

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

**At Glasgow and within the Board
Room of the Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland on Friday 24 January
2014 at 10.30am**

**Being a meeting of the Board of
Governors**

PRESENT

Mr Matthew Chinn	Mr Mark Leishman
Sir Sandy Crombie	Miss Eileen Mackay
Professor Norman Gillies	Mr Donald MacRae
Mrs Joyce Goodwin	Mr Gavin Reid
Mr John Hylands	Mrs Agnes Robson
Dr Steve Inch	Dr Cindy Sughrue
Mr Iain Jennison	Professor Norman Sharp
Dr Paul Jourdan	Professor John Wallace
Professor Maggie Kinloch	

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Ewan Hainey
Mr Alan Smith
Mr Hugh Hodgart
Mrs Jackie Russell
Mr Aaron Shorr

IN THE CHAIR Lord Vallance of Tummel

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sir Brian McMaster and Mr Mark Saunders.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2013**

The minute of the previous meeting was approved as an accurate record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE
AGENDA**

The Chairman reminded Governors that a new format to reflect the Conservatoire's extended shareholding had been adopted for the Annual General Meeting, which had taken place on 11 December 2013. Lord Vallance reported that that format had proven to be reasonably

successful and that, for 2014, efforts would be continued to encourage staff and student attendance and greater spontaneity in the question and answer session would be introduced.

4. MEMBERSHIP

On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the Board agreed that Ms Carol Main should be invited to become a Governor of the Conservatoire.

5. REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal reported on a positive meeting which he had very recently had with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and highlighted the need to involve the SFC, Creative Scotland, the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning and the Department of Culture and External Affairs in determining the strategic future of the Conservatoire. The Principal's letters to the respective Cabinet Secretaries of those two Government Departments were noted. The Principal indicated that the Conservatoire would work constructively within the recently published National Youth Arts Strategy and would most likely submit a bid to Creative Scotland for the development of a 'creative hub' in the area of film and television.

The Principal drew Governors' attention to the first short course to be delivered jointly by the Conservatoire and the University of Edinburgh as part of this year's Edinburgh International Festival's education programme.

Professor Wallace informed Governors that he had promoted Professor Kinloch from her current role as Vice Principal to that of Deputy Principal.

The Deputy Principal provided Governors with a comprehensive report on current and planned student recruitment activity, which was subsequently circulated to Governors.

6. REPORT FROM THE STUDENTS' UNION

The report from the President of the Students' Union was received.

7. AMENDMENT TO STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

Proposed amendments to the Conservatoire's Statutory Instrument remained with the Scottish Government.

8. SCOTTISH DRAMA TRAINING NETWORK

The report from the Scottish Drama Training Network was received. The Deputy Principal highlighted the positive impact that the employment of a Technical Theatre Skills Officer was having on the work of the Network.

9. SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT: 2014/15

Governors approved the 2014/15 Outcome Agreement, subject to the statement in respect of the proposed development to the frontage of the Renfrew Street building being amended to reflect the fact that the proposal was at an early stage of consideration.

10. REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD

The minute of the meeting of Academic Board of 15 January 2014 was received. The Principal highlighted the following items:

Quality Assurance and Enhancement Reporting

The report from the working group set up to consider reporting arrangements from the Academic Board to the Board of Governors in respect of quality assurance and enhancement would be presented to the next meeting of the Board, as would the report itself. The scope of the group's work had been extended to include the operation of the Conservatoire's academic committee structure.

Academic Appeals

The Principal clarified that a total of five appeals had been received in session 2012/13, one of which had been upheld and three of which had emanated from BMus strings students.

11. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minute of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 10 January 2014 was received and Mr MacRae highlighted the following items:

Pensions Auto Enrolment

The financial implications of pensions auto enrolment were being monitored closely.

Management Accounts

Significant efforts were being made to avoid a deficit on this year's budget. Looking forward to next year, student recruitment was being closely monitored by a small group of senior staff convened by the Deputy Principal.

Committee Remit

The proposed remit for the Committee required some further fine-tuning and would be presented to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

11.1 Approval of TRAC Return to SFC

The 2012/13 TRAC return to SFC was approved.

12. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The minute of the meeting of the Health and Safety Committee of 8 January 2014 was received and Dr Sughrue highlighted the following items:

Monitoring of issues

A process had been put in place to identify recurring issues and to escalate issues from one management level to the next.

Noise monitoring

It was confirmed that the Conservatoire would apply the same standards of noise control to students as it did to employees, even although the former did not come within the scope of the relevant health and safety legislation. The Director of Human Resources would confirm whether or not students were subject to routine hearing tests and would also confirm arrangements for ensuring that appropriate health and safety standards were applied when students took performances on tour.

Dr Sughrue commented that she was very impressed by the commitment of staff to the development of a healthy and safe learning and working environment.

13. REPORT FROM THE BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The minute of the meeting of the Buildings Committee of 10 January 2014 was received and Dr Inch highlighted the following items:

Speirs Locks Development

The Speirs Locks development would deliver good quality and flexible spaces. Current negotiations with the contractor were noted in respect of completion dates and minor budgetary issues. However, the expectation remained that the project would be completed on budget.

The Director of Finance and Estates reported that the owner of Unit 1 now appeared to be keen to sell. Whilst not of immediate interest to the Conservatoire, the Principal and Mr Smith would meet with the owner with a view to facilitating the purchase of the building by a 'good neighbour'.

Renfrew Street Frontage

A working group would be formed to consider options for the development of the frontage of the Renfrew Street building and a report would be made to the Board's July meeting.

14. REPORT FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

The report from the Director of Human Resources was received.

Governors noted that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) had, following a review of its original decision, confirmed its decision to uphold a complaint made by a former student against the Conservatoire. As required by the SPSO, the Principal had apologised to the former student.

15. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business.

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

25 April 2014

4 July 2014

Graduation: 1 July 2014
23 October 2014