

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

THE SIXTIETH ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION

Saturday 17 June 2017

Present: Mr A E Jones (in the chair); Mrs J Allison; Mr V Allen; Ms C M Asbridge; Mr T S Bailey; Mr A J Balfour; Miss S Bevan; Mrs M E Bridgewood; Mrs A M Brown; Mr J D Bell; Dr R J Butterfield; Mr A Chandramohan; Mr S Cook; Professor C P Day (Vice-Chancellor and President); Mr J H Dowson; Miss R Draper; Mr R E Eden; Mr P Farrar; Dr E H Fisher; Mr D Flack; Miss E M Gould; Mr M V Hadrill; Mrs C M Harvey; Mr J Hunt; Mr S Kobayashi; The Revd J N L Latham; Mr D Lawson; Mrs A M Makepeace; Ms R Mawson; Mrs J Medcalf; Dr R W McCrae; Miss S Million; Mrs J S Mills; Mr R H North; Dr H Oakley; Mrs C R Pearson; Mrs J A Penny; Mr J D R B Percy; Mrs P A M Percy; Mrs J M Redgrave; Mrs M D Reed; Mr H Regnart; Mr A Robson; Mr M Scrimshaw; Mrs M C Shield; Mr H M Shukla; Mr P W Skevington; Dr A P Snodin; Mr J G Song; Mr M R Soulsby; Mrs R Stephens Wright; Mr R M Theaker; Mr J N Turnbull; Professor A J Walton; Mr F T Walton; The Revd R C Wardale; Miss J Watson; Dr J Welsh; Mr N Whitaker; Ms J A Wigfield; Mrs R A Wilson; Mrs S M Wright; Mr G Wynn

In attendance: Mrs C J Butterfield; Professor D Burn; Mrs M Day; Dr J Hogan; S Forrest; Mrs A M Gardner; Miss J Graham; Mrs A King; Mr D Lawson; Professor J Sanders; A Sandu; E Shield; Ms C L Stephens; Professor P Taylor; Mrs S Taylor; Mrs A Turnbull; Mrs N Snodin; Mrs T Wardle; Ms T Wishart; Mr J Wigfield.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members to the sixtieth ordinary meeting of Convocation.

The Chair welcomed Professor Chris Day to his first meeting of Convocation following his appointment as Vice-Chancellor and President.

The Chair reported that in order to ensure the University continues to make a major impact on the world stage and plays a fruitful role in its many partnerships in the North East and beyond, it is developing a new strategy which the Vice-Chancellor & President would be outlining in his presentation today. As part of this, the Vice-Chancellor and the Senior Management team will be undertaking a reputation survey that will help communicate this future strategy to ensure it is ambitious, relevant and distinctive. The views of alumni are very important in contributing to this, therefore alumni are asked to support this process when it commences in September.

The Chair reported the sad loss of Emeritus Professor Roy Storer, who passed away on 11 November 2016. Professor Storer was appointed to the Chair of Dental Prosthetics in 1968 and progressed to Dean of Dentistry in 1977. He continued in this role until his retirement in 1992.

The Chair reported that apologies for the meeting were noted from Mr Jack Jeffery who was unable to attend the Convocation weekend. The Chair on behalf of Convocation, wished to relay his best wishes to Mr Jeffery. [Secretary's note: sadly, Mr Jeffery died on 19 June.]

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Convocation held on Saturday 11 June 2016 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following minor amendments:

1. Apologies should be recorded from Mrs C J Butterfield.
2. Minute 4.d made reference to Minute 6.11, this should have read Minute 6.12.
[Circulated with the agenda as Document A.]

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Chair proposed that any matters arising could be covered in the main during the presentations given by the Vice-Chancellor & President and the Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and any subsequent contributions from the floor.

4. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT 2016-17

Received: The Vice-Chancellor and President's Annual Report to Convocation, 17 June 2017.

The Vice-Chancellor's report highlighted a number of successes over the previous year, across all aspects of university life including the following:

Noted that:

1. Special congratulations were offered by the Vice-Chancellor to some individual members of staff for their successes over the past year:
 - Jacob Polley: 2016 TS Eliot Prize for Poetry.
 - Professor Selina Stead: European Aquaculture Society Distinguished Service Award.
 - Professor Paula Moynihan: Vice-President for the International Association for Dental Research.
 - Professor Chris Rogers: Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.
 - Professor David Burn and Professor Derek Mann: Fellowship of the Academic of Medical Sciences.
 - Professor Ashley Adamson: Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School for Public Health Research.
 - Dr Stephen Tay, Newcastle University Singapore (NUS): Sir George Julius Medal.
 - Professor Jimmy Steele: John Tomes Medal, British Dental Association.
 - Professor Peter Heasman: British Empire Medal for services to research ethics.
 - Allan Chong (BA Hons Architecture, 2016): RIBA President's Bronze Medal.
 - Dr Alice Wort: Pathologist 2016 – Power List 'Rising Star'.
 - Professor Chris Brink, Sir Terry Farrell and Mrs Olivia Grant OBE: Freedom of the City.
2. Some late news received that the following announcements have been made as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2017:
 - Emeritus Professor Erica Haines: Awarded OBE for services to Social Sciences.
 - Mrs Veryan Johnston, Former Executive Director of Human Resources: Awarded MBE for services to Higher Education.
 - Professor Roy Sandbach, Director, National Innovation Centre for Ageing (NICA): Awarded OBE for services to Science, Innovation and Skills.

3. The Vice-Chancellor reported that some significant new appointments have been made which include:
 - Professor Brian Walker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research Strategy and Resources.
 - Professor Sharon Mavin, Director of Newcastle University Business School.
 - Professor Andrew Husband, Head of the School of Pharmacy.
 - Mr Paul Walker, Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor, effective 1 August 2017.
4. The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) results are expected shortly since the outcome was delayed on account of the pre-election purdah period. Newcastle University is a prestigious University for teaching. This is substantiated by the recent results: 5th in the UK and 18th position in the world in the International Student Barometer and 8th position in the UK in the Times Higher Education Student Experience survey. [Secretary's note: the TEF results were published on 22 June. Newcastle was awarded the highest category, Gold.]
5. Durham University's School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health will be transferring to Newcastle University on 1 August 2017. Newcastle University will be one of a small number of universities in Britain to have a Pharmacy located within their Medical Faculty.
6. Plans for a £34m Learning and Teaching Centre to be located at Science Central have been approved. The space will provide a 750-seat lecture theatre which will be suitable for conferencing space.
7. Funding of £26m has been awarded for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre and NIHR Observatory, which will be based in the University. This will provide facilities to scan the world for new medicines, treatments and diagnostics and research their suitability to be available via the NHS.
8. The work of Professor Sir Doug Turnbull has resulted in the world's first licence being granted to offer fertility treatment to women with mitochondrial disease. Professor Sir Doug's research resulted in the award of knighthood for the development of a treatment for mitochondrial disease.
9. Newcastle University is distinctive in having a Sports Science degree within its own Medical School. Newcastle University has now established a formal partnership with Newcastle Falcons, which will deliver mutual benefits in education, training and research.
10. An independent economic impact assessment has been undertaken and the results indicated that Newcastle University contributed to 8,850 FTE jobs in the area, £1.1 billion Gross Value Added (GVA), most of which was in the north-east region, and that we are the third largest employer within the city. This is a profound economic impact for the region.
11. New developments that are planned for the Science Central site include a £58m Urban Sciences Building which is due to open in August 2017 and will comprise the School of Computing and the Integrated Energy Centre. As previously mentioned, the Teaching and Learning Centre will also be sited on the Science Central site. A £50m Innovation building will house two National Innovation Centres in Ageing and Data.
12. In Singapore, the Newcastle Research & Innovation Institute (NewRIIS), has been opened which will enhance the world research reputation of the University in this area.

13. The previous vision and strategy was developed in 2008. The Vice-Chancellor, after reviewing the current strategy and the defining characteristics of the University which include a proud heritage of 183 years, a long commitment to excellence in teaching and research, a key driver of innovation and culture and a long history of collaborative and partnership working, considered the need for a refreshed vision and strategy. This will include how we improve our results in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, which is the system for assessing the quality of our research. Our current position is 26th in the UK and needs to be improved. There is also a need to improve our external profile and reputation within league tables since the reputation output of the University does not match the hard metrics. Additional factors to be considered in the refreshed strategy include:

- The Higher Education and Research Act: Teaching Excellence Framework. (TEF), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Office for Students.
- BREXIT
- An anti-immigration Government.
- Requirement for Universities to sponsor academies/open free schools.

14. It is expected that the refreshed vision and strategy will be completed by spring 2018, following a wide consultation period.

5. FACULTY PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR REPORTS

Received: PowerPoint presentations from:

- i) Professor Julie Sanders, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- ii) Professor David Burn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.
- iii) Professor Phil Taylor, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering.

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Noted that:

1. Professor Sanders reported that the Faculty has a world-class offer in English, Geography, Planning, Architecture, and Translation & Interpreting, amongst other subjects. Fine Art and Media are now ranked top in their national subject group.
2. Following her appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sanders has revised the Faculty vision and values, and has carried out a series of participatory events, working with staff and students to revise the HaSS values.
3. There are two large Doctoral Training Partnerships in place with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). These have now been expanded to include Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside and Ulster universities.
4. Discussions are ongoing with Sir Terry Farrell for a new archive centre to house his work which would also have the potential for exhibition space and research opportunities.

5. Following receipt of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the Hatton Gallery is due to reopen later in 2017.
6. International partnerships, staff and student exchanges and collaborative opportunities are being explored around the world, including the opening of a new summer school for PhD students at the British School at Rome next year; the Confucius Institute in partnership with Xiamen University continues to thrive whilst further opportunities are being explored in China, SE Asia and Scandinavia.

Faculty of Medical Sciences

Noted that:

1. Professor Burn reported on some of the main achievements from the Faculty including: Research income has grown by 6.9%; continued success with Translational Research schemes; the only University outside of the 'golden triangle, to have been awarded 3 successive Biomedical Research Centres, specialising in ageing and long term conditions; the good QS world ranking positions have been maintained.
2. The planned growth in the Sport Science, Nutrition and Psychology programmes has been significant, with 14 applicants for every 1 space available in Sports Science.
3. Professor Burn stated that it his intention to increase connectivity and to position the Medical Faculty at the centre of the region, expanding the Academic Health Partnership to include other regional Trusts and higher education institutions. It is the intention to address three key areas: improvements in research excellence; the enhancement of the market advantage in teaching and provide an excellent student experience; and to strengthen our reputation.
4. A review of current space available within the Faculty will be conducted to ensure this is used in the best way, including an expansion of space for teaching purposes. Consideration of what innovative developments can be made with relevant cross-Faculty teaching courses, e.g. Business Science, Psychology etc, is underway. Support will be giving to the development of new teaching methods.

Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering

Noted that:

1. Professor Taylor reported that by 2025 it is the intention for the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering to be in the top 10 of Science and Engineering Faculties in the UK with at least one discipline in first position. To achieve this vision will require a full review of the Faculty structure, a full review of delivered Learning and Teaching and maximising of the league table positions.
2. Some of the main achievements from the Faculty included: in April 2017, the first Silver Athena SWAN award was received for the School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; £58m investment in the Urban Sciences Building, due for completion in the summer, which will house the School of Computing and have a suite of interdisciplinary laboratories that can be used by staff from other Faculties.
3. Three new externally funded centres have been established: the National Innovation Centre for Data (NICD), the UK Collaboratorium for Research on Cities and Infrastructure (UKCRIC) and the National Centre for Energy Systems Integration (CESI).

4. After recognising that the Faculty needed to do more for the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), there are new joint UG degrees to be made available from academic year 2017/18. The Newcastle Research & Innovation Institute has also been established to facilitate the delivery of Postgraduate and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provision.
5. The Faculty is undergoing a review of its structure, which will maximise the collaboration and synergy in teaching and research. This will include a reorganisation of the schools reducing the number of schools from ten to five:
 - Natural & Environmental Sciences
 - Engineering
 - Computing
 - Mathematics, Statistics and Physics
 - Singapore

Contributions and questions from the floor:

a. Mr Horace Regnart (LLB 1968)

Mr Regnart asked the Vice-Chancellor three questions:

- i) In the Vice-Chancellor's presentation, under the 'Vision Statement' can I suggest he add the words 'and Innovation' following the word 'Education'.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor responded that the longer version of his presentation states that the three principles that we will be following will be Innovation, Inter-disciplinary and Partnership.

- ii) Does the Vice-Chancellor agree that foreign students are not immigrants and will he inform the Government of this?

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor stated that we believe that the number of students who stay in the UK after their studies are completed is small. The government still seems to use an analysis of data on entry and exit from the International Passenger Survey despite the Office for National Statistics stating that this data should not be relied upon.

Although it would now appear that more people in government believe that the numbers of students who remain is low, the Prime Minister, when she was Secretary of State at the Home Office, had a different view but it remains to be seen whether her view will change.

We, as part of the Russell Group and Universities UK, have submitted numerous letters and supporting evidence to the government on this matter and, as alumni may be aware, the Immigration Minister, Robert Goodwill, is an alumnus of this University. Professor Brink wrote a personal letter to him asking him to take our views into account.

- iii) Does the Vice-Chancellor agree that mercantilist economic theory is about 500 years out of date and the foreign students help to pay for more places for British students?

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor agreed that the mercantilist theory is out of date. Mr Regnart advised that his understanding of mercantilism is that there is only so much wealth in the world, and if you wanted more money you had to go out and grab it. Later economic theory whether capitalist or, preferentially, the ethical sustainable use of capital, means that you can create more wealth, hence bringing foreign students and their fees into the University helps to create more places for British students.

The Vice-Chancellor responded that the University has an approximate turnover of £500m per annum. International fees make up approximately £75m of that total, so this is very important for us. It is recognised that this income does not purely pay for their tuition but also allows us to invest financially in research facilities, improve the infrastructure in teaching for British students. There has been some analysis carried out which shows that quite a lot of our taught Masters programmes are very popular for international students particularly in areas like Business. If international students were not coming then we simply would not be able to provide these courses for the British students to take. The Vice-Chancellor also clarified that the emphasis must not be just about income, but a recognition that it is vitally important for our culture to have a diverse student body and the fact that 25% of our students are from outside the UK is hugely beneficial in terms of the diversity of our intake and especially in terms of the experience offered for our home students.

The University is very keen to maintain the number of international students that come to our University, as we are committed to being culturally diverse and we will continue to work hard to ensure the University is open and attractive to international students.

Mr Regnart asked if he could suggest an additional sentence to the Vice-Chancellor's presentation: the unparalleled benefits of cross cultural fertilisation.

b. Mr Mark Scrimshaw (BA History 1976)

Mr Scrimshaw stated that the Faculty presentations were fantastic and very evident of the work and achievements being made, but asked the Vice-Chancellor why, during his presentation, it was reported that the reputation of the University was not well enough known in terms of international research. Mr Scrimshaw therefore felt that his presentation did not correlate with the Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor presentations and asked the Vice-Chancellor to explain why there appeared to be this disconnect between the presentations.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor explained that disconnect with the research performance was due to the 'peaks and troughs' of research performance within each of the three faculties. The baseline of the 'troughs' was lower than that of some of our competitors. We recognise that there are areas which need to be improved, but these were not perhaps highlighted during the Faculty presentations.

There is disparity between the metrics used and the reputation of the University which could be due to the marketing and branding of the University. The Vice-Chancellor explained that a recruitment process for a new Director of Marketing is about to commence, which will allow for improvements in the marketing and branding activity and that it should be recognised that our competitors are already active in this area.

The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University is also working with the City and a number of other bodies on a Newcastle narrative, so that Newcastle can be uniformly promoted.

c. Mr David Flack (BA Geography 1974)

Mr Flack asked the Vice-Chancellor in terms of reputation, who the target audience would be for the marketing team.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor reported that we have a very strong marketing team in place for home student recruitment and results show that our recruitment of home students has continued to grow. What we need to do is to work to clearly identify the requirements of our prospective students, what our branding needs to be, demonstrating our differentiation and what we are good at and then identify the right strategy for international student recruitment which will almost certainly be different to that for home student recruitment.

d. Mr Joseph Dowson (BA Fine Art 1972)

Mr Dowson referred to the minutes of the last meeting concerning the recruitment of a female Vice-Chancellor where the response according to the minutes appeared to be somewhat grudging.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he was interviewed for the position of Vice-Chancellor along with other candidates, which included women. Equality and diversity is taken very seriously and is considered by all recruitment and selection panels. Gender equality is also considered when selecting an interview panel. The Vice-Chancellor stated that he would hope that the strongest candidate would always be appointed to the position.

e. Ms Catherine Asbridge (BSc Mathematics 1984)

Ms Asbridge asked the Vice-Chancellor if he had any statistics on how many private educated students you have compared to state educated and whether there is still some hangover from Newcastle being part of Durham University back in the 1960s which is perhaps affecting its reputation now.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor commented that this was an interesting question, and since we were part of Durham University until 1963, this would warrant some consideration. He reported that he has already met the new Vice-Chancellor at Durham on a number of occasions, and recognised that there are lots of synergies between the two universities and the universities are working quite closely together.

Ms Asbridge commented that perhaps parents of international students as well as home students, who are advising their children on which university to attend maybe do not understand what Russell Group means, and that Newcastle University has so much more to offer than many other institutions.

The Vice-Chancellor responded that there are no problems recruiting high quality home students, where the location of the University is an enormous draw to prospective students. Compared to some institutions there is still an over representation of privately educated children. It has been the case that that if you did not get in to Oxford or Cambridge, then Newcastle was an option alongside universities like Bristol or Durham.

f. Mr Alan Balfour (BA Politics 1980)

Mr Balfour stated that he graduated in 1980 as an Etonian at Newcastle University. He believes it has become significantly more fashionable to attend Newcastle University in the last 30 years. One of the measurements that attract people to the University or a particular course is that they can get a job at the end of it. It may be the case that students will migrate to a particular course on the basis that they are more likely to get a job. Mr Balfour commented that he had very much enjoyed the Careers Service presentation earlier in the day, but felt that very little was mentioned in any of the presentations during the Convocation meeting that the purpose of educating students was to equip and help them find employment. With the new requirement to pay off University fees, it has become even more important to secure appropriate employment with the added pressure in some areas of feeling that a student must achieve a 2:1 as a minimum.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor responded that one criteria in the main league tables referenced in his presentation concerned employability and that perhaps the point was not emphasised sufficiently in that one of the measures of teaching and learning included is helping students to find employment within 6 months of graduation and this is something we do exceedingly well. The current data from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE) reports that 94% of our students were in work or study, six months after graduating.

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) has three elements which are assessed: Quality of Teaching, Learning Environment and Student Outcomes and Learning Gain. It looks likely that the period of assessment for students to become employed or be in further study after graduating will be increased from 6 months to 15 months.

The results from the Times Higher World Reputation Survey were announced earlier this week and the results reflect that the University's position has worsened for teaching as opposed to research; there is a concern that we may have become so focussed on pushing our reputation for research that we may become less concerned in terms of teaching. This should not be the case.

The Chair commented that the presentation given by the Careers Service earlier in the day had been extremely well received by alumni and wanted to highlight a couple of points:

- Newcastle University is top in the Russell Group in terms of Employability Strategy, which is a terrific accolade of the work done by the Careers team.
- A 3 day 'Bootcamp' is running this weekend for over 60 students to develop innovative ideas to progress into start-up business proposals. This is an example of the tremendous work driven out from the Careers Service in this area.
- Alumni: One of the aspects featured was the opportunity for alumni to offer students work experience, encouragement, mentoring and networking support and the hugely positive impact this has for them.

The Chair urged members of the alumni body to contact Gareth Trainer, Assistant Director Entrepreneurial Development (Gareth.trainer@ncl.ac.uk) if they feel they could provide their time and support with this.

g. Mr Julian Hunt (BSc Physics 1983)

Mr Hunt reported that he worked in London for half of his time, and had come across Newcastle University London, and is about to join a non-executive team there, and would be happy to volunteer some time to promote Newcastle University.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Mr Hunt for volunteering his time to this.

h. Ms Catherine Asbridge (BSc Mathematics 1984)

Ms Asbridge asked the Vice-Chancellor, if we were to have another general election, Jeremy Corbyn has stated that new University students would not be subject to tuition fees effective from September 2017, how would this affect the University?

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor replied that this would entirely depend on what a future Labour Government would propose to do to fill the gap which has not been made clear in their manifesto. If the fees were simply abolished, this would equate to a 40% cut in the income of the University.

Mr Mark Scrimshaw stated that Labour had reported that this was costed in the manifesto that the costs would be passed to the tax-payer.

i. Dr Janet Welsh (MBBS 1980)

Dr Welsh informed the Vice-Chancellor that she had attended Newcastle University as it was one of only a few institutions that offered an integrated course combining clinical and academic medicine. After giving some thought on the comments made about student experience and marketing, the ideas given during the presentations of integration between the Faculties and programmes, e.g. teams of different engineers working together, she felt this is an important practical benefit for students. Undergraduate students will predominately look at what they will enjoy and how this will benefit them rather than looking at research profiles.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor re-iterated that integration is something that all three Faculties are extremely interested in progressing.

The Chair thanked Professor Day, Professor Sanders, Professor Burn and Professor Taylor for their informative presentations.

6. THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORARY DEGREES

Received:

- i) The Principles for the award of Honorary Fellowships.
- ii) The Principles for the award of Honorary Degrees.
[Circulated with the agenda as Documents B and C.]

Noted:

The Chair asked members of Convocation to note that there is an opportunity to make nominations for the award of Honorary Fellowships and Honorary Degrees in July 2018, which should be submitted by 26 June 2017, to Jenn Allison, Executive Office Manager (jennifer.allison@newcastle.ac.uk)

7. HONORARY DEGREES 2015-16 and 2016-17

Noted that honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at degree ceremonies held on the 13^h and 15th July 2016:

Professor Sir Eric Thomas DCL - is an alumnus and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol. Training as an obstetrician and gynaecologist, he has held high level positions at Southampton and Bristol universities as well as public roles nationally and internationally.

Professor James Syvitski DSc - is an oceanographer and geologist. A Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Boulder, Colorado, USA and chair of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, he is widely regarded as a world leader in Earth-system science.

Dr Brian Alderson DLitt - is one of the UK's most respected and influential critics, scholars and supporters of children's book history as well as being an author, translator and editor of many popular children's books.

Ms Anne Longfield OBC DCL - is the Children's Commissioner for England a post which has a legal duty to promote and protect the rights of all children in England with a particular focus on children and young people living away from home, in or leaving care, or receiving social care services.

Mr Robin (Ram Prasad) Sengupta MD - is a World-renowned Neurosurgeon and Founder Chairman of the Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata (a 150-bed facility for the vast numbers of underprivileged people afflicted by neurological illnesses). Since 1961 he has worked for over 50 years in the NHS, mostly in Newcastle.

Noted that in 2014, Senate agreed to award honorary degrees in areas related to the University's three societal challenge themes at the December 2016 congregation ceremonies.

Noted that an honorary degree was conferred on the following individuals at ceremonies held on the 7th and 8th December 2016:

Professor Peter Pronovost MD - is an anaesthesiologist and critical care physician. He is a world-renowned champion of patient safety and a practicing critical care physician. He is both a clinician and an academic researcher, taking scientific evidence to the bedside, and is known for motivating health care professionals in large health systems. He is Professor of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and Senior Vice President of Patient Safety and Quality at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the USA.

Baroness Sally Greengross OBE DCL - is Chief Executive of the International Longevity Centre UK. A leading campaigner for older people, Sally Greengross has lobbied tirelessly to improve attitudes towards and policy concerning older people for over 40 years. Her campaigning began when she joined Age Concern in 1975, where she went on to become Director General from 1987 until 2000. During this time, she was responsible for building Age Concern Enterprises into a multi-million-pound business.

Professor Claudia Rankine DLitt - is a poet and playwright. One of the foremost poets and playwrights in the world today, Claudia Rankine's work often crosses genres as it tracks wild and precise movements of mind. She has written five collections of poetry including *Citizen: An American Lyric* and *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*; two plays including *Provenance of Beauty: A South Bronx Travelogue*; numerous video collaborations, and is the editor of several anthologies.

Jenny Saunders OBE DCL - is Chief Executive of National Energy Action, the UK's leading fuel poverty charity, campaigning for affordable warmth in the homes of vulnerable people. Under her guidance, the NEA has made a significant contribution to the policy arena of fuel poverty and continues to maintain close links with government departments in addressing these issues.

9. HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS 2016-17

Noted that Honorary Fellowships were conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on 10 October 2016:

Mrs Monica Doughty

Monica was the Office and Advertising Manager of Courier for 33 years until her retirement in 1997. Before the evolution of digital publication and self-editing software, Courier was produced and published with the same process and technology as any national newspaper. Young student journalists researched, typed, edited and submitted their stories, which were eventually printed in the weekly editions of the Courier, via hot metal at a professional printing company in Consett. All national newspapers had –and indeed have today—a Production Editor and Monica was in effect the Production Editor of Courier.

Monica oversaw all copy and ran the Courier office with fierce control. Formidable and outspoken, Monica never interfered editorially but she insisted on honesty; accuracy, speed and reliability. Over four decades, she trained many of today's leading media and political figures and most regard her as a legend. Every week she spent a day at the Consett printers overseeing the setting and layout of the newspaper. It was due to Monica that Courier never paid a commercial rate for printing – year after year she bargained them out!

As the Advertising Manager, Monica was also hugely successful in delivering serious profits to Courier. She bartered, bullied and charmed many, many Newcastle businesses to take ad space in Courier—often against their better judgement! When Courier wrote a negative story about an advertiser, Monica never commented or interfered and usually managed to retain their business.

The Chair reported that Mrs Doughty had sadly passed away on 28 October 2016, shortly after receiving her Honorary Fellowship Award.

Ms Pat Ritchie

Pat Ritchie became Newcastle City Council's first female Chief Executive in January 2013. Before that she was the Chief Executive of the Government's Homes and Community Agency (HCA) from 2010. She led the delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme, decent homes, and locally led economic development including the publication of the HCA's first development and land disposal strategy.

Pat has extensive experience in economic development, business and skills support. As Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) at One North East, she led on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) that put science and innovation at its heart and which identified several Centres of Excellence to build on these strengths, including Newcastle Science City. Through the RES and the Centres, the University benefitted significantly from strategic investment in a number of key projects including developments at the Campus for Ageing and Vitality. Prior to One North East, she was Deputy Chief Executive of The Wise Group, a prominent employment and training company in Scotland and the North of England.

As a world-class civic university, a strong and productive partnership with Newcastle City Council is important to us. We have been very fortunate that in Pat Ritchie we have a City leader who actively and wholeheartedly supports this partnership.

9. DEATHS AND OBITUARIES

Reported that a list of deaths is available on the Alumni website:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/news/obituaries.htm>

The Chair also noted that this year marked the 50th anniversary of the death of 14 students from Newcastle and Durham who died in 1967, on a coach trip from India as part of the COMEX expedition.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported that the provisional date for the Sixty First Ordinary Meeting of Convocation at Newcastle is Saturday 16 June 2018. This date will be confirmed in due course.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Chair asked members of the meeting of Convocation to consider the information discussed during the weekend and to reflect on the range of opportunities for alumni to contribute and engage with the University and its future.
2. Thanks were expressed by the alumni to the core University team for the work undertaken in organising the activities over the Convocation weekend.
3. The Chair presented flowers and the Registrar the long service certificate to Mrs Tracey Wardle, Operations Manager NU Advancement, to recognise her 20 year service to the University, on behalf of Alumni and the University.

Sam Taylor
Secretary to Convocation
23 June 2017