

**At Glasgow and within the Board Room of
the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on
Friday 8 July 2016 at 10.30am**

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

PRESENT Ms Ankna Arockiam Mr Donald MacRae
Professor Norman Gillies Mr Mark Paris (by phone)
Mr John Hylands Mr Gavin Reid
Professor Maggie Kinloch Mrs Agnes Robson
Ms Tari Lang Professor Jeffrey Sharkey
Mr Mark Leishman Ms Maria Taylor
Dr Shonaig Macpherson

IN ATTENDANCE Mr Andrew Comrie
Mr Ewan Hainey
Mrs Janette Harkess
Mr Hugh Hodgart
Dr Gordon Munro
Mrs Jackie Russell
Mr Alan Smith
Mr William Stringer

IN THE CHAIR Lord Vallance of Tummel

The Chairman welcomed Tari Lang to her first meeting of the Board.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Laura Bissell, Catherine Jackson, Paul Jourdan, Amin Keshmiri, Nick Kuenssberg, Carol Main, Ed Monaghan, Jean Sangster and Norman Sharp.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON 29 APRIL 2016

The minute of the previous meeting were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal's report was received. It was noted that philanthropic funding had been secured to fund the Dumfries House project and that a further £100k had been pledged to support that project and other Conservatoire activities.

5. REPORT FROM THE STUDENTS' UNION

The President's report was received. On the occasion of her last meeting, the Chairman thanked Ms Arockiam for her outstanding leadership of the Students' Union over the past year.

It was agreed that SU annual accounts should, in future, be submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.

The Chairman welcomed William Stringer to his first meeting of the Board and congratulated him on his election as SU President for session 2016/17.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE BOARD'S AWAY-DAYS

CSMT's response to recommendations arising from the Board's March 2016 away-days was received. Progress reports, which would include time-lines, would be made to subsequent meetings of the Board. The proposal to produce an annual report *Creative Arts Education in Scotland* would be developed by the Principal and considered further at the Board's next meeting.

7. SFC STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

A note of the Strategic Dialogue with the SFC of 12 May 2016 was received. The event had been positive in tone and outcome. Subsequently, SFC colleagues had agreed to meet with the Principal and colleagues to follow up on discussions regarding funding and, in particular, the growing differential in funding between the Conservatoire and comparable institutions in England. Following that meeting with the SFC, the question of funding and governance (see Item 8 immediately below) would be discussed with the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science in the context of the discussion paper that the Chairman and Principal had recently submitted to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

8. HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016

Correspondence from Ms Somerville, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, in respect of the implementation of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 was received and the timescale for implementation of the various provisions of the Act was noted. Notwithstanding that correspondence, Governors **agreed** that the Conservatoire should continue to seek an exemption from the Act for all of the reasons previously identified. In order to further demonstrate the effectiveness and inclusivity of the Conservatoire's current governance arrangements, Governors **agreed** that it would be appropriate to invite the Conservatoire's shareholders to ratify Professor Kuenssberg's appointment as Chairman through the adoption of an appropriately framed resolution at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 7 December 2016. The precise form of that resolution would be agreed at the Board's next meeting. More generally, it was **agreed** that the process and timescale through which the Conservatoire would seek an exemption from the Act should also be considered at the Board's next meeting.

9. REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD

A report from Academic Board's meeting of 22 June 2016 was received.

9.1 SFC Outcome Agreement: 2015/16

A progress report in respect of the Conservatoire's 2015/16 Outcome Agreement was received.

The Principal undertook to review the use of the terms 'Music Centres' and 'Regional Arts Centres' so as to avoid any potential for confusion through their simultaneous use.

9.2 Code of Procedure for Appeals to the Academic Board Appeal Committee and the Governors Appeal Committee

The replacement of the Deputy Principal by the Head of Research as Convenor of the Academic Board Appeal Committee was approved.

9.3 Prevent Duty

A report on the Conservatoire's response to the Prevent Duty would come to the next meeting of the Board via the Audit Committee.

10. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Reports from the Finance and General Purposes Committee's meetings of 13 May and 10 June 2016 were received.

10.1 Strategic Plan Forecast 2015/16 to 2018/19

The Strategic Plan forecast was approved as circulated for submission to the SFC.

10.2 Budget 2016/17

The budget for 2016/17, which included the 2016/17 pay award, was approved as circulated. Mr MacRae commended the work of the Director of Finance and Estates and his colleagues in arriving at a viable budget.

11. REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

A report from the Audit Committee's meeting of 10 June 2016 was received.

12. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

A report from the Health and Safety Committee's meeting of the 8 June 2016 was received.

It was **agreed** that the Board should consider a report on the growing incidence of mental health issues amongst Conservatoire students at its next meeting.

13. REPORT FROM THE BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

A report from the Building Committee's meeting of 13 May 2016 was received.

14. INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Mr Paris reported that the IAB would meet in advance of the Board's next meeting. A number of potential members had been identified, which the Nominations Committee would consider in due course.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would take place on Friday 28 October 2016. The AGM would take place on Wednesday 7 December 2016.

16. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Membership of the Remuneration Committee

It was agreed that Maria Taylor should join the membership of the Remuneration Committee.

Appraisal of Principal

All attendees left the meeting and the Chairman sought Governors' views on the Principal's performance over the previous year so as to inform discussions at the Remuneration Committee.

Audit Scotland

Summary recommendations from the recently published report of Audit Scotland's audit of higher education were noted. Audit Scotland's report would be considered at the Board's next meeting.

The Deputy Principal

Attendees re-joined the meeting and, on the occasion of her last meeting of the Board, the Chairman warmly thanked Professor Maggie Kinloch for her very significant contribution to the work of the Conservatoire over the past ten years or so.