

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 16th JUNE 2022

The University Court was pleased to have the opportunity to hold its meeting today on campus for the first time since the advent of Covid restrictions. The Court welcomed Laiba Tareen, the new Student President, and Chukwuma Egbujor, one of three elected Vice-Presidents, as the nominated student governors on Court.

Court said farewell and thanked lay governor, Professor Ann Priest, who was demitting office after seven years as a lay governor, to take up the role of Chair of the Glasgow School of Art, and to elected members, Dr Douglas Chalmers and Dr Morag Ferguson, who had come to the end of their final terms of office. Court also noted that Mr David Halliday, the professional and support services elected staff governor, was coming to the end of his first term of office and was standing for re-election.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today, which will also appear on the University website. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the University website in due course.

Rob Woodward
Chair of Court

1. Principal & Vice-Chancellor & Executive Board Report

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting. These included the outstanding results in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, which placed GCU 2nd in the UK for health impact, combined with strong performances in a number of other disciplines, and further impressive results recorded for the University in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2022.

2. Chief Operating Officer's Report including Covid management update

The COO gave an overview of key developments in finance, staffing, IT and the estate as well as the University's continuing management of Covid.

3. Student President's Report

The new Full Time elected Officers of the Students' Association took office on 30th May 2022 for the year 2022-23. The Student President reported on the activities of the Students' Association since the previous Court meeting. Topics addressed included the NUS Scotland Awards 2022: Equality and Diversity Award, Student Partnership Agreement and the Sustainability Policy.

Court also approved the revised schedules to the Students' Association Constitution.

4. University Secretary's Report

In line with Standing Orders, the Court agreed to grant delegated authority to the Chair of Court during the summer vacation and approved its work plan for 2022-23.

5. University Budget 2022-23

Court approved the University Budget 2022-23, which had been extensively debated and reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, most recently on 23rd May 2022, and by Court as a whole at a briefing on the draft budget on 13th June 2022. The Court reviewed the GCNYC budget, agreed to make appropriate provisions for the year ahead and noted that the planned, duly informed discussion of GCNYC by Court would take place after the new Principal and Vice-Chancellor had taken up office in the new calendar year.

6. League Tables and Rankings

The Court noted a report from DVC Strategy which provided a summary of the key university rankings and league tables released to date in academic year 2021-22.

7. Student Recruitment Report Trimester A 2022-23

The Court noted a report from DVC Strategy which comprised an update on the recruitment position for Trimester A 2022-23 for undergraduate and taught postgraduate entry, as at 9th June 2022.

8. Student/Staff Ratios 2020-21

The Court noted a report from the DVC Strategy which provided an overview of Staff Student Ratios within the Scottish university sector, based on 2020-21 HESA data released in April 2022.

9. Widening Access

The Court noted a report from the DVC Strategy which provided a summary of the SFC Report on Widening Access 2020-21. The data demonstrate the University's continued strength in delivering widening participation with quality, scale and successful outcomes for students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

10. Research Update Trimester B

The Court noted the Research Report which provided an update on achievements in relation to the University's research profile and funding.

11. REF Outcome

The Court reviewed the REF 2021 results and expressed thanks to the Vice-Principal Research and congratulations to all staff for the part they had played in the outstanding outcome, whether as researchers returned in the REF or as colleagues contributing to the wider environment in which the University's research could flourish.

12. Researcher Development Concordat Action Plan

The Court approved the Researcher Development Concordat (RDC) and HR Excellence in Research Award Action plan 2022-23.

13. Report from Senate meeting held on 8th June 2022

The Court noted the report from the Senate's meeting of 8th June 2022.

14. Standing Committee Business

The Court noted reports presented by the Chairs of the Remuneration, Audit, Finance and General Purposes, and People Committees and approved the Senior Staff Remuneration Policy, the Procurement Strategy and Action Plan for 2022-23, and amendments to the Financial Regulations and the Treasury and Ethical Investment Policy. The Court had previously approved the remuneration of the new Principal and Vice-Chancellor as recommended by the Remuneration Committee.

15. Report from GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting held on 10th May 2022

The Court noted the report of the discussions and decisions of the GCNYC Board of Trustees at the meeting on 10th May 2022.

16. Media Coverage Analysis – April Update

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in April.

17. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 8th September 2022.