# THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

## KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

### 25 May 2018

### Minute

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| **Present:** | Doreen Davidson, Court member (Convener)<br>Ritchie Walker, Court member<br>Alison Grant, Court member<br>Claire Phillips, Court member<br>Charlie Jeffery, Senate member<br>Siân Bayne, Senate member<br>Melissa Highton, Senate member<br>Tina Harrison, Senate member<br>Alan Murray, Senate member<br>Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University (*ex officio*)<br>Bobi Archer, Student representative |
| **In attendance:** | Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning<br>Jo Craiglee, Head of Knowledge Management & Planning<br>Lorna McLoughlin, Finance (for Phil McNaull)<br>Sheila Fraser, CMVM (for Catherine Elliott)<br>Hugh McCann, CSE<br>Tom Ward, Director of Academic Services<br>Tony Weir, Director of IT Infrastructure<br>Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services |
| **Apologies:** | Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services<br>Phil McNaull, Director of Finance<br>Catherine Elliot, College Registrar, CMVM<br>James Loxley, CAHSS |

## 1    Minute                                                                          Paper A

The minute of the meeting held on 23 March 2018 was approved.

## 2    Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

## 3    Near Future Teaching Project                                          Verbal

The Assistant Principal Digital Education presented a project to co-design the future of digital education at the University, drawing on consultation exercises held with staff, students and school pupils and horizon scanning to develop four different educational future scenarios.

The next stages of the project will involve testing the scenarios with student, academic expert and school pupil panels, proposing recommendations and translation into policy and action. The project is scheduled to conclude in December 2018.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and project, with the following points raised in discussion:
- Equity of access to information technology – globally and locally;
- Consulting outside already interested parties to those who perceive information technology more negatively;
- Appropriate levels of technology use and links to wellbeing;
- Seeking employers views; and
- Using the outcomes to design teaching within the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

**4      Web Strategy**                                                    **Paper B**

The Assistant Principal Online Learning introduced a strategy to address the University's use of web technologies to enhance student experience, disseminate research and engage the wider public. It was noted that the University's web estate consists of 1,709 websites, with www.ed.ac.uk counted as a single website.

The Committee endorsed the strategy, noted the opportunity to improve links to academic blogs hosted beyond the University web estate and the need to improve the central University web offering to encourage greater usage by Schools.

**5      Distance Learning at Scale – Programme Business Case**          **Paper C**

A business case for the Distance Learning at Scale programme to establish a small number of large scalable online courses in areas of strength for the University, including data science and business education. The business case was endorsed, with the following points raised in discussion:
- Building on the University's success in provision of Massive Open Online Courses;
- Existing online masters courses may be relatively small but many are highly valued and of continuing benefit;
- Benefits for on-campus students in making available new learning technology;
- Implications for student statistics such as the retention rate, depending on categorisations used by bodies such as the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

**6      Authentication and Authorisation Services Review**               **Paper D**

The summary recommendations of a review of the University's authentication and authorisation services were noted, including changes

to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and improve security.

**7      Network Replacement Project – Student Residences**                **Paper E**

A proposal to incorporate the externally operated Accommodation, Catering and Events student residences data network and telephony service into the University campus network within the current Campus Network Replacement project was approved, with the associated increased capital cost endorsed. The opportunity to improve the student experience was welcomed, with members discussing alternative study locations when the Main Library is full and noting the intention to include student residences leased on a long term basis by the University within the scope of the project.

**8      Learning Analytics Policy**                **Paper F**

Following earlier approval for an institutional statement of Principles and Purposes for Learning Analytics, a draft institutional policy on Learning Analytics was approved. It was noted that the draft Policy had been developed in light of the General Data Protection Regulation.

**9      Information Services Group Capital Envelope**                **Paper G**

The updated forecast for years 2018/19 to 2025/26 was noted, including costs for replacement library self-service equipment and indicative IT network replacement costs in 2023/24 and 2024/25, assuming a six year replacement cycle.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

**10      Main Library Occupation Levels**                **Paper H**

Data on the occupancy of the Main Library prior to the first and second semester examination diets was noted, confirming that the building is regularly full during these periods. Members requested further information on occupancy rates across the year as a whole, discussed facilities for student parents, the availability of refreshment facilities with 24/7 library opening and the potential for study spaces in other buildings.

**11      Lecture Recording Policy Update**                **Paper I**

The findings of the policy consultation and final draft Lecture Recording Policy were noted. The following points were raised in discussion:
- 75% of the 400 teaching rooms will have lecture recording equipment installed by September, with 100% coverage by the end of the next academic year;
- Subsequent monitoring of the number of opt-outs granted, particularly on core courses; and,

- Achieving a balance between a lecture that is engaging for students present and those watching at a later date.

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| **12** | **Core Systems Procurement Update** | **Paper J** |

An update on the Core Systems (Phase1) Procurement Project was noted.

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| **13** | **JISC Student Digital Experience Tracker** | **Paper K** |

The results of a student digital experience survey was noted.

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| **14** | **Computing Regulations** | **Paper L** |

Minor revisions to the 22nd Edition of the University Computing Regulations were noted.

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| **15** | **Information Security Update** | **Paper M** |

The Information Security update was noted.

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| **16** | **Projects and Ongoing Activities Update** | **Paper N** |

An update on various University-wide projects that fall within the remit of the Committee was noted.

**17    Committee Reports**
- IT Committee Report                                     **Paper O1**
- Library Committee Report                             **Paper O2**

The IT Committee and Library Committee reports were noted.

**18    Any Other Business**

Members discussed the number of closed papers and ensuring a smooth launch of Windows 10 within the University in the coming academic year.

Court member Alison Grant and student representative Bobi Archer were thanked for their service and advice provided to the Committee over their terms of office.

**19    Date of Next Meeting**

Friday, 12 October 2018, 10.00-12.00.