

COURT**Minutes**

In the Chair:	Ms Morag McNeill	Date of Meeting: 20 May 2021
Present also:	Dr Richard Armour Professor Scott Arthur Professor Mark Biggs Professor Marc Desmulliez Mr Graeme Dickson Mr Steve Heathcote Mr Brian Henderson Dr Paul Hopkinson Ms Emily King	Mr Cameron Millar Mr Jürgen Munz Ms Marta Phillips Mr Alan Robertson Ms Jandy Stevenson Ms Lara Stroudinsky Mr Graham Watson Professor Richard Williams Ms Dorothy Wright
Persons in attendance:	Ms Sue Clark (observer, in lieu of Lord Vallance) Ms Ruth Moir, University Secretary Mr Richard Cloughton, Global Director of Human Resources Ms Sue Collier, Global Director of Governance and Legal Services Ms Lucy Everest, Global Chief Operating Officer Mr Andrew Jefferson, Global Chief Financial Officer Professor John Sawkins, Deputy Principal (Education and Student Life) Professor Garry Pender, Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation) Dr Gill Murray, Deputy Principal (Enterprise and Business) Mr Marc Quinn (Head, Policy and Governance Division) (observer) Mr John McDermott (Clerk)	
Apologies for absence:	Mr Grant Innes Ms Tracey Ashworth Davies Professor David Cobham	Dr Amos Haniff Mr Mike Tumilty Lord Vallance

M21/50 WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Chair welcomed all participants to the additional meeting, which had been called to consider some business which was of sufficient urgency that it could not wait until the next scheduled meeting of the Court.

The apologies for absence were noted.

M21/51 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Deputy Chair of Court invited declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

M21/52 PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENTS (Paper Ct2/21/29)

The Court received, considered, and approved a series of proposed lease renewals and heads of terms as detailed in the paper and introduced by the Global Chief Financial Officer.

The Court noted that the proposals had received scrutiny at short notice from the Infrastructure Committee and by the Chair of the Finance Committee. Consent had been given for the proposals to come to Court following the receipt of reassurance that steps would be underway to avoid a recurrence of the late submission of such matters, including the maintenance of a Register of Leases. The Court further noted that the revised Financial Regulations would address the financial threshold at which such matters were required to come before the Court.

The Chair of the Infrastructure Committee reported to Court the aspects of the proposals that had been subject to particular scrutiny, which included the lease of the building used by the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences (ICMS). It was noted that separate to this process, the obligations on the University were being checked in regard to this facility. By way of background, it was noted that the ICMS was a prestigious joint venture with the University of Edinburgh and attracted significant grant funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

In discussion it was noted that a tender process was underway to appoint a new advisor for the Research Park so that benefits could be maximised. It was noted that a number of AP2.0 objectives were aligned to this. In further discussion the Court noted that the lease for Moyen House was important to continue in order to accommodate the professional service operations based there.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee welcomed the forthcoming introduction of a better control environment and highlighted the strategic importance of monitoring leases. It was noted that Court needed to be sighted on these, especially with some high-value leases due to come up for renewal soon, such as the lease for the Borders Campus.

M21/53 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next business meeting would take place on Monday 28 June 2021.

Date

Signature