



**ACADEMIC BOARD
(Special Meeting)**

Tuesday 10 July 2012

MINUTES

Key to abbreviations

AB	Academic Board
HEI	higher education institution
HR	Human Resources

38 **REFORM OF STATUTE 18**

Reported

38.1 The meeting had been scheduled in order to facilitate a continuation of

Discussion

38.6 The Provost noted receipt of a written response from the non-professorial AB members' group. The Convenor of the group, Dr Andrea Townsend-Nicholson, reported their view that the protection of academic freedom was a strategic matter resting with the Council, in consequence of which the mechanisms for determining the legitimacy of the cause for dismissal of staff should be embedded explicitly within the Statutes. The group also believed that procedures for dismissal must apply equally to all staff, but that a further test should be put in place in respect of research active staff to guard against the use of redundancy as a tool for undermining academic freedom.

38.7 Individual AB members raised a number of specific concerns relating to the proposals, including:

the ability of Council to

It was noted that matters of this kind were often discussed at departmental meetings, which were generally not held in the summer. Members queried what was to be gained to be achieved about the proposed changes on the current timetable.

38.9 The Provost noted that the proposed fundamental change to the role of Head of Department, who would under the current arrangements be involved in any redundancy process.

38.10 The Provost confirmed that during his term of office only one disciplinary case had reached the point of a tribunal, and that issues of academic freedom had played no part in the case. AB debated whether this constituted evidence supporting the view that the

