

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY
TO: UNIVERSITY COURT

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF SENATE HELD ON 12th October 2012

The main items discussed at this meeting of Senate were as follows:

Principal's Report

Senate received an update from The Principal on a number of substantive items considered by the Executive Board, including:

- **Scottish Government's Legislative Programme and HE Bill** – This will include measures in relation to widening access and provisions for the official cap on RUK fees. The HE Bill and other issues were discussed with the Cabinet Secretary, Michael Russell, at a Universities Scotland meeting hosted by GCU in September 2012.
- **University Court Away Days** - Executive Board members presented a number of Items for discussion at the recent away days, including a review of progress on the delivery of strategy 2015; a financial review; the internationalisation strategy and an update on progress in Schools since restructuring.
- **Community Television Bid** – GCU has formed a partnership with Scottish Television (STV) in a bid to deliver Glasgow's first local television station. STV has submitted its official bid to Ofcom for a local TV licence to create GTV, a new channel to be broadcast through Freeview.
- **Heart of the Campus Project** – Page & Park Architects presented a project progress update to the Executive Board. Consultation, task and vision groups are ongoing; a student blog site has been launched to encourage student engagement and feedback; consideration was being given to creating School entrances and to the use of planting and gardens to bring colour and vibrancy to the campus.
- **NESS Review of Good Nursing** – The School of Health and Life Sciences was congratulated on achieving an excellent result in the NESS Review of Good Nursing in relation to students from the poorest background.
- **International Activities** - The World Health Organisation (International Centre for Migration, Health and Development) has agreed to collaborate with the University on student placements in the centre and on research applications and joint BPD/PGT programme delivery. The Glasgow School *for* Business and Society is making good progress with an agreement for staff and student exchanges with the Shanghai Finance University. The University has signed a Co-operation and Exchange Agreement with Zhejiang University of Media and Communications in Hangzhou, China. The agreement, which is with the Glasgow School *for* Business and Society, will allow student who have completed three years of undergraduate study in advertising, public relations and creative media to apply for direct entry to Level 4 of an appropriate full-time Bachelor (Honours) degree programme at GCU. GCU will be the only UK institution to take part in a Dragon's Den TV programme being produced in Beijing. The University will be offering 2 x 3 month internship opportunities.

Key Information Set (KIS)

Senate noted a report on the publication of KIS information on 27th September 2012 and discussed the issues emerging from this year's submission and the action being taken to address these. KIS is a high profile UK wide initiative which is aimed at providing information to prospective students and their families entering higher education. GCU data can be viewed at:

<http://www.gcu.ac.uk/planning/KeyInformationSets.html> or via the public Unistats website www.unistats.direct.gov.uk

Senate members expressed some concerns relating to the integrity, accuracy and contextualisation of the data. This will be taken forward by Policy and Planning in dialogue with schools/support services to address issues where possible for the next KIS.

Senate noted the timetable for the production of the 2013 KIS for students entering higher education in session 2014/15.

GCU Outcome Agreement 2012 -13

Senate noted the Outcome Agreement that had been agreed with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) for 2012 -13. SFC had set a requirement for each University to develop an "Outcome Agreement" as a condition of grant to ensure that improved outcomes are delivered by the sector across a range of activities. The establishment of Outcome Agreements for 2012-13 and the future represents a significant development in terms of SFC's engagement with the institutions it funds.

Senate members raised the issue of Equality and Diversity and compliance with legislation. It was confirmed that the University has a strategy and roadmap for implementation in place to comply with legislative requirements. This is aligned to the University's 2015 strategy and will ensure that Equality and Diversity is integrated into core objectives.

Negotiations with the SFC on the 2013-14 Outcome Agreements will commence in late October 2012 with finalisation of agreements by March 2013. The University will seek to ensure that a clear timetable and process map is agreed with the SFC. This will enable the University to ensure that Court, F&GP, APC and Senate are formally consulted throughout the development of the Outcome Agreement.

National Student Survey 2012

Senate noted and discussed a report on the NSS results for 2012 which were being considered by the Executive Board and Schools. The University also held an NSS Summit to discuss results and ways to improve participation rates in advance of the 2013 NSS. The University performed well in many areas of the NSS in 2012 which is positive in terms of overall satisfaction and satisfaction with teaching. The key areas for attention for the 2013 survey include satisfaction with assessment and feedback; Programme organisation and management and the Students' Association. Improving overall satisfaction is a Court key performance indicator for 2015.

Senate members for the Students' Association noted that they were committed to improving the results. They would also be lobbying with their colleagues in the sector and

NUS Scotland to have changes made to the wording of questions to better reflect the services provided by all associations. Another Senate member noted that there is a philosophical point of view that the focus in this survey is on satisfaction when it should be on engagement. Universities should be making the point that this is not the best way to make judgements. However, the importance of the impact on league tables was also emphasised and cannot be underestimated.

GCU London Report

Senate considered and approved the report on the Quality Enhancement visit to GCU London. The report made a number of recommendations including the establishment of a GCU London Board which would have operational and academic oversight of the satellite campus. Students who met with the panel indicated that they were overall very satisfied with the campus, their learning and teaching experience and would recommend the University to their peers. There remains work to be done in continuing to enhance the student experience and this will be taken forward via the GCU London Board.

AcceleRATE CPD (Learning and Teaching) Policy and Framework 2012

Senate approved an update to the current CPD (Learning and Teaching) Policy Framework 2008 in respect of Continuing Professional Development of staff involved in learning and teaching. The AcceleRATE – Recognising Achievement in Teaching Excellence framework has been accredited by the Higher Education Academy (HEA), to allow GCU, through GCU LEAD, to confer on behalf of the HEA, professional fellow recognition in line with the UK Professional Standards Framework (2011). The AcceleRATE Policy and Framework offers a formal taught CPD route (as per existing 2008 policy) and an additional Recognition of Prior Informal Learning (RPiL) route appropriate for experienced staff wishing to engage in CPD learning and teaching and gain professional recognition.

Some other matters considered and approved

- The appointment of Professor Mike Mannion as Vice Chair of Senate
- School Board Annual Reports for session 2011/12
- Senate and its Standing Committees Annual Reports for session 2011/12
- Honorary and Visiting Appointments
- Report on Honorary Awards approved in Session 2011/12
- Academic staff appointments
- Notification that the next scheduled meeting of University Senate would be held on Monday 3rd December 2012 at 09.30 hours.

<p>NOTE: This report is not confidential and may be shared with all staff, especially those with an interest in academic policies. It is extracted from draft unconfirmed minutes of the Senate meeting for communication purposes only. The eventual confirmed minutes represent the official record of the Senate's decisions.</p>
