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**Meeting:** **CONVOCATION**  
**Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting**

**Date and Time:** **Saturday 9 May 2015 at 4.15pm**

**Place:** **University Hall**

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**Present:**

Sir Julian Horn-Smith - Pro-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor B Morley - Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor N Bennett, Ms M Bennett, Mr N Berry, Mr D Brewer, Mrs G Butler, Dr I Carney, Mrs P Carney, Mr R Clay, Mr S Crisante, Mr E Czaja, Mr R Ellmore, Ms I Ellul-Hammond, Mr M Floater, Dr O Gray, Mrs V Hill, Mr N Hudson, Miss S Kilgallon, Mr R Laidler, Mr S Lamb, Mrs H Macdonald, Mrs C Mackay, Ms S Mackie, Dr K Melford, Ms C Miras, Mrs P Norrington, Mr K Norrington, Mr M Pugh, Mr P Rodwell, Mr H Schoenemann, Mrs A Tapley, Mr G Taylor, Ms H Thomas, Mr S Wadsworth, Mrs E Westall

**In Attendance:**

Mr G A Maggs - Director of Development & Alumni Relations  
Mrs C Andrews - Secretary

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Professor D Bird, Professor G Breakwell, Professor I Butler, Professor K Edge, Professor C Grant, Professor J Millar and Ms K Robinson.

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**ACTION**

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Sir Julian Horn-Smith, Pro-Chancellor of the University, welcomed members to the forty-seventh annual meeting of Convocation, and explained the role and purpose of Convocation to those attending for the first time.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the forty-sixth meeting of Convocation held on 10 May 2014 (Paper CN14/15-1) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

**4. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS**

The Director of Development and Alumni Relations provided an oral report on the work undertaken by the Department of Development and Alumni Relations since the last meeting of Convocation:

The Department of Development & Alumni Relations undertakes activities which would once have been the remit of Convocation and which can be divided into three key areas: involvement & engagement; fundraising; and creating a platform for dialogue.

- Bath graduates follow varied and interesting careers all over the world, assisted by the placement scheme which produces work-ready graduates. Alumni are often very well placed to persuade their company to take on a placement student, and the University always need new opportunities wherever alumni are based. Alumni contacts have helped us to secure dozens of position in recent times.
- In response to the last alumni survey, when a significant number of responders said that they would be willing to volunteer their time or expertise in supporting today's students, a graduate contact platform called Bath Connection had been created. This system, unique to Bath, allows alumni to upload a profile of themselves (including their industry, experience etc.), and students who are interested in those sectors, or those countries, can search a specific field for an alumnus and seek advice and guidance. Graduate involvement can range from mentoring several students to just responding to occasional emails. Bath Connection will also be rolled out to placement students to help them identify someone at their company who might meet them during their first week or provide a friendly face in an unfamiliar country.
- The University's charitable status has helped to attract donations to support new buildings, scholarships and numerous research projects including diagnosis of Alzheimer's, work on diabetes, disability health, provision of safe water in the developing world, improving crop sustainability in sub-Saharan Africa, renewable energy and child poverty, among many others.
- Last year the Department raised over £3.1m and appointed 149 new scholars. Of the £3.1m, 76% came from non-alumni, e.g. friends, companies and charitable trusts, so Mr Maggs reassured the alumni present that whilst the University does ask them for support it also looks elsewhere. He passed on his thanks to all alumni donors, especially those present.
- Mr Maggs emphasised the importance of word of mouth marketing which alumni can provide on the University's behalf and listed just some of the reasons why those present should spread the word about Bath:
  - Bath is firmly rooted in the Top 10 of the national league tables
  - All our engineering courses are in the top three
  - Bath is number one for student satisfaction, for the second year in a row
  - Bath is number one for the Student Experience
  - We are the Campus University of the Year
  - Architecture is the top ranked course in the UK (Cambridge is second)
  - Accounting & Finance is number one in the country (LSE is second)
  - BBA is number two in the country (ahead of St Andrews, Warwick, LSE)
  - The MBA is also number two in the country, behind LBS
  - Bath is ranked 12th in the UK for the quality of research
- As the 50th Anniversary approaches there will be more reunions and events both in the UK and abroad, and the alumni community will be encouraged to support the University in developing a huge, crowd-sourced social history.
- Mr Maggs finished by emphasising how proud the University was of its graduates and hoped that the alumni community were equally proud of the University and of what it had become.

The Chair followed this report with his endorsement that, as a Bath graduate, he was delighted with the progress made by both the Department of Development and Alumni Relations and the University as a whole.

AGREED that the report of the Director of Development and Alumni Relations be noted.

**5. APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL**

Convocation was asked to consider the vacancy on University Council, created by Mr Stuart Appleton's resignation after four years in post. The vacancy would run from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2017.

One expression of interest had been received, from Mrs Christine Gibbons, whose supporting statement was read to the meeting. There were no objections to Mrs Gibbons' nomination.

Mr Roger Ellmore proposed a vote of thanks for Mr Appleton for his four years' service on University Council, which was agreed unanimously.

AGREED unanimously that Mrs Christine Gibbons be appointed a member of the University Council for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2017.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that there would not be an Alumni reunion weekend in 2016 so the date of the next annual meeting of Convocation was to be determined.

The meeting concluded at 4.50 p.m.