

Minutes

Annual Meeting of Convocation held on Thursday 17 November 2016

in the Council Chamber, Queen's University Belfast.

1. Meeting

The Statutory Annual Meeting of Convocation was held at 7pm on Thursday 17 November 2016.

The meeting commenced with the Convocation Lecture 'A Journey' delivered by Baroness Nuala O'Loan DBE MRJA. Following the lecture the Ms Carol Kinhead (Chair) thanked the Baroness on behalf of Convocation, and the meeting broke for supper.

Upon return to the meeting the Chair delivered her remarks. As the meeting was not quorate official business could not be recognised. It was noted that an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called in the Spring to achieve quorum and vote on a motion to address the proposed changes to the Standing Orders.

The meeting was dissolved at 9pm.

2. Convocation Studentship

There were no eligible applicants for the 2016 studentship award.

3. Report of Standing Committee of Convocation

Standing Committee of Convocation held 3 ordinary meetings in 2016. The under noted table shows the attendance of elected members:

Elected/retire Name		Attendance (Apology)
14/17	Carol Kinhead (Chair)	3 (0)
14/18	Prof James Patton Taylor	3 (0)
14/18	Dr Murray Power	3 (0)
14/18	David McKillen	3 (0)
14/18	Brian Roulston	2 (1)
14/18	Carolyn Forster	2 (1)
15/18	Ciaran Gallagher	1 (2)

4. Chair's remarks

Welcome to the 2016 Annual Meeting of Convocation. I offer sincere thanks to all members who sent messages of support, and were unable to attend this evening.

As you arrived for the Convocation Lecture many of you will have been struck by the ever changing landscape, and architecture of the buildings within and around the main Campus.

This is an exciting time to be part of Queen's as the University moves forward in achieving the objectives of 'Vision 2020' an ambitious programme creating outstanding, and transformational facilities in which to learn, live, work, engage in research, socialise and visit. A place we can all continue to be proud of.

Some fine examples are the McClay library housing 1.5 million volumes and 2,000 reader spaces. It is without doubt one of the finest university libraries in the world. Re-development of the former Library stack has created a new main Site Tower, a striking and impressive building housing the School of Law. It has been transformed into a light bright, teaching and learning environment with a Moot Court Room, a well-being centre, a student social hub, and on the 9th floor offers magnificent views across the city. Other developments include the colourful Computer Sciences Building, offering students incredible access to the finest digital technology; a new postgraduate centre for International Students, and many more developments of note.

Of course buildings are nothing without people, and in this prestigious University we have the finest leadership, dedicated teaching, research, and support staff, along with a diverse and growing international student population.

I was reminded recently of the motto of this city, 'Pro tanto quid retribuamus' – For so much that we have been given what shall we give back? On your behalf the Committee of Convocation willingly give their time and efforts to develop links across the University and beyond, and continue (through our Liaison Committee), to work closely with the Officers of the Students Union.

I give praise to the Queen's students who continue to give back in so many practical ways. Notably, in the past year 5,552 students juggled their studies with volunteering activities helping to raise much needed funds, and offer support to individuals, and communities in areas of need, social disadvantage and educational underachievement.

The University continues to play a leading role in engaging with society, developing, and enhancing local, international, and global partnerships and promoting a tolerant, outward looking society.

However, we are going through a period of significant change with Brexit and the UK's expected withdrawal from the EU and there will be many challenges, and opportunities ahead. It is comforting to note that Queen's academics are contributing to the Brexit debate, helping to inform discussion, and understanding through their expert research, analysis, and input of the implications for Northern Ireland, the UK, the island of Ireland, and the wider community. Convocation play an increasingly important part in ensuring their views are heard and responded to also.

I would like to thank all the members of the Standing Committee, the Alumni Office, Postgraduate Office, and our Clerk of Convocation, for their enduring endeavours and support over the past year.

I thank all here this evening, and look forward to your continued support of the University through the Standing Committee of Convocation, and representation on Senate.

In conclusion and on your behalf I offer sincere thanks to Baroness Nuala O'Loan who despite a very busy schedule made herself available to deliver this evening's lecture, and hope everyone has enjoyed the evening.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Carol Kinkead BA (Hons) MSc, PgCHEP

5. Notice of Motions 2016

No motions were submitted to the Clerk by the deadline of 27 October 2016.

6. Date of Next Annual Meeting

A date for the 2017 Annual Meeting was not announced.

1 December 2016

C. Kinkead BA (Hons.) MSc, PgCHEP
Chair of Convocation