



## **Minutes**

Annual Meeting of Convocation held on Thursday 20 November 2014

in the Council Chamber, Queen's University Belfast.

### **Meeting**

The Statutory Annual Meeting of Convocation was held at 7pm on Thursday 20 November 2014 with Ms Carol Kinhead (Chair) and 35 other members of Convocation in attendance. The meeting was not quorate and therefore the business of the meeting cannot be officially recognized.

The meeting commenced with the Convocation Lecture by Dr Tom Frawley CBE, Northern Ireland Ombudsman. The title of the lecture was: *Ethics – Central to Leadership and Good Governance*

Following the lecture the Chair thanked Dr Frawley on behalf of Convocation and the meeting broke for supper.

### **Convocation Studentship**

The Convocation Studentship for 2014 was presented to Miss Aoife Mitchell, who is pursuing her MSc on the subject of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the context of a Bilingual setting / IME setting. Miss Mitchell gave a short presentation about her research.

### **Apologies**

Apologies had been received by the Clerk of Convocation from 28 members and were duly noted.

### **Minutes**

Convocation agreed the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on Thursday 21 November 2013.

### **In Memoria**

The Chair asked the members present to stand in silence to acknowledge and remember those members who had died in the period since the previous Annual Meeting in 2013.

## **Election of Chair of Convocation**

A call for nominations for Chair of Convocation was published in August 2014 with a closing date of 30 October 2014. One nomination was received from Ms Carol Kinkead who was appointed as Chair for the period 2015–2018.

## **Election of Deputy Chair of Convocation**

A call for nominations for Deputy Chair of Convocation was published in August 2010 with a closing date of 30 October 2014. Nominations were received from:

Mrs Paddy Skates  
Mr James Patton Taylor

As the meeting was not quorate, an election could not be held. Electoral Officer Dominic Doherty suggested that an interim Deputy Chair could be appointed by the Standing Committee of Convocation at their next meeting (to take place in February or March 2015) until the next AGM or until such time that a quorate extraordinary general meeting could be held to conduct the election.

## **Election of Members of Standing Committee**

A call for nominations for 8 members of Standing Committee was published in August 2014 with a closing date of 30 October 2014.

By the closing date nominations were received from:

Mr David McKillen  
Dr Murray Power  
Mr James Patton Taylor  
Ms Carolyn Forster  
Mr Brian Roulston

The above were all appointed as members of Standing Committee 2015-2018. As the meeting was not quorate and an election could not be held, no further nominations were called for from the floor.

## **Report of Standing Committee of Convocation**

### **Meetings**

Standing Committee of Convocation held 5 ordinary meetings in 2014. The under noted table shows the attendance of elected members:

<b>Elected/retire Name</b>		<b>Attendance (Apology)</b>
10/14	Ms Carol Kinkead (Chair)	5 (0)
10/14	Mrs Paddy Skates (Deputy Chair)	5 (0)
10/14	Ms Anne Hunter	4 (1)
10/14	Dr Murray Power	3 (2)
10/14	Mr David McKillen	4 (1)

10/14	Ms Sinead McGuinness	3 (2)
10/14	Mr Stanley Gamble	0 (5)
10/14	Dr Lavinia Boyce	4 (1)
10/14	Mr Shane Brogan	0 (5)
10/14	Mr Brian Roulston	2 (3)

In addition, two ex-officio members may be appointed to represent the Queen's Graduates' Association. The table below shows the attendance of ex-officio members:

10/14	Mr John Murdoch	0 (5)
10/14	Mrs June Meenagh-Smartt	4 (1)

### **Chair's remarks**

The Chair presented her report of Standing Committee which included attendance reports for the various meetings of Standing Committee and its sub-committees.

The Chair welcomed members of Convocation to the Annual Meeting of Convocation and thanked all graduates who sent messages of support and were unable to attend the meeting.

The Chair stated that, over the last year, the Standing Committee of Convocation had a full calendar of Standing Committee meetings, and through the Liaison Committee consulted with a number of departments and organisations to highlight and increase awareness of the role of Convocation. Throughout the year Convocation faced a period of change within and without the University. The search for a new Chancellor is underway, and the Chair was pleased to report that this process is progressing well.

The Chair welcomed the appointment of our 12th Vice Chancellor Professor Patrick Johnston, and offered the Standing Committee of Convocation's support to him in his many roles in managing and directing the University, to ensure the vision to make Queen's "an international powerhouse in education" is realised.

The Chair reported that, in line with good governance, a comprehensive review of the Charter and Statutes has been undertaken to ensure they meet the present and anticipated future needs of the University. The Review highlighted the provisions of the current Charter and Statutes do meet the present and anticipated needs of the University subject to a small number of exceptions. The Standing Committee of Convocation is actively involved in the consultation process.

The Chair was pleased to inform the meeting that Standing Committee of Convocation has continued to develop links with the new President and Officers of the Student's Union, the Post Graduate Office and Departments throughout the University as well as via our Face book page. During the coming years, the Chair hopes to develop new ways of reaching out to members.

The Chair assured members that the Standing Committee of Convocation are dedicated and well positioned to continue to challenge issues of concern on behalf of Members of Convocation, and will continue to give this work its highest priority.

The Chair was delighted to announce and award the Convocation Studentship for 2014 to Miss Aoife Mitchell, who is pursuing her MSc on the subject of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the context of a Bilingual setting / IME setting.

The Chair thanked all the members of the Standing Committee, the Alumni Office, Postgraduate Office and Clerk of Convocation, for their enduring endeavours and support over the past year.

Finally, the Chair stated that she was honoured to welcome and thank Dr Tom Frawley OBE, Northern Ireland Ombudsman, who delivered the Annual Convocation Lecture on *Ethics – Central to Leadership and Good Governance*.

## **9. Use of Delegation of Authority**

Those members of Convocation present approved the delegation of authority to Standing Committee and authorised it to act on its behalf in accordance with statutes until the next Annual Meeting of Convocation.

## **10. Notice of Motions 2014**

7.1 In the names of Professor Michael J Larkin and George Dunn

Proposer: Professor Michael J Larkin; Seconder: George Dunn

Convocation supports the re-establishment of a staff common room and associated facilities at Queen's University and that this case is put to the University management alongside a motion to the Senate with a view to improving collegiality for both new and established staff.

Professor Larkin shared his belief that a common room is an ethos, not just a physical location. It is a place where staff could speak to colleagues, known and previously unknown. Ideas can be shared and connections made amongst staff, which can help to improve their overall experience. It would be more than a place where staff go just to get coffee, like the many franchised coffee shops around campus suggested by currently used in lieu by management.

An informal vote was taken via show of hands and a unanimous vote in favour of the motion received.

## **11. Date of Next Annual Meeting**

Convocation agreed to hold its next meeting on Thursday 19 November 2015 in the Council Chamber.