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

428 WELCOME

The Chancellor welcomed all those present to the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the University’s Court, his first Court meeting.

The Chancellor extended an especially warm welcome to the following:

Sir Roger Gale, Member of Parliament for Thanet North
The High Sheriff of the County of Kent
The Lord Mayor of the City of Canterbury
The Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Medway
Mike Harrison, Vice-Chairman, Kent County Council
Cllr. John Gilbey, Leader of Canterbury City Council
The Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Kent

The Chancellor introduced the officers who were to speak to the annual reports for the Court’s meeting and those others who would be taking part in the presentations:

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Chancellor
Tony Quigley, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee
Tammy Naidoo, President, Kent Union
Professor Louis Passfield, Head of the School of Sport & Exercise Sciences

The Chancellor also reported that there would be a Reception after the meeting, as part of the University’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations, and that Ann MacDonald, University Archivist, had brought the Royal Charters from 1965 and 2010 to the Court meeting and that Ms McDonald would be happy to talk to members of the Court about these after the meeting.

429 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.

430 MINUTES OF THE COURT’S MEETING ON 24 JANUARY 2014

The Minutes of the Forty Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 24 January 2014 were confirmed.
ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2013/2014

1. Presentation of the Annual Review

The Vice-Chancellor presented the Annual Review for 2013/2014 and highlights of the University’s activities. Copies of the Vice-Chancellor’s slides for her presentation were tabled at the meeting.

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

i) 50th Anniversary

- the success of the University’s 50th Anniversary celebrations, shown in a short video displaying the experiences of the first 500 students and a photograph which highlighted the launch of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Brussels, with a reception for alumni, staff and students of the Brussels School of International Studies;

- the introduction of the Beacon Projects, an initiative comprising twelve innovative projects which will explore areas in which the University might go forward in new and enterprising ways;

ii) New Officers

- the appointment of the new Chancellor, Dr Gavin Esler, a University of Kent alumnus, and two new Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Professor Philippe De Wilde, for Research and Innovation, and Professor Chris Davies, Teaching and Learning;

- the appointment of Sir David Warren, former British Ambassador to Japan, as Chair of Council. Sir David introduced himself to the Court and confirmed that he would like to build up the visibility of the Council and enhance the role that Council played in supporting the University;

iii) Awards

- 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;

- the University of Kent’s Athena SWAN Bronze Award awarded in April 2014 and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science’s Athena SWAN Bronze Award awarded in October 2014;

iv) Outstanding Student Experience

- the University’s reputation for an outstanding student experience was confirmed by the excellent 2014 National Student Survey results and the University and Kent Union launched the Kent Student Awards to celebrate outstanding extra-curricular contributions by students;

v) Campus Developments

- the progress of the Templeman Library development, to extend, refurbish and refresh the Library on the Canterbury Campus;

- the commitment to the University’s Medway Campus, with developments due to start on the main Campus and the Chatham Historic Dockyard,
including plans to restore an historic building to become a new student hub;

vi) Kent Union

- the achievements of Kent Union, as introduced by Tammy Naidoo, President: students achieved over 100,000 hours of volunteering last year; over 8000 students had taken part in Kent Union activities; Kent Union employed 750 students providing skills for future employment;

vii) REF 2014

- the strength and impact of the University’s research was recognised in the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF) with Kent being ranked 17th for research intensity among multi-faculty institutions by Times Higher Education;

viii) Global Engagement

- in the 50th Anniversary year the Vice-Chancellor visited Beijing, engaging with media and developing the many links that already exist between Kent and China, as part of a global engagement series, with other visits to Japan and Latin America planned;

- the Vice-Chancellor emphasised Kent’s position as the UK’s European university, with study centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome;

ix) Economic and Social Impact

- a report from Viewforth Consulting in 2014 indicated that the University contributed £700 million per annum to the south east region;

- the University, which has a serious commitment to the region, is proud to be the lead sponsor of the Brompton Academy in Gillingham and recently a group of Brompton students went on an educational visit to the University’s Athens Campus;

x) Tony Quigley

- The Vice-Chancellor thanked Mr Quigley, Deputy Chair of Council, for his outstanding service to the University. Mr Quigley had been a member of the Audit Committee from 2003 and Chair of the Audit Committee between 2005 and 2011. Mr Quigley was Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee from 2011 and would remain so until July 2015 when his membership of the University Council would come to an end.

2. Resolution

The Court resolved to receive and note the Annual Review for 2013/2014.

432 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2014

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements

Tony Quigley, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, presented the Financial Statements for 2013/2014. Copies of Mr Quigley’s slides for his presentation were tabled at the meeting.
Mr Quigley said that 2013/2014 had been another successful financial year with a strong balance sheet, a slightly increased capital expenditure, a robust cash position and a healthy surplus, which, although lower than last year, was still strong and reflected investment within the year. He confirmed that this success had been achieved despite cuts in the recurrent HEFCE teaching funding of £10.7m.

Key figures to note included the increase in tuition fees (up £20.2 million), a surplus of £6.7 million, the provision of scholarships and fee waivers amounting to £20 million, an increase in staff costs at 54.3% of income and capital expenditure of £31 million.

Capital projects included the extension and refurbishment of the Templeman Library, investment in learning, teaching and social spaces and in new and improved IT systems.

Mr Quigley stated that the University’s future plans included improved services to students, most notably a student administration building, a new academic building for Kent Business School and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, and that other plans included work on Cornwallis East and Kent Law Clinic/Mooting Chamber.

Mr Quigley drew attention to the University’s success in securing a £75million loan from the European Investment Bank and to the continued strong position of the University’s residences and catering activities generating £3.2 million for re-investment.

Looking ahead to 2014/2015, Mr Quigley noted a budgeted surplus of £7.5m, with a planned reduction in cash reserves, and a budgeted capital expenditure for the year of £70 million.

Mr Quigley noted the following challenges for the future:

- the removal of the student numbers cap on home/EU undergraduates;
- constraints on/competition for overseas students;
- uncertainty regarding postgraduate demand after 2015;
- the continued reduction in the “real” value of fees;
- the financial outcome of the REF;
- high construction inflation;
- pension deficits and increasing costs;
- the impact on the economy and HE policies after the general election; and
- the possibility of further public spending cuts.

Mr Quigley reached the conclusion that the University had completed another successful year, was financially sound with high cash reserves and that its excellent academic reputation had been enhanced by the REF results. Mr Quigley drew attention to the current challenging environment for higher education and looked forward to the University’s plan to continue balancing risk but also investing in the future.

2. Questions

Professor Ted Parker noted that the University’s business plan had been dependent on student numbers and asked whether the University could maintain or increase its numbers in the future.
The Vice-Chancellor responded that the student numbers had shown a slight dip with the start of the £9,000 fee regime, but that the University had recovered and held its own.

Professor Parker asked about the University’s international reach, which was particularly important within his School, and whether a budget could be put aside to fund more overseas students.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that a great deal of work had been undertaken regarding welcoming overseas students and that bursaries for overseas students tended to be country specific, as they were usually provided by donors with specific requests as to where the money should be spent. The Vice-Chancellor noted the University’s pride in its overseas staff and students and the fact that its alumni were acting as University of Kent “ambassadors” all over the world.

3. Resolution

The Court resolved to receive and note the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2014.

433 PRESENTATION ON THE SCHOOL OF SPORT & EXERCISE SCIENCES

Professor Louis Passfield, Head of the School of Sport & Exercise Sciences, gave a presentation on the work of the School, its reputation as a young, dynamic and fast growing department and its latest research on sport and health.

Professor Passfield, who had joined the School as its Head in 2007 from British Cycling, drew attention to the following highlights.

- The School was established in 2012 (previously it existed as the Centre for Sports Studies) and is based at the University’s Medway Campus, with further facilities at Medway Park, a centre of sporting excellence for the region with superb facilities.

- The School’s links with the success of British Cycling and its gold medal winning culture provided a basis for big ambitions, with aims to establish the University of Kent as the leading University for sport-related study.

- The School’s research is currently focussed on two areas, the Endurance Research Group and the Sports Therapy, Physical Activity and Health Research Group.

- The School has worked with many partners, including the NHS, the Rugby Football Union, the Ministry of Defence, the British Heart Foundation, BMW and the British Olympic teams.

- One of the School’s major projects during 2014 was the World Congress of Cycling Science, in July, timed to coincide with the start of the Tour de France in Leeds. This was a public engagement event as well as an academic conference and promoted the University of Kent.

- Looking ahead, the School has applied for a Beacon Project grant for endurance research, which would plan to end with an Endurance Research Conference late in 2015.
DATE OF THE COURT’S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN 2016

The Court noted that the proposed date for its next Annual General Meeting would be at the end of January 2016. The Secretary would confirm the detailed arrangements for the Court’s meeting 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/JLP
2.04.2015

Attachment: Annex A: Attendance and Apologies for the meeting
Court AGM: 23 JANUARY 2015

Present: Dr Gavin Esler (Chancellor); Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow (Vice-Chancellor); Sir David Warren (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:
Professor Gerry Adler; Mary Berg; Professor David Birmingham; Professor James Brown; Professor Alan Bull; Professor Mark Burchell; Dr Wayne Campbell; Cllr. Rodney Chambers; The Very Revd Dr Michael Chandler; Professor Clive Church; Peter Clokey; Lew Cogger; Professor Joe Connor; Dr Harry Cragg; Professor Maurice Crosland; Jane Crudington-Higham; Neil Davies; Viscount de L'Isle, Lord-Lieutenant of Kent; Professor Philippe De Wilde; Dr Keith Dimond; Professor Grayson Ditchfield; Professor John Dore; Dr Alister Dunning; Robert Eager; Denise Everitt; Hugo Fenwick, High Sheriff of Kent; Sir Roger Gale MP; Dr Christopher Gay; Cllr. John Gilbey; Joanna Griffiths; Mike Harrison, Vice-Chairman of KCC; Liam Hebron; Professor Peter Jeffries; Professor Richard Jones; Cllr. Barry Kemp, Mayor of Medway; Professor Peter Lee; Denis Linfoot; Dr Owen Lyne; Professor Sir David Melville; Professor Martin Meyer; Tammy Naidoo; Dr Louise Naylor; Dr Donald Niblett; David Nightingale; Professor Richard Norman; Professor Jan Pahl; Jeremy Park; Professor Ted Parker; Andreas Payne; David Pentin; Professor Karla Pollman; Professor Adrian Podoleanu; Professor Philip Robinson; Adrian Roper; Cllr. Jennifer Samper; Bob Scruton; Professor Colin Seymour-Ure; Revd Peter Sherred; Cllr. John Simmonds; Professor Alf Smyth; John Sotillo; Cllr. Ann Taylor, Lord Mayor of Canterbury; Professor Mick Tuite; Loba Van der Bijl; His Honour Judge Nigel Van der Bijl; Peter Wales; Professor Martin Warren; Dr Mario Weick; Professor Richard Whitman; John Wightman; Her Honour Judge Adèle Williams; The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis; Michael Woods.

Members who submitted apologies:
Professor Michael Anderson; Judith Armitt; Professor Alan Armstrong; Professor John Baldock; Professor Tom Bates; Dr Mark Beach; Professor Ian Beckett; John Bowers; Professor Howard Bowman; Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce; Julian Brazier MP; James Brokenshire MP; Professor Heather Brown; Professor Peter Brown; Professor Roger Cardinal; Colin Carmichael; Paul Carter; Julia Casson; Professor Roy Chisholm; Tom Christian; Professor Clive Church; Professor Peter Clarkson; Dr Richard Collier; Professor Alan Common; Neil Cox; Dr Stuart Cox; Professor Geoffrey Craig; Professor John Craven; Tracey Crouch MP; Professor Iain Cumming; James Cumming; Professor Hugh Cunningham; Professor R Davidson; Professor Bledwyn Davies; Professor Chris Davies; Professor Gillian Davis; Professor Kevin Dawe; Professor Theodosios Dimitrakos; Professor Rod Edmond; Professor Roy Ellen; Professor Mary Evans; David Evennett MP; Christopher H.D. Everett; Michael Fallon MP; Professor Kenneth Fincham; Professor Alex Freitas; Professor Don Gray; Damien Green MP; Professor Nick Grief; Professor Richard Griffiths; Professor John Groom; Professor Martin Hammer; Professor Christopher Hann; Lord Hannay; Gordon Henderson MP; Professor Didi Herman; Cllr. Vaughan Hewett, Chair of KCC; Richard Honey; Revd. Bill Hornsby; Professor Diane Houston; Stefanie Hrycyszyn; Professor James Hughes; Stuart Hutchinson; Professor Tim Howle; Professor James Hughes; Professor Lyn Innes; Professor Robert Jupe; Professor Chris Knowles; Professor Michael Kölling; Professor Ray Laurence; Professor Peter Linington; Professor Tim Luckhurst; Professor Molly Mahood; Professor Keith Mander; Angela McNab; Professor Martin Michaelis; Professor Byron Morgan; Professor Bob Newport; Dermot O’Brien; Brian Phillips; Stephen Phillpott; Dr Georgaina Randsley de Moura; Professor Donald Read; Professor Peter Read; Teresa Pearce MP; Dr John Rennison; Professor Gerald Rickayzen; Professor Martin Ridout; His Honour Judge Giles Rooke; Professor Brian Rutherford; Professor Richard Sakwa; Professor Richard Scase; Margaret Scott-Knight; Professor John Shackell; Professor Sally Sheldon; Tara Sherjan; Professor Chris Shilling; Professor Mark Smale; Steven Smith; Professor Miri Song; Professor Sarah Spurgeon; Professor Geoffrey Stephenson; Sian Stevenson; Professor John Strange; Professor Paul Strange; Ann Sutton;
Professor Ian Swingland; Professor Abdol Tavabie; Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby; Sir Crispin Tickell; Professor John Todd; Cllr. Pat Todd; Dr Harshad Topiwala; Professor Julia Twigg; Professor Sarah Vickerstaff; Professor Clive Wake; Cllr. Robert Waters; Kay Webber; Ashley West; Dr John Whyman; John Whyte; Léo Wilkinson; Professor Toni Williams; Professor Jon Williamson; Alix Wolverson; Malcolm Woolley; Sir Robert Worcester.

In attendance: Jo Pearsall (Deputy Secretary of the Council)