the **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARLY MUSIC, YORK (St Margaret's Church, off Walmgate)**

AGENDA

| <i>Opening Prayer</i> | | Page |
|-----------------------|---|------|
| 1. | Minute of the last ordinary half-yearly Meeting of the Council held on 26 June 2004 | |
| 2. | Report of the meeting of the Business Committee held on 6 November 2004 | |
| 3. | Reports of the meetings of the Committee on the Alumnus Association held on 19 June and 30 October 2004 | |
| 4. | Address by the Principal, Dr Brian Lang | |
| 5. | Any other competent business | |

Benediction

IAN M WRIGHT
Clerk to the General Council

Old Union Building
79 North Street
St Andrews
KT16 9AL

The next statutory meeting of the Council will be on Saturday 25 June 2005 at 11.00am in Parliament Hall, University of St Andrews.

Item 1

MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL HELD ON 26 JUNE 2004, 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. Council Assessor on University Court

(a) It was intimated that Kathleen M Patrick had been elected (unopposed) by the General Council to serve as one of its assessors on the University Court for four years from 1 August 2004.

(b) Congratulating Miss Patrick on her election, the Council thanked the retiring assessor, Mr William Berry, for his service, noting that he had been co-opted to the Court's membership for a further four-year term.

2. Minute of last Statutory Meeting of the General Council, 29 November 2003.

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

3. Business Committee

(a) **Report** - the Council considered and approved the report of its Business Committee's meeting on 17 April 2004. In particular, the following matters were discussed :-

(i) *The University in 2025* – the Council was pleased to learn of the success of this conference, paying tribute to Dr Evans for initiating this significant event in the name of the University of St Andrews.

(ii) *Utilisation of General Council Funds* - noting the committee's comments, members were encouraged to submit any further ideas for the committee's consideration.

(iii) *Future Winter Venues for Council Meetings* – the meeting commended the continuing practice of holding meetings furth of St Andrews as a means of widening members' participation.

(b) **Membership** – noting that Dr D J Evans, Mr D P Hamilton and Mrs A M Taylor were now completing their four-year membership term and thanking them for their service, the Chancellor on behalf of the Council particularly endorsed the committee's tribute to Dr David Evans for his work on its behalf during his eight-year convenership of the committee.

It was further intimated that the following seven persons had duly been nominated to serve as members of the committee for four years from 1 July 2004 (three vacancies to be filled) :-

Jane E Potter, Tom C Jamieson, Edward S A Henley, Harvey J Scott, Douglas S Mundie, Martin J B Lowe, Thomas G Waring. Details of these candidates having been tabled at the meeting and there being no further nominations, a ballot took place with the votes cast being as follows :

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Jane Potter | 22 |
| Tom Jamieson | 15 |
| Edward Henley | 23 |
| Harvey Scott | 10 |
| Douglas Mundie | 35 |
| Martin Lowe | 35 |
| Thomas Waring | 17. |

Accordingly, Mr Mundie, Dr Lowe and Mr Henley were elected to serve on the Business Committee for four years from 1 July 2004.

4. **Committee of the Alumnus Association**

(a) **Report** – the Council received and approved the report of the committee's meeting held on 28 February 2004. It was reported further that this year's *Alumnus Chronicle* had been well received; and that production had begun on the 2005 *Chronicle*, to include articles on the 75th anniversary of St Salvator's Hall and on the rebuilt David Russell Hall complex. The Council was also pleased to note that alumni clubs throughout the world were flourishing and that many successful reunion events had taken place.

(b) **Membership** – on the convener's proposal, seconded by Jane Watkinson, the Council agreed that Rona E MacKenzie should succeed Julie Adair (whose term of office now ended) as a member of the committee, noting also that Simon Atkins would succeed Derek MacLeod as a member *qua* President of the Students' Association. The retiring members were thanked for their service.

5. **Principal's Address**

Welcoming the large number of members to this meeting and adding his appreciation of the work of the retiring Business Committee convener, Dr Evans, the Principal referred to, and responded to questions about, the following topics:- a successful week of graduation ceremonies just completed; the significance of the Council-sponsored conference on higher education referred to in the Business Committee's report; the University's continuing place as the top-rated Scottish university both in Teaching and Research; plans for the new School of Management (within the Gateway building) and for Film Studies; continuing dialogue with the Scottish Executive about Funding issues; the introduction of joint research institutes (notably both Chemistry and Physics) which would allow Scotland to compete effectively on the international stage; projected new buildings: Computer Science on the North Haugh, an Arts building beside the Library, and Medicine in the Bute area. At a time when St Andrews continues to offer degrees which are greatly valued by students and by employers, the Principal emphasised the University's commitment to excellence and the pursuit of learning, within a distinctly Scottish but stimulating cosmopolitan environment; and a determination to safeguard its autonomy and intellectual integrity.

The meeting was closed with the benediction.

SIR KENNETH DOVER
President of Council

Item 2

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The committee met on 6 November 2004.

Present: Mr E S A Henley, Dr M J B Lowe, Mrs J L MacDonald, Mr J F Matthews, Mr D S Mundie, Mr E D Murray, Mr J M North, Mr M B Passmore, Mr M P L Strachan, Mr G R C Scott, Mrs J M Watkinson, Mr E D Wilson.

In attendance: Ms J A Dumas (Director, Development), Mr A E W Work (Secretary to the University Court); Mr I M Wright (Clerk to the General Council).

Apologies: Mr M A W Booth, Mr R B Christie, Principal Brian Lang, Miss K M Patrick, Professor D B Thomas.

Mr Henley, Dr Lowe and Mr Mundie were welcomed to their first meeting since being elected members of the committee, for four years from 1 July 2004.

1. ELECTION OF CONVENER

As a consequence of Dr David Evans' decision to stand down from the committee at the end of his term of office (30 June 2004), and in accordance with the committee's constitution, nominations for Dr Evans' successor as convener were sought. The sole nominee being Mr Martyn Strachan (vice-convener), proposed by Mr Matthews and seconded by Mr North, Mr Strachan was duly elected to serve with immediate effect as convener of the Business Committee, in the first instance until 30 June 2005 when his present term of office as an elected member expires.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CONVENER

The vice-convener'ship of the Business Committee, having fallen vacant following Mr Strachan's election as convener, nominations were called for this post. On the proposal of Mr Strachan, seconded by Mr Scott, Mrs Jane Watkinson was so nominated and, there being no further nominations, was duly elected to serve as vice-convener of the Business Committee with immediate effect until, in the first instance, the expiry of her present term of office as an elected member (30 June 2006).

3. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE'S LAST MEETING, 17 APRIL 2004

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

4. MINUTE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL'S LAST MEETING, 26 JUNE 2004

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

Obiter: it was agreed that future minutes, for record purposes, should state the number of persons present.

5. NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, 27 NOVEMBER 2004

The committee was pleased to learn that arrangements for this meeting, in York, were well advanced. Ms Dumas was asked to arrange a suitable press release in the *Yorkshire Post* or similar local newspaper.

The formal agenda was received and approved.

6. FUTURE WINTER MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The committee resumed its consideration of possible future venues for the Council's statutory winter meeting, held successfully in various UK cities furth of St Andrews since 1997. Taking note of statistical data produced by the Development Office in respect of alumni population clusters, the committee recommended that the Council should meet (about St Andrew's Day) in Dundee in 2005 and in London in 2006. Looking further ahead, it was agreed that the Council should meet again in Edinburgh, at an early date. Regarding a possible meeting in the United States, a matter under

consideration for some time, the convener was requested to discuss this with Principal Lang and report back to the next meeting.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

It was reported that, since the Business Committee's last meeting, its sub-committee had received, without comment, University Court Resolution 2004 No 1 relating to the establishment of professorial chairs; and that this Resolution had now received final approval from the University Court.

8. GENERAL COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2003-4 AND REGISTRATION FEE 2005-6

- (a) The committee received an Expenditure and Income statement for the Alumnus Association and the General Council for the year ended 31 July 2004. Income of £59,150 (almost wholly accruing from registration fees) had fallen short of expenditure by c. £2,500, largely attributable to the exceptional cost of sponsoring the Higher Education Conference held in St Andrews earlier this year.
- (b) Noting that the present registration fee (£44) was in line with that charged by the other Scottish ancient universities and was intended to pay for the Council's statutory obligations, the committee recommended that the fee for 2005-6 should be raised, in line with inflation, to £45. Agreeing also that the written information, given to graduands at the time the fee was payable, could be improved in order to emphasise the purpose and aims of the General Council, Ms Dumas was asked to address this with Messrs. Henley, North and Wilson.

9. GENERAL COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECTS

The committee discussed a paper written by its former convener, Dr Evans, which summarised the committee's views last year as to how any annual surpluses in the General Council account might be spent on *special projects*. Noting that this paper had assumed an annual operating surplus of c. £8,000, a figure which now appeared to be optimistic, the committee agreed that the Council's budget should continue to include winter meetings furth of St Andrews as well as a new initiative to invite final year undergraduates to a reception, coinciding with the committee's April meeting, on which occasion there would be an opportunity to explain the aims and purposes of the Council and to discuss prospective members' expectations. Otherwise, Dr Evans' paper was noted as a useful point of reference for any future discussion. Finally, it was agreed that it would be desirable to accumulate some funds to cover the cost of any special Council activities to mark the University's 600th anniversary in 2011.

10. REGISTRAR TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Noting recent managerial changes in the Office of the Principal, the committee agreed to recommend that Mr Stephen Magee (Vice-Principal for External Relations, including Development) should succeed Mr Alastair Work as Registrar to the Council.

11. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The committee considered letters received from two Council members suggesting that Business Committee members should be elected by the full Council rather than, as at present, only by those members attending the June statutory meeting. While not immediately persuaded that such a change was necessary or desirable, the committee asked that an *ad hoc* group – chaired by the convener with Mrs MacDonald, Mr Matthews, Mr North and Mr Wilson – should examine the financial and other implications of the proposal and report back to the next meeting.

12. UNIVERSITY COURT BUSINESS

The convener reported the following business which had been considered recently by the University Court :-

- (a) **Funding Issues** – the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council's recurrent grant giving an additional 6.4% routine funding to St Andrews, an increase not exceeded

by any other Scottish university; and the Scottish Executive's response to the Westminster decision to allow universities south of the border to charge higher tuition fees.

- (b) **Proposed Merger of the Scottish Higher and Further Education Funding Councils** – following representation by St Andrews and other universities, these proposals have been moderated and now are generally acceptable.
- (c) **Student Undergraduate Admissions, September 2004** – this year's student intake had been in line with SHEFC targets : of the 1,400+ new students, c. 30% are of Scottish domicile, 40% from the remainder of the EU and 30% from the rest of the world.
- (d) **Joint Research Councils** – in order to maximise Scottish universities' research potential and funding UK-wide, such centres were being encouraged, notably a St Andrews/ Edinburgh Chemistry partnership and a Physics Scottish alliance.
- (e) **The Gateway Building** – this building was now in University ownership and the home of the School of Management. The general public has access on the ground floor to café/ restaurant facilities and an Orientation Centre is planned.
- (f) **David Russell Hall** – redevelopment of this student residence is well advanced, with a bed capacity of 744 expected by March 2005.
- (g) **New Arts and Science Buildings** – planning was progressing for an Arts building, adjacent to the Main library in North Street, providing a base for International Relations and faculty Teaching and Research space; discussions were also taking place about a new Science building in the Bute area, which would impinge on the Schools of Medicine, Biology and Psychology.
- (h) **Hamilton Hall** – the Court hopes to conclude shortly the sale of this residence and as a consequence to rehouse students in improved accommodation, probably at or near the rebuilt David Russell Hall; in addition, a sizeable surplus of funds could be utilised generally to improve student facilities.
- (i) **Naming of Buildings** – in memory of Professor Jack Allen (Natural Philosophy 1947-78) and Jack Cole (Computational Science 1969-88), the Physics Building and the new Computer Science Building are respectively to bear these names.

13. STRATEGIC PLANNING

It was reported that work on the University's rolling Strategic Plan continues. All members of the committee were invited to send comments to Mr Work who is co-ordinating the Plan's production.

14. DATES OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2005

The committee agreed to meet, at 11am, on 16 April and 5 November 2005; if possible, the first of these meetings might be held in the Gateway building.

M P L STRACHAN
Convener

Item 3

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

The Committee met on Saturday 19 June 2004.

Present Miss Kathleen Patrick (Convener), Mr Derek MacLeod, Mr Rory O'Hare, Mr Simon Atkins, Mrs Jane Watkinson, Ms Lesley Lind, Mrs Elaine Cartwright (Secretary).

Apologies Ms Julie Adair, Dr David Evans, Mr Martyn Strachan, Mr Calum Wilson.

1. Alumnus Chronicle 2004

The publication had made a significant impact and attracted many favourable comments about appearance and content for which the editors were commended.

2. Alumnus Chronicle 2005

Possible features were identified from a long list of suggestions. These would include an article about St Salvator's Hall which had been carried forward from 2004.

3. Reunions and Clubs

A number of Reunions would be taking place during the last weekend of June. A new Club had been formed in Western Australia.

4. Committee membership

Warm appreciation was recorded for the contributions of Ms Julie Adair and Mr Derek MacLeod whose terms of service ended on 26 June. Mr Simon Atkins would succeed Mr MacLeod as President-elect of the Students' Association and a successor for Ms Adair would be nominated at the meeting of the General Council on 26 June.

5. The next meeting would take place on Saturday 30 October at 11am.

Miss K M PATRICK
Convener

The Committee met on Saturday 30 October 2004.

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

1. Alumnus Chronicle 2005

Suggestions for features were discussed and a shortlist compiled covering some University residential and academic buildings, academic schools, student interests and graduates in a specific line of business.

2. Alumni activities

Details were reported of Bejant Receptions hosted by the Glasgow & West of Scotland and After Many Days Clubs and of other receptions for parents in St Andrews and Bejants and parents in the USA.

3. Development Update

Information about activities was reported.

Miss K M PATRICK
Convener

OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS