THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

COUNCIL

Minutes of the non-reserved part of the meeting held on 30 March 2007

Present: The Chair of the Council (Valerie Marshall); The Vice-Chancellor (Prof. David Melville); Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Prof. Keith Mander); Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Dr. Robin Baker and Prof. John Baldock); Julia Casson; Marcia Fry; Mike Haw; Sally Muggeridge; Vicky Pryce; Tony Quigley; John Simmonds; Juliet Thomas; Mark Watts; Kay Webber; John Wightman; The Very Revd. Robert Willis; Sir Robert Worcester.

In attendance: Martyn Jones (for Minute 4244 below); Denise Everitt (Director of Finance); Karen Goffin (Secretary of the Council).

Apologies: Judith Armitt; Jamie Bradbury; Dr. Simon Campbell; Colin Carmichael; Prof. Bill Gullick; David Nightingale; Richard Oldfield; Dr. Abdol Tavabie and His Honour Judge Anthony Webb.

4241 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR JULIA GOODFELLOW AS THE UNIVERSITY’S NEXT VICE-CHANCELLOR FROM SEPTEMBER 2007

Council noted copies of the news release on Prof Goodfellow’s appointment which were tabled at the meeting.

4242 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Council noted that there were no additional declarations not previously declared in relation to the Council’s business for the meeting.

4243 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2006 were confirmed subject to the person designated for action in Minute 4238 3(i) being amended to read “Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources)”.

4244 PRESENTATION

Council heard a presentation on “The Kent Business School now and in the future” by Martyn Jones, Head of KBS. On behalf of the Council Valerie Marshall thanked Mr Jones for an extremely interesting and informative presentation.

Note: Copies of Martyn Jones’s slides were tabled at the meeting.

4245 CHAIR’S COMMUNICATIONS

Council noted Paper C2006/32 presented by Valerie Marshall concerning the following items:

(i) CUC matters
(ii) HEFCE Strategic Advisory Committee for Business and Community.  

ACTION: Members

(iii) Staff Policy Committee: appointment of Marcia Fry as Chair from 1 August 2007 in succession to Judith Armitt who had stood down.

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

I. Written Report and additional items

(i) Council noted Paper C2006/33 presented by David Melville. Prof Melville drew particular attention to the following items:

1. Appointment of new Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Prof Alex Hughes from 1/6/2007 and Prof Clare Mackie from 1/9/2007) and changes to portfolios.

6. Medway: formal opening of the Pilkington Building on Monday 30 April 2007 by Bill Rammell, Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (details to be circulated to Council as soon as possible).

(ii) Prof Melville also gave brief reports on the following:

8. Prospectus for undergraduate entry in 2008 which included the University’s new logo and design approach (copies tabled at the meeting).

9. New campus signs on Giles Lane (near the turn-off to Darwin Road and adjacent to the Eliot roundabout) incorporating the University’s new logo which had been launched earlier in the week.

10. Leitch Review of Skills (Prosperity for all in the Global Economy: world-class skills) published on 5 December 2006 which was of significance to higher education.  

Note: The attached extract from an Information Note issued by Universities UK dated 7/12/2006 gives brief details.

11. Darwin Field project: that following planning approval, expected to be confirmed imminently, completion of the project was expected by September 2008.

12. Medway student residential project: that there was now some doubt as to whether the developer would be able to proceed and so alternatives were being investigated.

II. University Day Nursery

Council noted Paper C2006/33(a) which was tabled at the meeting.  

Resolved: to approve the proposals set out in Paper C2006/33(a).

ACTION: Director of Finance, Secretary of the Council
Council noted that Achike Ofodile, currently Kent Union Sports Sabbatical, had been elected President of Kent Union for 2007/2008. Following precedent Achike Ofodile, as Kent Union President-designate, would be invited to attend the Summer Term meeting of the Council prior to taking up his appointment from 1 July 2007.

ACTION: Secretary

ROUTINE MATTERS NOTED OR APPROVED

1. Council noted the following:

**Paper C2006/35** Report of the Finance & Resources Committee concerning HEFCE’s grant to the University for 2007/2008, presented by John Simmonds, Chair.

**Paper C2006/39** Report of the Audit Committee concerning the follow-up to the Funding Council’s Assurance Service’s visit to the University in January 2005.

2. Council approved:

**Paper C2006/36** Report of the Lay Nominations Committee concerning the appointment of Stephen Grix, Principal of Mid Kent College, as a member of the Council from 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010, presented by Valerie Marshall, Chair.

**Paper C2006/37** Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee (tabled), presented by David Melville, Chair, noting the requirement to keep the recommendation confidential until the proposed award had been accepted, as indicated by the issue of a news release.

**ACTION: Secretary of the Council**

COUNCIL STRATEGY MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2007

1. Council noted the following:

**Paper C2007/38(i)** Copies of David Melville’s slides for his presentation on the University’s performance in the national context in the past 10 years.

**Paper C2006/38(ii)** Report of the meeting

2. Council also noted the following points in relation to Paper C2006/38(ii):

(i) that Discussion Group 1’s response to the question it had considered was that it did not think that the requirement for all academic departments to “be engaged in internationally recognised research” was sufficiently distinctive.

(ii) that Discussion Group 1 supported the suggestion that there should be a year-on-year 20% increase in research output which
it thought was necessary to realise the University’s research ambitions.

(iii) that while there had been a 21% drop in the number of research grant applications in the period from 1 August 2006 to 31 January 2007 the overall value of applications in this period had fallen by only 11%. This reflected deliberate policy, particularly in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Medical Studies, of submitting larger grants applications. Larger grant applications took longer to prepare and so fewer applications had been submitted. For a time during late 2006/early 2007 it had not been possible to apply for EU funding as Framework 7 replaced Framework 6 and this had adversely affected both the number and value of applications made in the 1 August 2006 – 31 January 2007 period.

(iv) that matters relating to research were considered regularly at meetings of the Executive Group (EG) and by M-cubed* and appropriate matters were followed up as a matter of priority in view of the University’s research ambitions and also in the context of the forthcoming Research Assessment Exercise. Matters considered regularly and in detail by EG and M-cubed included the quarterly reports on research applications, awards and income prepared by the Research Services Office.

*M-cubed aka Monthly Managers’ Meeting ie. monthly meetings of the following senior staff: Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Group; Deans of the Faculties; Heads of the 19 academic departments and the Heads of the principal administrative departments. To date this academic year meetings have been held in September, October, November, January, February and March.

(v) that reports on research performance were not regularly brought to the Council in view of the Council’s role in relation to strategy rather than matters of detail for which University management was responsible.

4250 NEXT MEETING ON FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2007

Council noted the arrangements for its next meeting:

1pm Buffet lunch in Senate Committee Room 1
2pm Meeting in the Senate Chamber
   Unveiling of Prof David Melville’s Portrait in the Senate Chamber
   (if possible)
7pm Council Dinner in recognition of Prof Melville’s retirement and farewell to members of the Council completing their appointments this year (Prof Melville, Dr Simon Campbell, Mike Haw, Jamie Bradbury, Prof Bill Gullick, John Wightman and Kay Webber)
THANKS TO DR ROBIN BAKER

Council noted that Dr Robin Baker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, would be leaving the University before the Council’s next meeting to take up appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chichester from 16 April 2007. Dr Baker had been Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External) since September 2005 following previous association with the University as a lay member of the Council (from August 2003 to July 2005) when he had been Deputy Director of the British Council in London. The Chair said that Robin Baker had achieved a great deal during his appointment in the University, particularly in relation to International Strategy which the Council had approved in March 2006. Speaking on behalf of the Council Ms Marshall wished Dr Baker all the very best in his new appointment as Vice-Chancellor at Chichester and her remarks were endorsed by Prof Melville and by other Council members and others present.

NOTES

1. Papers

With the exception of the following papers, which were tabled, all papers for this meeting were circulated prior to the meeting:

News release on Prof Julia Goodfellow’s appointment as Vice-Chancellor from 1 September 2007 (Minute 4241 refers)
C2006/33(a) University Day Nursery Association (Minute 4246 II refers)
C2006/34 Martyn Jones’s slides for his presentation on the Kent Business School (Minute 4244 refers)
C2006/37 Report of the Joint Committee for Honorary Degrees (Minute 4248 (2) refers)

Copies of all papers referred to in these Minutes are held in the Minute Book.

2. Queries

Any queries should be addressed to Karen Goffin, Secretary of the Council (Email: K.R.Goffin@kent.ac.uk or telephone 01227 823397) or her Secretary (Mrs Janice Hollands, telephone 01227 823903).

KRG/HAP
8/05/2007
COUNCIL

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In attendance: Denise Everitt (Director of Finance); Karen Goffin (Secretary of the Council).

Apologies: Judith Armitt; Dr. Simon Campbell; Colin Carmichael; Prof. Bill Gullick; David Nightingale; Richard Oldfield; Dr. Abdol Tavabie and His Honour Judge Anthony Webb.

4252 ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIBUNAL UNDER STATUTE XXIV

1. Council noted Paper C2006/40 which was tabled at its meeting.


ACTION: Secretary of the Council

KRG/HAP
8/05/07