

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION

to be held on Saturday 21 June 2014, 10.00-12.00am
in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chair of Convocation, Mr Antony Jones

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2013

To receive:

The Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Ordinary Meeting of Convocation held on 15 June 2013.
Document A

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO CONVOCATION 2013-14

To receive:

A presentation from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Brink.

QUESTIONS

The Vice-Chancellor will be pleased to answer questions at the meeting from members of Convocation and would be grateful to receive notice of these, as far as possible. Members are asked to submit these in writing to the Chair of Convocation, chairofconvocation@newcastle.ac.uk or alternatively please call the Alumni Office on 0191 208 3559 for the postal address.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

To receive:

Presentations from:

- (i) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Charles Harvey.

- (ii) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Chris Day.
- (iii) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering, Professor Steve Homans

6. ALUMNI CONSULTATIVE GROUP

To receive:

An oral report from the Chair of the Alumni Consultative Group (ACG), Mr Ian Forster.

To report:

The results of the election to the vacancies on the ACG will be announced at the meeting.

7. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF CONVOCATION

To report:

- (i) That the five year term of office of the Chair of Convocation, Antony Jones (BA Politics 1980) is due to end on 31 July 2014.
- (ii) That Dr Donald Gascoigne (MB BS 1951) retired from the position of Deputy Chair of Convocation in 2013 due to ill health, after nine years in the role. Sadly, Dr Gascoigne passed away in April of this year.

At the meeting of Convocation in June 2013 it was agreed that nominations would be invited for both roles in 2014, so that an election may be held and appointments made at the meeting of Convocation in June 2014.

To consider:

- (i) Nominations for the role of Chair of Convocation
- (ii) Nominations for the role of Deputy Chair of Convocation

8. THE CHANCELLORSHIP

To report that:

(i) The process for the appointment/re-appointment of a Chancellor requires Court and Senate sitting in joint session to make a recommendation to Convocation. Convocation then makes the official appointment/re-appointment.

(ii) In 2009, Convocation resolved “that Sir Liam Donaldson be appointed as the next Chancellor of Newcastle University with effect from 1 August 2009 for an initial period of five years”.

(iii) Sir Liam has indicated that he would be happy to serve for a further five year term, subject to the agreement of the University.

To consider:

The recommendation in the attached report from the joint meeting of Senate and Court, that Sir Liam Donaldson be re-appointed as Chancellor of Newcastle University with effect from 1 August 2014 for a further period of five years, to 31 July 2019.

Document B

[Document B is classified as 'strictly confidential' and is being circulated only to members of Convocation. The contents should not be divulged to any person who is not a member of Convocation.]

9. HONORARY DEGREES 2013-14

To report:

Honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at honorary degree ceremonies held on the 10th, 12th and 16th July 2013:

DLitt **Professor Keith Wrightson**, Randolph J Townsend Jnr Professor of History, at Yale University.

DSc **Professor Dorothy Bishop**, Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology and Wellcome Principal Research Fellow, University of Oxford

DCL **Professor Martha Nussbaum**, Ernst Freud Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, University of Chicago.

DCL **Professor Dame Sally Davies**, Chief Medical Officer for England, Chief Scientific Advisor at the Department of Health and Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

DCL **Sir Mark Walport**, UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser

In 2013, Senate agreed to award honorary degrees in areas related to the University's three societal challenge themes at December congregation ceremonies.

Honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at ceremonies held on the 4th December 2013:

DCL **Professor Sir Michael Marmot**, founder and Director of the University College London Institute of Health Equity.

DCL **Lord Peter Melchett**, Policy Director of The Soil Association; instrumental in establishing a scientific evidence based approach to environmental and organic farming policy development and campaigning.

10. HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS 2013-14

To report:

Honorary fellowships were conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on 14th October 2013:

Mr Peter Johnson.

Peter was a long serving University Treasurer, who stepped down from that position in July 2013. Peter received an Honorary Fellowship in light of his supportive and dedicated service to the University over a long period. Peter's quiet and authoritative manner has provided great re-assurance to Council on all financial matters. His attention to detail and his good working relationship first with Howard Farnhill, Bursar, and then Richard Dale, Executive Director of Finance, have been important in helping to manage the University's finances in a sustainable manner. Peter served as a member of Council from 2001-2013 and was appointed Honorary Treasurer in 2004. He was *Ex officio* Chairman of Finance Committee from appointment as Honorary Treasurer; member of Nominations Committee (2005-2013); *Ex officio* member of University Remuneration Committee (2004-2013); Working Group on Governance (2005). Peter was a Chartered Accountant, formerly a partner with KPMG. He has served as Director of Sunderland Marine Mutual Insurance Company Ltd, Non-executive Director of Bellway plc, Honorary County Treasurer, Northumbria Region of St John Ambulance, Trustee of Newcastle University Development Trust. Peter has experience of providing audit and financial advisory services to HE and FE institutions, Building Societies, construction, property, insurance and manufacturing companies.

Mr Barry Rowland.

Barry Rowland was Chief Executive Officer of Newcastle City Council from 2009 to 2012, and had previously worked at the City Council since 1979. During his tenure as Chief Executive, Barry Rowland helped put the relationship between the City Council and Newcastle University at the heart of the City Council's strategy. He personally led on building the relationship through his monthly meetings with the Vice-Chancellor. This resulted in a large and varied portfolio of interactions, overseen at the University end by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ella Ritchie. One manifestation of the level of trust and co-operation between the City and the University was the collaboration on the Newcastle Fairness Commission. There are many others. For example the University is represented on the Board of the Newcastle Gateshead Initiative, and the Vice-Chancellor served on the Board of 1NG, the City Development Corporation. One of the most visible and important collaborations between the University and the City is our joint Science City initiative. Barry Rowland served on the Board of Science City during his time as CEO, and was instrumental in a number of key decisions. When ONE North East was abolished by the coalition government the City Council, with Barry's guidance, agreed with the University to continue Science City as a two-way partnership, and to invest further in Science Central by buying ONE's share of the land. The inclusion of Science Central in the City Deal happened during Barry's tenure. The latest development in which Barry played a strong leadership role, and which is still ongoing, is collaboration between the University and the City in the area of Offshore and Subsea Engineering, focussing on the industry cluster on the north bank of the Tyne.

11. DEATHS AND OBITUARIES

A list of deaths is available on the Alumni website and hard copies available at the meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To report:

The *preliminary* date of the Fifty-eighth Ordinary Meeting of Convocation is Saturday 13 June 2015. This is to be confirmed at the meeting.

**Mr Antony Jones
Chair of Convocation
2 June 2014**