

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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AB24 3FX

18 January 2012

Agenda for a meeting of the **GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE** on
Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 11.00am in Committee Room 2, University Office.

For Discussion

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|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | MINUTES | |
| | Minutes of meetings held on 22 November 2011. | (enclosed) |
| 2 | MATTERS ARISING | GC11-12: 8 |
| 3 | DONATION TO ESTABLISH DUNLOP CHAIR
<i>Professor Mike Greaves, Head of College of Life Sciences & Medicine,
will be in attendance for this item</i> | GC11-12: 9 |
| 4 | APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF COURT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE | GC11-12:10 |
| 5 | ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR SENIOR INDEPENDENT GOVERNOR | GC11-12:11 |
| 6 | ANNUAL GOVERNOR SELF APPRAISAL QUESTIONNAIRE | GC11-12:12 |
| 7 | FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW OF COURT | GC11-12: 13 |
| 8 | HONORARY DEGREE PROCESS | GC11-12:14 |

For Approval

- | | | |
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| 9 | VICE-PRINCIPAL MEMBERSHIP OF COURT | GC11-12:15 |
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For Information

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| 10 | WOOLF INQUIRY INTO LSE's LINKS WITH LYBYA | GC11-12:16 |
| 11 | GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS | GC11-12:17 |
| 12 | SCOTTISH HE GOVERNANCE REVIEW | GC11-12:18 |

13 MEETINGS FOR 2012/2013

The scheduled meetings of the Committee for session 2012/1013 will be as follows:

Friday, 7 September 2012	11.00-12.30
Tuesday, 20 November 2012	11.00-12.30
Tuesday, 29 January 2013	11.00-12.30
Tuesday, 14 May 2013	11.00-12.30

14 NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday, 8 May 2012 at 11.00am.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Proposal to Establish the Dunlop Centre for Integrative Health and Management**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A proposal has been received from Dr Stefan Geider, Coordinator, UK and Ireland Anthroposophic Health and Social Care (AHaSC) proposing that the University form a partnership with their movement. This partnership would result in the creation of an Interprofessional and Multidisciplinary Research Centre focused on integrative health, education and social care to be named 'The Dunlop Centre for Integrative Health and Management'.
- 1.2 The Centre would require the recruitment of a Professor (The Dunlop Chair), a Senior Lecturer and an Administrative Officer as well as support for consumables, travel and other expenses. The proposal from Dr Geider indicates that the costs for all of the above would be met through a donation of £[REDACTED] million from the Anthroposophical Medical Trust. An initial instalment of [REDACTED] has already been received by the Development Trust, following the signing of a gift agreement by the donor.
- 1.3 The reasons for establishing the Centre are as follows:
- It would create a unique research grouping, subjecting as-yet unproven complementary and alternative therapies to full scientific scrutiny, broadening the University's research portfolio.
 - The creation of a unique Centre would place Aberdeen at the forefront of this type of research.
 - The unusual nature of the Chair would, in all likelihood, garner significant publicity for the University.
- 1.4 The areas of potential concern related to the Centre are as follows:
- The association with the anthroposophic medical community which this Centre would formalise carries with it the possibility of the University's scientific and medical research credibility being questioned due to the commonly held perceptions about its beliefs and practices. For further information see http://ivaa.info/userfiles/file/System_AnthroposophicMedicine2011_online.pdf.
 - Irrespective of the scientific rigour with which the Centre's research is carried out, there remains the possibility that external observers would question its robustness due to the source of funding. This could create a conflict of interest, either real or perceived. Any complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) body must necessarily have a vested interest in trying to prove that the effectiveness of its approach is supported by the scientific community. Therefore, if any such body was to provide 100% of the funding for a Centre with the stated aim of objectively investigating the efficacy of CAM approaches, this could potentially leave the scientific integrity of the University open to question as well as attracting negative publicity.
 - Premature and potentially damaging public statements already made by AHaSC on its website appear to be contradictory to the University's own aims for the Centre. For example, the attachment to this document shows that AHaSC publicly claims the Centre will aim to "...offer postgraduate degrees...in...anthroposophic medicine." This raises the possibility of a future conflict arising about the activities of the Centre which could prove damaging.

2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Based on the donor's undertakings, the full costs for the post including on-costs and consumables would be met through the donation, meaning there are no resource implications associated with the donation.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT

As noted in the summary above, the primary risk associated with the establishment of the Centre is reputational. Based upon public pronouncements made by AHaSC there appears to be a difference between the University's intended purpose and aims for the Centre and those of the donor. This difference has the potential to result in the creation of a Centre which could develop in a way which does not fully align with the University's aims and could potentially damage its reputation.

4 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The appointments associated with the Centre will be made in line with the University's relevant equality and diversity policies.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There will be no environmental impact as a consequence of the establishment of the Centre.

6 RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of Professor Neva Haites, Vice-Principal for Development, that the Committee approve the acceptance of this gift.

7 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained from Professor Neva Haites, Vice-Principal for Development; Tel: 7082; email n.haites@abdn.ac.uk.

	Board/Committee	Date
Previously considered by	N/A	N/A
Further approval required	N/A	N/A



AHaSC Anthroposophic Health, Education & Social Care Movement

Centre for Integrative Health, Education & Social Care in the University of Aberdeen

Aiming to be a centre of excellence, liaising with international universities, hospitals and services active in the field.

Aims

- ◆ The Centre, currently agreed in principal with Aberdeen University, will act as the focus for anthroposophic medicine, therapeutic education and social therapy in the English speaking world.
- ◆ With a planned staff complement of Chair, Senior Lecturer and support personnel, it will bring anthroposophic approaches into dialogue with mainstream methods.
- ◆ The Centre will be key to furthering the anthroposophic healthcare approach worldwide.

It is endorsed by Dr Michaela Gloeckler, leader of the Medical Section, Switzerland and the international anthroposophic research council.

Location

The University of Aberdeen is an ideal location for the Centre due to:

- ◆ its high international profile
- ◆ its longstanding partnership with the Camphill Communities in Aberdeen, including Camphill Medical Practice.
- ◆ its current BA Honours in Social Pedagogy, developed out of Dr König's original Seminar.

Aberdeen University's openness to host this initiative presents a unique and timely milestone in the development of anthroposophic approaches to health, especially during this year of Rudolf Steiner's 150th anniversary.

Core activities

Research

- ◆ To **develop strategic research** in integrative health, education and social care
- ◆ To **gain research funding** from Research Councils and relevant charities
- ◆ To **critically evaluate** current integrative practices, organisational structures and delivery
- ◆ To **build on the research base** of the current BA in Social Pedagogy

Teaching & education

- ◆ To offer **postgraduate degrees and diplomas**, to UK and international students, specialising in:
 - anthroposophic medicine
 - therapies
 - nursing
 - curative education
 - social therapy
- ◆ To **contribute to existing** postgraduate and undergraduate **degrees**

Support and funding

To date the project has met with significant enthusiasm and in the UK has already raised £500, 000. We are looking to raise the remaining £1 million needed to launch the project.

Please support this exciting initiative. You can **donate online** at: www.ahasc.org.uk

For more information contact:

AHaSC c/o Camphill Wellbeing Trust, Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB15 9EP

T: 01224 869621

info@ahasc.org.uk

Charity No. SCO16291

Extract from the Minutes of the Governance and Nominations Committee of date 25 January 2012.

24 DONATION TO ESTABLISH DUNLOP CHAIR

The Committee received and considered a paper regarding a proposal which had been received by the University from a potential donor, to form a partnership to create an Interprofessional and Multidisciplinary Research Centre focused on integrative health, education and social care. The Centre was to be called 'The Dunlop Centre for Integrative Health and Management'. The value of the donation was estimated to be £[REDACTED]

The Committee agreed that further information was required regarding a number of aspects of the proposal. These were:

- the sources of the funding and the capacity of the donor to raise the funding;
- the sustainability of the funding in the longer term;
- the management of the potential conflict of interest and risks that were identified in the paper;

The Committee also agreed that the proposal should be considered within the College's own process for identification of academic priorities, prior to the proposal for accepting the funding being further considered by the Committee. .