## Minutes

Annual Meeting of Convocation held on Thursday 15 November 2018

in the Council Chamber, Queen’s University Belfast.

## Apologies

A list of apologies received will be made available by the Clerk on request.

## Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2017 are published on the Convocation website; copies of the full minutes are available for inspection.

The Statutory Annual Meeting of Convocation was held at 6pm on Thursday 15 November 2018 with Mr Eoin McMullan (Chair) and 75 other members of Convocation in attendance.

The meeting was dissolved at 6.45pm.

The acceptance of minutes was proposed by Jonathan Hill and seconded by Carolyn Forster.

## In Memoria

Members observed a 1-minute silence in memory of Tom Moran and those that have passed away in the last year. A list of members of Convocation who passed away since the Annual Meeting of 2017 can be made available upon request.

## Election of Standing Committee

Returning Officer Damien Corriden managed the elections for Standing Committee with 8 nominees and 8 places available. All were elected:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Murray Power | BSc (1972), PhD (1975) |
| David McKillen | BSc (1983) |
| Brian Roulston | LLB (2008), PGCert (2010) |
| Mark Wallace | MSCI (2012) |
| Carolyn Forster | BA (2003), CertEd (2004), DipEd (2005) |
| Feargus McCauley | BSc (1996) |
| Erin Early | BA (2015), MRes (2016) |
| Stephen McCrystall | LLB (2016) |

## Report of Standing Committee of Convocation

## Meetings

## Standing Committee of Convocation held 4 ordinary meetings in 2018. The under noted table shows the attendance of elected and co-opted members:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of** **Election (retirement)** | **Name** | **SCC Attendance**(Apologies) | **Special Meeting Attendance**(Apologies) |
| 17 (21) | Eoin McMullan (Chair) | 5 (0) | 2 (0)  |
| 17 (21) | Jonathan Hill (Deputy Chair) | 3 (2) | 2 (0) |
| 14 (18) | Dr Murray Power | 5 (0) | 2 (0) |
| 14 (18) | David McKillen | 5 (0) | 2 (0) |
| 14 (18) | Brian Roulston | 3 (2) | 0 (1) |
| 14 (18) | Carolyn Forster | 5 (0) | 2 (0) |
| co-opted Jan 18 (18) | Feargus McCauley  | 4 (1) | 1 (0) |
| co-opted Jun 18 (18) | Stephen McCrystall  | 1 (2) | na (na) |
| na (na) | Fergal McFerran (QGA representative) | 3 (1) | 2 (0) |
| na (na) | Erin Early (QGA representative) | 4 (1) | 2 (0) |

## Chair’s remarks

**The Chair delivered his report.**

*Convocation exists to represent its membership and ensure they have a voice within their University. Graduates make up the largest group of Convocation’s member’s and Queen’s Graduates are embedded in our local economy, society and based in cities around the world. I have worked closely with Norma, Ian and the team in Development and Alumni Relations (DARO) to ensure our goals are aligned and our members needs are best served. Members of Senate and certain groups of staff are also members of Convocation.*

*Convocation is serviced by the Standing Committee of Convocation, consisting of ten elected members including myself as Chair and a Deputy Chair Mr Jonathan Hill. This year the focus of the Standing Committee has been on the evolution of Convocation and adapting to the changing needs of our membership. I’m pleased to say there has been an increased number of meetings with improved attendance across the year.*

*The 2018 Annual General Meeting had a strong turnout with engagement from the members on all motions being discussed.*

*I would like to highlight the activities initiated by the Standing Committee over the past twelve months.*

* *“Think Tank” event - April 18*

*This was an opportunity for the standing committee to meet in a slightly less formal setting to discuss what Convocation stands for and how we can best serve our members.*

* *GDPR information training session – lead by Queen’s Development and Alumni Relations Office*
* *Constitutional Review Group initiated*
* *Research visit undertaken to Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities’ – July 18*

*Chair and Deputy Chair met with our counterparts on the Convocation equivalent “General Council” at University of Edinburgh and University of Glasgow.*

* *Attendance at the Queen’s University Association London annual drinks reception at the Irish Embassy to the UK – July 18*
* *Launch of the ‘History of Convocation Project’ – August 18*
* *Convocation’s 2021 strategy development project group formed – September 18*
* *Convocation AGM – November 18*
* *Initiation of the Convocation Ambassadors – to ensure true representation of the diverse membership based around the world we are creating ambassador roles in cities or regions where active groups of graduates already exist.*

*Future Plans*

* *December committee meeting to formalise the 2021Convocation strategic development initiative which will involve greater consultation with the membership.*
* *Working with DARO to secure a new Clerk of Convocation*
* *Consultation with key stakeholder groups both internal and external to the University.*
* *Focus on the use of digital platforms and technology to enhance engagement with our members.*

*I would like to thank all the standing committee for their support this past twelve months including the interim Clerk – Ian Moore. As we continue on this journey of change, I look forward to working with them and the newly elected members of Standing Committee.*

## Use of Delegation of Authority

Barbara Boyle proposed and Nathan Anderson seconded a formal renewal of its delegated authority and it is therefore recommended:

That Convocation authorises Standing Committee to act on its behalf in accordance with Statutes until the next Annual Meeting of Convocation, and that notice be given of any new Statutes adopted by the Senate.

## The History of Convocation Project

Feargus McCauley provided a summary of progress and explained the significance of this project.

## Notice of Motions 2017

**9.1 Amendments to Standing Orders**

(Proposed by Murray Power, Seconded by Eoin McMullan)

***Convocation hereby resolves to amend Standing Orders, subject to the approval of Senate, as follows:***

1. ***Amend Section 9 by replacing ‘fifty’ with ‘thirty’ in the first and second lines.***
2. ***Amend Section 9 by inserting the words ‘(apart from elections)’ between ‘business’ and ‘shall’.***
3. ***Amend Section 47 by replacing the clause after ‘four years’ with ‘The Chairperson shall be ex officio a member of Senate.’***

*The Motion seeks to update Standing Orders to enable Convocation to operate more effectively.*

*Part (1) would reduce the quorum at Meetings from 50-30, reflecting the attendance trend at recent General Meetings*

*Part (2) would remove any quorum for elections, as was the case when ballots were conducted by post*

*Part (3) would update Standing Orders to reflect Senate’s decision to make the Chairperson the sole representative of Convocation.*

For: Murray Power

**The motion was passed by majority.**

**9.2 Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel**

(Proposed by Paul Loughran, Seconded by Mohammed Samaana)

***Convocation notes the call from Palestinian Civil Society, including academics and academic institutions, for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions until equal rights are afforded to Palestinians and Israel practices/respects International Law, including the Right of Return for Palestinian refugees.***

***Therefore, Convocation supports the call for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel.***

*Convocation notes the current violence directed against peaceful demonstrators in Gaza and the ongoing occupation, sustained by Israeli state institutions. Convocation notes the role of Israeli academic institutions in the arms trade and subjugation of Palestinian rights. Convocation notes the system of apartheid discrimination practiced by the state of Israel against indigenous peoples of Palestine.*

For: Mohammed Samaana

Against: Peter Weir

On: Peter Watters

For: Paul Loughran

Against: Sandra Bailie, Brian Barton

On: Daniel Callaghan

Call to vote:

For: 9

Against: 48

**The motion failed to carry.**

## Date of Next Annual Meeting

The next Annual Meeting of Convocation will be held in **November 2019** in the Council Chamber / Canada Room, Lanyon Building

*16 November 2018* Eoin McMullan**Chair of Convocation**