

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 18th October 2019

1. PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR'S AND EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Senate received a report from the Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board to update members on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate.

Additionally, Senate was informed

- The Principal was named 2019's Social Mobility Champion of the Year at the UK Social Mobility Awards. The award was made in light of the University's consistent success in widening access to higher education, commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and innovative and transformational approach to enhancing social mobility at home and abroad. The University was also a signatory to the Social Mobility Pledge.
- The University was anticipating a cash flat financial settlement so the focus had to remain on moving forward with efficiencies and continuing to grow income as the University had done in the previous financial year. Pressure would be maintained from within the sector for appropriate funding for both FE and HE.
- GCNYC had recently been successful in obtaining Title IV status that would enable applicants to apply for government loans to support their studies. Due to application timescales this would not have an immediate impact on student numbers but it was expected to impact 20/21 recruitment.

2. Annual Reports

Senate received and approved annual reports for the 2018/19 academic year from:

- Senate
- Academic Policy and Practice Committee
- University Research Committee
- International Committee
- School of Health and Life Science School Board
- School of Engineering and the Built Environment School Board
- Glasgow School for Business and Society School Board

5. The National Student Survey 2018 and Overview of student Surveys and Module Evaluations 2018/19

Senate noted a report that included the key outcomes from the 2019 National Student Survey (NSS), provided an overview of student surveys and module evaluations 2018-19 and highlighted key results from the Postgraduate Research GCU Experience Survey 2019.

In 2018-19, taught students at GCU in all years of study were given the opportunity to provide feedback on their course. Final year students took part in the UK-wide National Student Survey (NSS) 2019, while non-final year undergraduate students and postgraduate taught students were given the opportunity to feedback via GCU's internal GCU Experience Surveys (GCUES) 2019. In addition, taught students were invited to participate in Trimester A, B and C module evaluations. Postgraduate research students were given the opportunity to provide feedback via a new internal survey.

The NSS showed that overall satisfaction levels had remained at 81% and there had been slight

improvements in the themes of Learning Opportunities and Student Voice. The University's own taught student survey showed that overall satisfaction at programme level was highest among Level 1 students at 85% and satisfaction levels had improved or remained the same across most study levels in almost all themes. Overall satisfaction levels for PGR students was 84%.

6. U2B Transnational Education (TNE)

Senate received a report that give insight into the strategic rationale for university to business (U2B) education opportunities and activity as led by the Institute for University to Business Education in partnership with the academic Schools for the period 2018-19. The paper profiled the connection between Graduate Apprenticeship success in Scotland and its relevancy to U2B TNE and provided information on current TNE programmes in delivery, due to start and under consideration. The adaptability of the Degree Apprenticeship delivery in England was outlined and examples of research and knowledge transfer were included to demonstrate further evolution in GCU's IU2B TNE thinking and associated contribution to the University's mission for the common good.

In discussion it was highlighted that some of the opportunities available to students via TNE, such as the Phelophepa Train in South Africa, were transformational. The value to staff in becoming involved in TNE activity was also raised, and the work undertaken in relation to the ALC for example had provided many training and development opportunities for colleagues across the University. The need to be swift in responding to potential opportunities was essential and it was noted that there were regular meetings between U2B staff and the Deans to support this. It was important that there were resources available to staff to encourage and support them to participate in TNE.

7. Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic Session 2018 2019

The draft Reflective Analysis for ELIR 4 was considered by Senate. The Reflective Analysis is the University's self-evaluation of its strategy, policy and practice in relation to quality assurance, enhancement and student experience and is the basis for identifying the initial focal points for the ELIR 4 Planning and Review Visits. This working draft of the Reflective Analysis report had been developed through key stakeholder engagement across the University. As part of the ELIR cycle a major consultation exercise with staff and students took place in Spring 2019, in preparation for the review. This informed the Reflective Analysis and provided a contemporary view of what is valued at GCU from the perspective of those who study and work here.

It was highlighted that the Reflective Analysis report would be submitted to the QAA by 28th November and if any Senators had any comments these should be conveyed to the ELIR team as soon as possible. Senate endorsed the draft Reflective Analysis and expressed appreciation to all involved for their work in preparing the document.

8. Student Survey and Module Evaluation Policy

Senate considered a new Student Survey & Module Evaluation Policy which set out the guiding principles for centrally administered student surveys at GCU. This was in relation to aspects including the administration, dissemination, promotion, reporting and responding to results from these surveys. This had been developed with feedback from the Student Survey Working Group, which had representation from the School, Professional Service Departments, the Students Association and Information Compliance.

Following extensive discussion about the design, content and analysis of student surveys and how survey results were reported it was agreed to approve the Policy subject to the inclusion

of a section on the need to evaluate the effectiveness of surveys.

9. Review of Contextualised Admissions Policy

Senate approved the revised Contextualised Admissions Policy. For 2020-21 entry onwards, the policy would be extended to include all applicants residing in Quintile 1, all Refugees and Asylum Seekers, and those applicants residing in Quintile 2 who attend a School Connect school. All applicants covered by the policy, would be offered on the Minimum Entry Requirement for the programme.

12. Other Matters Approved

- The appointment of Professor James Miller, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy, as Vice Chair of Senate for the period up to 1 August 2020.
- The updated Composition, Membership and Terms of Reference of Senate for Session 2019/20
- Following recommendations from the Higher Degree Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 26 PhDs and one DBA
- The updated Composition, Membership and Terms of Reference of APPC for Session 2019/20.
- The updated Composition, Membership and Terms of Reference of the University Research Committee for Session 2019/20.
- The updated Membership of Senate Disciplinary Committee for Session 2019/20.

13. Other Matters Noted

- The Senate Programme of Work for Session 2019/20
- Research Integrity Annual Statement and Report
- Chair's Action approving the appointment of 4 academic staff members to SDC
- Chair's Action approving a recommendation from the Exceptions Sub-Committee of the Academic Policy and Practice Committee to approve the provision of additional bracketed pathway outcomes to be applied to the approved Global MBA programme delivered out of GCU London.
- Research Update Trimester C
- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of APPC held on 1st May 2019
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 2nd May 2019
- The confirmed minute of the meetings of the International Committee held on 20th September 2018, 10th December 2018, 31st January 2019, 28th March 2019 and 22nd May 2019.
- The confirmed minutes from the School of Health and Life Sciences School Board held on 3rd April 2019.
- The confirmed minutes from the School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment School Boards held on 10th April and 25th June 2019.
- The confirmed minutes from the Glasgow School for Business and Society School Boards held on 30th January 2019 and 20th March 2019.
- The confirmed minutes from the GCU London School Boards held on 14th November 2018, 6th March 2019 and 8th May 2019.
- Honorary Appointments.
- Summary report from the meetings of the University Court held on 20th June 2019 and 20th September 2019

Date of the next scheduled meeting of Senate is Friday 6th December 2019