NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

C O U R T

20 April 2007

Present: The Chancellor (in the Chair for item 10 onwards), Mrs MO Grant (Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council) (in the Chair for item 9), Vice-Chancellor, Professor JB Goddard (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Professor TFP Page (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor E Ritchie (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor CB Riordan (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor OR Hinton (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Mr AG Balls, The Rt Hon Alan Beith MP, Mr A Bergshaven, Mr NE Braithwaite, Mr PD Carr, Ms M Coyle, Dr EGN Cross, Mr A Fenwick, Mr AE Glenton, Mrs CM Harvey, Dr R Hawley, Councillor M Henry, Mr CJ Hilton, His Honour Judge David Hodson, Lady Irvine, Mr PM Johnson, Lord Joicey, Lord Judd of Portsea, Miss FM Kirkby, Dr H Loebl, Mr RH Maudslay, Mr A McIntee (President, Union Society), Judge Mithani, Mrs S Murray, The Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Newcastle, Professor PJW Olive, Mr S Pleydell, Dr M Ridley, Sir George Russell, Mr N Sherlock, Mr HM Shukla, Mrs J Sjøvoll, Mr R Taylor, Lord Walton of Detchant, Professor MJ Whitaker.

In attendance: Dr JV Hogan (Registrar) and Mr HB Farnhill (Bursar). Sir Michael Darrington (new lay member of Court from 1 August 2007) also attended as an observer.

Apologies for absence: Sir Thomas Allen, Professor T Anderson, Sir Patrick Brown, Professor DR Charles, Mr J Edwards, Councillor D Faulkner, Ms C Galley, Dr GP Greener, Dr VA Hammond, Professor OFW James, Mr J Jeffrey, Mr P Kellner, Mr J Leng, Mr P Shaw, Professor AC Stevenson (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Dr M Stoppard, Mr I Stratford, Sir Mark Waller

M I N U T E S

9. INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Members of Court were offered a tour of the Devonshire Building. There was a presentation on world poverty presented by Dr Geoff Parkin, Dr Pati Ocampo-Thomason and Suzanne Speak, followed by a presentation on climate change by Professor Paul Younger and Mr Chris Kilsby.

Noted that

(i) The University made a wide ranging contribution to addressing the problems and development needs of the developing world. Much of the work was coordinated by the Developing Areas Research Network (DARN).
In January, the University had the opportunity to recognise the special contribution made by a number of outstanding individuals towards combating world poverty. Honorary Degrees were awarded to The Right Honourable Gordon Brown, MP, Sir Bob Geldof, Susan George, Dr David W Golding and His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa. Dr Golding had played a major role in energising the University’s commitment to the campaign against world poverty and, thanks to the support from the former Vice-Chancellor, Mr James Wright, the University became the first higher education institution to make a institutional commitment to the Jubilee Debt Campaign.

The special degrees ceremony was a memorable occasion and the Vice-Chancellor recorded his thanks to Professor Page and Professor Laurie for their efforts in collating material used to inform those who attended the day about the University’s work in this area.

The presentations made covered a small fraction of the University’s work. Other very notable contributions were currently being made by Professor James Tooley who was looking in particular at the development of the private school sector for the provision of education in the developing world and Professor Sugata Mitra who conducted a remarkable practical experiment on free access to PCs in slum areas.

Research and third strand activity in the developing world often presented particular challenges and could itself challenge various orthodoxies. This was an important part of the University’s contribution.

The University had a growing reputation for its work on the environment and use of renewable energies. It was one of six academic institutions who were members of the Tyndall Centre now recognised as the leading centre for work on climate change in the UK.

Members of Court would be welcome to contact any of the academic members of staff who made presentations if they wished to receive further detailed information or follow up particular issues.

10. **MINUTES**

Approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2006.

11. **MEMBERSHIP**

Reported that the terms of appointment of Dr G P Greener, Mr P J Kellner, Mr A McIntee, Professor CB Riordan and the Vice-Chancellor as members of Court would end on 31 July 2007.
Noted that:

(i) Court was grateful for the contribution made by all the individuals who were leaving. It offered its particular congratulations to Professor Riordan who would be taking up the post of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Essex in September 2007. It was especially grateful to Professor Edwards for his outstanding leadership as Vice-Chancellor. There would be further opportunities to offer public congratulations to Professor Edwards.

(ii) Court offered its congratulations to Mr AG Balls on his appointment to the Board of the Higher Education Funding Council for England from December 2006.

(iii) Court offered its congratulations to Councillor M Henry on his award of a CBE in the New Year’s Honours List in January 2007.

(iv) Court offered its congratulations to Dr M Ridley on his receipt of an Honorary Degree from the University later that same day.

13. REPORTS FROM COURT STEERING COMMITTEE

Considered:

(a) First Report from Court Steering Committee.

(b) Second Report from Court Steering Committee.

[Circulated with the Agenda as Documents B and C. Copies filed in the Minute Book]

Resolved that:

(i) The following persons be re-appointed to serve on Court from 1 August 2007 until 31 July 2010:

The Rt Hon Alan Beith MP  
Mr A Bergshaven  
Sir Patrick Brown  
Mr J Edwards  
Ms C Galley  
Councillor M Henry  
Lord Judd  
Mr RH Maudslay  
Sir George Russell  
Mr R Taylor

(ii) Sir Michael Darrington be appointed to serve on Court from 1 August 2007 until 31 July 2010.
(iii) Honorary Fellowships should be conferred on the following, at the Honorary Fellowships Dinner to be held on 22 October 2007:

Peter Smedvig, Non-Executive Director Axis-Shield plc.
Antony Jones, member of the Development Board, ex-President of the Union Society and CEO of the Logic Group.
Richard Maudslay, former member of Council and Chairman of Equity Committee.
Mr G Mitchell, Senior Experimental Assistant, School of Marine, Science and Technology.

14. MEMBERSHIP OF COURT STEERING COMMITTEE

Reported that:

(a) The term of appointment of Mr Nigel Sherlock on Court Steering Committee would end on 31 July 2007.

(b) Mr Sherlock had indicated that he would not wish to be re-appointed on the Committee.

(c) Members of Court had been invited to submit nominations for a member of Court Steering Committee to replace Mr Sherlock.

Considered a recommendation from the Chancellor concerning the appointment of a member of Court Steering Committee from 1 August 2007 until 31 July 2010.

Resolved that:

(i) Ms Carol Galley be appointed as a member of Court Steering Committee from 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010, to replace Mr Sherlock.

(ii) Mr Peter Carr should be invited to attend as a proleptic member for 2007-08, after which he would be invited to fill the vacancy left after Mrs Sylvia Murray’s term of appointment ended on 31 July 2008. This presumes that his appointment to Court will be extended for three years.

(iii) Court was extremely grateful to Mr Sherlock for his work as the inaugural Chairman of the Court Steering Committee.

15. LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Members of Court had been invited to suggest candidates for consideration for appointment to the lay category of membership of the University Council. Members in this category should not be members of staff or salaried officers of the University. Since the number of vacancies in any one year was limited, suggestions should be submitted in confidence and no communication should be entered into with prospective candidates at this stage. Nominations should be submitted in writing, in

The current lay members of Council were:

Ex-officio:

Mrs MO Grant (Chairman)
Mr CJ Hilton (Vice-Chairman)
Mr PM Johnson (Treasurer)

Appointed members:

Mr L M Aviss
Mr N Blezard
Sir Leslie Elton
Mr JC FitzPatrick
Dr F Harvey
Ms J Henderson
Mr R Hull

Mr M I'Anson
Sir Miles Irving
Mr S Lightley
Ms K Priestley
The Hon James Ramsbotham
Mr I Shott

Noted that Nominations Committee had agreed that it would be particularly desirable to attract an individual with considerable experience of employee relations management in a large organisation. Mr L Aviss, who had such experience was stepping down from membership of Council after many years of very valuable service.

16. MEETINGS 2007-08

To report that meetings of Court in the forthcoming academic year would be held on:

23 October 2007 at 2.30 pm*
11 April 2008 at 10.30 am

*preceded, the evening before, by the Honorary Fellowships Dinner.

Noted that the programme for the 23 October would be circulated to members of Court shortly and would involve a programme in the morning focussed on aspects of the University’s activity related to the Cultural Quarter Development.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Received a complimentary copy of the University’s book, ‘Newcastle University, Past, Present & Future’.