

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

GENERAL COUNCIL

Members of the General Council are called to a statutory half-yearly **MEETING** on **SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2003** at **11.00AM** in the **KELVIN GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

AGENDA

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	<i>Opening Prayer</i>	
1.	Intimation that Mr William Berry falls to vacate office as an assessor of the General Council on the University Court on 31 July 2004. (Nomination forms for the resulting vacancy are available from the Clerk, to be returned not later than 1 March 2004.)	
2.	Minutes of the last ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Council held on 28 June 2003	2
3.	Report of the meeting of the Business Committee held on 1 November 2003	3
4.	Reports of the meetings of the Committee of the Alumnus Association held on 14 June and 11 October 2003	6
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

The next statutory meeting of the Council will be on Saturday 26 June 2004 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 28TH JUNE 2003, 11.00AM, LOWER COLLEGE 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, 23rd November 2002.**

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

2. **Business Committee**

(a) **Report** - the Council considered and approved the report of its Business Committee's meeting on 26th April 2003. In particular, the Council was pleased to learn that arrangements were at an advanced stage for its sponsored conference - *Teaching and Learning in Scottish Higher Education in 2025* - to be held in St Andrews in March 2004.

The Council fully endorsed the committee's tribute to Professor Colin Vincent, Master of the United College, Deputy Principal, and in 2000 Acting Principal, and wished him well in his retirement.

(b) **Membership** - Council members present voted to elect three persons to serve on the Business Committee for four years from 1st July 2003. The votes cast for the 8 candidates were as follows:-

Fiona Harrison	9
Jean MacDonald	29
Alistair Moffat	25
Alister Morrison	6
James North	33
Colin Pyle	5
Iain Torrance	24
Eliot Wilson	27

Accordingly, James North, Jean MacDonald and Eliot Wilson were duly elected to so serve.

3. **Committee on the Alumnus Association**

(a) **Report** - the Council received and approved the report of this committee's meeting on 18th January 2003. It was further reported that (a) there had been a favourable response to this year's Alumnus Chronicle, and (b) the 2003 Telephone Campaign had been completed satisfactorily.

(b) **Membership** - on the proposal of the convener, Miss K M Patrick, seconded by Mr J F Matthews, the Council agreed that Mr R M O'Hare should become a member of the committee, succeeding Dr D M Sinclair, who was thanked at the end of his term of office for many years' assiduous service.

4. **Principal's Address**

At the conclusion of a successful week of graduation ceremonies, in many ways the highlight of the academic year, Principal Brian Lang spoke of the challenges now facing Higher Education in Scotland, in the light of the recent government white paper in England. He referred in particular to how best the University could obtain financial resources commensurate with its aim to remain the best university in Scotland with a top international reputation for teaching and research. Associated topics discussed included the University's wish, in common with that of the Scottish Parliament, to avoid student top-up fees; the possible, if in practice complex, proposal to re-introduce student maintenance grants and/or state bursaries; the need to instil in alumni a US-style culture of giving to their *alma mater*; increasing academic co-operation with other universities, as seen in recent joint academic ventures with Dundee and Edinburgh, in order to make maximum use of scarce resources; the difficulty in continuing to recruit first-rate staff, especially in certain areas like Economics and Business Studies; an ongoing programme of capital investment, particularly the large-scale refurbishment of David Russell Hall as well as a new Divinity postgraduate centre at the Roundel. In conclusion, the Principal emphasised the University's mission to provide the best in higher education to all who might benefit thereby, irrespective of their background, social, financial or otherwise: excellence but not exclusivity remained the University watchword.

The meeting closed with the pronouncement of the benediction.

Sir KENNETH DOVER
President

Item 3

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The committee met on 1 November 2003.

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2003-4

The committee *received* for information details of its present membership (*on file*), welcoming to their first meeting Mrs MacDonald and Mr North.

2. VICE CONVENER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The committee *agreed* that the election of its vice convener should be dealt with in the same way as the convener's election *ie* elected from among the elected

members of the committee until the expiry of the electee's term of committee membership; but the vice convener (like the convener) to be eligible for immediate re-election as a committee member and thereafter eligible for re-election as convener. On that basis, the committee further *agreed*, on the nomination of Dr Evans, to elect Mr Strachan as its vice convener until 30 June 2005.

3. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE'S LAST MEETING, 26 APRIL 2003

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

(b) Arising from the report, the committee *considered* the following:-

(i) **Council Elections** – the possibility of electronic voting remained under consideration and would be assessed when the Council Register became available on-line.

(ii) ***The University in 2025*** – it was confirmed that invitations would shortly be sent out for this Council-sponsored conference, to be held on 9 March 2004.

(iii) **The Funding of Universities** – the committee *considered* a letter (*on file*) from the convener to the Enterprise and Culture Committee of the Scottish Parliament, being a response to a call for evidence into the impact within Scotland of proposed top-up student fees in England. Thanking Dr Evans for thus acting on the Council's behalf, the committee was urged to consider these issues further and to send comments to Dr Evans so that a final document could be produced, also in consultation with University officers, and sent to the Westminster Member of Parliament for North East Fife and other interested persons.

The committee also noted with interest the recent proposal to establish Research centres of excellence within Scottish Higher Education Institutions in order to allow Scotland to compete effectively with prestigious and highly funded centres south of the border.

4. MINUTE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL'S LAST MEETING, 28 JUNE 2003

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

5. NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, 29 NOVEMBER 2003

Noting that this meeting would be held in the University of Glasgow, the committee *confirmed* (a) associated arrangements including a lunch following the meeting, and (b) the agenda as received.

6. FUTURE WINTER MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Following the successful holding of winter meetings (around St Andrew's Day) furth of St Andrews since 1997, the committee *recommended* that (a) in 2004 the meeting should be in York (a city centre venue); and (b) discussions should now take place with a view to meeting in New York in 2005, perhaps in conjunction with US celebrations for St Andrew's Day. In addition to Council members, any person with a St Andrews connection or interest (eg past students who had spent a semester or year abroad in St Andrews) should be encouraged to attend this meeting.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

It was reported that, since the Business Committee's last meeting, this sub-committee had *received* draft University Court resolutions 2003 Nos 1, 2 and 4, relating respectively to new degrees of Master in Mathematics (undergraduate), Doctor of Medicine (postgraduate research by qualified practitioners), and new professorial chairs. These resolutions had now received final Court approval.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND STATISTICS

The committee *considered* a paper (*on file*) from the Convener proposing that, for various pragmatic reasons, the Finance and Statistics Sub-Committee should be dissolved and its business subsumed in the April meeting of the Business Committee.

Endorsing this recommendation for 2004 (with a review in one year's time), the committee also *agreed* a consequential restructuring of its own agenda so that generally the November meeting would deal with annual routine items and then receive an address by a member of the Principal's Office, thus leaving the bulk of the April meeting to be devoted to discussion of University Finance, Admission policies and trends, and a Careers Service report.

9. GENERAL COUNCIL REGISTRATION FEE 2004-5

Taking note of papers (*on file*) detailing the Council's income and expenditure - past, present and future projected - the committee *recommended* that the Council's registration fee (presently £43) should be increased to £44 in 2004-5. In addition, consideration should be given to the future utilisation of the Council's income arising from registration fees, as well as the best way to levy this fee on graduating students.

10. REGISTRAR TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Following the appointment of Mr D J Corner, presently Registrar to the Council, as Deputy Principal of the University, the committee *recommended* that his successor as Secretary and Registrar, Mr A E W Work, should also succeed Mr Corner as the Council's Registrar. (*Note: this appointment lies with the University Court.*)

11. UNIVERSITY COURT BUSINESS

The convener reported on recent business dealt with by the University Court, of particular interest to Council members, including the ongoing re-development of David Russell Hall of Residence and the challenges ahead of the University as detailed in its rolling *Strategic Plan*.

12. STRATEGIC PLAN

Welcoming the opportunity to continue to send two persons to participate in the University's annual Strategic Planning exercise, and learning of the usefulness of this participation last year, the committee *agreed* that in the coming year Mr Christie and Mr Hamilton should represent the Council in these discussions (whom failing Mr Passmore, who was thanked for his contributions to the 2002-3 exercise).

13. ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY AND REGISTRAR

Mr Work was congratulated on his recent appointment as Secretary and Registrar and welcomed to the meeting. Referring to the University's success during the 1990s of recruiting outstanding academic staff and a consequential top rating in the Research Assessment Exercise, Mr Work spoke about the continuing development of Human Resource policies aimed at both improving the working environment and cultivating leadership and management skills.

14. COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2004 AND FUTURE *MODUS OPERANDI*

The committee *agreed* to meet in 2004, on Saturday 17 April and Saturday 6 November. In the interim, it was agreed that the convener, at his discretion, should consult with members by e-mail about any particular items of business.

D J EVANS
Convener

Item 4

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

The Committee met on Saturday 14 June 2003.

Present Miss K.M. Patrick (Convener), Ms Julie Adair, Dr David Evans, Dr David Sinclair, Mr Martyn Strachan, Mrs Jane Watkinson, Ms Lesley Lind, Ms Alison Punnett (Secretary)

Apologies Mr Calum Wilson

1 Alumnus Chronicle

The quality of design and content of the 2003 edition had been commended and the mailing had been successfully achieved. Suggestions for features for the 2004 edition were aired.

2 **Alumni and Development Updates**

Information was given about forthcoming alumni events. Generous donations had enabled the Roundel to be restored and work to commence on restoring the University's iron railings.

3 **Committee Membership**

Dr Sinclair's term of office would cease on 28 June and he was warmly thanked for his substantial service. A successor would be appointed at the General Council meeting on 28 June. Derek MacLeod would succeed Rory O'Hare as student representative.

4 The next meeting would be held on Saturday 11 October.

MISS K M Patrick
Convener

The Committee met on Saturday 11 October 2003.

Present Miss K.M. Patrick (Convener), Ms Julie Adair, Mr Rory O'Hare, Dr David Evans, Mr Martyn Strachan, Mrs Jane Watkinson, Mr Calum Wilson, Ms Lesley Lind, Mrs Elaine Cartwright and Ms Alison Punnett (Secretary)

Apologies Mr Derek MacLeod

1 **Committee Membership**

Mr O'Hare was welcomed as the new member appointed by the General Council.

Noting that Ms Punnett was leaving to take up a position at Aberdeen University, the committee warmly thanked her for her sterling contribution to its work and welcomed her successor Mrs Cartwright to her first meeting.

2 **Alumnus Chronicle 2004**

Specific features were agreed, including articles about the 75th anniversary of St Salvator's Hall, sport at the University and beyond, a Conference on the future of academic education and family dynasties at St Andrews.

3 **Alumni Relations Update**

Reports were given of the Alumni Reunion weekend in June, a Scottish Universities event in Washington DC in which St Andrews participated and a Bejant Reception hosted in St Andrews in September by members of the After Many Days Club.

4 The next meeting would be held on Saturday 17 January at 11am.

Miss K M Patrick
Convener

OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS

