

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY**  
**THE FIFTY-FIRST ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2008, 10.45AM, LECTURE THEATRE 1,  
HERSCHEL BUILDING**

**Present:**

Mr William Best, Dr Keith Broomsfield, Dr Ann Brown, Dr Robert Butterfield, Mrs Anne Brown, Mr Peter Bryne, Mrs Pamela Chrisp, Dr Philip Coyne, Mrs Elsie Earnshaw, Mr Ian Forster, Mrs Shelly Forster, Mr Anthony Garrod, Dr Donald Gascoigne (Vice-Chairman), Miss Elspeth Gould, Dr Frederick Hardy, Mr Srinidhi Hatwar, Dr Valerie Henderson, Mr Philip Hood, Mr Ching-Yu Hsu, Miss Dessy Irawati, Mr Jack Jeffery (Chairman), Dr Jared Johnson, Mr Antony Jones, Mr Christopher Kay, Mrs Elizabeth Lennie, Mrs May Lewis-Meikle, Dr Dorothy Lincoln, Dr Yang Lu, Ms Susan Lumley, Mrs Ann Makepeace, Ms Rosalyn Mawson, Dr Robert McCrae, Dr Eileen Miller, Mrs Salvia Naeem, Mr William Oliver, Mr Hylton Owen, Mr John Percy, Mrs Patricia Percy, Mrs Judith Penny, Mr Betram Randall, Mrs Ethel Randall, Mr Peter Regelous, Mr Horace Regnart, Mr John Richardson, Mr Nicholas Richardson, Dr Lorna Rozner, Mr Michael Scott, Mr Mark Scrimshaw, Dr Cho Sim, Dr Doris Story, Mr Robert Theaker, Mrs Adele Timlin, Mr Jonathan Vening, Professor Anthony Walton, Mr Frederick Walton, The Rt Hon Lord Walton, Reverend Robert Wardale, Mr John Wheeler, Mrs Gisela Wheeler, Mrs Jean Wilson, Mr Michael Wilson, Dr Mary Wynne, Mrs Bernadette Zemouri.

**In attendance:**

Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink, Mrs Anne Burton, Mrs Jane Clubley, Mr Stuart Garratt, Ms Mary Haworth, Dr John Hogan (Registrar), Ms Lauren Huntington, Mr James Johnston, Ms Suzanne Lowe, Mrs Tracey Readshaw, Professor Ella Ritchie, Ms Louise Swan.

**Apologies:**

Dr AF Adamson, Mr Peter Askew, Lt Col Roger Bagnall, Mr Stuart Baker, Miss Elizabeth Barraclough, Dr Reginald Belas, Mr David Bilton, Dr David Black, Mr Richard Bradburn, Mr Paul Brooks, Dr Joan Brown, Dr Helen Cameron, Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Dr John Cash, Dr John Charlewood, Mr Alan Chisholm, Mr Barry Clement, Ms Susan Clements, Dr Leonie Coates, Dr Andrew Cottrell, Mr Mark Cowlin, Dr James Cromby, Mr Michael Cunliffe, Mr Amaury De Follin, Mr Simon Devaney, Dr Hewan Dewar, Dr Ann Donaldson, Mr Nicholas Dorsett, Emeritus Professor John Eastoe, Dr Mary Edminson, Mr Paul Fallon, Dr Terence Forster, Mr Richard Fothergill, Mr David Foxon, Dr Vincenzo Fucilli, Mr Herve Genin, Professor John Goddard, Mrs Eileen Graham, Professor John Grant, Professor David Grayson, Mr George Greener, Mrs Elizabeth Greenway, Mr Eilert Halvorsen, Mr Paul Hanson, Mr George Hartley, Dr Richard Hartley, Mrs Cathryn Harvey, Dr Valerie Hawley, Mr

George Hepburn, Mr Robert Heslop, Dr Janet Hobson, Dr Ian Holland, Mr Robert Horton, Mr David Hyland, Mrs Noreen James, Mrs Catherine Jeffrey, Lord James Joicey, Emeritus Professor Colin Jones, Dr Angela Kennedy, Mrs Patricia Kerrigan, Mr Nigel Laws, Dr Leon Dune, Dr Elsa Little, Mr Anthony Lord, Dr David Thompson, Miss Valerie Loretz, Mr Ricardo Maffei, Mr Peter Magnay, Sir Robert Malpas, Dr Geoffrey Marsh, Mr Michael McDonnell, Mr Paul Miller, Mr Christopher Mirfin, Mrs Margo Moorhead, Dr Peter Moran, Mr David Morgan, Mr Douglas Mullen, Dr Duncan Newton, Mr David Newton, Professor Trevor Page, Professor David Parker, Mr Nicolas Parmaksizian, Mrs Meriol Penn, Dr Sarah Platt, Dr Raymond Plimley, Miss Dorothy Postle, Mrs Norma Quince, Dr Alan Rae, Mr Hugo Remnant, Mr Ian Reynolds, Col. Rt Hon. Viscount Matthew Ridley, Revd Jonathan Russell, Dr Barry Russell, Dr Monica Ryan, Mr D Saunders, Professor Robin Seymour, Mr Bao Shi, Mr John Shropshire, Mrs A Sill, Mr J Smedley, Emeritus Professor Jim Soames, Emeritus Professor Gordon Spoor, Dr Daphne Sprague, Dr Nigel Prague, Dr Dorothy Stainsby, Mr Bryn Stephenson, Mr Peter Storey, Emeritus Professor George Swan, Dr Ralph Swinburn, Miss Seng Tan, Professor Anne Tattersfield, Mrs Maureen Taylor, Mr A Taylor, Dr Nancy Thomas, Dr John Wade, Mr Alan Wade, Mrs Gwenda Walls, Mrs D Walters, Hon James Warren, Mr Ernest Watkinson, Miss Jennifer Watson, Mr Michael Watson, Dr Paul Williams, Mr Jon Williams, Mr Ronald Willis, Professor Douglas Wise, Dr Geoffrey Woodman, Mr Julien Wright, Ms Kristin Wynne-Jones, Professor Paul Younger, Mr John Zafiris

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSED</b>
<p><b>1. Minutes</b></p> <p><b>2. Matters Arising</b></p>	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink to his first meeting of Convocation. His opening remarks noted that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Christopher Edwards received a knighthood in the Queen’s birthday honours list. Mr Jeffery had written to congratulate him on behalf of Convocation.</li> <li>• Professor Paul Younger had been appointed as Pro-Vice- Chancellor (Engagement).</li> <li>• The list of apologies and obituaries was available at the front desk.</li> <li>• The minutes of the meeting of Convocation held on 30 June 2007 were taken as read and agreed by Convocation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. The Vice Chancellor’s First Year Report</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor firstly made reference to the mission statement of the University and its focus on: world class research, high quality teaching and the intention to play a</p>

leading part in the social, cultural and economic development of the region.

The Vice-Chancellor linked this to his inauguration ceremony and his public lecture where he spoke on the role of the University and specifically the role of this University. He emphasised the importance of reinventing the notion of a civic University based on a knowledge economy.

### **Executive Board**

The Vice-Chancellor explained to Convocation the changes in the University's senior management and explained the new structure of the Executive Board:

#### **Core Structures:**

Faculty of Medical Sciences (Professor Chris Day)

Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering (Professor Oliver Hinton)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor Charles Harvey)

#### **Core Functions:**

Research and Innovation (Professor Nick Wright)

Teaching and Learning (Professor Ella Ritchie)

Engagement (Professor Paul Younger)

#### **Professional Support**

Registrar: Operations (Dr John Hogan)

Executive Director Finance (Mr Richard Dale)

PVC, Planning and Resources (Professor Tony Stevenson)

By the end of the year the full Executive board will be in post and 6 out of 10 will be new. One year from now, he will report on what the team has done.

#### **Activities 2007-2008**

The Vice-Chancellor spoke on 4 key areas of activity:

- 1) Science City**
- 2) Teaching and Learning**
- 3) Research**
- 4) Campus building programme**

### **1. Science City**

The Vice-Chancellor explained the link between Science City and the idea of a Civic University. Newcastle is fast becoming a city of Science.

Recent regeneration of the city has largely been culture-led - iconic structures such as the Angel of the North, Millennium Bridge, SAGE, Baltic and Quayside regeneration. The challenge now is to continue this on a science led basis. The aim is to create social, economic and cultural regeneration led by the scientific capital in Newcastle University in partnership with other parties in the city: hospitals, the Life Science Centre, Northumbria University, Newcastle College – all centres of intellectual expertise.

The Vice-Chancellor described the plans for the actual land – Science Central. The focal point will be a public square, accessible on foot, by public transport and bicycles.

Around the public square, a semi circular area will mark the science circuit, where all the scientific endeavours will take place. Behind that, in another semi circular area, the business connections will be present. It is hoped partner companies will embrace this, engaging with the scientific enterprise. This master plan was approved a few weeks ago.

### **2. Teaching and Learning**

In the "Times" Online Survey, Newcastle was voted by students as the top UK city for students.

In another survey, by the International Student Barometer, Newcastle came 7th in the world for overall student satisfaction. This was an important outcome for Newcastle and its global standing.

The Vice-Chancellor also mentioned the Partners schools and colleges in the region and further afield and their importance for the widening participation agenda. The University communicates to these schools through graduate ambassadors, student volunteers, and degree courses which interact with the region's schools and colleges.

### **3. Research**

Research income is looking positive. So far this year the income is ahead of budget and also ahead of last year. In particular, income was rising from research councils, which had been a concern in the past. Some examples include: 5 million from the Medical Research Council for the Centre for Brain Ageing and Vitality, European Union money for a computer science project in computer security, Centre for Translational Research in Public Health, (a joint venture with Durham and situated in the Institute for Health and Society).

### **4. Campus Building Programme**

The Vice-Chancellor highlights the upcoming new buildings on campus:

Medical Sciences New Building

Campus for Ageing and Vitality

INTO

the new music building

Great North Museum

Northern Writers Centre

Student and Administrative Services Building

Refurbishments to Castle Leazes.

Most of the buildings will be up by 2010.

The Vice-Chancellor then addressed the question of financing these new developments. Of the total cost of £203.6 million, only £41.6 million to date is University money.

	<p>£141.4 million is from external sources and the remaining £20 million is uncertain. This can be considered a great achievement.</p>
<p><b>Questions from Convocation</b></p>	<p>John Percy (BSc Mining Engineering,1962) asked how the University planned to bridge the gap between science &amp; engineering and letting the public know what is happening.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor responded that one of the aims of Science City is to get the public to relate to it and speak of 'our' University. The public will be engaged through the Science Central site, the Campus of Ageing &amp; Vitality and Centre for Life. There is a Beacon of Public Engagement project headed by Dr Wakeford, concerned with the two way flow of information. People will know what the scientists are doing and the scientists will know what the people need.</p> <p>Ian Forster (BA Geography, 1955) thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his speech and then asked how Newcastle University is linked to other Universities and the North-East as a whole.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor explained that there are now 5 universities in the North East, 6 if you count the Open University. He also acknowledged the fact that the North-East is not a big region however its sub-regions are very distinct. He went on to explain that Newcastle is part of an organisation called, 'Universities for the North East'. Representatives from the 5 universities meet on a regular basis. 3 out of the 5 Vice Chancellors are new and all are committed to making the partnerships work. There are different partnerships depending on the area of activity. Northumbria, for example has strength in design and Newcastle is strong in Engineering Design, therefore we hope to collaborate on this area. We also have a long list of joint ventures with Durham including the Public Engagement Initiative iKnow.</p> <p>Donald Gascoigne (MB BS Medicine,1951) asked which Universities were ranked ahead of Newcastle in the International Student Barometer survey in which Newcastle was 7th.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor said that he did not have the answer to that question to hand.</p>

	<p>Mrs Butterfield (guest) expressed an interest in Science City and the design of the buildings. She asked how much influence the University would have in comparison to the City Council and commercial partners.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor replied this is a key question as some of the land will be sold to generate revenue to build our buildings. However the master plan clearly outlines that whoever buys in, buys in to a set of design principles and into the concept that is Science Central.</p>
<p><b>4/5. Honorary Degrees &amp; Fellowships 2007-2008</b></p>	<p>The Chairman reported the names of those who had received Honorary Degrees at the Honorary Degree Ceremony held on 11 April 2008:</p> <p>DCL Mary Midgley</p> <p>DCL Professor Christopher Edwards</p> <p>DCL Sir Donald Curry</p> <p>DCL Baroness Onora O’Neil</p> <p>DCL Professor Sir Michael Rawlins</p> <p>The Chairman then reported that Honorary Fellowships had been conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on 22 October 2007:</p> <p>Antony Jones</p> <p>Richard Maudslay</p> <p>George Mitchell</p> <p>Peter Smedvig</p>
<p><b>6. Elections for Ordinary Members of the Alumni Consultative Group</b></p>	<p>The Chairman announced the election of the following ordinary members of the Alumni Consultative Group:</p> <p>John Connolly (BA (Hons) International Management, 2005)</p> <p>Dr Donald Gascoigne (MB BS Medicine, 1951)</p> <p>Alastair Mitchell (BSc Naval Architecture, 2008)</p> <p>Louise Needham (BA (Hons) Sociology &amp; Social Policy, 2002) John Percy (BSc Mining Engineering, 1962)</p>

	<p>Judith Penny (BA (Hons) Geography, 1967)</p> <p>Mark Scrimshaw (BA History, 1976)</p> <p>Ian Forster (BA Geography, 1955) was elected as branch member of the ACG</p> <p>There remain two vacancies on the ACG; one branch and one ordinary place. Mark Scrimshaw proposed that Convocation grant the ACG the right to co-opt members in these circumstances. This was approved.</p>
<p><b>7. Election for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Alumni Association</b></p>	<p>Mark Scrimshaw (BA History, 1976) was re-elected as Chair.</p> <p>Ian Forster (BA Geography, 1955) was elected as Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Both positions are for a 3 year term.</p> <p>The Chair thanked both for agreeing to continue to serve ACG and the University.</p>
<p><b>8. Alumni Association</b></p>	<p>Mark Scrimshaw spoke of the cultural regeneration of the region having started from the vision of a few people and added that Science City is giving the region a similar opportunity. He referred to the new Vice-Chancellor as a man of vision and the man to make this happen.</p> <p><b>Alumni Activity 2007-2008</b></p> <p>Mark Scrimshaw gave a summary of the activities of the Alumni Association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alumni Branches – 15 branches have now been established in 10 different countries. The work of these branches includes student recruitment, welcoming back returning graduates, hosting events, finding sponsors, and fundraising</li> <li>• The GOLD network (graduates of the last decade) has undergone further expansion helping to engage more recent graduates in the work of the Alumni Association</li> <li>• Events – a large number of more targeted events is now taking place around the UK and worldwide, e.g. History reunion, Politics Lecture, Marine Event in Greece</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Alumni Involvement</b></p> <p>He thanked the members of the ACG including Gareth Trainer (BSc (Hons) Physiological Sciences, 2000) and Wendy Dawley (BSc (Hons) Geography, 1997) who had left the Committee. Mark Scrimshaw also thanked Professor Ella Ritchie for her long-standing support.</p> <p>He went on to describe the huge contributions which alumni are making to the current life of the University not only in terms of money but also knowledge. Examples given were alumni who are now visiting Professors: Tony Wadsworth (Chief Executive of EMI) within Business Studies and John Yorke within the English department.</p> <p><b>Fundraising</b></p> <p>The Annual Fund has raised 1m to date. In the academic year 2007-2008, 927 alumni funded bursaries were awarded which marks a significant input to students in the region. Planned future developments include a questionnaire to all alumni and a campaign on legacies.</p> <p>Mark Scrimshaw closed with a quote by Gunter Grass, 'Progress is a snail'. He said however that the snail in Newcastle was moving quickly and he was proud to be a part of that.</p>
<p><b>10. Date of next meeting</b></p>	<p>It was agreed that the provisional date of the Fifty-Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation would be Saturday June 20, 2009</p>