

**Robert Gillespie**  
**Doctor of Civil Law**  
**Durham Cathedral, 4 July 2019**

Robert Gillespie was appointed as a member of this University's governing body (the University Council) in 2007 and served as its Chair from August 2012 to September 2018. During this time Robert also chaired the Governance and Nominations Committee, and was a member of the Finance Committee and the Remuneration Committee. Throughout this period he gave tirelessly of his time and energy in leading Council - his wisdom and thoughtful approach ensuring the robust governance of the University.

Robert graduated from Durham with a BA degree in Economics in 1977 (Grey College). He views his undergraduate experience as a crucial formative experience, in which "he learned a great deal that helped him enjoy the successful and rewarding career that followed". He lived in College throughout his degree and was active in University sport, especially rowing, as a member of the University 1<sup>st</sup> VIII, and as President of the University Boat Club in 1975-6.

Robert's professional career following graduation saw him qualify as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse in 1980 before joining S G Warburg in 1981. He was successively appointed Managing Director responsible for the Advisory Business of S G Warburg and Co Inc., New York from 1989 to 1993; Head of UK Corporate Finance, SBC Warburg, London from 1995-1997, Head of European Corporate Finance, Warburg Dillon Read 1997-1999 and Joint Global Head of Corporate Finance, UBS Warburg from 1999-2005. In 2004 he was appointed CEO of the UBS Investment Bank, EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) a post he held until 2006. In 2005 he was also appointed Vice-Chairman of UBS Investment Bank, retiring from UBS in 2008.

Robert is a non-executive director of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc and a non-executive member of the Partnership Board of Ashurst LLP. He is Chairman of the Boat Race Company Limited, the organisation that manages the Oxford and

Cambridge Boat Race and is a non-executive Director to the Social Finance Board. He was Director General of The Panel on Takeovers and Mergers from 2010-2013; Chairman of the Board of Somerset House Trust from 2006-2015, a member of the Stop Organised Abuse Board of the NSPCC from 2003-2012 and was a Vice-President of Save the Children from 2004-2009.

Robert's connection to the University also continued after graduation. He was a member of the Durham University 175th Anniversary Campaign Executive Committee from its inception. He has been an active supporter of sport in the University, having been involved in the development of the University Rowing Club, and of University sport more generally, through the Friends of Durham Sport Steering Group since 2000 and through personal philanthropic giving. Robert played a key role in the formation of the Friends of Durham Rowing and the appointment of the University's first full time coach in 2000. The success of Friends of Durham Rowing encouraged the development of similar "friends groups" for other major sports at the University. The contribution of these groups to the development of elite sport at Durham cannot be underestimated. Working alongside Peter Warburton and other esteemed colleagues, Robert helped to design a management structure at Durham – now Experience Durham – that saw Durham climb to first place in the British University and Colleges Sport Team Sports rankings in 2016, a position we have maintained this year for the fourth time in a row. Robert has and continues to attend many University sporting events and allowed the 70+ squad to stay at his house for the British University Regatta in Nottingham, giving the team a huge advantage over the competitors.

As Chair of Council Robert played a key role in the development of the University Strategy 2017-2027 which was approved by Council in December 2016. His understanding of the breadth of the University's activities and his sensitivity to the engagement of the whole University community in developing and delivery of the Strategy cannot be overstated. Robert also played a significant role in the recent success of the University in securing substantial external funding through a Private Placement - which will enable the University to realise its ambitions. He was also my boss for three years and excelled in that role: I learned an enormous amount from Robert, always trusted his judgement and continue to owe him a great deal – as does the University.

For his lifelong connection and service to the University, Robert is today rightly recognised with an honorary degree.

Chancellor I present Robert Gillespie to receive the degree of Doctor of Civil Law *honoris causa*.

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