

**MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL
HELD ON SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10.30am
IN PARLIAMENT HALL, SOUTH STREET, ST ANDREWS**

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sally Mapstone, was in the chair. Welcoming 39 members to the meeting, she passed on apologies from the Chancellor, Lord Campbell of Pittenweem, who had been detained by business in London, and extended a particular welcome to the University Chaplain, Revd Dr Donald MacEwan, to the new Convener of the Business Committee, Gillian Stamper, and to Dr Katie Stevenson, Assistant Vice-Principal (Collections and Digital Content), who would be presenting at the meeting.

1. Minute of the last ordinary half-yearly meeting of the General Council held on 30 June 2018

There were no matters arising and the minute was agreed.

2. Report by the Convener of the Business Committee

Gillian Stamper, the new Convener of the Committee, introduced herself, and paid tribute to her predecessor's expert knowledge, wisdom and good humour. She conveyed the Business Committee's appreciation of the opportunity given by the University to recognise Graham Wynd's contribution to the General Council by way of a drinks reception in September.

Turning to the work of the Business Committee since the last General Council meeting in June, the Convener referred members to the minutes of the last Business Committee meeting held on 22 September (included as Agenda Item 2 in the Billet, pp 12-14), and highlighted the collation of a skills matrix in which Business Committee members had participated. This had confirmed a broad range of experience and skills across Business Committee members, in respect of: administration, communications, enterprise and business development, meeting facilitation, influencing skills and relationship management. Committee members also brought professional expertise in the areas of: accounting and actuarial services, business management, economics, investment management, entrepreneurship, environmental issues, equality and diversity, law, marketing, secondary and higher education in the UK and overseas, the armed forces, and the public sector. The Convener hoped that this would give members some reassurance of how representative the Business Committee is of the General Council as a whole.

In keeping with the representation role of the General Council – which is to take into consideration all questions affecting the wellbeing and prosperity of the University – she hoped that the Committee could provide support when questions of wellbeing are being considered by Court and, from time to time, make representation on such questions to Court. The Business Committee had, for example, been given the opportunity to review and respond to the new University Strategy as it was being drafted and made its submission on 9 October. The Committee welcomed the new Strategy wholeheartedly and, in particular, the emphasis placed on a socially responsible St Andrews. In its submission, the Committee had placed greatest emphasis on enhancing the profile given to environmental sustainability, reflecting the expert insight of one Business Committee member into the importance given to this by school-leavers who are in the privileged position as to be globally mobile in their choice of higher education institution. The Convener hoped that the Committee's skill set would be of increasing value to the University and emphasised that the Committee is keen to be of assistance.

Other examples provided by the Convener of the work of the Business Committee included working to secure better awareness of the General Council and to communicate in such a way as to enhance voter turnout at the 2018 General Council Assessor election. A post-election review of the process had been carried out at the last meeting of the Business Committee. The Committee had also recently undertaken a review of its effectiveness. A paper had been prepared for its last meeting, with input from many committee members. The Convener noted considerable changes in the five or so years

of her own involvement with the Committee in terms of the regularity of elections and the diversity of membership with respect to age, location, professional background and gender. The Committee has continued to develop relations between Court and the executive team and to review ordinances and resolutions via the sub-committee set up for that purpose. The Business Committee effectiveness review had provided a good starting point for considering future Business Committee activity and, in particular, raising the profile of the General Council. Discussions were now under way, including revisiting how General Council meetings could be brought to General Council members who may not be able to travel to St Andrews – perhaps in a different location or using technology. The Committee would continue to explore these areas and to work with officers as appropriate.

Returning to the wellbeing of the University, the Convener emphasised the Committee's pride in being associated with the University of St Andrews. An important part of what graduates learn from their time at St Andrews is about being good and participatory citizens and this commitment to volunteering and public duty can continue into their professional and personal lives where they continue to be ambassadors for St Andrews. The Convener concluded by underlining the importance of the two-way relationship between the students at the University today/General Council members of tomorrow and the standing and the wellbeing of the University of St Andrews, and she urged members to together make the very best of it.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor thanked the Convener for her report, and appreciated the comments that the Business Committee had provided on the draft Strategic Plan. She asked members to note the Convener's report and invited questions or comments from the floor.

The President of the After Many Days Club expressed concern about a rumoured suggestion to move the June meeting of the General Council to April to coincide with the Alumni Festival Weekend. This could have an adverse knock-on effect on the Club's Reunion weekend, for which the General Council meeting in June has traditionally provided an added incentive for members to attend. The Business Committee Convener was grateful for this feedback. It was agreed that due consideration should be given to all the implications – pros and cons – of any proposed change to the scheduling of future General Council meetings.

A further question concerned whether the Business Committee was reactive as opposed to being pro-active. In reply, the Convener pointed out that, over the last few years, the Committee had at various times assigned its members with particular areas on which to lead, according to their professional background. As a chartered accountant, she had been charged with reviewing the University's Annual Report and Accounts and, as an auditor of over 30 years in the private and public sector, had early on in her membership been able to share observations and promote discussion in relation to the lack of women in University's governance structure at that time. The Principal added that in her experience the Committee had largely been pro-active in offering constructive suggestions.

3. University Address – Professor Sally Mapstone, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

The Principal began with news that the University's Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 had been approved by the University Court at the end of October and launched soon thereafter, both in St Andrews and amongst the University's friends around the world. Acknowledging that very many people have played a part in its shaping, the Principal paid particular tribute to Professor Brad MacKay, Vice-Principal (International Strategy and External Relations) and Ester Ruskuc, Director of Strategy and Policy, for the crucial roles they had played in ensuring that different groups had an opportunity to comment on the Strategy and its subsequent drafts. It is hoped that the Strategic Plan will now provide the direction and clarity needed to build on the University's successes over the years ahead.

The Strategic Plan is built on four interconnected themes: World-leading St Andrews, Diverse St Andrews, Global St Andrews, and Entrepreneurial St Andrews, underpinned by a Social Responsibility statement, which will be essential to the delivery of the Strategy. The Principal emphasised that the statement is an integral part of the Strategy, as reflected in its position near the beginning of the

document, and defined social responsibility in University terms as acting ethically, transparently, and sustainably in a spirit of mutual cooperation and respect across all the different communities of which we are part. Local community relations are emphasised in this section in recognition of the profound impact the University's day-to-day activities and future plans have on its neighbours, in addition to setting out what is expected of staff and students in terms of observing a culture of tolerance, respect and courtesy towards each other and the people of St Andrews. Recognising that these responsibilities also extend towards the environment, the Strategic Plan reflects a commitment to pursuing a programme of carbon reduction projects across the University estate and to embedding a culture of deep-seated institutional commitment to sustainable practice and policy.

Building on Professor MacKay's introduction to the four pillars of the Strategic Plan in his presentation to General Council members at the last meeting, the Principal went on to explain how these have developed since then and are already having an effect.

World-leading St Andrews recognises that the University's global reputation is dependent on its commitment to carry out education and research at the highest levels of internationally recognised excellence. Beyond the core academic areas, six priority areas have been identified for collaborative working across disciplines to enable us to create platforms for our research strengths and contribute to a changing world: Peace, Conflict and Security; Cultural Understanding; Materials for the Modern World; Health, Infectious Disease and Wellbeing; Sustainability; and Evolution, Behaviour, and the Environment. With reference to the University's relatively small size, the Principal emphasised that St Andrews has the scale to make significant contributions – not only to established and emerging research fields, but also to exciting national priorities in Scotland and the UK, in areas such as the blue economy, advanced materials and photonics, health and the digital economy, and policy development. The University's small size underpins excellence in education and the University will retain an approach based on small-group, high-quality teaching, with partnership and dialogue between teachers and students.

Diverse St Andrews recognises that the diversity of people, both students and staff, is also essential to the University's excellence and sets out a clear commitment to enhancing our diversity further. As a truly international and world-class university, our ambition is to be a beacon of inclusivity through an approach that embraces our whole community, from students and staff to alumni. Such an approach also enables diverse organisations to work smarter, encourages innovation, and maximises the creativity that is fundamental to academic excellence. In terms of widening access, the Principal thanked the General Council Assessors for their overview in a recent General Council e-Bulletin. In addition to her involvement with widening access at a University level, the Principal is engaged at a national level through her leadership of the Universities Scotland Admissions Working Group and membership of the Scottish Government's Access Delivery Group. Future work on access will be enabled by the *Diverse St Andrews* theme. Priorities will include seeking greater racial and ethnic diversity and addressing the experience of people from black and ethnic minority communities at all levels of the University, in order to make meaningful changes in respect of recruitment, representation, and curriculum. Progress on diversity and inclusion at St Andrews is already evident. Building on the renewal of the University's Bronze Athena SWAN institutional award before the summer, it was confirmed in September that the University has not only successfully renewed its Carer Positive annual accreditation, but achieved this at the higher 'Established' level. The University's support of LGBTQ+ is also gaining recognition, St Andrews being the only Scottish university to have achieved LGBT charter recognition and also having been short-listed in the Public Sector Equality category for this year's Pink News awards. A further significant step forward will be recruitment to the new post of Assistant Vice-Principal for Diversity.

Global St Andrews recognises that, while St Andrews is a deeply Scottish university, it also has a uniquely global orientation and is now one of the most international universities in the world, with over 45% of its students and staff coming from outwith the UK. Proud of its international outlook, the University is determined to maintain and extend this element of its identity. The Principal confirmed that the University has no plans to open a campus abroad, but will instead make better and more strategic use of the resources and relationships we already have by, for example, developing further high-quality

and innovative short programmes and summer schools in St Andrews and exploring how innovative technologies and online learning platforms can enhance activities, both for students and for established professionals wishing to update and refresh their skills.

Entrepreneurial St Andrews recognises further opportunities for our high quality research work to have an impact on society and on the economy by strengthening our capacity for innovation and engagement with partners. The Eden Campus in Guardbridge provides an outstanding opportunity to develop a new model and facility to bring together expertise, both internal and external, in an environment for experimentation, with the aim of promoting the development of new approaches and ideas that will build the foundations for a sustainable economic future in the Tay Cities area. The Principal was delighted to report that the Scottish and UK governments have confirmed that the University is to receive from the Tay Cities Deal over £26 million for transformative infrastructure works at the Eden Campus – the single largest investment ever secured by St Andrews and an essential step to the realisation of our broader plans to create hundreds of new, high-value jobs and to bring smart, sustainable industry to this part of Scotland, founded on a low carbon future. While there is still a great deal of work to be done, the University will be working closely with its partners at Fife Council and the Scottish and UK Governments, with the aim of ensuring that we can move as quickly as possible to realise the benefits of this investment. The Principal recorded the University's great appreciation and debt of gratitude to the Quaestor and Factor, Derek Watson, and his team, who have worked tirelessly over the past two years to bring the St Andrews bid to the Tay Cities Deal to such a successful conclusion. The University will also work to promote an entrepreneurial mindset in its student body and create further opportunities for learning about entrepreneurship activities, such as business competitions.

The Principal informed members that a link to an electronic copy of the Strategic Plan had been sent to all members of staff and is available on the University website, as printed on the inside front cover of the Billet, at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/about/governance/university-strategy/ The University is now in the process of communicating and rolling out the Strategic Plan: the Principal recently had the opportunity to speak about it to alumni in New York, Beijing, Hong Kong, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi; visits are being made to each School to discuss the Plan's content and how they can support delivery; enabling strategies are being prepared to underpin the Strategic Plan; and each strategic theme has been adopted by a member of the Principal's Office who will lead and support developments as part of the delivery. The University will report on progress with its strategic priorities annually. The Principal was confident that the University has a distinctive and ambitious strategy in place that will keep it on course during times which can sometimes seem very challenging.

Turning to Brexit, the Principal assured members that with a quarter of our staff and approximately 11% of our students coming from Europe, the University is doing all it reasonably can to prepare for a range of scenarios. The situation regarding the treatment of EU students in terms of fees and rights of access beyond 2020 remained unclear. Membership of schemes such as Erasmus, supporting student and staff mobility with Europe, may have to be renegotiated if they are to continue. The situation was fast-moving, and the University was doing all it could to engage with the Governments in Scotland and the UK on the consequences.

With regard to staff, the latest UK Government information on the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens suggests that the HE sector will be a priority area for the new scheme. For resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain the UK immigration status they may need to remain here permanently. A phase of testing, which will include the HE sector, will begin shortly and University is seeking to engage in this. Staff mobility has the potential to be affected significantly in the future, and this in turn could affect recruitment from the EU.

With regard to research, it is likely that post-Brexit the UK will become a third country in Horizon Europe, the research and innovation funding framework of the EU. Such a status could exclude us from setting the parameters for such frameworks and make it impossible to continue to derive the net gain from participation that we do currently. For now very little is certain. The University's Brexit Preparedness

Group, chaired by the Vice-Principal (International Strategy and External Relations) is meeting regularly to coordinate business continuity and contingency plans in line with what is suggested in the current Withdrawal Agreement, as well as in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit. The University continues to contribute actively to Government discussions at a Scottish and a UK national level, and in terms of lobbying in Brussels and in Europe where relevant, in an effort to ensure that universities are not overly adversely affected.

Against this backdrop, the University is giving particular attention to international engagement, seeking to assure existing partners that the UK remains open and global in its outlook, and to build new alliances to extend its reach. The Principal had just returned from a visit to Beijing, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. In China our collaborations with a range of institutions, including the Chinese Scholarship Council, which supports about 65 doctoral students at the University, continue to grow while, over the summer months, work took place on developing an innovative, joint programme between the School of Physics & Astronomy at St Andrews and the University of Hong Kong. In terms of our valued European partners, recent visits have included a visit to Prague to support the growing relationship with Charles University and a visit to St Andrews from a high-level delegation from the University of Bonn, with a St Andrews delegation due to make a visit to Bonn in December. Our doctoral students will have an opportunity to be part of the Europaeum Scholars Programme, a doctoral training programme to be taken alongside their research that focuses on contemporary European policy and will strengthen their appreciation of Europe as well as creating lasting networks. Work also continues with ongoing partnerships and building alliances in the US with a visit there in October. A new partnership has been established with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, focusing at this stage on study abroad in the sciences for students in Chemistry and Pre-health.

On the Development front, following on from the excellent news shared at the last meeting that the St Andrews 600th Anniversary fundraising campaign had reached its £100 million goal, the Principal was delighted to report a transformative \$10M gift from Frank and Beverley MacInnis, which was announced on her recent trip to New York. This is one of the largest donations ever made to the University, or indeed to a Scottish university, and is the best way in which to both conclude the 600th Anniversary activities and to launch the new Strategy. The Development Office is already planning a set of activities supportive of the new Strategy.

Turning to the estate, key to the University's future is realising the exceptional opportunity presented by the freeing-up of the Madras School site in the centre of St Andrews. Planning and development work continues and it is hoped to have access to Madras in 2021 to refurbish the 1833 building and to build potentially up to 8,000 square metres of additional academic space behind it, ready for occupation from 2023 onwards. Former Dean of Arts, Professor Christopher Smith, has been appointed as academic sponsor for the Madras project board. Elsewhere, two new student halls of residence, Powell Hall and Whitehorn Hall, have opened. Next, the plan is to replace and expand the accommodation at Albany Park, once planning consent is in place and agreement has been reached with funders. These substantial investments will help the University to accommodate a gradual increase in student numbers so that the University does not place undue pressure on the housing stock. The Scottish Oceans Institute is taking shape above the East Sands and will hopefully open in the first half of next year. We are also pushing ahead to secure funding for a new £21M STEM building (involving Mathematics & Statistics, Biology and Computer Science) on the North Haugh to bring faculty onto a single site and enhance interdisciplinary opportunities, with completion ideally around 2022. When Madras and other new spaces such as the Laidlaw Music Centre become available, the University will be able to rethink and refurbish existing buildings. Plans for renovating the Younger Hall are advancing, with several Schools also keen to create better facilities.

In relation to pensions and pay, the Principal reported that, whilst the University Superannuation Scheme (USS) pensions situation remains challenging, the report produced by the University and College Union (UCU) and Universities UK (UUK) Joint Expert Panel (JEP) in September on the valuation of the fund provides a realistic basis for a way ahead and, although significant increases in contributions are still

required from April next year, these are factored into the University's financial plan. The University still hopes that the further increases threatened for the 2019/2020 academic year can be avoided and discussions are ongoing with the USS Trustee to that effect. Longer term reform of USS remains essential if the scheme is to be put on to a sustainable basis, and the further work of the JEP next year will focus on that. The national negotiations between the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) and the trade unions on the 2018 pay settlement failed to reach an agreement over the summer. UCEA informed institutions that they considered an agreed settlement on pay to be unachievable this year, and advised that institutions should implement in September the final offer that had been tabled in May, providing a base pay increase of 2%, with increases of up to 2.8% for the first 15 payscale points. Throughout the negotiating process, St Andrews had maintained that UCEA should offer a higher pay increase than 2%, in line with the provision in the financial plan for a basic pay increase of up to 3% in the coming year. Accordingly, staff were notified that St Andrews will be paying a non-consolidated, non-pensionable supplement of 1% on all base pay for the year ahead, in addition to the 2% increase in salary. These measures will ensure that all staff receive a pay uplift that is above the most recently announced CPI inflation figure. Both UCU and Unison balloted staff for industrial action over the pay offer, but in both cases turnout fell short of the 50% required by law. Increases in pension contributions and pay mean that University finances remain very tight and savings are being sought across all our activities. Against this backdrop, the Principal was pleased to confirm that research income is up from £36M for the full 12 months last year to £50M for this year and, in terms of student recruitment, every place was filled without the need to pick up students from clearance and an exceptionally high entry tariff was achieved. St Andrews also came top in the UK National Student Survey on student academic experience for the ninth time since the survey was launched in 2005. This was all now complemented by the very recent excellent news on the Tay Cities Deal.

In closing, the Principal said that with the upcoming Winter Graduation upon us, thoughts were already turning to next semester's activities. With the new Strategy in place, she was confident that the foundations had been established to enable the University to move forward with strength and purpose.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor then invited questions from the floor.

The first two questions were in relation to Brexit, the first concerning the effect on the University's relationship with Horizon Europe and the second the effect on tuition fees. The Principal explained that currently, with Horizon 2020, we have an opportunity to shape research policy and projects and play a full part as beneficiaries. However, with Horizon Europe, the UK is likely to move to a third country arrangement. A likely consequence would be that, cumulatively, UK universities would not be net beneficiaries in the way that they are at present. With regard to the effect of Brexit on student fees, the Principal explained that this is not a decision the University can take, but a decision for the UK and Scottish governments. At least for 2019, the fee status for EU students will remain the same as for home students and this is guaranteed for those starting in 2019 for the duration of their course of study. However, no announcement has been made for 2020 onwards. Hopefully, the situation with regard to the likely fee status of EU students would be clearer by the end of March 2019. A final question was asked as to whether the new Strategy included investment in high carbon technology. In reply, the Principal said that the University is very committed to reducing its carbon footprint. The new Strategy is high level and enabling strategies would be developed to go into this level of detail. In terms of socially responsible investment, the University already takes a very careful approach to its engagement with companies involved in high level consumption or production of carbon and will continue to do so.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor then called upon Dr Katie Stevenson to deliver her presentation on Collections at the University.

4. Presentation on "Collections at the University of St Andrews" by Dr Katie Stevenson, Assistant Principal (Collections and Digital Content)

Dr Stevenson began by explaining that her presentation would focus on collections in the broadest sense of the scope and scale of what the University holds and how these can be capitalised upon in terms of

research and teaching. While her role is centred on both physical and digital collections and their use within the University, the presentation would focus on physical collections and two of the Collections units, the University Library and the Museums, over which she has oversight. She would cover some of the additions to the collections, as well as plans to grow their potential and their access for members of the University, residents of the town, researchers from across the world, and the University's national and international partners.

The University's collections are distributed and cared for by several different teams across the Library and Museum service, working closely together. The archival, manuscript, photograph and book collections are brought together in the University Library, which has a dispersed estate across the King James Library on South Street, the main Library off North Street and, on the North Haugh, the recently refurbished JF Allen Library in the Physics Building and two study and reading rooms – the Library at the Gateway Building (which opened this academic year) and the Ettie Stewart Steele Reading Room in the Chemistry Building. The King James Library is very popular with undergraduate students, while postgraduate students and research staff have another inspiring space in which to conduct their research, namely the Richardson Research Library at Martyrs Kirk, which is divided into the Thomson Research Reading Room for postgraduate students and staff and the Napier Reading Room for the consultation of Special Collections material.

The main Library's general collections are vast, supporting research in all of the subjects taught at the University and many more, with print and electronic collections including ebooks, journals, online films, multimedia collections and databases. Several named collections have been built up by modern donors and philanthropists, including the Red Gown Collection, a student-inspired collection donated by Freddie Forde, a former President of the Students' Association (2012/13), as a thank you to the University and as an inspiration to future students. As further examples of the breadth of our research collections, Dr Stevenson referred to around 8,000 Persian language books – a significant donation through the Iranian Studies Institute and the largest resource of its kind in the UK, and a significant collection of published materials related to World War I held in the Russell Cawthorn Collection, which was recently on display in the main Library.

Describing the University's Special Collections as the most remarkable, Dr Stevenson went on to explain that the University's archival collections are vast and include both manuscripts and muniments (i.e. the records generated by the University itself). The manuscript collection covers a huge array of subjects, including Botany, the records of the burgh of St Andrews from the twelfth to the twentieth century, and a small but fine collection of oriental and eastern manuscripts. The rare books collection is substantial with over 120,000 books, many of which are formed into their own collections, including an historic Children's Book Collection and 13,000 rare books on Scottish and religious history in the Hay Fleming Collection. A Thailand Collection, presented to St Andrews in 1896, comprises 39 volumes of the first edition of the doctrinal foundation of Thai Buddhism. The University also has a world-class collection of early photography, looked after by the Library, which numbers in excess of 800,000 photographs, negatives, film, postcards and transparencies, on subjects including St Andrews, war and conflict, Scottish culture and cultural life, and folk life in particular, golf, and nineteenth century international exploration and discovery.

Next, Dr Stevenson turned her attention to the substantial object collections cared for by the Museum service, which include discrete collections of anatomy and pathology, ethnography (anthropology), geology, psychology, zoology, and three collections which have been recognised by the Scottish government as being collections of national significance: the Chemistry collection, historic scientific instruments collection, and the heritage collections, which include the University's fine art, numismatics (coins), archaeology and history of the University objects.

Dr Stevenson emphasised that the University continues actively to collect in many areas, as evidenced by the routine expansion of the general Library holdings used by staff and students in the delivery of teaching and by the building up of collections of strategic research importance to the research

community. In addition to the almost daily purchase of new books, journals and databases, the University also takes in discrete contemporary collections, such as the Istvan Hont Collection of over 5,500 books and papers to support teaching and research, specifically in intellectual history, economics, philosophy and politics. Significant pieces of Scottish art are also acquired each year through an investment in the Boswell Collection of Scottish art. The Museums unit has been redeveloping its collecting strategy in order to focus on contemporary University research and identifying key historic objects to enhance our collections. This includes a monocular microscope acquired in 2017 at auction which belonged to Robert Robinson, a former Professor of Chemistry at St Andrews in the 1920s who then went on to win a Nobel Prize. The University has added to its art collections with, for example, Peter Doig's 2008 *Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival*, which was only very recently gifted to the Harry & Margery Boswell Collection. Dr Stevenson also mentioned a Robert III gold coin, recently found nearby by metal detectorists, which the University hoped to acquire, and which, in addition to enhancing our recognised numismatics collection, would also be displayed in the major *Medieval St Andrews* exhibition planned for 2020.

The Special Collections division has combined its interests in the very earliest photography and rare books in its very recent acquisition of the 1875 edition of Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*, with photographic illustrations by Julia Margaret Cameron. Dr Stevenson pointed out that this is the only copy in the last 50 years to have come to market and is a major teaching and research treasure for the University. While there are modest budgets for acquisitions, major purchases often require significant fundraising and she conveyed how delighted the University was to have been awarded £12K by the Friends of the National Libraries towards the purchase price. It was planned to display the book and photographs in autumn 2019 in the University museum, MUSA. The University Library is also completing a project funded by the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust to conserve some of the Chemistry collections, including a very early Periodic Table of Elements, which appears to be the only surviving example of this early printed version – dating perhaps to c.1880. The timing is fortuitous because 2019 has been designated International Year of the Periodic Table by the United Nations. The recently discovered print is drawing widespread attention, with loan requests coming in for overseas exhibitions. It will also be displayed in St Andrews.

Dr Stevenson next drew the attention of members to one of the most exciting current developments for the University collections, the extension of the University museum, MUSA, on the Scores, and the addition of special temporary exhibition space, the redevelopment of the four permanent galleries, and a vastly improved museum shop. The expanded museum will allow the University to show off the full range of its collections, to host temporary exhibitions, attract touring exhibitions from other museums, and to use the space as a platform for University- and community-wide discussions of ideas, values and subjects taught and researched here by our staff and students. Dr Stevenson informally revealed that planned exhibitions include an exhibition on oceans research, focusing on the work of the Scottish Oceans Institute, and an exhibition of the work and world of the pop-artist and designer Philip Colbert, who studied Philosophy at St Andrews some fifteen years ago. Other exhibitions are in development, including the aforementioned *Medieval St Andrews* exhibition and an exhibition on Persian Art, as well as the 100 First Women Photography Exhibition by Anita Corbin, which includes a portrait of the Principal's immediate predecessor, Professor Louise Richardson, and Betty Boothroyd, first woman Speaker of the House of Commons, who received an honorary degree from the University in 2003.

Dr Stevenson brought her presentation to a close by outlining some of the measures the University has taken and is currently planning, as the collections develop, to remain mindful of space and the needs of students and researchers in accessing the collections for study. In the summer, 70 study desks had been added to the main Library and, by the end of 2018, further toilet facilities will have been made available, in addition to a further 100 study spaces. In 2020, as some of the Library collections and staff move to an open store at the new Eden Campus, the University will be looking to convert office space in the basement of the Library into further study space for students. Consideration is also currently being given as to how best to enable researchers to access the Library and Museum collections in the future, as the University continues to build a truly remarkable University research collection of breadth, depth and quality.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor thanked Dr Stevenson for her informative and fascinating presentation and invited questions from the floor.

Questions included whether there were plans to revive the Friends of the University Library organisation, which had made a modest contribution to the funding of acquisitions in the past. In reply, Dr Stevenson explained that consideration was being given to whether the various friends groups across the University, including the Byre Theatre, the Music Centre, the Museums and the Library, might be able to work collectively and hoped that there might be more clarity on this in the course of the next year. Another question concerned recent news reports about pressure to repatriate cultural artefacts and whether that might have any implications for the University's collections. In reply, Dr Stevenson said that our ethnographic and archaeological collections are very small and very well provenanced, but acknowledged the wider implications of this across the UK. A final query concerning access to the Students' Union Film Collection in the main Library was to be followed up after the meeting.

5. Any Other Competent Business

Following confirmation from the Registrar and Clerk to the General Council that no motions had been intimated and there being no further items of business from the floor, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor signalled the close of the meeting by inviting members to rise for the benediction.

Alastair Merrill

Registrar and Clerk to the General Council