NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
THE SIXTY-FIRST ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION
Saturday 23 June 2018

Present: Mr A E Jones (in the chair); Mr T S Bailey; Mr A J Balfour; Miss S Bevan; Professor D Burn (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Medical Sciences); Ms D Challoner; Mrs P Chrisp; Professor C P Day (Vice-Chancellor and President); Mr E Gergely; Mrs T Graham; Mrs B Kapoor; The Revd J N L Latham; Mr L Lemmer; Mrs A M Makepeace; Dr R W McCrae; Mrs J Medcalf; Mr W Oliver; Professor D Parker; Mr J D R B Pearson; Mrs P A M Pearcy; Mrs H Regnart; Professor J Sanders (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Mr I Symes; Mr R M Theaker; Miss S Wilson; Mr M Wood.

In attendance: Ms R Creighton; Ms Z Djavanroodi; Dr J Hogan; Ms J Holroyd; Ms A King; Dr S Meacher; Ms T Wishart.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members to the sixty-first ordinary meeting of Convocation.

The Chair reported that apologies for the meeting were noted from Mr Frederick Walton who had been taken ill the previous evening. The Chair on behalf of Convocation, wished to relay his best wishes to Mr Walton.

The Chair reported the sad loss of Professor Paul Younger, who passed away on 21 April 2018. Professor Younger graduated from Newcastle University in 1984 with first class honours in Geology, and in 1990 with a PhD degree in “Numerical Modelling of Water Resource System”. He was appointed Lecturer in Water Resources in the Department of Civil Engineering, being promoted to Personal Chair of Hydrogeochemical Engineering in 2001. He was appointed Director of the Sir Joseph Swan Institute for Energy and Research in 2007, and became the first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement until he was appointed Director of Newcastle Institute for Research and Sustainability (NIReS). Paul left Newcastle in 2012 and went on to continue his successful career at Glasgow. The Chair, on behalf of Convocation, wished to relay his condolences to Professor Younger’s family.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Convocation held on Saturday 17 June 2017 were approved as a correct record.

[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 and President, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and the Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, including any pre-submitted questions and subsequent contributions from the floor.

4. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT 2017-18

Received: The Vice-Chancellor and President’s Annual Report to Convocation, 23 June 2018.
The Vice-Chancellor and President’s report highlighted a number of successes over the previous year, across all aspects of university life including the following:

Noted that:

1. The University’s position in the QS World University Rankings 2019 had risen to 141st from 161st the previous year. A ranking inside the top 150 had been one of the University’s key strategic targets.

2. The University had achieved the highest rating available for the quality of its teaching, through being awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework, and had been one of only ten Russell Group institutions to achieve this rating.

3. The Urban Sciences Building, based on Newcastle Helix, had been officially opened by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on Thursday 21 June 2018.

4. A programme of events in 2017 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the award of an honorary degree to Martin Luther King had been extremely successful. This had culminated in a special Congregation Ceremony on 13 November 2017, at which individuals were honoured in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the same ideals to which Martin Luther King devoted his life, and the unveiling of a statue outside the Armstrong Building.

5. Special congratulations were offered by the Vice-Chancellor to some individual members of staff and students for their successes over the past year:

   - Professor Jane Wilson: Trustee of Tate and Royal Academician.
   - Professor Louise Wilson: Royal Academician.
   - Professor Ruth Plummer: Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.
   - Professor Tracy Palmer: Fellow of the Royal Society.
   - Professor Selina Stead: Chief Scientific Officer for the Marine Management Organisation.
   - Professor Paul Watson: Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.
   - Professor Alex Yakovlev: Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.
   - Professor David Burn: Chair of the Northern Health Science Alliance.
   - Dr Lindsay Marshall: National Teaching Fellow.
   - Professor Sinead Morrissey: Winner of the 2017 Forward Prize for Poetry.
   - Professor Mark Shucksmith: House of Lords Special Adviser.
   - Joe Reid: UK’s best undergraduate dentist.
   - Clare Townley: Gillian Dickinson North East Young Sculptor 2018.
   - Narbi Price: Visual Artist of the Year (Journal Culture Awards).

6. In terms of collective student successes, a team of students had taken part in University Challenge, reaching the semi-finals and becoming the first team from the University to do so; the Newcastle University Boat Club had been crowned 2018 BUCS Regatta champions; and Stu Brew, a student-run business start-up, Europe’s first student-run microbrewery, had won top international awards for enterprise and sustainability.

7. Some late news received that the following announcements had been made as part of the Queen’s Birthday Honours list 2018:

   - Emeritus Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink: Awarded CBE for services to Higher Education.
• Professor Colin Herron: Awarded CBE for services to business and the renewable energy sector.
• Professor Dave Jones: Awarded OBE for services to Liver Disease and Training.
• Professor James Law: Awarded OBE for services to speech and language therapy.

8. The Vice-Chancellor reported that some significant new appointments have been made which include:

• Professor Julie Sanders, Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
• Professor Nigel Harkness, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Humanities and Social Sciences, effective 1 September 2018.
• Professor Peter Hopkins, Dean of Social Justice.
• Professor Vee Pollock, Dean of Culture and Creative Arts.
• Professor Michael Catt, National Innovation Centre for Ageing.
• Professor Steve Caughey, National Innovation Centre for Data.

9. The Vice-Chancellor reported on the sad loss of Professor Paul Younger, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor Engagement; Professor Jimmy Steele, former Head of the Dental School; and Archibald Sibeko, Honorary Graduate, 2017.

10. The Vice-Chancellor reported on the development of the University’s new Vision and Strategy, which would be officially launched in the Autumn. An important influence on the shaping of this had been the changing UK and global context facing universities. The term ‘civic university’ had been dropped as the notion of the university contributing to society was fully embedded in the University’s approach. In terms of education, universities were now obliged to produce students who are critical and resilient global citizens, and to respond to students’ expectations around the use of technology. Research that responds to global challenges required collaborative working with external partners, other academic institutions, businesses, the wider community and the public.

11. Higher education institutions within the UK were coming to terms with regulatory reform, in the guise of the Office for Students and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The latter was aimed at supporting more collaborative research that would tackle the major cross-disciplinary questions.

12. The impact of Brexit was to a large extent still unclear, particularly in terms of future access to European Union research funding. The University had a strong track record in securing funding from this source. The University was also closely following potential changes to UK immigration policy, the review of post-18 education, and the implementation by the government of its Industrial Strategy.

13. There has been significant external interest in university activities as a result of political and media pressure. The value of degrees, degree class inflation, freedom of speech, academic freedom, pay, tuition fees, student debt, and student mental health were examples of issues that have been the subject of national attention.

14. There were a number of reasons to be proud of the University’s achievements. For example, the University was ranked 175 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings; achieved a Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework and an institution-wide Athena Swan Silver Award; and had secured £107.6m in research funding in 2016-17. £300m had been invested in improving the Newcastle campus. The institution contributes £1.1 billion to the UK economy each year, with £800 million of this in the North East. The institution could also take pride in the diversity of its student body,
student satisfaction levels, for being a national leader in promoting fair access, and for being in the top 10 universities in the world for sustainability.

15. Developments at the Newcastle Helix site (formerly known as Science Central) were gathering pace. The new Urban Sciences Building had opened in summer 2017, the new National Centres for Innovation in Ageing and Data and the Learning and Teaching Centre (with a 700-seat capacity lecture theatre and conference facilities) were also being constructed.

16. The new University Vision and Strategy had been developed with staff, students and external stakeholders over the course of the last year. The new Vision and Strategy and underpinning strategies around education, research, engagement and place and influencing globally would build upon the University’s longstanding commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, while continuing to respect and protect the principle of academic freedom, and embed common aspirational values (excellence, creativity, and impact) and guiding principles: working together, visibly leading, freedom and opportunity to succeed, and responding to current and future changes.

17. The University had considerable strengths, including world-leading research in the fields of ageing, data, energy, cities, culture and the creative arts. Teaching and learning had been recognised for its excellence with the award of a TEF Gold rating. Newcastle graduates were not only satisfied and highly employable but, when compared with competitor institutions, were increasingly entrepreneurial. Newcastle was currently 4th out of all Russell Group institutions for the level of financial turnover achieved by student start-ups, including some cases with direct alumni support.

Contributions and questions from the floor:

a. Mr Horace Regnart (LLB, 1968)

i. Does the Vice-Chancellor agree that, after Brexit, graduates would be well advised to emigrate to the European Union or elsewhere and not return till they are free of the burden of student loan debt?

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor stated that he did not agree because he believed that the University would continue to be world-leading after Brexit. Student loan debt was, in fact, a graduate contribution which neither needed to be repaid below an earnings threshold, nor at all after a period of time. The Vice-Chancellor did not believe that student loan debt constituted a burden for students, but that the higher education system in the UK was the envy of the world. Mr Regnart stated that he did not wish students to go abroad, and that he believed those on higher earnings should pay more tax in order to support the funding of higher education.

b. Mr J D R B Pearcy (BSc Mining Engineering, 1962)

i. Mr Pearcy referred to his grandson, who had recently completed his GCSE examinations and was looking forward to the next steps in his career. Mr Pearcy asked what activities the University undertook to encourage enthusiasm for higher education amongst children of secondary school age, and whether the University was doing enough in terms of work experience for them.

Response:
The Vice-Chancellor explained that the University focussed its work with schools on widening participation and developing interest in university education among students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It was the responsibility of secondary schools to provide work experience for students in that age group, however, the University provided the opportunity for all undergraduate students to undertake a work placement year as part of their degree programme.

The Chair reported that the University maintained relationships with around 300 schools.

ii. Mr Pearcy asked what the public benefit of the Newcastle Helix would be.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor reported that public benefit would be derived from the future housing development on the Helix site. The local economy would also grow if the site generated jobs and economic growth as envisaged.

The Registrar highlighted the existence of information for the public that was available on the Newcastle Helix website, which made clear that the money invested in the Helix would benefit the city of Newcastle, and a University website with information for schools and colleges, which included a Teachers’ Toolkit.

c. Mrs P A M Pearcy (Diploma in Public Health, 1968)

i. Mrs Pearcy thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his enjoyable and informative presentation. Mrs Pearcy stated that arrangements for disabled parking spaces had been inappropriate and noted that her degree details in the Convocation programme were incorrect as they failed to state that she had graduated with an MBBS from King’s College when this was part of the University of Durham. Mrs Pearcy noted that there had been significant personnel changes within NU Advancement over the last two years and wondered whether this error suggested that some staff did not have a full understanding of the institution’s history.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor offered his apologies and agreed that it might be the case that not all University employees had a complete understanding of the history of the institution.

d. Mr S Bailey (BA History, 1985)

i. Mr Bailey asked the Vice-Chancellor to provide details about the role and importance of alumni relations and engagement within the University strategy.

Response:

The Vice-Chancellor explained that alumni offered very useful support to students in the form of workshops for aspiring student entrepreneurs, as well as in the provision of career advice.

e. Mr Horace Regnart (LLB, 1968)

i. Mr Regnart observed that the number of alumni attending the Convocation & Alumni Weekend was down on previous years and asked if any reasons were known for this.

Response:
The Chair reported that it was not known at this time why the number of those attending had decreased this year, after several years of them growing, but understood that this would be investigated by the University in order to improve next year. It was possible that holding Convocation on the same weekend as the opening of the Great Exhibition of the North had been counterproductive, although it had originally been hoped that this would work in favour of attendance at the Convocation & Alumni Weekend.

Professor David Parker (PhD Chemistry, 1974) commented that the Convocation & Alumni Weekend had featured significantly more activities in previous years, including visits to academic departments, interesting talks and music sessions. Mr Pearcy agreed that previous weekends had much more of a 'buzz' and questioned whether the University was interested in promoting the Convocation & Alumni Weekend at all, to the point where he wondered if the University would continue to hold it were it not a requirement by Statute for the University to do so. Mr Pearcy remarked that there was a strong feeling that the University had organised the weekend “on the cheap” this year with very little advance communication or promotion. Mr Pearcy also observed that there had been an over-reliance on use of the internet in terms of publicity and contrasted this with attractive publications that had previously been used for providing information about the weekend.

The Chair noted that this year’s Convocation & Alumni Weekend had been moved by the University to coincide with both the launch of the Great Exhibition of the North as well as the ten-year anniversary of AMBA accreditation of the Newcastle University Business School. It was worth noting that the previous evening’s exhibition launch event organised by the Business School on the Newcastle Quayside had been sold out.

The Chair personally sympathised with many of the views expressed and agreed that it was important that the University ensured that the weekend included a range of valuable content to encourage attendance and that it was proactively promoted across all relevant media well in advance. There had also been a noticeable drop-out rate from people registering interest to those who attended, the reasons for which should also be investigated, although it was important to see this in the context of a generally difficult trend for event attendance. It was to be hoped that, given improvements in staffing levels, that these matters, within the broader subject of alumni engagement, could be appropriately addressed by NU Advancement in the future.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor and President for his presentation.

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Received: presentations from:

i) Professor Julie Sanders, Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

ii) Professor David Burn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor – ‘Putting Newcastle in its Place’

Noted that:

1. Engagement and Place was a strong characteristic of the University’s mission and activities, and could be traced back to the University’s origins as a college of medicine and engineering in the 1830s. This had been reinforced by the focus placed on civic engagement by the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Brink, and the creation of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement role in 2007, as well as the University’s links
with the Great North Museum, the British Science Festival in 2013, business facilitators and voluntary, community and social enterprise. More recent examples were the University’s work on social justice and in medicine, the Freedom City series of events, and involvement in the Great Exhibition of the North.

2. As part of the new Vision and Strategy, the University would aim, through the process of engagement, to address global challenges that society faced through its research and education. It would pay particular attention to the challenges faced in the places in which it operated, such as the economy, health, social and cultural wellbeing. Place could be represented in a number of ways, including Newcastle, the North East, and the North, and the University would also use its global reach to increase the international connectivity of our region.

3. There were five areas of world-leading work at the University which also had a strong place-based element: Ageing, Cities, Energy, Data, and Culture and the Creative Arts. The guiding principles of the Vision and Strategy also underpinned what the University was seeking to do with regard to Engagement and Place.

4. External drivers for the University’s activity in this area included the Industrial Strategy with its skills and attainment agenda, newly-formed UK Research and Innovation Strength in Places Fund, and the Northern Powerhouse.

5. As the official research partner in Newcastle Gateshead Cultural Venues, the University was working on a ten-year plan entitled City of Dreams, which had the core values of equality, diversity and inclusion at its centre, and was aimed at ensuring that every young person in the region between the ages of 6-16 had an encounter with culture during their life.

6. Earlier this year the University had welcomed a high level delegation from the University of Pittsburgh with which it was working as part of the developing Place Strategy. Both Newcastle and Pittsburgh universities play an active role in their cities promoting innovation, economic development, cultural wellbeing, and urban regeneration. Like Newcastle, Pittsburgh has research strengths in areas such as ageing, energy, education and computing science, and both wanted to ensure that their work made a difference to their cities on a national and global scale.

7. Newcastle students made a very active contribution as volunteers locally. One example of this was the Best Neighbour on Campus campaign, led jointly with the Newcastle University Students’ Union.

**Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Medical Sciences – Campus for Ageing and Vitality**

Noted that:

1. Working collaboratively to tackle big societal challenges, across the three faculties, would be a major focus for the future work of the University. This work would have three elements: it would push the frontiers of human knowledge; deliver economic impact and create better jobs; and create social impact by supporting our society to become stronger, healthier and more resilient.

2. The Campus for Ageing and Vitality is a purpose-built facility on the former Newcastle General Hospital site on Westgate Road. Research there is led by the University’s Institute for Ageing. The University’s vision was to establish the campus as the world’s premier location for healthy ageing and living, making Newcastle the ‘go-to’ place for innovation, evaluation and dissemination of new technologies and lifestyle approaches.
in the older person.

3. Working across the three faculties, the University had developed a ‘Spectrum of Independence’ model for the campus, featuring independent living, intermediate care and care home facilities, acting as a living laboratory providing an interface between people, academics and industry. This would integrate research and education strengths from each faculty, including the creative arts, biomedical engineering and radiochemistry. One benefit would be to seek to develop ways of keeping people living independently at home for longer.

4. A Discovery Crucible building would be constructed, providing a location for research into ageing and long-term conditions, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate education in this area. It was hoped that the campus would also be successful in attracting visiting partners interested in tackling the challenges of societal and health needs in an ageing population.

The Chair thanked Professor Sanders and Professor Burn for their interesting and exciting presentations.

Contributions and questions from the floor:

a. Mr Horace Regnart (LLB, 1968)

Mr Regnart asked if he could suggest ‘Northumbria Kingdom of Culture’ and ‘NewGate’ as banner names for regional place-based activity and common local identity.

Mr Regnart suggested that avoidance of back injuries for care home workers needed to be a priority development.

6. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS 2019

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 in October 2019, which should be submitted by 28 February 2019, to Dr John Hogan, Registrar (john.hogan@newcastle.ac.uk)

7. CHANCELLORSHIP

Reported:

The Chancellor, Sir Liam Donaldson, had indicated that he would be stepping down as Chancellor when his appointment expires on 31 July 2019. The University would be establishing a working group to begin the process for the appointment of a new Chancellor. In accordance with Statutes 5 (4) and 47, this group would make a recommendation to a
joint meeting of Court and Senate which in turn would make a recommendation to Convocation for approval at its 2019 meeting.

8. CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF CONVOCATION

Reported:

The five-year term of office of the current Chair of Convocation, Mr Antony Jones (BA Politics, 1980) was due to end on 31 July 2019. The five-year term of office of the current Deputy Chair of Convocation, Mr Ally Robson (BA Combined Studies in Arts, 2003) was also due to end on 31 July 2019. In accordance with Statutes 43 and 49, Convocation would need to hold an election at its meeting in June 2019 for the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair. This would be widely promoted to all alumni in early 2019 and nominations invited for both roles, so that an election could be held and appointments made at the meeting of Convocation in June 2019.

Contributions and questions from the floor:

a. Mrs Teresa Graham (BA English Literature, 1977)

Mrs Graham highlighted that attendance at this year’s Convocation & Alumni Weekend was disappointingly low, and asked what the process would be for nominating candidates to stand for the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair of Convocation, and how can we make sure that the process is as accessible and transparent as possible for our 200,000 alumni? Mrs Graham observed that 50% of our alumni were younger than 40, many of them lived outside the UK and that digital engagement should form an important part of our alumni engagement strategy in this regard. In today’s world, physical presence should not be the only way to participate in Convocation & Alumni Weekend which was supposed to be an annual celebration for alumni, many of whom could not practically attend in person.

Response:

The Chair commented that he also supported encouraging as wide and diverse a participation as possible and observed that Convocation had agreed, some years ago, that more effort should go into promoting the visibility in advance, and specifically in relation to alumni elections so that as many people as possible were aware and encouraged to participate.

The Registrar explained the current procedure for electing the Chair and Deputy Chair of Convocation. Court would be asked to consider the procedure at its meeting in October 2018. Statute 49 stated that all questions in the Convocation shall be determined by the votes of the majority of the numbers present and voting. According to the Statutes therefore, proxy voting was excluded.

Convocation expressed support for the idea of exploring potential ways of facilitating online participation in the Convocation meeting.

9. HONORARY DEGREES 2016-17 and 2017-18

Noted that honorary degrees were conferred on the following individuals at degree ceremonies held on the 12th and 14th July 2017:

Mr Michael Morpurgo OBE, MBE, FRSL - DLitt
Author, poet and playwright
Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain’s best loved story makers, known for his children’s books including War Horse and Private Peaceful. He has written over 130 books and is widely regarded as one of the most significant contributors to children’s literature of his generation.

Professor Vicki Hanson - DSc
President of the Association for Computing Machinery

Throughout her career, Vicki Hanson’s research has focussed on accessibility of technology for people with disabilities, the ageing population and related research ethics. Her long-term aim is to create information technology that is easily used and useful to all, regardless of perceptual, motor or cognitive abilities.

Professor Emerita Silvia Dorn – DSc
Professor Emerita of Applied Entomology, ETH Zurich

Silvia Dorn is an outstanding scholar and scientist who has been at the forefront of her discipline throughout her career. A passionate advocate for the role of women in science, she has devoted time and energy to supporting, mentoring and promoting women scientists.

Professor Chris Brink – DCL
Emeritus Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University

An eminent logician and mathematician, Chris Brink held academic posts in South Africa and Australia before becoming Vice-Chancellor of the University in 2007. During his decade in office, he championed the University’s impact on civil society by focusing on two fundamental questions about the role of the University: ‘What are we good at?’ and ‘What are we good for?’

Reported:

An honorary degree was conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on 13 November 2017, as part of the Freedom City 2017 celebrations:

Malorie Blackman OBE - DLitt
Author

Described by The Times as a ‘national treasure’, Malorie Blackman is acknowledged as one of today’s most imaginative and convincing writers for young readers.

Since publishing her first book Not So Stupid! in 1990, she has written more 60 books promoting racial equality, with messages delivered with both sensitivity and authenticity. Her Noughts and Crosses series gained global recognition for raising the issue of racial prejudices and how they impact the lives of young people. Malorie works tirelessly to communicate these messages and is committed to encouraging more young people to read and write.

She gives regular talks, is an active participant in the World Book Day scheme and manages a very popular blog, posting updates of her work and communicating with readers all over the world. Malorie has also written scripts for radio, stage and television, including episodes of the long-running children’s drama Byker Grove.

Malorie has received several prizes and awards for her work, including the Red House Children’s Book Award and the Fantastic Fiction Award. Her book Pig-heart Boy was
shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. In 2005 she was honoured with the Eleanor Farjeon Award in recognition of her contribution to children’s books and in 2008 she received an OBE for her services to children’s literature. From 2013-15 she was the Children’s Laureate.

**Thomas Caulker - DCL**  
**Business owner, entrepreneur and anti-racism campaigner**

Having worked in, and for, Newcastle his whole life, Tom Caulker can rightly be described as one of Newcastle’s unsung underground heroes. His values, ethics and commitment have influenced generations of young people in the city. He has worked tirelessly to be a catalyst and motivator for anti-racism and equality in Newcastle for many years and believes in giving everyone an opportunity.

Tom’s work to promote equality and racial harmony through music programming has recently been recognised in a Channel 4 short film, Any Colour You Like. The film explains the legacy and multiculturalism behind the nightclub, World Headquarters (WHQ), which Tom has owned and managed since the early 1990s. The club, and the Trent House Soul Bar which Tom managed for 25 years, shared strong values rooted in social change, aimed at bringing people together and supporting musical diversity.

In addition to his work at WHQ, Tom is a board member of NE1 Business Improvement District Company and chairs the Board of The Tyneside Cinema Bar Café. Previously, he chaired Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums Audit Committee for nine years, stepping down in 2015. He was instrumental in the fundraising, production and delivery of the Newcastle Unity Festival in Leazes Park in 2015. Tom’s events company, WHQ & Nat Turner Live Events, organises and promotes live shows in the North East and Edinburgh, working with artists such as the London African Gospel Choir.

**Archibald ‘Archie’ Sibeko - DCL**  
**Anti-apartheid activist, trade unionist and political leader**

Archie Sibeko, also known as Zola Zembe, grew up in a small village in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. After completing a diploma in Agriculture he moved to Cape Town, where he encountered trade unionists who rejected racial discrimination.

He joined the African National Congress (ANC), the mass movement opposing apartheid, soon becoming an activist and full time union organiser. His stance led to his arrest and trial, together with Nelson Mandela and 154 others in the 1956 Treason Trial. The case against him was discharged and he remained active and committed to bringing down apartheid. After it was banned in 1963, making all peaceful means of opposing apartheid impossible, the ANC sent Archie overseas for military training and he became a commander in Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Liberation Army. He was not able to return to South Africa and his family for nearly three decades.

After ill health forced him to retire from politics in 1992, Archie helped found a charity, Tyume Valley Schools, in the Eastern Cape, a voluntary organisation helping to improve teaching and learning of more than 5,000 children. He has also written four books, including Freedom in Our Lifetime, that are an inspiration for young South Africans wishing to understand the struggle against the apartheid regime.

**Andrew J Young - DCL**  
**Activist, politician and diplomat**

After graduating from Howard University, Andrew Young studied at Connecticut’s Hartford Theological Seminary and in 1955 and became an ordained minister. In the early 1960s, he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and began working
closely with Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1964, Andrew was named executive director of SCLC becoming one of Dr King’s principal lieutenants. As his colleague and friend, he was a strategist and negotiator during the Civil Rights Campaigns including Birmingham and Selma. In November 1967 he travelled with Dr King to Newcastle University and was present at the honorary degree ceremony in the King’s Hall. Andrew was also at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, when Dr King was assassinated in 1968.

In the 1970s Andrew become involved in politics, serving as a US congressman, as ambassador to the United Nations during President Jimmy Carter’s administration and as Mayor of Atlanta.

The Andrew J Young Foundation, of which he is chairman, was founded in 2003 to further his vision of inspiring leaders worldwide to work toward peace, prosperity and inclusion. His work has gained him many accolades, among them the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the French Légion d’honneur, as well as honorary degrees from more than 60 institutions, including his alma mater Howard University, Dartmouth, Duke, Yale, Notre Dame, Atlanta and the University of Georgia.

10. HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS 2017-18

Noted that Honorary Fellowships were conferred on the following individuals at a ceremony held on 9 October 2017:

Mrs Jacqui Henderson

Jacqui has been a key figure in the University’s governance since her appointment to Council in 2005. In particular in her role as Vice-Chair she has provided superb support to two Chairs of Council, three Vice-Chancellors and the Executive team. All of Jacqui’s University roles are unpaid and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for the amount of time, effort and skill she has committed to the University. Among her many leadership roles in the education and health sectors, Jacqui has been Chief Executive of UK Skills and Regional Director for the Learning and Skills Council in Greater London; Chief Executive of the Training and Enterprise Council’s National Council; Managing Director of Northumberland Training and Enterprise Council; and Chair of Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group and of Northumberland Care Trust. Awarded a CBE in 2001 for services to education and training, Jacqui also received a special President’s Award from the European Federation of Black Women Business Leaders in 2004.

Dr John Lloyd

John first joined Newcastle University in 1967 as a postgraduate student, gaining his PhD here in 1972. In the ensuing four decades, he held numerous senior appointments, notably Head of the Department – and subsequently the School – of Computing Science from 1997 until 2006. He was acting Head of the School of Natural Sciences from 2006 to 2008. Throughout his academic career, John taught a wide range of courses and acted as external examiner in the UK and abroad. He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society (BCS) and former secretary of the executive committee of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing. Post-retirement, John has continued to be of great service to the University through a range of voluntary roles outside of his core expertise in computing science. In particular, his work on the ethical review process for animal research – probably the most sensitive work the University undertakes – has helped to confirm our commitment to ethical principles.
Mr Nick Swales

Nick Swales has probably saved this University more money than any other individual in recent years by his extremely astute investment guidance for both the Development Trust and, critically, the University Retirement Benefits Plan. Nick has pursued a career in finance since graduating from the University in Politics and Economics in 1986, first with Wise Speke (now Brewin Dolphin), then at Merrill Lynch and UBS. He is now Regional Director of investment management company, Rathbones. He is a trustee of the Newcastle University Retirement Benefit Fund and of the University Development Trust which now administers 100 separate funds totalling around £53m. Nick is also Chairman of the Percy Hedley Foundation, which provides educational, vocational and residential care opportunities for disabled people in the North East. He joined the board in 2005 and was elected chair in 2008.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported that the provisional date for the Sixty-Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation at Newcastle is Saturday 15 June 2019. This date will be confirmed in due course.

Dr Simon Meacher
Secretary to Convocation
29 June 2018