

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COURT MEETING (UC)  
UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS  
HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 14:00 HRS  
IN ROOM EO1, EXECUTIVE OFFICE, NESS WALK, INVERNESS**

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**PRESENT:** Matthew MacIver (Chair)  
James Fraser (UHI Principal and Vice-chancellor)  
Michael Foxley (VC)  
Donald MacRae (VC)  
Alistair Mair  
Murray McCheyne  
Andy Rogers (VC)  
Norman Sharp (VC)  
Niall Smith  
Willie Printie  
James MacDonald  
Fiona MacLean  
Steve Thomson (VC)  
Gill Berkeley (VC)  
Bruce Nelson (VC)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Fiona Larg (Chief Operating Officer & Secretary)  
Garry Coutts (UHI Rector)  
Crichton Lang  
Penny Brodie (VC)  
Michael Gibson  
Gordon Jenkins  
Roger Sendall (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Anton Edwards  
Bill McKelvey  
Rachel Parker  
Andrew Campbell  
Hugh Morison  
Eileen Mackay  
Brian Chaplin  
Iain Scott  
Jana Hutt  
Drew Ratter  
Gary Sutherland  
Kenneth Miller  
Drew Ratter  
Gordon Jenkins  
David Worthington  
Janice Annal

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**ITEM**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Welcome and Quorum.**

**ACTION**

It was noted that a quorum was present.

**1.2 Declarations of Interest:**

**1.3 Notification of any other Business.**

Appointment of new Principal

**2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes.**

The Court resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (UC13-038).

**3 ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

The Chief Operating Officer and Secretary led the Court through paper UC13-039 comprising proposed new Articles of Association for the University. It was noted that the draft Articles of Association had been subject to extensive consultation with academic partners and that they had also been endorsed by the UHI Foundation. The purpose of presenting them to the meeting today was to seek Court approval to initiate the formal process required to adopt them as the new articles of the University.

It was noted that one court member felt unable to agree with Court's recommendation to adopt the new articles because he was concerned that the articles were too weak with regard to specifying governance arrangements and powers for the Triumvirate and for the UHI Further Educational Regional Board (FERB). However, it was noted that the majority of members were reassured that the role and function of the FERB was adequately prescribed within the Post 16 (Scotland) Education Act 2013. In addition Court noted that a primary purpose of the articles was to provide enabling powers for Court to decide on appropriate structures and on this basis Court was content that the role of the Triumvirate should not be too tightly defined as it was important that Court maintained an ability to amend structures where appropriate without having to follow the long and difficult process of amending the articles of association.

Following due consideration Court agreed to circulate the proposed new articles to the Privy Council, OSCR, Big Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for comment prior to presenting company members with a recommendation to pass a special resolution to adopt new articles.

**4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Appointment of new Principal – It was noted that Invitation to Tender documents had been sent out to six specialist recruitment consultants and that their submissions had now been received and were being evaluated. It was anticipated that a new Principal would be recruited in January 2014 and it was noted that the successful candidate may be subject to a lengthy notice period. Court agreed that the Deputy Principal should act up with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and that he should continue to do so until a new Principal was in post.

**5 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

22<sup>nd</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

Exit J Fraser  
and C Lang.