

Stranmillis University College

A College of Queen's University Belfast.

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

ADVISORS**Principal and Chief Executive:** Dr A Heaslett**External Auditor:** Grant Thornton (NI) LLP
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GOVERNORS

The members of the Governing Body and its Committees during the year are set out in the table below.

Name	Appointed From Date	Term of Office	Status of Appointment	Committees Served
Professor Sir Desmond Rea OBE MSc(ECON) MBA PHD	13 May 2013	31 December 2017	Chair of the Governing Body	Member of HR and Remuneration Committee
E Jardine CB, MSc, BSc	1 August 2014	31 July 2018	Vice-Chair of the Governing Body	Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee; Member of the HR and Remuneration Committee
Dr A Heaslett BA MA D.Phil MSc FRSA	1 August 2007	For period of appointment	Principal and Chief Executive	None
Mrs C Moore BA, FCA	1 August 2014	31 July 2018	Member	Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Mrs S Madden	29 March 2013	31 March 2017	Member	Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee; Member of the HR and Remuneration Committee
K Nelson BA, MBA, MSc, MIC, FCMI, CMGR	29 March 2013	31 December 2017	Member	Member of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
R Thompson MA, BA, DASE CertED	29 March 2013	31 December 2017	Member	Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee; Chair of the Education Committee
Dr E Birnie MA, PhD	1 August 2014	31 July 2018	Member	Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
W Patterson BA, MBA, FCIIPD	1 August 2014	31 July 2018	Member	Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee; Chair of the HR and Remuneration Committee
Mrs E Huddleson BEd MSc	1 August 2014	31 July 2018	Member	Member of the Education Committee
R Hanna BEd MSc PGDip MSc	1 August 2014	31 July 2018	Member	Member of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
A Brown BEd, MSSc, FCIEA, FCoIT, FRSA	4 November 2014	3 November 2018	Teaching Staff Representative	None
Ms I Mercer BLS, ACLIP	1 October 2015	31 March 2017	Support Staff Representative	None
Mrs Dawn Brown	1 April 2017	31 March 2021	Support Staff Representative	None
A Pollock	1 June 2016	31 May 2017	Student Representative	None
John Carville	1 June 2017	31 May 2018	Student Representative	None

Without Ministers to make new public appointments Government Departments are having to extend the tenures of current Board members and Chairs in order to allow public boards to continue to function. Reappointment for a second term, where appropriate, will be the prerogative of incoming Ministers.

1. REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

Introduction

- 1.1 The Governing Body is pleased to present its report and the accounts of the University College for the year ended 31 July 2017.
- 1.2 The University College is a Higher Education Institution, the principal business of which is the provision of courses in Initial Teacher Education leading to the award of the BEd (Honours) degree validated by Queen's University, Belfast (QUB). The University College also offers a BA (Early Childhood Studies), a BSc (Health, Physical Activity and Sport), a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Early Years Education and a range of courses at Master's level.
- 1.3 The College also offers a range of short courses through its Lifelong Learning and Continuing Professional Development Programme.
- 1.4 Stranmillis University College was founded in 1922, for the purpose of providing teacher education in Northern Ireland. Whilst the core of the University College's work still relates to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes linked to teacher education, it has developed over time into a multi-professional institution. The College's portfolio has expanded to include the related professional fields of Early Childhood Studies and Health, Physical Activity and Sport. These are innovative, multidisciplinary courses which complement teacher education. Over the years the University College has also developed an international strategy and currently works with a significant number of overseas partners. The University College is developing a vibrant culture of scholarship and research related to the field of education. The University College achieved pleasing results in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework and is preparing for the next Framework exercise in 2021.
- 1.5 Stranmillis University College's vision is 'Leading innovative professional practice' and its mission is 'to sustain a vibrant, inclusive learning community, educating, shaping and enriching society through excellence in teaching, scholarship and research.'
- 1.6 The University College was created as an incorporated institution by virtue of the Colleges of Education (NI) Order 2005 which received parliamentary approval on 19th July 2005. The Order was effective from 1 October 2005.
- 1.7 Based on this legislation, the Office for National Statistics reclassified the University College as part of Central Government. This has resulted in the University College, uniquely for a Higher Education Institution within the United Kingdom, being determined as a Non-Department Public Body (NDPB) with effect from 1 April 2012. As such, the Department for the Economy (DfE) has sponsorship responsibility for the University College, the terms of which are set out in a Management Statement and Financial Memorandum (October 2015), agreed with the Department and which is published on the University College's website. The Governing Body and Senior Management within the University College are committed to fulfilling the requirements within the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum.
- 1.8 These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2015, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards (FRS102) and the Financial Memorandum between the Sponsoring Department and the University College.

Financial Results for the Year

1.9 The University College's Income, Expenditure and Results for the year to 31 July 2017 are summarised below:

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Income (including exceptional item)	23,783	12,799
Expenditure (including exceptional item)	(23,812)	(12,630)
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	<u>(29)</u>	<u>169</u>
Actuarial Gain/(Loss) in respect of NILGOSC pension scheme	2,353	(2,740)
Total Comprehensive Income/(Expenditure)	<u>2,324</u>	<u>(2,571)</u>

Exceptional Item – Impairment of Land

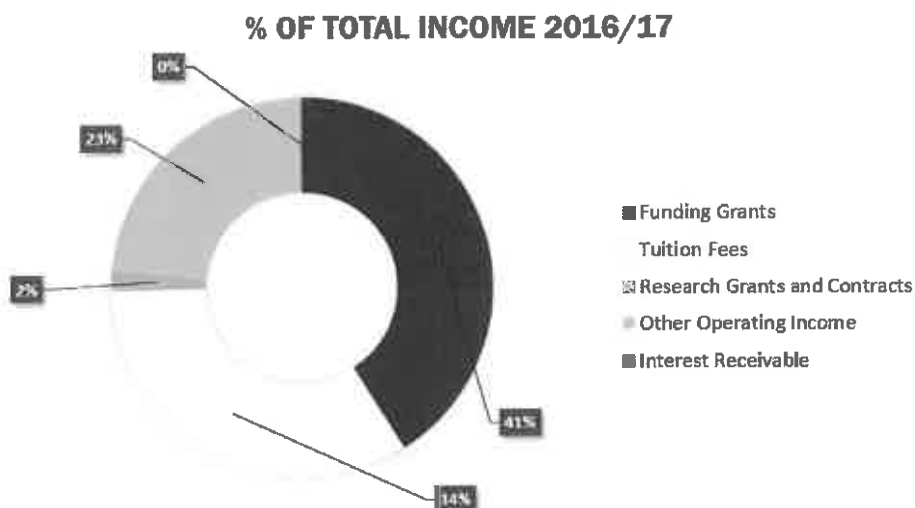
1.10 At 31 July 2017 a review of the College Land and Buildings was carried out by Land and Property Services (L&PS). The review reported that the carrying value of Land held within the financial statements exceeded the current market value by £11.73m resulting in a requirement to write down the value at which Land is held in the Statement of Financial Position. However, upon Incorporation of the College in 2005, the land was transferred from the Sponsoring Department at the prevailing market value at that time and recognised within the Deferred Capital Grant Reserve also in the Statement of Financial Position. The accounting treatment of the land impairment of £11.73m affecting Fixed Assets results in an equal and opposite adjustment to the Deferred Capital Grant Reserve.

This exceptional charge and corresponding Deferred Capital Grant Release have also been recognised within the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure as both exceptional expenditure and exceptional income.

There is therefore no overall impact on the Total Net Assets of the College within the Statement of Financial Position or on the deficit reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

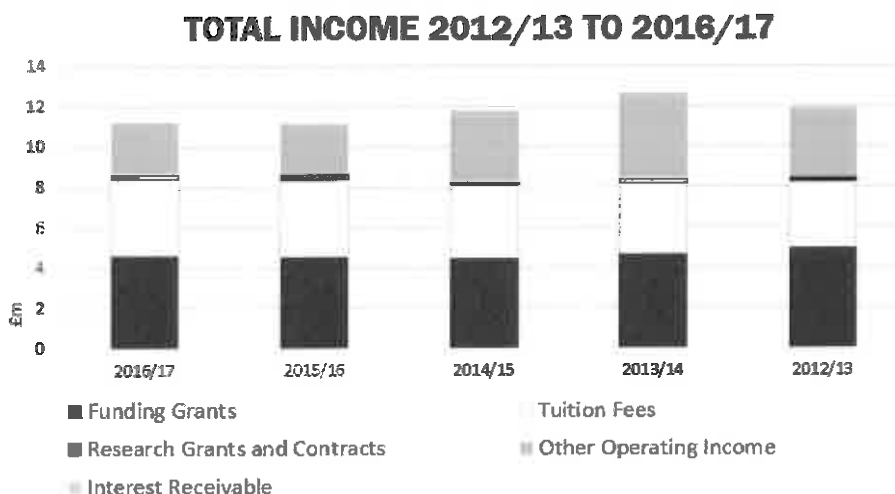
Income

1.11 Total income for the year (excluding Exceptional Item) was £12.1m representing a decrease of £746k (5.8%). The main components of this income (excluding the deferred capital grant release) are shown in the chart below.



1.12 In interpreting income, readers should note that total Funding Grants includes £860k (2016 - £1,711k) of Deferred Capital Grants Released, which related to the matching depreciation charge both on the assets which were inherited by the University College on incorporation in 2005 or which have been grant funded since incorporation. College Land & Buildings assets were assessed at year end by Land & Property Services for condition and remaining useful lives. This resulted in many of the buildings having a longer useful life than previously estimated and thus the depreciation charge has fallen during the current year. This has therefore led to a reduction in the matched Deferred Capital Grant release income. The Deferred Capital Grants Released income therefore does not represent revenue funding actually received in the year from the Sponsor Department. The amounts released represents some 7.1% (2016 – 13.4%) of amounts recorded as income in the year (excluding the exceptional item).

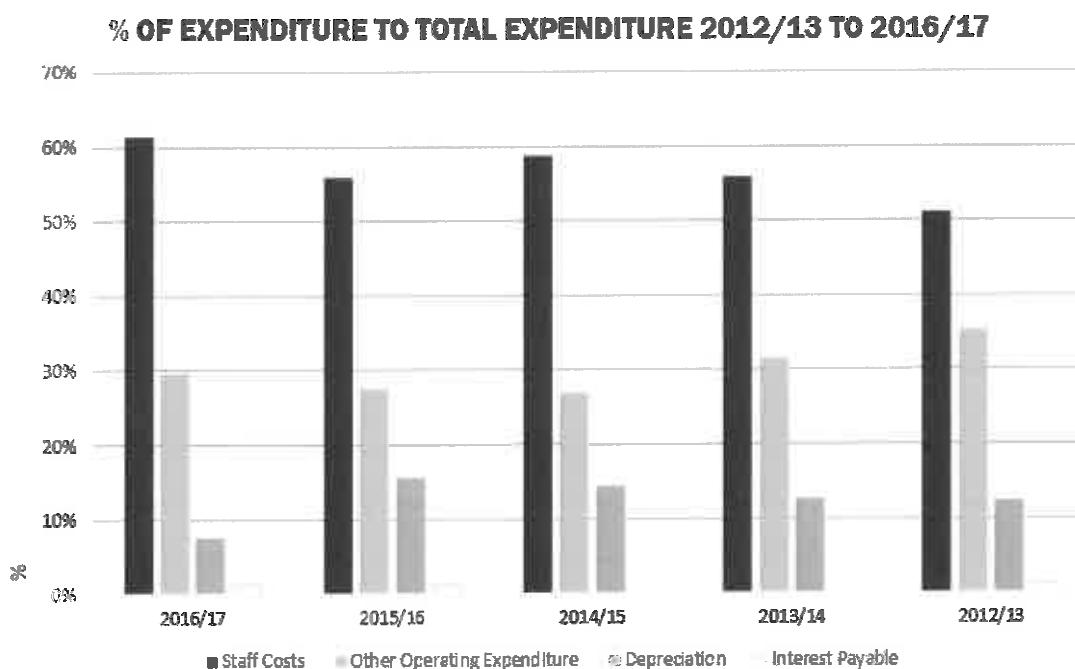
The chart below shows the trends in total income (excluding deferred capital grant release and exceptional items) over the last 5 years.



- 1.13 Tuition Fee income decreased by £5k in the year (2016 – increase of £215k) with income relating to both Full-time and Part-time students remaining fairly static despite cost of living uplifts being applied to fees charged. Total Full-time equivalent student numbers have reduced by 37 to 968 (2016 – 1005) which, offsetting tuition fee increases, has resulted in tuition fee income remaining stable. Tuition Fee income contributed 31.4% (2016 – 29.6%) of Total Income.
- 1.14 Halls of Residence, Catering, Conferencing, Rental and Room Hire income, under the management of the Hospitality Services Department, contributed £2,325k or 19.3% of total income in the year (2016 - £2,272k or 17.8%), an increase of £53k. This steady performance represents a continuance of the very positive results that have been achieved in recent years despite the challenging economic climate.
- 1.15 Sundry Other Income has increased by £48k or 20.6% to £281k in the year (2016 - £233k). This is as a result of increased Lifelong Learning and Continuing Professional Development income by £50k in total in the year. In addition £25k of new income from a Shared Education Project funded by the Education Authority was secured during the year.
- 1.16 Some 23.4% (2016 – 21.3%) of total income in the year was derived from sources other than Sponsoring Department Funding Grants and Tuition Fees. Success is therefore evident from these results of the University College’s strategy in recent years to diversify the sources of its income and therefore reducing reliance on core government funding

Expenditure

- 1.17 Total expenditure for the year was £12.1m (excluding exceptional item) representing a decrease of £548k (4.3%) on prior year. The chart below shows the percentage of total spend over the last 5 years.



- 1.18 After adjusting for the impact of FRS102 NILGOSC pension scheme actuarial valuation, staff costs increased by £193k or 2.8% (2016 - £771k). The College paid out £255,277 during the year under the 2016/2017 Public Sector Transformation Fund (PSTF) Voluntary Exit Scheme (2016 - £225,700). However, this was funded by the Sponsoring Department and thus the same amount has been disclosed under Funding Grants income.

- 1.19 Other Operating Expenditure increased by £108k or 3.1% on the previous year (2016 reduced by £86k and 2.4%). The most significant change in expenditure over the year was increased Refurbishment, Maintenance and Cleaning expenditure which increased by £92k due to charges related to a number of condition surveys commissioned for a number of College buildings and increased health and safety related works. Professional fees increased by £58k during the year reflecting fees incurred in relation to several procurement exercises. Additional expenditure was also experienced in relation to Energy costs, Rates and Insurance and Publications and Subscriptions. Cost savings were achieved within Hospitality Services where operating costs reduced by £44k reflecting lower spend on Maintenance and Repairs/Refurbishment in the year. Reduction in costs have also occurred in a number of other areas.
- 1.20 Depreciation, which represented 7.6% (2016 – 15.5%) of total expenditure, has significantly reduced reflecting a change in accounting estimate in respect of the estimated remaining useful lives of College Buildings.
- 1.21 Included within the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure is a charge of £505k (2016 - £322k) relating to the FRS102 accounting adjustment required as a result of annual actuarial valuation of the NILGOSC pension scheme.
- 1.22 Adjusting for the impact of the FRS102 NILGOSC pension scheme actuarial valuation, an operating surplus of £476k was achieved (2016 - £491k) which is reflected in the increase in Reserves, excluding Pension Reserve. This performance reflects the Governing Body's commitment to the generation of operating surpluses. This financial strategy supports both investment in the campus and on-going sustainability of operations, whilst the necessity to make efficiency savings has been embraced.

Cash Flow

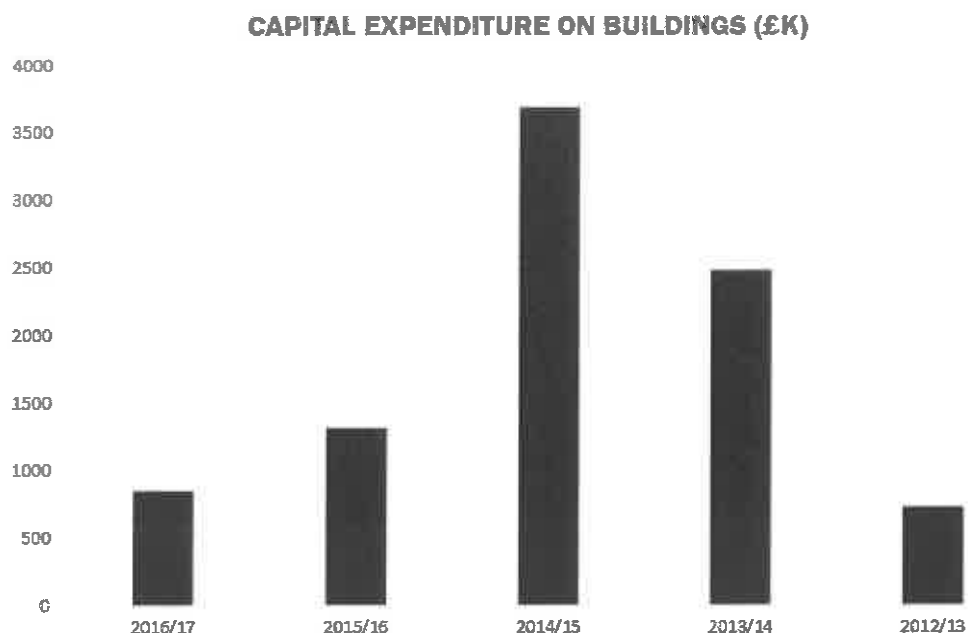
- 1.23 The cash flow statement shows a net increase in cash of £382k (2016 – £113k).

Statement of Financial Position

- 1.24 Overall the Statement of Financial Position shows a Net Asset position of £927k (2016 – Net Liabilities of £1,397k). This swing has resulted from a decrease in the Pension Reserve in the current year to £6.048m compared with £7.896m in the previous year. Despite funding some further capital projects during the year, cash holdings and short term deposits also remain strong at £3.6m (2016 - £3.2m). It is expected, however, that cash holdings will reduce over coming years with further planned investment in infrastructure improvements in line with the College's Estates Strategy as detailed below. However, as noted above Reserves, excluding Pension Reserve, have been strengthened by £476k in the year to £6,975k (2016 - £6,499k).

Capital Investment

- 1.25 During the year the University College invested £851k in building works (2016 - £1,312k). The main works undertaken was the completion of a final phase of refurbishment works to Stranmillis House (£415k). In addition a number of smaller scale projects were undertaken during the year at a cost of £382k including the refurbishment of the Front Gate Lodge, First Floor Foyer of Central Building, Drama Theatre changing facilities and seating and a project improving health and safety on campus roads and pathways. The University College continues to invest its Sponsoring Department's capital allocation in schemes which enhance the teaching and learning environment and improve health and safety for users of the campus. The Chart below shows the capital expenditure in land and buildings over the last 5 years.



- 1.26 In the year the University College received Sponsoring Department capital grants of £976k (2016 - £617k).

Future Developments

- 1.27 The University College has continued to receive more significant levels of recurring Sponsoring Department capital funding than was previously the case.
- 1.28 It is expected that this trend will continue and indeed further significant refurbishment projects on campus will continue with Sponsor Department funding in 2017-18. The University College's most recent Estates Strategy identifies planned works in 2017-18 to include the completion of the Library Fire Precautions and Ceiling and Lighting upgrade and Boiler Replacement projects which commenced in 2016-17 and to progress a project to upgrade the University College's Sports Facilities. A number of other capital projects are at the early stages of development and it is hoped that some of these works will be partially funded by the Sponsoring Department in forthcoming years. However, during this period of unprecedented political instability, there is uncertainty as to the availability and extent of future Sponsor Department capital funding.
- 1.29 The Governing Body is also committed to continue to secure the financial solvency of the University College within the context of its long-term strategy and objectives.

Prompt Payment

- 1.30 The Late Payments of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 1 November 1998 requires, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by HM Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95%.
- 1.31 During the accounting period 1 August 2016 - 31 July 2017, the University College paid 87% of its invoices within 30 days (2016: 96%). The University College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.
- 1.32 The Northern Ireland Executive is committed to paying suppliers as quickly as possible, within 10 working days. During the accounting period 1 August 2016 - 31 July 2017, the University College paid 67% of its invoices within 10 days (2016: 84%).

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

- 1.33 Outlined in the Governance Statement in the Table at Paragraph 2.33, is a description of the principal risk factors that may impact on the achievement of the corporate objectives set out in the University College's Corporate Plan 2015-18. These embrace the Principal Risks and Uncertainties identified in the paragraphs below, principally through the additional actions being taken to manage Risks 2, 3 and 7. It should be noted in this respect that not all the factors are within the University College's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the University College.
- 1.34 There continues to be considerable budget constraints across NI Departments and consequential budget constraints in relation to Teacher Education; these pose further consequential challenges for the Sponsoring Department and in particular for Higher Education, including the University College in relation to the delivery of its strategic vision.
- 1.35 There is also continuing uncertainty in relation to how Brexit will be delivered and the impact on Higher Education, particularly in relation to EU funding streams for collaborative research projects and staff/student mobility between EU countries.
- 1.36 Forthcoming changes in the policy environment in relation to the Teaching Excellence Framework and the introduction of the new Operating Framework for Quality Assessment also mean that the University College is continuing to operate in a challenging and changing Public Policy environment.
- 1.37 As outlined in more detail in the Governance Statement, a Risk Register is maintained at Corporate level which is reviewed at meetings of the Governing Body and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. Risks are also considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Education Committee and the HR and Remuneration Committee. The Risk Register identifies the key risks facing the University College, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the University College, the controls that are in place to manage the risks and the actions being taken to further reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system. Risk Registers are also maintained in key operational areas within the College and this is supported by the provision of Risk Management coaching and awareness. All information on risks is published internally and staff are encouraged to review the Risk Registers on a regular basis in line with the University College's Risk Management Policy. Following a review of the Risk Management Policy in 2016-17, this now includes the identification of sources of assurance.

Stakeholder Relationships

- 1.38 In line with other higher education institutions, the University College has many stakeholders. These include staff, students, the Department for the Economy and the Department of Education, other education institutions, trade unions and professional bodies as well as private sector employers and the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.39 The University College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with them through the University College internet site, by meetings and via representation on various external organisations' stakeholder groups, committees etc. The University College considers good communication with its staff and its stakeholders to be very important and has developed a Communications Strategy to ensure continuous improvement in this area. The University College also encourages staff and student involvement through a range of fora, including through membership of the Governing Body.

Equal Opportunities and Employment of Disabled Persons

- 1.40 By virtue of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the University College, in carrying out all its functions, powers and duties is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

1.41 Without prejudice to its obligations above, the University College has, in carrying out its functions, had regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. The University College has included the promotion of good relations as part of the corporate planning process.

1.42 The University College is committed to the fulfilment of its Section 75 obligations in all parts of the organisation. The University College is committed to allocating necessary resources to ensure that the statutory duties are complied with and that the measures within the Equality Scheme to promote equality of opportunity are implemented effectively and on time.

Diversity and Equality Statement

1.43 With respect to its student body and staffing the University College is committed to developing an environment that is inclusive, fair, open and welcoming of individuals from all community backgrounds, all ethnic groups in Northern Ireland and people with disabilities. Diversity is embraced as a key value within the University College and equality is recognised, encouraged, promoted and valued at all levels of the organisation and in all its functions.

1.44 Recent years have seen significant alterations to help make the campus buildings more accessible for persons with a disability. Improvements are on-going to further improve physical access and provide additional technologies and support students with a disability including those suffering from dyslexia. The University College will ensure that every effort is made to meet the support needs of its key stakeholders.

Professor Sir Desmond Rea



Chairman: 28th November 2017

2 GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 2.1 As the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, together with the Principal as Accounting Officer, we have the responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding the public and other funds and assets for which we are responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to the Governing Body in the Instrument and Articles of Government and the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum agreed with the Sponsor Department.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.
- 2.3 The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them effectively, efficiently and economically. This process has been in place for the period ended 31 July 2017 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements, and accords with guidance in the Orange Book, published by HM Treasury.
- 2.4 The University College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance. This summary describes the manner in which the University College has applied the principles set out in the 'Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments (NI): Code of Good Practice (the Code) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) (now the Department of Finance (DoF)) in 2013; and the Higher Education Code of Governance, published by the Committee of University Chairs in December 2014.
- 2.5 Throughout the period ended 31 July 2017, the University College has been in compliance with the provisions of the Code insofar as they relate to the College. The University College also substantially complies with the Higher Education Code of Governance. This was confirmed in an Internal Audit Review of Corporate Governance in the College in 2015-16, in which 'Substantial Assurance' was awarded. Following a further internal review against the Higher Education Code of Governance in September 2016, actions are being taken to strengthen further the University College's Governance arrangements across a range of areas. During 2016-17 for example, action has been taken in the areas of assurance on Data Quality which was included in the Internal Audit Plan for 2016-17 and will be part of the Annual Audit Programme going forward. The Auditors now also provide assurance that any potential deficits on pension funds are properly reported in the Annual Accounts.

Reviews of the Policy Screening process, and Article 55 in relation to Equality targets were also completed as well as an assessment which confirmed that the College does not have any partnerships which would involve significant institutional risks.

Action will continue to be taken in 2017-18 to:

- revise reporting to the Governing Body on Equality and Diversity;
- develop/review and update Diversity Policies;
- provide regular reports on Equality and Diversity to the HR and Remuneration Committee;
- provide training for staff on Equality and Diversity issues; and
- review the effectiveness of the Governing Body in relation to its role with regard to Academic Governance.

Composition of the Governing Body

- 2.6 The Governing Body comprises 10 lay members, a student representative and two staff representatives, all of whom are appointed by the Sponsor Department. The roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body are separated from the role of the College's Principal, and Chief Executive, who is also a member of the Governing Body.

Allocation of Responsibilities

- 2.7 The Principal and Chief Executive, as Designated Accounting Officer for the University College has allocated responsibilities amongst the four Directors in the College, while retaining overall responsibility for propriety and regularity, prudent and economical administration of the College, avoidance of waste and extravagance, ensuring value for money, effective and efficient use of available resources, organisation, staffing and management.

Governing Body Operating Framework

- 2.8 The Governing Body has established an Operating Framework, which sets out its role and responsibilities for the ongoing strategic direction of the University College, the monitoring of an annual Business Plan, approval of major developments and the receipt of regular reports from the Principal as Chief Executive and senior management on the day-to-day operations of its business.
- 2.9 The University College subscribes to the principles of public life and has adopted a Code of Conduct for members of the Governing Body. A Register of Interests is maintained and updated on a regular basis and is published on the University College Website for the information of staff and the public. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest is a standing Agenda Item for all meetings of the Governing Body and its Committees and these are handled on a case-by-case basis as outlined in the Operating Framework and Terms of Reference for each Committee.

Governing Body Meetings and Attendance

- 2.10 During 2016-17, the Governing Body met on 5 occasions. Attendance at meetings was as follows:

Date	Number in Attendance out of 14
13 September 2016	13
18 October 2016	12
29 November 2016	8
21 February 2017	11
13 June 2017	10

- 2.11 A broad range of business was considered by the Governing Body in keeping with the Instrument and Articles of Government for the University College and the Governing Body's Operating Framework and Annual Work Plan. This included amongst other matters:

- Consideration of a report and accompanying action plan relating to the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and student outcomes and the signing of the annual Assurance Statement for the Department.
- Academic Accountability, including the outcome of the Annual Provider Review, which confirmed that the University College is meeting requirements;
- Corporate Planning, Monitoring and Reporting;
- Visiting Professors' Reports;

- Corporate Risks and Risk Management Policy and Strategy, including a review of the College's Corporate Risks/Risk Appetite on 13 June 2017 and a workshop in February 2017 to consider the University College's Fraud Risks;
- Corporate Finance monitoring and Budget and the Annual Financial Statements and Audit Findings;
- Staffing, including recruitment and Promotion and Voluntary Exit/Redundancy arrangements;
- A range of Human Resource Policies and Procedures, for example on Induction, Staff Probation, Recruitment and Selection, Academic Promotion, Dignity at Work and Study, Appraisal and Staff Health and Wellbeing; and
- A range of other Policies, Procedures and Strategies, for example on Health and Safety, Scholarship and Research, Information Security, Anti-Fraud and Bribery and Estate Management.

2.12 The Governing Body also considered its composition, skills and experience during 2016-17 and revised its Operating Framework, including the Terms of Reference of its Committees. A comprehensive review of Standing Orders was also undertaken as well as a benchmarking exercise against the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Code of Governance for Higher Education. A more comprehensive and independent review of the Governing Body's effectiveness will take place in due course. A further review will be undertaken during 2017-18 of the Governing Body's Operating Framework and the Terms of Reference and Membership of the following Governing Body Committees:

- Education Committee;
- HR and Remuneration Committee;
- Finance and General Purposes Committee;
- Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

2.13 All Committees comprise Non-Executive members of the Governing Body and have been established to support and advise the Governing Body on matters relating to its full range of responsibilities.

Operation of Governing Body Committees

Education Committee

2.14 During 2016-17, the Education Committee, comprising two Members, met on 3 occasions. All meetings were quorate. The Committee fulfilled its core work programme, which included consideration of:

- statistical analysis of data;
- reports on Teaching and Learning, Scholarship and Research, International Development, Student Support and Wellbeing and Lifelong Learning;
- Updates on the Teaching Excellence Framework and the new Quality Assurance (QAA) arrangements;
- the 2016 Selection Report;
- Student Complaints and Appeals;
- A revised Research Strategy;
- The submission to Queen's University for the Annual Programme Review;
- a presentation on the Uganda Project; and

- a report on the Males in Teaching Conference.

2.15 The Committee also routinely considered whether there were any risks emerging from discussions that would need to be reflected within operational/corporate Risk Registers.

HR and Remuneration Committee

2.16 The HR and Remuneration Committee met on 3 occasions during the year in line with its Terms of Reference. All meetings were quorate and were attended as follows:

Date	Number in attendance out of 4
4 October 2016	3
21 March 2017	3
1 June 2017	3

2.17 During the year the Committee considered:

- a range of staffing matters, including recruitment/promotion, Redundancy and Voluntary Exit proposals referred to it by Senior Management;
- performance reports and key objectives and targets for Senior Management;
- the Staff Development End of Year Report;
- a Shared Parental Leave Policy;
- a Code of Conduct;
- an Induction Policy;
- Staff Probation Policy;
- Dignity at Work and Study Policy;
- Academic Promotion Policy;
- Appraisal Policy and Procedure;
- Equality Screening Procedure;
- Recruitment and Selection Policy;
- a Staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- the Draft Disability Action Plan;
- Staff Survey arrangements;
- Management views in relation to applying for Investors in People accreditation;
- Industrial Relations and Staff Consultation; and;
- the Fair Employment Monitoring Report;

2.18 The Committee also considered any risks emerging from the business discussed during the year.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

2.19 During 2016-17, the Finance and General Purposes Committee met on 5 occasions in line with its Terms of Reference. All meetings were quorate and attendance was as follows:

Date	Number in attendance out of 5
4 October 2016	4
22 November 2016	3
8 February 2017	3
21 March 2017	3
23 May 2017	3

2.20 At each meeting the Committee considered a detailed Finance and Procurement Report, including the management accounts, procurement activity and any associated issues, including contract issues and progress on the development of Business Continuity Plans as well as updates on the College's Estates Strategy. The Committee also received a business report at its meeting in May 2017 from Hospitality and Accommodation Services. The latter will report to all meetings of the Committee going forward.

2.21 Consideration was also given during the year to:

- Health and Safety Policy and Organisation Arrangements;
- Information Security Policy and Incident Reporting Procedures;
- The College's Financial Statements and Annual Report;
- Treasury Management Policy;
- Voluntary Exit proposals;
- Business Case proposals;
- the College Budget, Halls Fees, catering charges and end of year Report and Financial Statements, before these were formally submitted to the Governing Body;

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

2.22 The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, comprising 3 Non-Executive members held 4 meetings during the year in line with its Terms of Reference. Attendance at meetings was as follows. All meetings were quorate.

Date	Number in attendance out of 3
22 September 2016	3
24 November 2016	2
6 March 2017	2
1 June 2017	3

College and Other Attendees

Meetings were also attended by the Principal (Accounting Officer) and the Head of Finance during the year as set out below. The Secretary to the Governing Body also attended all meetings to provide secretarial services. In this respect, the Chair met with the Secretary before each meeting to agree the Agenda and discuss relevant issues.

Date/In Attendance	22 September 2016	24 November 2016	6 March 2017	1 June 2017
Principal/Accounting Officer	√	√	√	√
Head of Finance	√	√	√	√
Head of Internal Audit	√	√	√	√√
Head of External Audit				√
Secretary to the Governing Body	√	√	√	√

Other members of the College attended as required to deliver specific papers.

A representative from the Department also attended the Committee in March 2017 and June 2017 and will attend all meetings of the Committee going forward.

- 2.23 The Committee operated in accordance with the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Handbook NI, issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel (now the Department of Finance).
- 2.24 The Committee considered detailed reports from senior management and the Internal and External Auditors on the University College's systems of internal control and governance and monitored progress on the implementation of recommendations for improvements in internal controls. Specific business included:
- agreement of the Internal Audit Risk Assessment and Strategy 2016-17 – 2018-19 and associated annual plans;
 - the Audit Recommendations Monitoring Schedule;
 - Good Practice on the use of Purchasing Cards;
 - Business Continuity Planning updates;
 - consideration of the new Information Security Policy;
 - consideration of procurement issues;
 - consideration of the updated Risk Management Policy and Strategy;
 - monitoring of Direct Award Contracts;
 - progress in rolling out the College's Risk Management arrangements to operational level;
 - a review of the College's Financial and Assurance Statements, Audit Findings and Governance Statement in respect of the year 2015-16;
 - review of controls in relation to third party service dependencies;
 - a lessons learned report in relation to Post Project Evaluations;
 - review of the Freedom of Information Annual Report, Annual Fraud Return, and a report on Whistleblowing as well as a report on action taken following the exercise to benchmark against 'Managing Fraud and Risk in a Changing Environment';
 - a Role Description for the Departmental Observer;
 - consideration of policies on Treasury Management and Business Continuity Planning; and
 - prompt payment statistics for the period 2016-17, which were considered by the Committee in October 2017.
- 2.25 The Committee also reviewed Advisory Reports from Internal Audit, including a report on the Fraud Risk Review and Governance training for the Students' Union.
- 2.26 In the Committee's annual report to the Governing Body, the Chair of the Committee concluded that based on the assurances received from Internal and External Audit in respect of 2016-17, the Committee was satisfied that the University College's arrangements for corporate governance and internal control and risk management are basically sound.

Meetings with Internal and External Audit

- 2.27 Rather than holding annual meetings with the Auditors to discuss matters of mutual interest, the Committee met in private session with the Head of Internal Audit before the main meetings of the Committee in November 2016, March 2017 and June 2017. The Committee also met in private session with the Head of External Audit in November 2016 to discuss the University College's Financial and Assurance Statements, Audit Findings and Governance Statement in respect of the year 2015-16. A further meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest and to agree the audit plan for the Financial and Assurance and Governance Statements 2016-17, took place in June 2017. The Audit findings were considered by the Committee in November 2017.

Review of Effectiveness

- 2.28 The Committee also conducted a review of its effectiveness on 1 June 2017; using the National Audit Office Checklist as a benchmarking tool for this year on year. All outstanding items emerging from the Review which was undertaken in 2015-16 were addressed during 2016-17 and only minor recommendations for action in 2017-18 were identified. These related to oversight of the accounts prior to external audit and having sight of the Letter of Representation before it is signed by the Accounting Officer.
- 2.29 In conclusion, the Committee was satisfied that based on guidance from the National Audit Office, that it is compliant with the five good practice principles in the Audit Committee Handbook issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel (now the Department of Finance) in March 2014 and that there were no material issues. The Committee effectively supports the Governing Body and Accounting Officer; it reviews its performance on an annual basis; is suitably independent and objective and has the appropriate mix of skills.

Operational and Academic Governance Committees

- 2.30 The Principal as Chief Executive has established a number of operational and academic governance Committees to support good governance in the University College:
- **A Corporate Planning Team**, which assists the Principal as Chief Executive in developing the core corporate services and associated Business Plan to support the delivery of the University College's Mission and Vision as articulated in the Corporate Plan which has been approved by the Governing Body;
 - **A Senior Leadership Committee** which is responsible for the development of the Corporate Plan which is subject to approval by the Governing Body. This Committee is also responsible for the development, implementation and reviewing of approved strategies to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan, including financial and resource planning;
 - **An Academic Leadership Committee** to assist the Senior Leadership Committee in the planning and development of a sustainable academic portfolio to support the delivery of the College's Mission and Vision as articulated in the Corporate Plan. This Committee also considers recommendations for approval for new programmes and new partners and the suspension or discontinuation of existing programmes and partners. The Committee identifies the likely resource requirements (including potential requirements for IT, library services, timetabling, student support, outreach and admissions) of new programmes and partnerships and promotes dialogue between academic and professional services to develop viable, market-informed programmes that are aligned with the University College's strategic plans;
 - **A Teaching & Learning Committee** which acts as a proactive and strategic body for the monitoring and enhancing of the quality and standards of learning, teaching, assessment and curricula of the University College. Its primary role is to ensure that quality assurance procedures are implemented and taking responsibility for promoting quality enhancement across the University College.
- 2.31 The Academic Governance Committees described above were approved by the Governing Body in October 2016 and will be subject to review by an ad-hoc Committee of the Governing Body during 2017-18.

Quality of Data

- 2.32 The Governing Body is satisfied that comprehensive arrangements are in place within the University College to ensure that quality information is received by the Governing Body to enable it to make informed decisions. Strategic issues reserved for the Governing Body's attention are scheduled in an annual work plan and a categorised agenda is drawn up for each meeting. There are internal controls to validate accuracy and completeness of information presented to the Governing Body; detailed minutes record the business carried out and action agreed. In addition, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee provides a challenge function which helps to ensure that emerging issues are highlighted and brought to the attention of the Governing Body. Assurance on Data Quality is also provided through the work of Internal and External Audit and validation of student data for example, is provided through the submission and review of HESA returns.

College Risk Profile and Assessment of Risks

2.33 The Governing Body and its Committees, considered risks facing the University College at all meetings during 2016-17. A Risk Workshop, which was attended by Governing Body Members and key staff in the University College was also held during the year to consider the University College's Fraud Risk profile. As a result, Fraud Risks are now included where appropriate in Departmental Risk Registers. The Governing Body has received assurance that all Risks, including Fraud Risks, are being managed appropriately and controlled and that further actions to manage risks to an appropriate level were continuously being considered. Those Risks which were included in the Corporate Risk Register during 2016-17 are as set out in the following table:

Risk Number	Risk	Inherent Assessment	Residual Assessment
1	The absence of coherent Teaching and Learning Strategies which put Students (including International Students) at the heart of developing practice in the University College will impact the delivery of high quality outcomes for Students; undermining the University College's reputation and impacting income generation.		
2	Failure to have a comprehensive and coherent strategy in place for expansion and delivery of International Programmes will have a major impact on the sustainability of International Development within the University College and its contribution to Income Generation, development of wider Partnerships internationally and student experience opportunities.		
3	The absence of a coherent strategy for further developing the capacity of the University College to generate its own income will impact sustainability of the University College's current business model.		
4	Failure to protect and guard against loss or inappropriate access to personal and sensitive information within the University College, including from the risk of cyber-attack, could have a major impact on the University College, both reputationally and financially.		
5	Failure to have the right people in the right place at the right time will impact on the delivery of the Corporate Plan.		
6	Failure to have a comprehensive, integrated communications platform will impact communication and opportunities for teaching and learning.		
7	The absence of a coherent research strategy which takes account of opportunities and threats will impact on the College's research environment, staff publications, funding income and research impact, ultimately damaging the College's research profile and reputation.		
8	Failure to have appropriate frameworks in place for managing capital projects and minor routine maintenance means that the College is not able to deliver its Estates Strategy and objectives in an effective and efficient manner and ensure compliance with statutory requirements.		

Data Security

- 2.34 The University College is responsible for processing and storing personal and sensitive information and is committed to ensuring that all information assets are managed lawfully and securely. A substantial body of work commenced during 2015-16 to strengthen the University College's information asset management arrangements, including the establishment of an Information Asset Register and the development of formal policies on Records Management, Information Security, and Information Security Reporting. A Best Practice Guide and Information Asset Owner Handbook for staff have been developed and these arrangements, which have been approved by the Governing Body, will be implemented during 2017-18. There were no reports during the year of any significant data losses.

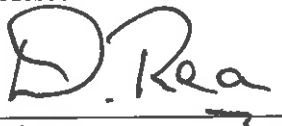
Conclusion

- 2.35 Our review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by Internal Audit, which operates in accordance with Northern Ireland Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The Internal Auditors submit regular reports which include an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the institution's system of internal control, with recommendations for improvement. The University College achieved an overall satisfactory level of assurance as a result of the 2016-17 programme of internal audit reviews.
- 2.36 Our review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is also informed by the work of the executive managers within the institution, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and by comments made by the External Auditors in their management letter and other reports.
- 2.37 We are satisfied that the University College has an effective governance structure and is operating to a high standard of integrity and probity. In signing this Governance Statement, we have taken assurances from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, which will continue to monitor Audit recommendations to ensure that all issues are addressed in a timely manner.

Dr A Heaslett


Principal and Chief Executive
28th November 2017

Professor Sir Desmond Rea


Chairman
28th November 2017

3 STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- 3.1 The Governing Body of the University College is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the University College and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.
- 3.2 Within the terms and conditions of the Financial Memorandum agreed between the Sponsoring Department and the Governing Body of the University College, the Governing Body, through its Chair, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the University College and the result for that year.
- 3.3 In preparing the financial statements the Governing Body is required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
 - make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
 - state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
 - prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the University College will continue in operation.
- 3.4 The Governing Body is also required to prepare an Annual Report which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including the legal and administrative status of the University College.
- 3.5 The Governing Body is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the University College and enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation and other relevant accounting standards. It has general responsibility for taking such steps that are reasonably open to it to safeguard assets of the University College and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.
- 3.6 The maintenance and integrity of the University College website is the responsibility of the Governing Body of the University College; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.
- 3.7 The Governing Body has taken reasonable steps to:
- ensure that funds from the Sponsoring Department are used only for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with the Financial Memorandum agreed with the Sponsoring Department and other conditions which the Sponsoring Department may from time to time prescribe;
 - ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
 - safeguard the assets of the University College and prevent and detect fraud;
 - secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the University College's resources and expenditure.

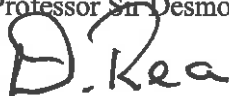
Disclosure of Information to Auditors

3.8 So far as each of the members of the Governing Body is aware at the time this report is approved:

- a) there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and
- b) that the members of the Governing Body have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Governors by:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea



Chairman: 28th November 2017



Independent auditor's report to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Stranmillis University College ('the College') for the year ended 31 July 2017, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure, Statement of Changes in Reserves, the Statement of Financial Position, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including the Statement of principle accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion, Stranmillis University College's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the financial position of the College as at 31 July 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the 2015 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ('ISAs') and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the College in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, namely FRC's Ethical Standard concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the governors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the governors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the College's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

Other information comprises information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, including the Responsibilities of the Governing Body. The governors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies in the financial statements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are requested to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Financial Memorandum requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of senior management specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit;
- the Governance Statement is inconsistent with our knowledge of the College.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including FRS102, and for such internal control as governors determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, governors are responsible for assessing the College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governors either intend to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Governing Body are responsible for overseeing the College's financial reporting process.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements

The objectives of an auditor are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), the auditor will exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. They will also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by governors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of governor's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the College's ability to continue as a going concern. If they conclude that a material uncertainty exists, they are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify their opinion. Their conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the College to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a matter that achieves a true and fair view.

The auditor communicates with the Governing Body regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that may be identified during the audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the College's governors, as a body, in accordance with the Financial Memorandum. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the College's governors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the College and the College's governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by Financial Memorandum with the Sponsoring Department

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- income from the Sponsoring Department, grants and income, for specific purposes and from other restricted funds administered by the College during the year ended 31 July 2017 have been applied for the purposes for which they were received; and
- income during the year ended 31 July 2017 has been applied in accordance with the College's statutes and where appropriate, with the Financial Memorandum with the Sponsoring Department.



Louise Kelly
For and on behalf of
Grant Thornton (NI) LLP
Registered Auditors
Chartered Accountants
Belfast
28th November 2017

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the Year Ended 31 July 2017

		2017 £	2016 £
Income	NOTE		
Funding Grants	(2)	5,448,109	6,285,576
Tuition Fees	(3)	3,782,712	3,787,503
Research Grants and Contracts	(4)	196,203	197,684
Other Operating Income	(6)	2,605,580	2,505,132
Interest Receivable		20,332	23,225
Total Income before exceptional item		<u>12,052,936</u>	<u>12,799,120</u>
Exceptional Item - Deferred Capital Grant release	(12)	11,730,000	-
Total Income after exceptional item		<u>23,782,936</u>	<u>12,799,120</u>
Expenditure			
Staff Costs	(7) & (8)	7,404,344	7,042,522
Other Operating Expenditure	(10)	3,580,953	3,472,531
Depreciation	(13)	922,238	1,954,570
Interest Payable		174,000	160,000
Total Expenditure before exceptional item		<u>12,081,535</u>	<u>12,629,623</u>
Exceptional Item – Impairment of Land	(12)	11,730,000	-
Total Expenditure after exceptional item		<u>23,811,535</u>	<u>12,629,623</u>
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus before tax		<u>(28,599)</u>	<u>169,497</u>
Taxation			
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus after tax		<u>(28,599)</u>	<u>169,497</u>
Actuarial gain/(loss) in respect of pension scheme	(20)	2,353,000	(2,740,000)
Total comprehensive income / (expenditure) for the year	(20)	<u>2,324,401</u>	<u>(2,570,503)</u>

All amounts above relate to the continuing operations of the University College.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

		2017 £	2016 £
Reconciliation			
Opening Reserves		(1,397,318)	1,173,185
Total Recognised Income/(Expenditure) for the year		2,324,401	(2,570,503)
Closing Reserves	(20)	<u>927,083</u>	<u>(1,397,318)</u>

The notes on pages 32 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 July 2017


	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Tangible Assets	(13)	41,720,343	53,511,768
Total Fixed Assets		<u>41,720,343</u>	<u>53,511,768</u>
Trade and other receivables	(14)	192,495	145,272
Cash and cash equivalents	(15)	3,596,091	3,213,863
Total Current Assets		<u>3,788,586</u>	<u>3,359,135</u>
Less: Bank overdraft		-	-
Creditors – amounts falling within one year	(16)	<u>(2,073,230)</u>	<u>(3,148,974)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>1,715,356</u>	<u>210,161</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>43,435,699</u>	<u>53,721,929</u>
Less: Creditors – Amounts falling due after more than one year	(17)	(36,460,616)	(47,223,247)
Less: Provisions for Liabilities and Charges	(18)	(6,048,000)	(7,896,000)
NET ASSETS		<u>927,083</u>	<u>(1,397,318)</u>
Reserves	(20)	6,975,083	6,498,682
Pension Reserve	(20)	(6,048,000)	(7,896,000)
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>927,083</u>	<u>(1,397,318)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Governing Body on 28th November 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

Dr A Heaslett


Principal and Chief Executive
28th November 2017

Professor Sir Desmond Rea


Chairman
28th November 2017

The notes on pages 32 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
For the Year Ended 31 July 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Comprehensive Income/(Expenditure) for the year		2,324,401	(2,570,503)
Adjustments for Non-Cash Items			
Depreciation	(13)	922,238	1,954,570
Impairment	(13)	11,730,000	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(14)	(47,223)	290,417
Decrease in Creditors	(16)	(224,840)	(217,716)
(Decrease)/Increase in Pension Provision	(18)	(1,848,000)	3,062,000
Adjustments for Investing or Financing Activities			
Investment Income		(20,332)	(23,225)
Interest Payable		174,000	160,000
Capital Grant Income Released	(2) & (19)	(859,948)	(1,710,852)
Capital Grant Income Released – Impairment of Land Exceptional item	(12) & (19)	(11,730,000)	-
Net Cash Inflow From Operating Activities		420,296	944,691
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Investment Income		20,332	23,225
Capital Grants Received	(19)	976,413	616,615
Payments Made to Acquire Fixed Assets	(13)	(860,813)	(1,311,217)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Interest Paid		(174,000)	(160,000)
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		382,228	113,314
Net Funds at 1 August	(15)	3,213,863	3,100,549
Net Funds at 31 July	(15)	3,596,091	3,213,863

The notes on pages 32 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year to 31 July 2017

1 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Format of Accounts**

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2015, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards (FRS102) and the Financial Memorandum between the Department and the University College (October 2015).

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention of fixed assets and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards.

(b) **Recognition of Income**

Income from tuition fees is recognised in the period for which it is receivable and includes all fees chargeable to students or their sponsors. The costs of any fees waived by the University College are included as expenditure in Note 10.

Income from grants, contracts and other services rendered is included to the extent of the completion of the contract or service concerned. All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned.

The recurrent grant and other revenue grants received from the Sponsoring Department are recognised in income over the periods in which the College recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate. Where part of a government grant is deferred it is recognised as deferred income within creditors and allocated between creditors due within one year and creditors due after more than one year as appropriate.

(c) **Capital Grants**

Non-recurrent grants from the Sponsoring Department received in respect of the acquisition of fixed assets are recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset.

(d) **Pension Schemes**

The two principal pension schemes for the college's staff are the Northern Ireland Teacher's Pension Scheme (NITPS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) defined benefit schemes, which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme. Payments are made to the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS) for academic staff and to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) for non-academic staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

The NITPS is an unfunded contributory, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The current regulations under which the scheme operates are the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations (NI) 1998 (as amended). The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the college is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

The employer contribution rate has continued at 17.7% from 1 April 2015 and will (as far as the College is aware) remain at this rate for the 2017 - 18 financial year. A full actuarial review of the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme is currently in progress.

NILGOSC is a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the second state Pension Scheme. The Funds are valued every three years by actuaries using the projected unit method, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuaries. Pension costs are assessed on the basis of the latest actuarial valuations of the schemes and are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period during which the college benefits from the employees' services. Variations from regular cost are spread over the expected average remaining working lifetime of members of the schemes after making allowances for future withdrawals.

The difference between the fair value of the assets held in the college's defined benefit pension scheme and the scheme's liabilities measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method are recognised in the college's Statement of Financial Position as a pension scheme asset or liability as appropriate. The carrying value of any resulting pension scheme asset is restricted to the extent that the college is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme.

Changes in the defined benefit pension scheme asset or liability arising from factors other than cash contribution by the college are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2016 by the Committee's Actuary, AON Hewitt and is subject to the new regulations for the LGPS (NI) 2015 scheme. Employer's contribution rates dropped from 20% to 18% during the financial year (April 2017). However, an additional "Deficit Recovery" standard charge has been levied by the Scheme from April 2017 onwards. The Employer Rate will rise to 19% and 20% in the two forthcoming financial years. The standard Deficit Recovery charge will also continue during this period.

(e) Tangible Fixed Assets

Land and Buildings

Land and buildings inherited from the Sponsoring Department on incorporation are stated in the Statement of Financial Position at valuation (less any impairment) on the basis of depreciated replacement cost, as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold buildings and major adaptations to buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the University College of between 20 and 50 years unless there is any evidence that suggests that the useful life is less than 20 years in which case the building is depreciated over the shorter period. A review of building condition and useful lives is reassessed every 3 – 5 years.

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to deferred income and are released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy. Finance costs which are directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings are not capitalised as part of the cost of those assets. A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any fixed asset may not be recoverable.

Equipment & Motor Vehicles

Equipment costing less than £10,000 per individual item is written off to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All assets are depreciated over their useful economic life as follows:

- Motor vehicles and general equipment – 3 - 5 years;
- Computer equipment – 3 years;
- Furniture and fittings – 5 years.

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific grants, it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy, with the related grant being credited to deferred income and released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure over the expected useful economic life of the related equipment.

(f) Maintenance of Premises

The cost of routine corrective maintenance is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in the period that it is incurred.

(g) Foreign Currency Translation

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year, with all resulting exchange differences being taken to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in the period in which they arise.

(h) Taxation

The University College is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993 and as such is a charity within the meaning of section Part 11 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 2010 (CTA 2010). Accordingly, the University College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11 of CTA 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The University College receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. The University College is exempted from levying VAT on most of the services it provides to students. For this reason the University College is partially exempt in respect of VAT, so that it can only recover a minor element of VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature.

(i) Liquid Resources

Liquid resources include sums on short-term deposits with recognised banks.

(j) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the University College has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

(k) Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements are required when applying accounting policies. These are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The University College makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future, which can involve a high degree of judgement or complexity. These resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below:

i. Recovery of debtors

Estimates are made in respect of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing the level of provisions required, factors including current trading experience, historical experience and the ageing profile of debtors are considered.

ii. Defined benefit pension scheme obligations

Pension scheme obligations are an estimate of the amount required to pay the benefits that employees have earned in exchange for current and past service, assessed and discounted to present value using

the assumptions shown in Note 22. The University College relies on information received from the independent actuary to determine each assumption used which reflects historical experience and current trends.

(I) Exceptional Items

The University College has adopted an accounting policy and Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure format that seeks to highlight significant items of income and expenditure for the year. The University College believes that this presentation provides a more helpful analysis as it highlights one-off "exceptional" items by virtue of their scale and nature. Such items include any significant impairment of assets or significant releases from the Deferred Capital Grant.

2 FUNDING GRANTS

The total received from the Sponsoring Department comprised:

	2017 £	2016 £
Recurrent Grant	4,224,867	4,241,007
Release of deferred capital grants	859,948	1,710,852
Widening Participation	50,634	50,634
Research Funding	57,383	57,383
PSTF Voluntary Exit Scheme Funding	255,277	225,700
	5,448,109	6,285,576

3 TUITION FEES

Variable tuition fees were introduced with effect from 1 August 2006. The rate for 2016-17 was set at £3,925 for full-time students (2016: £3,805). No students were charged tuition fee under the pre 2006 funding regime in 2016-17.

	2017 £	2016 £
Full-time Students	3,213,971	3,221,270
Part-time Students	568,741	566,233
Total Fees paid by/on behalf of Students	3,782,712	3,787,503

4 RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

	2017 £	2016 £
UK Based Charities	5,207	39,368
European Commission	108,245	61,964
Other Grants and Contracts	82,751	96,352
Total	<u>196,203</u>	<u>197,684</u>

5 NUMBER OF STUDENTS

	2017	2016
BEd	537	552
PGCE	15	15
PGCE International	9	10
BA (ECS)	138	153
BSC (HPA&S)	114	113
TOTAL – FULL TIME	<u>813</u>	<u>843</u>

The University College continued to offer a range of courses at Master's and Certificate level attracting 114 students (2016: 141 students). In addition 152 students (2016: 151 students) undertook part-time undergraduate courses. This equated to 155 full time equivalent students (2016: 162 students) giving a total student population for the year of 968 (2016: 1,005 students).

6 OTHER OPERATING INCOME

	2017 £	2016 £
Residence and Catering Operations	2,085,638	2,057,399
Rents Receivable	69,317	37,224
Hire of Facilities	169,602	177,560
Sundry Other Income	281,023	232,949
	<u>2,605,580</u>	<u>2,505,132</u>

7 STAFF COSTS

	2017 £	2016 £
Wages and Salaries	5,476,405	5,486,532
Social Security Costs	506,897	423,630
Pension Costs	1,090,042	970,360
Other Pension Costs	331,000	162,000
	7,404,344	7,042,522
Staff Numbers	2017	2016
Lecturing Staff	45	43
Support Staff	138	135
	183	178

The amount paid under the 2016/2017 Public Sector Transformation Fund (PSTF) Voluntary Exit Scheme during the year amounted to £255,277 (2016: £225,700) which includes £167,273 (2016: £67,832) in relation to pension release costs incurred by the University College. The scheme was approved by the Governing Body during the course of the financial year. The total costs of £255,277 (2016: £225,700) were funded by the Sponsoring Department through the PSTF Voluntary Exit Scheme as shown in Note 2.

There were no payments to members of the Governing Body during the year other than reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

8 ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS BY ACTIVITY

	2017	2016
	£	£
Teaching Departments	3,207,002	3,273,327
Teaching Support Services	117,711	160,676
Other Support Services	641,130	505,547
Admin and Central Support Services	1,210,539	1,133,702
Premises	771,248	751,214
Catering and Residences	907,515	887,731
Other Income Generating Activities	218,199	168,325
Other Pension Costs	331,000	162,000
	7,404,344	7,042,522

9 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key Management Personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University College and are represented by the Senior Leadership Team which comprises the Principal and Chief Executive, Vice Principal, four Academic Directors (3 in previous year), Heads of Finance and Human Resources with inputs from the Head of Estates Services, Head of Hospitality, Accommodation and Conferencing and Digital and Technical Services Manager.

Emoluments of Key Management Personnel (including the Principal and Chief Executive) are as follows:

	2017	2017	2016	2016
	No.	£	No.	£
Salary	11	630,199	10	552,226
Pension contributions		106,649		96,084
Total Emoluments		736,848		648,310

The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Principal and Chief Executive (who is the highest paid employee) of:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Salary	101,125	97,111
Pension contributions	17,899	17,189
	119,024	114,300

The pension contributions in respect of the Principal and Chief Executive are in respect of employer's contributions to the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme and are paid at the same rate as other employees who are contributors to the Scheme.

10 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	2017	2016
	£	£
Hospitality Services Operating Expenses	607,179	651,334
Course Consumables, Equipment & Field Trips	51,249	84,551
Purchase, Hire and Repair of Other Equipment	52,482	88,458
IT Maintenance Costs	29,124	32,765
Library Costs	99,067	95,841
Student Placements – Travel and Subsistence	423	808
Energy Costs	340,168	325,223
Rates and Insurance	443,385	400,553
Refurbishment, Maintenance & Cleaning	513,010	421,235
Telephone	37,695	37,377
Sundry Course Costs	86,077	63,837
Postage and Printing	83,325	89,465
Advertising and Recruitment	42,612	56,726
Validation Costs to QUB	345,581	341,000
External Examiner Costs	8,401	10,394
Auditors Remuneration in respect of:		
Internal Audit Services	13,986	12,760
External Audit Services	6,600	6,876
Other Audit Services	-	4,743
Other Professional Fees	122,225	64,514
Occupational Health Service	34,866	39,847
Staff Training and Development	61,062	54,774
Widening Participation & Bursary Costs	191,751	192,163
Research Project Costs	138,359	161,083
Equipment Replacement	2,322	1,211
Stationery	9,122	7,825
Publications & Subscriptions	64,596	68,417
Travel Costs	44,185	29,227
Other	152,101	129,524
	3,580,953	3,472,531

11 TAXATION

The University College did not incur any taxation liability during the period (2016: £Nil).

12 EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

At 31 July 2017 an impairment review was carried out on the carrying value of the College Land by Land and Property Services. Upon assessment it was determined that the carrying value held within the financial statements exceeded the current market value by £11.73m resulting in an impairment charge. However, upon Incorporation in 2005 the land was transferred from the Sponsoring Department at the prevailing market value at that time and recognised within the Deferred Capital Grant. The impairment charge of £11.73m therefore results in an equal and opposite release to the Deferred Capital Grant. This exceptional charge and corresponding Deferred Capital Grant Release have been recognised within the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure as both exceptional expenditure and exceptional income. There is therefore no overall effect on the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. This has also led to a reduction in both the carrying value of Fixed Assets and the Deferred Capital Grant liability by £11.73m. There is therefore no overall effect on the Net Assets of the College within the Statement of Financial Position.

13 FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Vehicles £	Total £
Cost:				
1 August 2016	70,296,489	2,295,157	50,716	72,642,362
Additions	850,692	10,121	-	860,813
Disposals	-	-	-	-
31 July 2017	71,147,181	2,305,278	50,716	73,503,175
Depreciation and Impairment:				
1 August 2016	16,812,385	2,295,157	23,052	19,130,594
Impairment to land (Note 12)	11,730,000	-	-	11,730,000
Charge for the year	910,071	2,024	10,143	922,238
Disposals	-	-	-	-
31 July 2017	29,452,456	2,297,181	33,195	31,782,832
NBV 31 July 2017	41,694,725	8,097	17,521	41,720,343
NBV 31 July 2016	53,484,104	-	27,664	53,511,768
Inherited	28,129,908	-	-	28,129,908
Financed by Capital Grant	10,408,007	-	-	10,408,007
Other	3,156,810	8,097	17,521	3,182,428
NBV 31 July 2017	41,694,725	8,097	17,521	41,720,343

A review of the value of Land and Building assets was carried out as at 31 July 2017 by Land & Property Services. As noted in Note 12 this resulted in an impairment charge in relation to the College land. The carrying value of the land as at 31 July 2017 is £17.77m following the impairment (2016: £29.5m). Buildings were assessed for valuation and determined that the overall carrying value of the buildings did not exceed the current market value and thus no further impairment charge was identified. The review also included an assessment of the remaining useful lives of the College buildings. This has resulted in the remaining useful life being increased on a number of buildings resulting in a lower annual depreciation charge.

The book values of College Buildings at implementation have been retained. Land and buildings inherited from the Sponsoring Department at incorporation were valued at 1 October 2005 at depreciated replacement cost by Land and Property Services.

Land and buildings with a net book value of £38,537,915 (2016: £50,034,181) have been financed by exchequer funds. Prior approval is required from the Sponsoring Department if any of these assets were to be sold and the University College is required, under the terms of the Financial Memorandum with the Department, to surrender the proceeds.

14 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2017	2016
	£	£
Debtors	141,307	69,958
Prepayments & Accrued Income	51,188	75,314
	<u>192,495</u>	<u>145,272</u>

15 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Cash at Bank and in Hand	746,091	963,863
Short Term Deposits	2,850,000	2,250,000
	<u>3,596,091</u>	<u>3,213,863</u>

16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Creditors and Accruals	759,453	971,107
Payments Received in Advance	26,213	30,952
Deferred Income – Capital Grants	859,948	1,710,852
Deferred Income – Other	165,418	185,770
Social Security and Other Tax Payable	262,198	250,293
	<u>2,073,230</u>	<u>3,148,974</u>

17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2017 £	2016 £
Deferred Income – Capital Grants	36,460,616	47,223,247
	<u>36,460,616</u>	<u>47,223,247</u>

18 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	2017 £	2016 £
Net Pension Liability	6,048,000	7,896,000
	<u>6,048,000</u>	<u>7,896,000</u>

19 DEFERRED CAPITAL GRANTS

	Sponsoring Department £
Balance as at 1 August 2016	
Land and Buildings	48,934,099
Received in the year	
Land and Buildings	976,413
Released to Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	
Impairment to land	(11,730,000)
Buildings	(859,948)
Balance as at 31 July 2017	<u>37,320,564</u>

Disclosed as:

	2017 £	2016 £
Creditors: Amounts due within one year		
Deferred Income – Capital (Note 16)	859,948	1,710,852
Creditors: Amounts due over one year		
Deferred Income – Capital (Note 17)	36,460,616	47,223,247
	<u>37,320,564</u>	<u>48,934,099</u>

20 STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Trust £	General £	Pension £	Capital £	Total £
Balance as at 1 August 2015	2,029	5,891,347	(4,834,000)	113,809	1,173,185
Retained Deficit	-	(2,570,503)	-	-	(2,570,503)
Actuarial loss on Pension Liability	-	2,740,000	(2,740,000)	-	-
Pension Reserve Transfer	-	322,000	(322,000)	-	-
Adjustment for Depreciation of University College Funded Assets	-	113,809	-	(113,809)	-
Balance as at 31 July 2016	2,029	6,496,653	(7,896,000)	-	(1,397,318)
Retained Surplus	-	2,324,401	-	-	2,324,401
Actuarial Gain on Pension Liability	-	(2,353,000)	2,353,000	-	-
Pension Reserve Transfer	-	505,000	(505,000)	-	-
Balance as at 31 July 2017	2,029	6,973,054	(6,048,000)	-	927,083

The Trust Fund represents donations, the income from which is used to provide financial support to students not eligible to access the Sponsoring Department Student Support funding. The funds are maintained in separate identifiable assets and are stated at cost.

21 POST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION EVENTS

There were no material post Statement of Financial Position events.

22 PENSIONS

The University College's employees belong to two principal pension schemes, the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC). The total pension cost, excluding FRS102 entries for the period, was £1,090,042 (2016: £970,360). This figure includes pension release payments of £167,273 made during the year (2016: £67,832). FRS102 adjustments in the year amounted to a charge of £331,000 (2016: £162,000).

Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS)

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. Contributions on a pay as you go basis are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the Superannuation Act 1972. A notional asset value is ascribed to the Scheme for the purpose of determining contribution rates.

Under the definitions set out in FRS102 NITPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The University College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, the University College has accounted for its contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The total contribution made for the period ended 31 July 2017 was £661,068 (2016: £653,685) of which employer's contributions totalled £415,804 (2016: £411,132) and employees' contributions totalled £245,264 (2016: £242,553). The employer contribution rate has continued at 17.7% from 1 April 2015. Employee contributions are in a range between 7.4% and 11.7 % dependent on employee earnings.

Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC)

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 July 2017 was £836,335 (2016: £715,880) of which normal employer's contributions totalled £506,965 (2016: £491,395), employer pension release contributions totalled £167,273 (2016: £67,832) and employees' contributions totalled £162,097 (2016: £156,653).

The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2016 by the Committee's Actuary, AON Hewitt and is subject to the new regulations for the LGPS (NI) 2015 scheme. Employer's contribution rates dropped from 20% to 18% during the financial year (April 2017). However, an additional "Deficit Recovery" standard charge has been levied by the Scheme from April 2017 onwards. The Employer Rate will rise to 19% and 20% in the two forthcoming financial years.

Under the definitions set out in FRS102, NILGOSC is a multi-employer pension scheme. The University College is able to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme and accordingly presents the following information required by FRS102.

The principal actuarial assumptions used by the actuaries were as follows:

	2017	2016
Pension Increase Rate	2.0%	1.8%
Salary Increase Rate	3.5%	3.3%
Discount Rate	2.6%	2.3%
RPI Inflation	3.1%	2.9%
CPI Inflation	2.0%	1.8%

The post-retirement mortality assumptions used to value the benefit obligation at 31 July 2017 are based on the recent actuarial mortality experience of members within the Fund and allow for expected future mortality improvements using the Standard SAPs s2P year of birth base tables. These are summarised below:

	2017 Male years	2017 Female years	2016 Male years	2016 Female years
Current pensioners	23.2	25.8	22.3	24.8
Future pensioners	25.4	28.1	24.5	27.2

The fair value of the assets in the scheme were:

	Assets at 31 July 2017 £'000	Assets at 31 July 2016 £'000
Equities	14,555	13,054
Government Bonds	1,020	1,050
Corporate Bonds	1,157	1,086
Property	1,942	2,227
Cash	745	579
Other	197	109
Total	19,616	18,105

The above asset values as at 31 July 2017 are at bid value as required under FRS102.

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Position are as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2017 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2016 £'000
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	19,616	18,105
Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	(25,664)	(26,001)
Net (Underfunding) in Funded Plan	(6,048)	(7,896)

Amount in the Statement of Financial Position

Liabilities	(6,048)	(7,896)
Assets	-	-
Net Pension Liability	(6,048)	(7,896)

The amounts charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure are as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2017 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2016 £'000
Current Service Cost	838	653
Net Interest Cost	174	160
Past Service Cost	238	43
Curtailments and Settlements	-	-
Closing Balance	<u>1,250</u>	<u>856</u>
Actual Return on Plan Assets	1,258	1,982

Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation:

	Year Ended 31 July 2017 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2016 £'000
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	26,001	20,747
Current Service Cost	838	653
Past Service Costs	238	43
Interest Expense on Defined Benefit Obligation	593	721
Actuarial (Gain)/Losses on liabilities	(1,514)	4,161
Contributions by Members	163	157
Impact of Settlements and Curtailments	-	-
Net Benefits Paid	(655)	(481)
Closing Balance	<u>25,664</u>	<u>26,001</u>

Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employers Assets:

	Year Ended 31 July 2017 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2016 £'000
Opening Fair Value of Employers Assets	18,105	15,913
Interest Income on Assets	419	561
Contributions by Members	163	157
Contributions by the Employer	745	534
Contributions in Respect of Unfunded Benefits	-	-
Actuarial Gains	839	1,421
Impact of Settlements and Curtailments	-	-
Estimated Unfunded Benefits Paid	-	-
Net Benefits Paid	(655)	(481)
Closing Balance	<u>19,616</u>	<u>18,105</u>

Amounts for the current and previous four periods are as follows:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Present Value of Employers Assets	19,616	18,105	15,913	14,224	13,287
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(25,664)	(26,001)	(20,747)	(18,305)	(18,224)
Deficit on the Scheme	(6,048)	(7,896)	(4,834)	(4,081)	(4,937)

23 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2017 £	2016 £
Commitments Contracted at 31 July	246,315	307,210
	<u>246,315</u>	<u>307,210</u>

The balance of monies due on refurbishment contracts relating to the Front Gate Lodge, Library Fire Safety Works, new College Minibus and new College Hospitality Services van constitute this liability.

24 CONTINGENT LIABILITY

There were no contingent liabilities at the Statement of Financial Position date.

25 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due to the nature of the University College's operations and the composition of the Governing Body (being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Governing Body may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Governing Body may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

26 OTHER FUNDS**Support Fund**

	Year Ended 31 July 2017 £	Year Ended 31 July 2016 £
Opening Balance	3,600	3,729
Sponsor Department Grant	36,000	36,000
Bank Interest less Charges	11	5
Disbursed to Students	(37,525)	(34,500)
Audit Fees	(471)	(471)
Balance unspent at 31 July 2017	<u>1,615</u>	<u>4,763</u>
Amount returned to DfE	-	(1,163)
Closing Balance	<u>1,615</u>	<u>3,600</u>

In the 2016/17 financial year the Sponsor Department allocated £36,000 (2016: £36,000) to the University College to assist, on a discretionary basis, those students whose access to higher education might be inhibited by financial considerations or who, for whatever reason, including physical or other disabilities, face financial difficulties associated with their living costs.

Stranmillis Trust

In 1986 the University College established a charitable trust which, in 1987, was incorporated under the Charities Act (NI) 1964 and named the Stranmillis College Charity Trust. The members are empowered by the deed to apply the income and such of the capital as they think fit to assist the advancement of the education and training of persons entering the University College where such persons have need of such assistance because of economic or other circumstances.

The value of the Trust as at 31 July 2017 was £32,141 (2016: £17,098). As the Trust is a separate legal entity it is not incorporated in the Statement of Financial Position of the University College.