THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

COURT

Minutes of the Forty Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 24 January 2014

The list of members present at the meeting and submitting their apologies for absence is given in Annex A to these Minutes (appended).

420 WELCOME

The Chair of Council, John Simmonds, in the absence of a Chancellor welcomed all those present to the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the University’s Court.

The Chair extended an especially warm welcome to the following:

Julian Brazier, Member of Parliament for Canterbury
Sir Roger Gale, Member of Parliament for Thanet North
Sir Robert Worcester, former Chancellor of the University

The Chair congratulated Mary Berg on the award of an MBE in the 2014 New Year’s Honours for services to education, heritage and charity.

The Chair introduced the officers who were to speak to the annual reports for the Court’s meeting:

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Chancellor
Tony Quigley, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee

421 MEMBERSHIP AND BUSINESS OF THE COURT

The Court noted Papers CT2014/1, Ordinance 9 concerning the Court’s membership and business, and CT2014/2, its current membership.

422 MINUTES OF THE COURT’S MEETING ON 25 JANUARY 2013

The Minutes of the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting held on 25 January 2013 were confirmed.

423 APPOINTMENT OF A CHANCELLOR

The Chair reported that special meetings of the Senate and the Council had been held earlier in the day to consider a recommendation from a Joint Committee of Senate and Council for the appointment of a new Chancellor of the University of Kent and that, after consideration of the views of Senate, the Council had unanimously agreed to appoint Dr Gavin Esler as the University’s sixth Chancellor. A short biographical note outlining Dr Esler’s career was circulated to the members of Court.

A member of Court expressed disappointment that only one of the University’s Chancellors had been female. The Chair explained that the Joint Committee of Senate and Council had sought suggestions from the staff and students of the University and members of the Council and the Court. It had considered a wide
range of names including many female candidates. It had concluded that Dr Esler best fitted the University’s criteria.

The Court noted the appointment of Dr Esler as the University’s sixth Chancellor and his long association with the University, having been awarded a Bachelors degree in 1974 and an honorary MA in 1995 and an honorary DCL in 2005.

424 ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2012/2013

1. Presentation of the Annual Review

The Vice-Chancellor presented the Annual Review for 2012/2013 and highlights of the University’s activities from Autumn 2013 to date. Copies of the Vice-Chancellor’s slides for her presentation were tabled at the meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor began by acknowledging the contribution of the Chair of Council, John Simmonds, who had been involved with the University for 12 years and would be completing his term of office on 31 July 2014. She congratulated him on the award of an MBE for services to local government in the 2014 New Year’s Honours List. The Chancellor also paid tribute to the members of the University Council for their contribution as critical friends and their concern for the long-term best interests of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following areas of the University’s activities:

i) Inspirational Teaching

- University of Kent PhD student Samia Saif won the Future of Nature Award 2013 for her ground-breaking research on the protection of tigers in Bangladesh;
- the raising of more than £3,000 for the Kent Law Campaign by students who organised a 5km public fun run;
- the award of two prestigious chemistry awards recognised by the Royal Society of Chemistry to Charlie Possee, a final year student from the School of Physical Sciences;
- Peter John-Morton’s art project ‘LIFE-SIZE ME’;
- the contribution of the Student Support Team in the School of Arts, as reported in The Guardian, for ensuring a positive educational experience for Storme Toolis, a student who uses a wheelchair;

ii) Community Impact

- the University's contribution to the Brompton Academy in Gillingham where the Principal had commented that the University’s sponsorship of the Academy had ‘been absolutely pivotal in transforming attitudes and aspirations of students, staff and the local community’;

iii) Research with Wider Impact

- the Imagining Autism Project under the direction of Professor Nicola Shaughnessy, which combined drama and psychology to address the difficulties that autistic children have with communication, social interaction and imagination;
• conservation research led by Professor Alan Chadwick and Professor Bob Newport, in the School of Physical Sciences, that helped with the safe preservation of the Mary Rose;

• Professor David Welch’s latest book, ‘Propaganda: Power and Persuasion’, the first comprehensive analysis of the history of state propaganda over the last two centuries accompanied by a major new exhibition at the British Library;

• a unique video by Professor Ray Lawrence, of the School of European Culture and Languages, concerning life in ancient Rome designed to engage a wider audience with history;

iv) Queen’s Anniversary Prize

• the award of the Queen’s Anniversary Prize to the Tizard Centre for its exceptional contribution to improving the lives of people with intellectual and development disabilities;

v) Research Collaborations

• the University’s participation in the CHASE Consortium of universities and the award of doctoral scholarships from the Arts and Humanities Research Council;

• the University’s participation in the Environment East Consortium and the award of doctoral scholarships from the Natural Environment Research Council;

• the creation of the Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC) and the creation of six Eastern ARC Fellowships and eighteen Eastern ARC PhD studentships over a five year period;

vi) International Impact

• the University has appointed a Dean for Europe, provided its first summer schools for undergraduate students at Brussels and Paris and created a new link with the American University of Rome to enable taught postgraduate students in Classics and Archaeology to be taught in Rome for one term;

• the number of Kent students studying or working in Europe under the Erasmus programme increased by 20% in 2012/2013 and the University has increased the number on exchange beyond Europe, including the USA, Canada, China and Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea;

• Kent international students recorded a high level of satisfaction with the University, at 90%, in the 2013 National Student Survey;

• staff of the University have come from 99 countries and record numbers have participated in the Erasmus staff mobility scheme to undertake teaching or training in another European University;

vii) Investing in our Estate
• work has begun on a £27 million project to extend and refurbish the Templeman Library;
• a £1 million donation has been received from The Hon. Charles Wigoder towards a new building for the Kent Law Clinic;
• the University has commissioned the design of a building to bring together the Kent Business School and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science;

viii) Outstanding People

• the promotion of nine academic members of staff to Chairs; the shortlisting of administrative staff for the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards 2013 for ‘Outstanding Departmental Administration Team’ and the award of honorary degrees on distinguished individuals from many walks of life;
• the award of the Fellowship of the British Academy to Professor Dominic Abrams.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded by noting the official countdown to the 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2014/2015 and by welcoming the new Chancellor Dr Gavin Esler.

2. Questions

(i) Professor Richard Norman raised concerns about student misbehaviour in the streets below the University campus on the way into the city and asked whether the University supported initiatives to improve student behaviour.

The Director of Student Services, Dr Wayne Campbell, responded that the University took such matters seriously and welcomed the engagement with the St Michael’s Residents Association. The University had introduced a Residents’ Complaint Procedure, had worked with the Association to introduce security staff at strategic points to moderate behaviour and was in discussions with Stagecoach to introduce night-time shuttle buses from September 2014.

(ii) The Revd. Peter Sherred, Past President of Kent Law Society, alumnus and long term Court member, raised a concern about rumoured reductions in the Open Lecture Programme of the University it being noted that the prestigious annual Kent Law Society Keith Tucker Memorial Lecture was no longer included and had become a lecture in association with Kent Law School. Kent Law Society’s debt to the co-operation of Professor Nick Grief was acknowledged by Revd. Sherred in respect of the 2014 lecture to be given by the recently appointed Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Vice-Chancellor, in acknowledging the good contacts between Kent Law Society members and the University, responded to the concern raised by indicating there was no intention to reduce the number of lectures open to the public although there had been a reduction in the number of after lecture dinners. Schools within the University offered lectures within their disciplines and there had been a large number of excellent Open, Faculty and School lectures available to the public in 2013.

3. Resolution

The Court resolved to receive and note the Annual Review for 2012/2013.
1. **Presentation of the Financial Statements**

Tony Quigley, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, presented the Financial Statements for 2012/2013. Copies of Mr Quigley’s slides for his presentation were tabled at the meeting.

Mr Quigley said that 2012/2013 had been a successful financial year with an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts, a strong balance sheet, increased capital expenditure, a strong cash position and a healthy surplus.

Key figures included a surplus of £12.9 million, the provision of scholarships, bursaries and fee waivers amounting to just under £16 million, an increase in staff numbers by 190 FTE and capital expenditure of £30 million. Capital projects included the completion of new sports facilities, the start of the extension and refurbishment of the Templeman Library, the completion of a project to provide academic space at Medway, the refurbishment of lecture theatres and other teaching spaces, the provision of new equipment for academic schools and the commencement of building work on Turing College to provide an additional 801 student bedrooms. Mr Quigley also noted a welcome increase in research income, particularly in the sciences and that an independent report on the University’s economic impact had indicated that each job created by the University created another job in the region.

Mr Quigley indicated that investment would be increasing over the next few years and that in the context of a decline in capital funding from HEFCE much of the investment has to be funded from the University’s own cash reserves and, consequently, the University needed to generate significant surpluses to provide facilities to meet student expectations.

Mr Quigley noted the following challenges for the future:

- increased competition for undergraduate students following the deregulation of student numbers;
- concerns over the future of home postgraduate student numbers in a context of the increased burden of debt for those students paying the £9,000 a year undergraduate tuition fee;
- growing competition for international students;
- a reduction in the real value of tuition fees;
- a tough environment for research funding;
- pay and pension cost pressures;
- the need to make strategic investment decisions to improve the student experience;
- economic uncertainty and the prospect of further public spending budget cuts.

2. **Questions**

Professor Ted Parker drew attention to the trend of income from international students noting the diminution during the world crisis followed by a steady increase.
related to the low value of the pound. He asked whether the University had a view as to how international student recruitment might develop in the years ahead.

The Vice-Chancellor responded that the market was very competitive but that the UK ranked 2nd only to the US in its market share of international students. There appeared to be a worldwide hunger for higher education that suggested there would be a long-term trend of growth.

Mr Quigley noted that many other UK universities were focussing on recruiting international students as a means of ensuring financial viability and expansion and that it was a highly competitive situation.

3. **Resolution**

The Court resolved to receive and note the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2013.

**426 PRESENTATION ON THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

John Wightman, Dean of Social Sciences, gave a presentation on the work of the Faculty during 2013 and referred to the following highlights.

- Enterprise specialists from Kent Business School had met with the Prime Minister’s Enterprise Advisor, Lord Young, in Downing Street after being cited in a report earlier in the year by the Association of Business Schools as an example of best practice in engagement with small and medium enterprises. Lord Young agreed to attend the Kent Business School’s annual Enterprise Day to meet with the School’s business partners and budding student entrepreneurs and raise their awareness of Government schemes available to support small businesses and start-ups.
  
  Note: Lord Young subsequently attended Enterprise Day on 12 February 2014.

- The BBC economics editor Stephanie Flanders delivered the Bob Friend Memorial Lecture and awarded the Sky News Bob Friend Memorial Scholarship and internship to Georgia Fry.

- Dominic Abrams, Professor of Social Psychology was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2013 reflecting his status as a world authority. Professor Abrams is Director of the University’s Centre for the Study of Group Processes and Co-director of the European Research on Attitudes to Ageing Research Group, which designed the 2008 European social survey on ageing and reports regularly for the government, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Age UK.

- Dr Tracey Kivell of the School of Anthropology and Conservation has been undertaking research on the Hand of Australopithecus Sediba which challenges the assumptions about the development of humans. The research is supported by a major grant from the European Research Council, has been published in the journal ‘Science’ and will be the subject of a conference during the 50th Anniversary year.

- The work of Dr Ruth Blakeley in the School of Politics and International Relations on ‘Rendition and Torture Practices: informing understandings of lawyers, legislators, NGOs and journalists’ has led to debate in the Scottish Parliament, reports in the Guardian newspaper and a criminal investigation.
• The work of Professor Sophia Davidova and Dr Alastair Bailey, from the School of Economics, on the subject of 'Improving the Design of the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Support Mechanisms for the Benefit of Semi-Subsistence Farmers’ has led to reform of CAP to the benefit of 11 million farmers.

• The Kent Law Campaign has so far raised £3.4m to fund a new building for the Law Clinic incorporating a Moot Room with significant donations from two law alumni: Kennedy Wong and Charles Wigoder. A second-year law student, Claire Splawn, working with the Clinic Solicitor, Sheona York, set a new precedent by securing asylum for an Afghan national on grounds of religious persecution for being an atheist. This significant achievement received international press attention. The Dean noted the passing of the founding and pioneering Director of the Kent Law Clinic, Adrian Taylor, on 11 January 2014.

• Kent was one of 15 universities selected to receive funding under the Q-Step initiative, provided by the Nuffield Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Higher Education Funding Council for England to help ensure social science graduates have the skills to create, interpret and critique statistics about the social world. The initiative was led by the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research but also involved Politics and International Relations, Kent Law School and the Kent Business School.

427 PRESENTATION ON THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

1. Presentation

Professor Alex Stevens, Deputy Head of the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR), gave a presentation on the work of the School, its teaching and research at both Medway and Canterbury campuses, its range of specialist centres and its high ranking in the national Research Assessment Exercise of 2008. Professor Stevens drew attention to the following highlights.

• The School had led the successful bid under the Q-Step initiative that provided £1.15m to be spent on developing innovative, integrated quantitative methods of teaching across a range of Social Science disciplines.

• The Tizard Centre, founded by the late Professor Jim Mansell CBE in 1983, had won the Queen’s Anniversary Prize 2013 in recognition of it being a centre of excellence in the study of intellectual and development disabilities. Highlights of its activities included: work across Europe on deinstitutionalisation and person centred active support; supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have challenging behaviour; developing assessment and treatment for people in the criminal justice system and a pioneering distance learning MA in Autism Studies.

• The Centre for Health Service Studies runs the National Institute for Health Research design service for the south-east and has current projects to develop a commissioning model for long-term conditions; risk assessment for acute kidney injury; integration and continuity in primary care and end of life care.

• The Personal Social Services Research Unit is a partnership between Kent, the London School of Economics and Manchester. Projects include: support for the Dilnot Commission on the funding of care; evaluation of extra care housing; evaluations of the Individual Budgets Pilot Scheme; the Partnerships for Older
People Projects and of personal health budgets; the annual volumes of *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care*.

- Other areas of high impact research conducted by members of SSPSSR include philanthropy and fundraising, improving outcomes and social care, paying for social care, improving illicit drug policy and the empowerment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- The teaching of the School ranges from short courses for social workers, a new BA in Criminology, MA Social Work, pioneering new distance learning MAs in Advance Child Protection and Social and Public Policy and Ph.Ds in Migration Studies. The School also leads a consortium of universities (Utrecht, Hamburg and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) in a European Union funded Erasmus Mundus joint doctoral programme in Cultural and Global Criminology which is designed to train the leading scholars and practitioners of the future.

2. Questions

Cllr. Jenny Samper asked whether students ever worked with people in the local community.

Professor Stevens responded that students often work with people in the local community and that they were given a high level of support by the School. Students in Medway, for instance, have been involved in victim support and providing mediation between victims and offenders.

427 DATE OF THE COURT’S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN 2015

The Court noted that the proposed date for its next Annual General Meeting was in the afternoon on Friday 30 January 2015 and that it was hoped that the meeting would be followed by the Chancellor’s Lecture for 2015. The Secretary would confirm the detailed arrangements for the Court’s meeting and, if appropriate, the Chancellor’s Lecture nearer the time.  

**ACTION: Secretary**

Any queries about the above should be directed to Dr Keith Lampard, Secretary of the Court [K.J.Lampard@kent.ac.uk].

KJL/hap

**Attachment:** Annex A: Attendance and Apologies for the meeting
THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

COURT AGM: 24 JANUARY 2014

Present: Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow (Vice-Chancellor); John Simmonds (Chair of the Council); Tony Quigley (Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee); Denise Everitt (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Dr Keith Lampard (Secretary of the Council and the Court).

and those members who signed the Attendance Book:
Judith Armit; Mary Berg; Professor David Birmingham; Julian Brazier MP; Professor James Brown; Professor Alan Bull; Professor Mark Burchell; Stephen Burke; Dr Wayne Campbell; Professor Clive Church; Dr Richard Collier; Elaine Colville; Professor Joe Connor; Dr Harry Cragg; Professor Geoffrey Craig; Jane Crudgington-Higham; Neil Davies; Dr Keith Dimond; Professor Grayson Ditchfield; Professor John Dore; Jane Glew; Joanna Griffiths; Richard Honey; Eric Hotson, Chairman of KCC; Stephanie Hrycyszyn; Cllr. Josie Iles, Mayor of Medway; Professor Gaynor Johnson; Professor Richard E Jones; Professor Richard G Jones; Dr Linda Keen; Dr Simon Kirchin; Denis Linfoot; Dr Owen Lyne; Professor Martin Michaelis; Professor Jan Montefiore; Chelsea Moore; Dr Louise Naylor; Dr Donald Niblett; Professor Richard Norman; Jeremy Park; Professor Ted Parker; Professor Wendy Parkins; David Pentin; Stephen Phlllott; Brian Phillips; Professor João Pina-Cabral; Professor Karla Pollman; Dr John Rennison; Professor Philip Robinson; Adrian Roper; Cllr. Jennifer Samper; Robert Sculton; Revd Peter Shered; John Sotillo; Juliet Thomas; Dr Harshad Topiwala; Sir David Warren; Dr Mario Weick; John Wightman; Leo Wilkinson; The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis; Michael Woods; Sir Robert Worcester.

Members who submitted apologies:
Professors Gerry Adler; Professor Paul Allain; Professor Malcolm Andrews; Professor Alan Armstrong; Professor Robin Baker; Professor John Baldock; Professor Tom Bates; Lord Berkeley; Dr James Bird; John Bowes; Professor Howard Bowman; Admiral the Lord Boyce; Professor Heather Brown; Professor Malcolm Brown; Professor Peter Brown; Paul Carter; Professor Alan Chadwick; Cllr. Rodney Chambers; Professor Roy Chisholm; Tom Christian; Professor Peter Clarkson; Professor Alan Common; Neil Cox; Dr Stuart Cox; Professor John Craven; Tracey Crouch MP; Professor Iain Cumming; Hugh Cunningham; Professor Kevin Dawe; Dr Alister Dunning; Professor Rod Edmond; Professor Roy Ellen; Professor Mary Evans; David Evennett MP; C.H.D. Everett; Michael Fallon MP; Professor Kenneth Fincham; Professor Gordana Fontana-Giusti; Professor Alex Freitas; Cllr. John Gilbey; Professor Robin Gill; Professor Don Gray; Professor Nick Grief; Professor Richard Griffiths; Professor John Groom; Professor Chris Hale; Professor Christopher Hann; Lord Hannay; Professor Christopher Heady; Professor Didi Herman; Cllr. Vaughan Hewett; Revd. Bill Hornsby; Professor Diane Houston; Professor Alex Hughes; Professor James Hughes; Professor Lyn Innes; Professor Peter Jeffries; Professor Robert Jupe; Professor Chris Knowles; Professor Elena Korosteleva; Professor Donna Landry; The Viscount De L'Isle; Professor Keith Mander; Sue McLeod; Peter McGill; Professor Martin Meyer; Professor Byron Morgan; Countess Mountbatten of Burma; Professor Bob Newport; David Nightingale; Teresa Pearce MP; Mark Reckless MP; Professor Gerald Rickayzen; Professor Martin Ridout; Tom Ritchie; His Honour Judge Giles Rooke; Professor Brian Rutherford; Laura Sandys MP; Professor Jason Sayers; Professor Richard Scase; Margaret Scott-Knight; Professor John Sharp; Professor John Shackell; Professor Sally Sheldon; Tara Sheridan; Dr Felicity Simpson; Professor Mark Smale; Professor Michael Smith; Steven Smith; Professor Mohamed Sobhy; Professor Sarah Spurgeon; Professor Joachim Stoebner; Professor John Strange; Professor Ian Swingland; Ann Sutton; Professor Adbol Tavabie; Cllr. Heather Taylor, Lord Mayor of Canterbury; Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby; Sir Crispin Tickell; Professor John Todd; Professor Mick Tuite; Loba Van der Bijl; Professor Roger Vickers; Professor Sarah Vickers; Professor Clive Wake; Professor Shane Weller; Professor Michael Went; Ashley West; Dr John Whyman; John Whyte; Her Honour Judge Adèle Williams; Professor Jon Williamson; Alix Wolverson; Professor Veronica Wong; Helen Wood; Professor Jian Zhang.