

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

THE FIFTY-SIXTH ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION

to be held on Saturday 15 June 2013, at 10.30am
in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To receive:

The Minutes of the Fifty-fifth Ordinary Meeting of Convocation held on 16 June 2012.
DOCUMENT A

2. MATTERS ARISING

3. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT 2012-13

To receive:

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

QUESTIONS

In addition to specific matters arising from his presentation, The Vice-Chancellor will also be pleased to answer any other questions at the meeting from members of Convocation and would be grateful to receive notice of these, as far as possible. Members are therefore asked to submit these in writing to the Chair of Convocation: chairofconvocation@ncl.ac.uk or alternatively please call the Alumni Office on 0191 222 3559 for the postal address.

4. FACULTY UPDATES

To receive:

Presentations from:

- (i) The Dean of Cultural Affairs for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Eric Cross.
- (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.

5. CHAIR OF CONVOCATION

To report:

That the five year term of office of the current Chair of Convocation, Mr Antony Jones (BA Politics 1980) is due to end on 31 July 2014.

Convocation is a statutory body of the University. All alumni are members. The Chair of Convocation is also ex officio a member of the Court of the University providing a further formal channel of communication between alumni and the University. Statute 47 states that:

“Convocation, from its own members, shall elect a chairman and may elect a deputy chairman who shall respectively hold office for five years. Any retiring chairman or deputy chairman shall be eligible for re-election. Neither the chairman nor the deputy chairman shall be a member of the salaried staff of the University”.

Nominations will be invited for the role of Chair early in 2014, so that an election may be held and an appointment made at the meeting of Convocation in June 2014.

6. DEPUTY CHAIR OF CONVOCATION

To report:

That Dr Donald Gascoigne (MB BS 1951) has retired from the position of Deputy Chair of Convocation after nine years in the role. His second term of office would have ended on 31 July 2014.

Nominations have been invited for this position with a closing date of Monday 20 May. In addition to specific mailings to alumni, the vacancy was also announced in AlumNews and on the DARO website. Despite this publicity, no nominations have been received and it is therefore proposed to leave the position vacant until 2014 when it will be advertised alongside the call for nominations for the post of Chair of Convocation.

7. ALUMNI CONSULTATIVE GROUP

To receive:

An oral report from the Chair of the Alumni Consultative Group (ACG), Mr Ian Forster on the activities of the ACG during 2012-13.

To approve:

The revised Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Alumni Consultative Group (ACG) and the Appendix.

DOCUMENT B & C

8. DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE (DARO)

To receive:

A written report by Jane Clubley, Director of Development on the work of the Development and Alumni Office (DARO) during 2012-13. **DOCUMENT D**

9. HONORARY DEGREES 2012-13

To report:

Honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at an honorary degree ceremony held on the 12th July 2012:

DSc **Professor Lord John Krebs**, head of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the first chairman of the Food Standards Agency.

DMus **Thomas Zehetmair**, violinist, conductor and Music Director of the Northern Sinfonia.

In 2012, 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 2012:

DCL **Ms Shami Chakrabarti**, Director of the pressure group, Liberty, Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University.

DCL **Mr Rakesh Bharti Mittal, and Mr Sunil Bharti Mittal**, founders of Bharti Airtel, a leading player in the telecoms revolution.

DCL **Lord Garry Runciman**, 3rd Viscount Runciman of Doxford (Northumberland), one of Britain's most eminent sociologists.

10. HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS 2012-13

To report:

Honorary fellowships were conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on 15 October 2012:

Alan Clarke CBE

Alan Clarke's relationship with the University began in the 1990s when he was head of economic development at Newcastle City Council. In 2003, he was appointed Chief Executive of Regional Development Agency, One North East, a position he held until March 2012. During his time at ONE, Alan Clarke oversaw investment in the PET Scanner in the Campus for Ageing and Vitality, which is helping with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and brain conditions;

laboratories and facilities at the Centre for Life; and £5m towards the refurbishment of the Great North Museum. Alan supported the development of Centres of Excellence such as the National Renewable Energy Centre (NAREC), the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) and the Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences (CELS). Alan serves as a board member of Newcastle Science City.

Terry Davies

Terry Davies MD completed his undergraduate and postgraduate education at Newcastle University (MBBS in 1971 and MD in 1978). He was the original founder of the Board of the USA Friends of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and held the position of President for six years. He is the Florence and Theodore Baumritter Professor of Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, where he teaches Endocrinology and Metabolism. He is an Attending Physician at the Mount Sinai Hospital where he has a clinical practice. He is also the director of Mount Sinai's Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the James J Peters Veterans Administration Medical Center where his research team is based. A Fellow of the United Kingdom's Royal College of Physicians and the American College of Endocrinology, he is the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including the Irma T Hirschl Career Scientist Award and the Mount Sinai Distinguished Research Award. He is an elected member of the prestigious American Association of Physicians. His long-standing warmth towards Newcastle University is illustrated not only by his founding of, and tireless and continuing work for, the Board of the US Friends, but also by his support for the University as an Annual Fund donor.

Teresa Graham CBE

Teresa Graham is a graduate in English Literature and Linguistics (1977). She does voluntary work for Newcastle University as a member of the External Relations Advancement Group (ERAG) and heads up the Women's Circle fund which works closely with Partners to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into education. After her own university education here in Newcastle, she trained as an accountant and rose to the top of her field, demonstrating the professional distinction we seek in an Honorary Fellow. She then became heavily involved in national government work on financial regulation and this has led to the award of both an OBE and later CBE for her various contributions to the business sector and public service. Teresa is passionate about her work with the Lynedoch EcoVillage in South Africa via the Sustainability Institute, an international living and learning centre located outside the South African university town of Stellenbosch. She is volunteer part-time MD of the Lexi cinema in Kensal Rise, London, which covenants 100 per cent of their profits to this South African project.

11. DEATHS AND OBITUARIES

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

12. DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

To report:

The date of the Fifty-seventh Ordinary Meeting of Convocation is planned for 20th -21st June 2014.

Mr Antony Jones
Chair of Convocation
24 May 2013