NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

THE SIXTY-SECOND ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION

To be held on Saturday 12 October 2019, 14.15-16.15
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 23 June 2018

To receive:

The Minutes of the Sixty-First Ordinary Meeting of Convocation held on 23 June 2018. Document A

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. THE CHANCELLORSHIP

To receive:

An update on the appointment of a University Chancellor from the Chair of Convocation.

5. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT TO CONVOCATION FOR 2018-19.

To receive:

A presentation from the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Chris Day.

QUESTIONS

The Vice-Chancellor and President 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 by email to the Chair of Convocation at: advancement@ncl.ac.uk or alternatively please call the NU Advancement office on 0191 208 7250 for the postal address.

The following questions have been submitted in advance:

Would it be possible for the University to found or contribute to its existing endowment fund 1% of its annual gross income to achieve long term financial self-sufficiency? (Horace Regnart)
What is the University doing for its existing students and staff in the area of improving and safeguarding their mental health.

I believe the University should be working on the following areas:  
First area is the prevention of suicide  
Second, the avoidance / measures to deal with self-harm.  
Third, how to deal with academic, financial and emotional stress - stress as in the definition that the issue is starting to make the person ill.  
Fourth, how other diagnosable mental health illnesses such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc are recognised and how the sufferer can be helped while maintaining their academic / employment status. (Mike Thakoordin)

What does the University feel it could do for its alumni in the area of their mental health.

I feel that the University could look to put in place a network to allow alumni the opportunity to share what they are doing in the area of workplace / organisational mental health wherever they are. This sharing could then assist others who are undergoing challenges. (Mike Thakoordin)

6. THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR AND EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS’ UNION

To receive:

A presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Education Officer of the Newcastle University Students’ Union on student community, student voice and climate change.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

To receive:

A summary of proposed changes to the Statutes. Document B

8. HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

To report that:

The term of appointment on Honorary Degrees Committee of the alumni representative from Convocation, Dr David Moffatt, ended on 31 July 2019.

To consider:

A representative from the alumni to join Honorary Degrees Committee.

9. 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 2019.

(ii) That the five year term of office of the Deputy Chair of Convocation, Ally Robson (BA (Hons) Combined Studies in Arts 2003) is due to end on 31 July 2019.

(iii) That in accordance with Statute 43, ‘The Convocation, from its own members, shall elect a chair and may elect a deputy chair, under procedures as the court may from time to time decide, who shall respectively hold office for five years. Any retiring chair or deputy chair shall be eligible for re-election. Neither the chair nor the deputy chair shall be a member of the salaried staff of the University’. Also, in accordance with Statute 49, ‘All questions in the convocation shall be determined by the votes of the majority of the numbers present and voting.’ The procedures for the election were agreed by Court at its meeting on 10 May 2019.

To consider:

(i) Nominations for the role of Chair of Convocation from:

- Hector Macdonald, BSc Physiology and Biochemistry (1977)
- Sophie McDermott, BA Politics and History (2018)

10. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS 2020

Honorary Fellowships of the University

Court invites nominations in writing for the award of next year’s Honorary Fellowships of the University. Any lay member of Academic Board, Court, Council, and the alumni present at meetings of Convocation at which the request for nominations is tabled may make a nomination. Where several members make a joint nomination, one should be shown as the nominator and the others as supporters. The grounds on which the nomination is made should be clearly stated.

Principles for the award of Honorary Fellowships and Nomination Forms can be found at: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/congregations/honorary/nom_honfell/

Proposals should be sent by email marked ‘Confidential – Honorary Fellowships’ to Dr John Hogan, Registrar (Email: John.Hogan@ncl.ac.uk) by Friday 28 February 2020.

When making a nomination for an honorary fellowship, this should be done in the strictest confidence and must not be discussed with the potential recipient. Successful nominations will be publicised following approval by Court as the awarding body in advance of the relevant honorary ceremony.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

11. HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED IN 2018-19

To report:
Honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at degree ceremonies held on the 16th, 17th and 18th July 2019:

**DEng**  Professor Leo Heller  
United Nations Special Rapporteur

**DCL**  Ms Uma Imam  
Executive Director, the Angelou Centre

**DLitt**  Ms Ali Smith  
Novelist and Playwright

**DSc**  Professor Paul Davies  
Regents' Professor, Arizona State University

**DSc**  Dr Patrick Gallagher  
Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh

**DHuSc**  Sir Liam Donaldson  
Chancellor, Newcastle University

**MD**  Dr Tedros Adhanom-Ghebreyesus  
Director-General, World Health Organisation

**DMus**  Ms Kathryn Tickell  
Musician and Composer

12. DEATHS AND OBITUARIES

A list of deaths is available on the Alumni website.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To report:

i) A provisional date for an extraordinary meeting of Convocation to consider the appointment of a new Chancellor has been arranged for Friday 31st January in the evening.

ii) A provisional date for the sixty-third Ordinary Meeting of Convocation has been arranged for Saturday 10 October 2020.

Mr Antony E Jones  
Chair of Convocation  
October 2019