

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION

Saturday 21 June 2014

Present: Mr AE Jones (in the chair); Mr AJ Balfour; Dr KG Bender; Miss SJ Bevan; Professor C Brink (Vice-Chancellor); Mrs AM Brown; Dr RJ Butterfield; Mr P Byrne; Dr HM Coyne; Dr P Coyne; Professor CP Day; Mr AK Denney; Dr ML Fisher; Mr IH Forster; Dr K Harland; Mrs CM Harvey; Mrs E Hood; Mr CL Humphreys; Mr DW Ingham; Mr F Ives; Mr J Jeffery; Mrs BA Kapoor; Professor TH Lilley; Mr DF Lloyd; Mr DJ Mather; Ms RR Mawson; Dr DJ Moffatt; Mr WG Oliver; Professor DG Parker; Miss M Patereli; Mr JDRB Percy; Mrs PAM Percy; Miss J Quinton; Mrs MD Reed; Mr H Regnart; Mr A Robson; Dr LM Rozner; Mr AL Scott; Dr RS Shiel; Mrs PPA Stephens; Mr M Stoddart; Mr RM Theaker; Professor AJ Walton; The Rt Hon Lord Walton of Detchant; Mr FT Walton; Dr JK Whittle; Ms JA Wigfield; Emeritus Professor R Wilkinson; Mr G Wynn.

In attendance: Miss TA Angelopoulos; Mrs SE Bender; Mrs R Bickerdike; Mrs A Burton; Mrs C Butterfield; Professor C Harvey; Mrs K Hendrix; Dr JV Hogan; Professor S Homans; Ms A Kelly; Ms TM Readshaw; Mrs L Scott; Mrs S Taylor, Ms FJ Watson; Mr P Wigfield.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Convocation held on Saturday 15 June 2013 were approved as a correct record.

[Circulated with the agenda as Document A.]

[Secretary's note: It was noted that the attendance of Mr M Stoddart was not recorded in the minutes of the meeting of Convocation held on 15 June 2013.]

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Chair proposed that matters arising would be covered during the presentations given by the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and subsequent contributions and questions from the floor.

3. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT 2013-14

Received: The Vice-Chancellor's Report to Convocation, 21 June 2014.

Noted that:

1. The Vice-Chancellor reported that Professor Ella Ritchie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, will be retiring at the end of the summer, and that Professor Richard Davies has been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Internationalisation) with effect from 11 August 2014.
2. 2013-14 has been the University's best year ever for research income, which at £93m is up by 9% on the previous year. This excellent result has been achieved despite the extensive work that has been necessary for the submission of the Research Excellence Framework (REF). The outcome of the REF will be announced in December 2014.

3. In terms of research quality, Newcastle University is aiming to have at least 10 subjects in which we are ranked amongst the top 50 universities in the world league tables.
4. Following the changes to the fees and funding regime two years ago, there was some uncertainty as to whether students would continue to apply to the University in the same numbers. However, there has been a steady growth in student numbers of around 3% year on year. In addition, the University has exceeded the benchmark set by the Higher Education Funding Council for widening participation students within the north of the country.
5. The University's three Societal Challenge Themes of Ageing, Social Renewal and Sustainability serve to link matters of global interest, scientific expertise and public engagement with the University's vision and mission. While each Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor has over-arching responsibility for one of the Societal Challenge Themes, these are all University wide themes.
6. Science Central is a science-based urban quarter development, in partnership with Newcastle City Council, where the University will have a strong digital presence including the School of Computing Science. The development will encompass a variety of educational, business and residential uses which will have science and sustainability at the core. Construction of the first building is due to be completed in September 2014.
7. The Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Medical Sciences are due to visit NUMed Malaysia on the 28th June to attend the first graduation ceremony. We will be the first UK University to deliver General Medical Council (GMC) accredited medical doctors abroad.

Contributions and questions from the floor:

a) Mr John Pearcy (BSc Mining Engineering 1962)

Mr Pearcy thanked the Vice-Chancellor for an informative presentation, but raised a concern about the potential separation from the public of Science Central as a site for academia.

He also asked if there are any plans to build a museum on Science Central, which would encompass the past and the present and serve to engage the public with the subject of manufacturing including industry leading organisations such as Hitachi and Nissan.

Response:

Science Central is an urban quarter development that will have open access for the public. It will not be a satellite campus for the University.

The site is being designed in a way that will encourage the public to come into it and to interact with the activities going on there. The University already has the Business School on the site and further building work is planned for early 2015, which will include a combined teaching, conference and public lecture facility.

The suggestion of a museum on the site has not previously been raised, and members of Convocation are, as always, welcome and encouraged to put forward any suggestions for consideration by Science Central.

b) Mr Horace Regnart (LLB 1968)

Mr Regnart thanked the Vice-Chancellor for an informative presentation, and raised the following questions:

- (i) How will the income from the coal that was extracted from the Science Central be used?
- (ii) Can the Vice-Chancellor comment in respect of the misclassification of overseas students by the government as immigrants?
- (iii) Under the lifestyle heading in the Ageing slide, there is no reference to the benign effects of creative activity.

Response:

- (i) The coal that was extracted for the site before building work could commence, was sold without any conditions attached as to the use of the income that it generated.
- (ii) There has been no change to the Government policy that international students are classified as immigrants. For the first time this year, there has been a small reduction in the number of international students coming to the UK although it is worth noting that this reduction did not apply in the case of Newcastle University.

Convocation, at its meeting last year, recognised the benefits which a multicultural environment bring both to the University and to the wider economy. Convocation reaffirmed this point and expressed continued concern at the current government policy. The Board of Universities UK (UUK) has recently sent a letter to the Government to state that international students are a most welcome addition to higher education in the UK.

- (iii) Professor Charles Harvey responded to the question of creative activity as part of our work on Ageing, during his presentation.

c) Professor David Parker (BSc Chemistry 1971)

Professor Parker asked the Vice-Chancellor to update Convocation on whether the University has any plans to mark the anniversary of Martin Luther King's Honorary Graduation?

Response:

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's visit to Tyneside and his Honorary Graduation in 1967, there is a planned celebratory event scheduled for 2017.

The University has been working with the BBC on a film about Martin Luther King's visit to Tyneside and his Honorary Graduation. This was broadcast on BBC1 in the North East and Cumbria, and it is hoped that BBC4 will broadcast this nationally later this year.

Copies of the film are available to members of Convocation upon a request to alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

d) Ms Briony Kapoor (BSc Psychology 1974)

Ms Kapoor commented that while impressed with the size of the University and its campuses in Malaysia and Singapore, there has been no mention of Europe in the presentations.

Response:

The University has a number of important research and teaching collaborations with European partners.

Increasingly, UK research funding comes via EU funding bodies. We have many EU teaching programmes and Erasmus placements of students with partner universities. The Bologna Process allows students to move more freely between EU universities.

The number of Erasmus students within the University has tripled and they are highly valued by the University and by future employers.

4. FACULTY UPDATES

Received 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.

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Noted that:

1. The University's first MOOC (massive open online course) in collaboration with FutureLearn on Hadrian's Wall was launched at midnight on the 2nd June.

The six-week course, led by Professor Ian Haynes and Dr Rob Collins from the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, will go live on 22 September 2014 and will offer a comprehensive introduction to Hadrian's Wall and its people. In addition, it will explore life in the region before the construction of the Wall, the arrival of the Roman army and its impact on the local population. The course will be delivered via a carefully designed mix of bite-size videos, short articles, online discussions, quizzes and tests, small assignments and live online events.

2. During 2013-14, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) has focused its attention on a number of key areas, including 'Raising the Bar' in research and the necessary work for the REF submission, while continuing to improve the student experience. Improvements to the estate, including the refurbishment of the Armstrong Building and the Law Lecture Theatre are also key developments.

3. There has been a strategic investment of over 50 key academic appointments in the last year, to strengthen the operation of the Faculty.
4. The Faculty has achieved some league table success: Speech and Language Sciences are ranked in 1st place in The Complete University Guide 2015; 7 out of 12 subjects in H&SS are in the top 200 QS world rankings; Geography is ranked in 31st place in the QS world rankings and Fine Art is ranked 2nd place in the Guardian 2015 Guide.

Faculty of Medical Sciences

Noted that:

1. The Faculty of Medical Sciences continues to achieve strong recruitment figures. Quotas for the courses which are regulated by the government have been met and other courses where student numbers are not restricted continue to recruit strongly. There has also been substantial recruitment activity including 'MaD Days' that are aimed at raising pupils' aspirations by introducing them to Medicine and Dentistry and increasing their awareness of the different careers available through science subjects.
2. The student satisfaction scores in the subject areas within the Faculty are: 100% Biomedical Sciences, 95% Medicine, 93% Dentistry and 88% Psychology. The Postgraduate Taught satisfaction score is 93% and Postgraduate Research is 85%.
3. The first NUmEd Malaysia graduation ceremony is due to take place on 28th June. We will be the first UK University to deliver General Medical Council (GMC) accredited medical doctors abroad. The numbers of students for the next intake is 141, and the first BSc Biomedical Sciences intake has 12 students. It is expected that the total number of students will reach 160 this year, which will mean that the campus is full.
4. There are a number of new programmes under development in the Faculty, including Undergraduate Oral and Dental Health Sciences in 2015, Undergraduate Exercise Biomedicine in 2015, and Undergraduate Sports and Exercise Science in 2017. The latter means that we will be the only UK University to offer a Sports degree associated with a Medical Faculty.
5. Research awards continue to increase from £62m in 2011-12 to £83.6m in 2013-14. The Faculty has been awarded five Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards, which is the highest number in England, and there have also been 5 Senior Fellow appointments. Investigator Awards provide funding for scientists who have an excellent track record.
6. The Faculty has recently received a number of significant benefactions from key donors including;
 - The Barbour Trust (£1m), which is used to fund PhD studentships, intercalating and non-clinical research fellowships, with ongoing support from Dame Margaret Barber;
 - The Sir James Knott Trust (£0.5m) which will fund the Atrium Project, and building work for this has just commenced;
 - The Reece Foundation (£1m), for Translational Medicine (supporting the Neuroscience extension). This work has now been completed and the building is open.

Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering

Noted that:

1. Programmes in the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering have achieved the best student satisfaction results ever in 2012/13. In addition, undergraduate student recruitment was 6% above target.
2. The Faculty has launched 70 academic recruitment campaigns over the year. External appointments have been made to the Directorship of the Newcastle University Institute for Sustainability, the Head of School of Marine Sciences and Technology, the Head of School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, and to the Deanship for Research and Innovation. In order to strengthen the management and leadership in Singapore, we have also recruited a Head of Academic Operations and a Chief Operating Officer. Further senior appointments are in progress.
3. There is a commitment to ensure that the public is able to engage with activities on Science Central, and it is hoped that the project will attract investment, strengthen science networks and ensure that local people can become part of the continuing scientific achievements.
4. The Physics Undergraduate degree is to be reintroduced by the University in 2015, with a long term plan for this to be followed by the introduction of a new School in 2021.

Contributions and questions from the floor:

a) Mr John Percy (BSc Mining Engineering 1962)

Mr Percy thanked the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for their informative presentations, and made the following observation:

“I am reminded of the advert ‘The appliance of Science’. Science is no good if it cannot be applied.”

Response:

The University focus is very much on what we are good for, (i.e. its application) and not simply on the results of league tables, which do not always give an accurate measure of the University’s achievements. Everything that we do is aimed at demonstrating what we are good for, as well as highlighting what we are good at.

b) Professor David Parker (BSc Chemistry 1971)

“When I was a student at Newcastle University in the late 1960s, there used to be a fleet of coaches to transport students to Cochrane Park, Close House and Heaton. Now that Close House has gone and I believe that Cochrane Park has also gone, where are the playing fields for today’s students, as the University has grown three times its size since this time?”

Response:

The playing fields at Close House are still used by the University, as is Cochrane Park where there has been considerable investment in the facilities. We are increasing our numbers of coaching staff and there is also a good deal of investment underway in the University’s sports provision overall to address the needs of our

increasing student population. Newcastle University continues to perform very well at sport regionally and nationally and we will continue to support that success.

c) Mr Horace Regnart (LLB 1968)

Could the meeting of Convocation be provided with an update on the Music department and its activities?

Response:

Whilst recruitment to this subject area was initially challenged when the fee and funding regime changed, due to good management, our recruitment figures have been maintained and we continue to invest in this area. Our BA Folk and Traditional Music degree is a unique programme that offers the opportunity to study the traditional music and song of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. We have a partnership with The Sage Gateshead, with some of the teaching taking place there, as well as all the final-year performance recitals.

d) Dr Lorna Rozner (MB BS 1947, DPH Diploma in Public Health 1951)

“Can the University offer a wide choice including the likes of Country Dancing and Gymnastics as part of the sport provision?”

Response:

The University offers a wide ranging sports programme that is supported by an extensive portfolio of sports facilities based over 4 sites. This mix of sports facilities, sports programme and over 50 student led sports clubs supported by a team of dedicated professional staff, ensures that there is something for everyone – whatever their ability or experience – from student to staff, from casual user to club session, from novice to elite performer.

e) Mr Alan Balfour (BA Politics 1980)

(i) The students come to learn and to get a good job; does the University measure the quantity of students who do get a job and the types of job they take up?

(ii) How does academic research remain relevant to industry?

Response:

The Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) is a survey of all UK, EU and International graduates, which records the details of their employment six months after graduation. The current statistics shows that 95.5% of our students are employed at that point, 83% of whom are in graduate level jobs.

We maintain excellent contact with employers and are very aware of the importance of continuous feedback on what they require from our graduates as employees.

f) Mr Alan Denney (BSc Metallurgy 1969)

Mr Denney reported that in his field of employment, there is a shortage of material engineers, and that it is regretful that the University no longer offers Material Science as a degree. The latest material engineers being recruited are from overseas.

Response:

Materials engineering is a multi-disciplinary area that is offered at a postgraduate level within the School of Chemical Engineering and Advance Materials. The Faculty is planning to recruit to an undergraduate degree in this area in the next few years. Professor Homans offered to talk to Mr Denney on this matter outside of the meeting.

g) The Rt Hon Lord Walton of Detchant, TD, DCL (MB BS 1945, MD 1952, DSc 1972, Hon DCL 1988)

Lord Walton stated how impressed he was with the presentation from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and asked:

- (i) Are you still entirely happy with the arrangement with Durham for the recruitment of students at the Stockton campus, who then go on to get Newcastle degrees, and have early clinical exposure in Teeside hospitals?
- (ii) Vocational training for individual doctors in the specialist areas is a concern of the NHS and not of the University, but there are concerns about the recruitment of doctors into primary care and general practice. Are the arrangements for the University working in partnership with NHS working well in relation to the graduate training of doctors into primary care?

Response:

- (i) The Durham agreement was made at a time when we expanded to 350 students a year and did not have a lecture theatre which could accommodate this number here at Newcastle. The arrangement is that 150 of the 350 students go to Durham for the first two years and then come to Newcastle. There is some evidence that the standard of provision at the Stockton Campus may not be the same as at Newcastle.
- (ii) There is a strong tradition of primary care in Newcastle. It has been reported that there could be a shortage of GPs in England by 2021, and the Government has stated that they want 50% of newly qualified doctors to become generalists.

It is difficult to fill the rotations in this region due to the number of students who are originally from outside of the area. Overall we import the talent into the area, but unfortunately, a large number of students do not stay in the region.

Response from the Chair:

The Chair, on behalf of Convocation, recorded thanks to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for their impressive and informative presentations, and stated his immense pride to be associated with a University with such a high degree of excellence and talent.

5. ALUMNI CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Received:

- (i) An oral report from the Chair of the Alumni Consultative Group (ACG), Mr Ian Forster on the activities of the ACG during 2013-14.

Noted that:

As a consultative body with 10 elected members, the ACG aims to represent the interests of Newcastle University alumni. As alumni ambassadors, ACG members aim to act in a liaison capacity and to provide valuable input on issues of importance to the University. The members also support DARO in ensuring that key messages are communicated. The Chair of ACG expressed his thanks to all in DARO for their continued assistance and support and to all members of ACG for their contribution.

1. During the last three years ACG members have worked to share their knowledge and skills on a variety of different projects including the updating of the Alumni Consultative Group's terms of reference and the redefinition of the ACG election process.
2. ACG members have developed relationships with various student groups and graduate societies and branches including:
 - The development of an International Development Alumni Association Branch (IDAA)
 - Working to create a stronger link with the North East's longest serving alumni branch, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne Graduates Society.
 - Supporting new branches such as the Business School's North East Alumni Branch and the development of a Business School Branch in Athens to complement the already established Greek alumni branch.
3. Ambassadorial support has also been given at a variety of events including the International Development Conference, the Donor Receptions in London and Newcastle, and attendance at Convocation Weekend and Honorary Fellowship Dinners.
4. Other work by ACG members includes the organisation of private reunions to support Convocation Weekend, conducting graduate book reviews for the alumni magazine, submitting nominations for Honorary Degrees or Fellowships, and supporting student work placements by providing talks for current students.

a) Mrs Pat Percy (MB BS1960)

I would like to comment that of the 22 candidates for this ACG election, only four came to last year's Convocation and of those four, three were already previously on ACG.

I have noticed that some candidates appear to live abroad; I would like to know what expenses are paid to ACG members.

Response:

DARO ensures that any expense claims by ACG members abide strictly to the University expenses policy and this information is relayed to members at the very beginning of their term. Expenses have not been claimed by any ACG members who travel from abroad. Where attendance or participation should prove to be difficult due to physical distance, alternative methods of communication, including Skype, are used.

Received:

- (ii) The Chair of Convocation, Mr. Antony Jones announced the results of this year's election for the 10 vacancies of the Alumni Consultative Group.

Noted that:

1. The term of office for those elected onto the Alumni Consultative Group is now 5 years. There were 28 initial nominations received, and upon verification of candidature status, this number was reduced to 22. In terms of continued participation in the ACG electoral process, a total of 908 ballot forms were received from alumni. Each person was entitled to cast up to 10 votes for candidates resulting in a total of 5352 successful votes being recorded. Of the 908 ballot forms received, 26% were for a single candidate and 40% were for 10 candidates.
2. The results are available on line at:
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/involved/consultative/>
3. The successful candidates are:
 - Robert Wilkinson
 - Carolyn Teasdale
 - David Moffatt
 - Sue Bevan
 - Patrick Lavery
 - Maureen Denham
 - Pam Stephens
 - Jasmine Walker
 - Neil Archibald
 - Malcolm Grady
4. The next meeting of ACG will be in September when a new Chair and Deputy Chair of the ACG will be decided from amongst the successful candidates.
5. The Chair of Convocation thanked Mr Forster for his service as Chair of the ACG for the last three years. His term of office ends on the 31st July 2014.

6. CHAIR OF CONVOCATION

Reported 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”.

Both the vacancies for Chair and Deputy Chair have been widely advertised by the University over the last year. Nominations were invited for the role of Chair of Convocation to be received by the Registrar by 30 May 2014. It was noted that only one nomination has been received for this appointment, Mr Antony Jones (BA Politics 1980).

Resolved that Mr Antony Jones (BA Politics 1980), will serve as Chair of Convocation for a period of five years, from 1 August 2014 until 31 July 2019.

7. DEPUTY CHAIR OF CONVOCATION

Reported that following the retirement and subsequent death of Dr Donald Gascoigne (MB BS 1951), there had been a vacancy for the role of Deputy Chair of Convocation for some months.

Nominations were invited for the role of Deputy Chair of Convocation, to be received by the Registrar by 30 May 2014. It was noted that only one nomination has been received for this appointment, Mr Ally Robson (BA (Hons) Combined Studies in Arts 2003).

Resolved that Mr Ally Robson (BA (Hons) Combined Studies in Arts 2003), will serve as Deputy Chair of Convocation, for a period of five years from 1 August 2014 until 31 July 2019.

8. THE CHANCELLORSHIP

Reported that:

- (i) The process for the appointment/re-appointment of a Chancellor requires Court and Senate sitting in joining sessions to make a recommendation to Convocation. Convocation then makes the official appointment/re-appointment.
- (ii) The joint meeting of Court and Senate, at its meeting on 9 May 2014, recommended the re-appointment of Sir Liam Donaldson as Chancellor of Newcastle University with effect from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2019.
- (iii) Sir Liam has indicated that he would be happy to serve for a further five year term.

Resolved that Convocation approve the recommendation to appoint Sir Liam Donaldson as Chancellor of the University, for a further five year term from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2019.

9. HONORARY DEGREES 2013-14

Reported that 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 4 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

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

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

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

Noted that:

1. There was a typographical error in the list of obituaries which would be corrected.
2. The Chair wished to record his sadness at the loss of Dr Donald Gascoigne who had served as Deputy Chair of Convocation.
3. The Rt. Hon Lord Walton of Detchant, TD, DCL (MB BS 1945, MD 1952, DSc 1972 reported the bereavement of Dr David Gardner-Medwin, Medical Historian and Donor to the University.

12. CLOSING REMARKS

Noted that:

1. The Chair commented on the forthcoming retirement of Professor Ella Ritchie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The Chair reported that he had the privilege of being taught by Professor Ritchie in her early career and later had the opportunity to work collaboratively with her in her roles within the Executive team. At all times, Professor Ritchie had ensured that the interests of students and alumni were at the heart of University decision-making. The Chair, on behalf of Convocation expressed his thanks for her 40 years' outstanding service to the University.
2. The Chair congratulated Professor Chris Day who has been elected as Vice-President (Clinical) of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported that the provisional date for the Fifty-seventh Ordinary Meeting of Convocation is 13 June 2015, although this will be confirmed in due course.

(Secretary's note: The date for this meeting has now been confirmed as the 20th June 2015)

Sam Taylor
Secretary to Convocation
17 July 2014

