# **APPENDIX IV. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSORS ON THE UNIVERSITY COURT AND THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

1. **Role of the Court Assessors**

Following the new arrangements for recruitment and selection (see Appendix III of this document), three General Council members are appointed to be members of the University Court (i.e. General Council Assessors) for a term of four years in the first instance. On appointment, they become members of the Business Committee *ex officio*. The University Court is the supreme governing body of the University and, in common with all other members of Court, the General Council Assessors are charity trustees with all the obligations such a position entails. Their prime responsibility must always be to fulfil this role. They are on Court as independent elected delegates, and do not represent any body including the General Council.

1. **Role and responsibilities of Court Assessors on the Business Committee**
   1. As a result of their involvement with Court, the Assessors, as individual members of the Business Committee, bring a detailed understanding of the work of the University and its strategic priorities to the Committee. They also enable the Business Committee to have an overview of Court business by providing, in their capacity as Court Assessors, a timely oral report on Court meetings. The content of this report has due regard to whether or not the items of business on the Court agenda have been identified as ‘closed’ or not. In practice, each report is normally given by one Court Assessor although the others may contribute additional observations where appropriate.
   2. Members of the Business Committee will be aware that the agenda for each Court meeting and the subsequent official Minute are made available on the University website. It is therefore not appropriate for the Court Assessors to provide for the Business Committee any written version of the formal Court meeting. Thus, their report is oral only.
   3. In consequence of their role and status as members of Court, the Court Assessors do not, and indeed cannot, function formally as “messengers” from the Business Committee to the Court. They are, however, informed of the position and views of the Business Committee by virtue of their membership of it. There may be occasions when they feel obliged to make Court aware of the views of the Business Committee, given that they are also members of the Business Committee. On such occasions it is expected that they will make Court aware that they are simply conveying the views of the Business Committee as they understand them to be at this particular point.
2. **Responsibilities of the Business Committee to the Court Assessors**
   1. The Business Committee can fulfil a valuable role as a trusted and knowledgeable reference group, for the Court Assessors to use when they find it suitable. This may be by engaging with the Business Committee as a whole, with its Officers or with individual members.
   2. The Business Committee for its part will ensure that its members are aware of the role and responsibilities of the Court and that they understand and respect the obligations of the Court Assessors as members of that body, including the need to maintain confidentiality when required.
   3. The Business Committee will also remain mindful that it can make its own representations to Court on any matters which it regards as relevant.
3. **Responsibilities of Court Assessors to the General Council**

Court Assessors have no specific responsibilities or obligations to the General Council. It is anticipated that the Court Assessors will attend the Half-Yearly Meetings of the General Council when possible and be available at these meetings to provide their opinions or input when requested to do so. They may also find these Meetings useful to listen to the interests and concerns of the General Council membership.