

Heriot-Watt University

**THE COURT**

Minutes: 16 May 2024

In the Chair: Mr Bruce Pritchard, Chair of Court

<p>Present:</p> <p>Mr Scott Anderson, Student Union (SU) President</p> <p>Mr Graeme Dickson, Lay Member</p> <p>Dr Fadi Ghaith, Senate Member</p> <p>Mr Connel Greenhorn, SU Vice-President (Education)</p> <p>Mr Steve Heathcote, Lay Member</p> <p>Dr Brian Henderson, Alumni Member</p> <p>Professor David Jenkins, Trade Union Member</p> <p>Mr Gary Kildare, Lay Member</p> <p>Mr Paul Lewis, Lay Member</p> <p>Dr Bill MacPherson, Senate Member</p>	<p>Ms Morag McNeill, Lay Member</p> <p>Ms Marta Phillips, Lay Member</p> <p>Mr Chris Pirie, Staff Member</p> <p>Mr Bruce Roberts, Staff Member</p> <p>Mr Alan Robertson, Lay Member</p> <p>Mr Ian Stevenson, Lay Member</p> <p>Mr Mike Tumilty, Lay Member</p> <p>Professor Richard Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor</p> <p>Ms Dorothy Wright, Lay Member</p>
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In attendance: Ms Ruth Moir, University Secretary  
Ms Lisa Herlihy, Clerk to the Court

Apologies: Dr Richard Armour, Lay Member  
Mr Jürgen Munz, Trade Union Member

**MINUTE  
REF**

**M24/37 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. No interests were declared.

**M24/38 ORDINANCE J1: APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-PRINCIPAL (Ct3/24/18)**

The Court received and approved the appointment of Professor Steve McLaughlin as Vice-Principal of the University from 20 May 2024 until 31 July 2025, in accordance with Ordinance J1. The item was presented by the University Secretary.

The Court noted the process that was followed for the appointment, including consultation with students, staff and Court members regarding the role, and consultation with the Senate on the proposed appointment. The University Secretary reported on comments that had been received from Senators regarding the appointment, and the Principal confirmed that these comments had been discussed with Professor McLaughlin and would be taken on board. The Court noted that the appointment was renewable for a further five years.

**M24/39 APPOINTMENT OF THE PRO-CHANCELLOR (MALAYSIA) (Ct3/24/19)**

The Court received and approved the appointment of Datuk Nicol Ann David as Pro-Chancellor (Malaysia) from 17 May 2024 (or the soonest possible date thereafter) up to 31 July 2029. The item was presented by the University Secretary.

The Court noted the process that had been followed for the appointment. Datuk Nicol was very eminent in Malaysia due to her extremely successful sporting career, her values were aligned with the University and the Court noted that she would be an inspiring Pro-Chancellor for the University.

**M23/40 UPDATE ON THE UNIVERSITY'S RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT IN GAZA (Verbal)**

The Court received and noted a verbal update on the University's response to the conflict in Gaza, presented by the Principal.

**XXX Reserved Section – Ref. FOI(S)A, s30b**

The Court noted that finance policy development, including the Investment Policy, was a priority for the University following an extremely busy period where it had not been possible to progress this work. The Investment Policy would form part of the Ethical Business suite of policies and would help to ensure alignment with sustainability so that the University could provide complete clarity on its position regarding defence and other sensitive areas. The Deputy Principal (Global Sustainability) was also developing a sustainability policy. The Court observed that principles and criteria for progressing proposals were required across ESG, transnational education and partnerships.

**M23/41      FORMAT OF JUNE COURT MEETING (Verbal)**

The Chair of Court reported that there would be a new Court meeting format trialled in June 2024. This would aim to ensure Court meetings were focused on dialogue around organisational activity and away from a focus on process, in order to develop Court members' insight into the University. Time slot and page limits would be used to manage the meeting, with all items that required discussion split so that at least half of the time was dedicated to discussion.

**M24/42      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Court will be on Monday 24 June 2024 via Microsoft Teams. This will take place at 8.30am (UK time), 11.30am (UAE time), and 3.30pm (Malaysia time).