

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT MEETING 8th September 2022

The University Court met on campus today, 8th September 2022, the first Court meeting of the 22/23 academic year. The Court welcomed Professor Catriona Miller as the new academic staff elected governor, Dr Lyle Gray as the new Senate elected governor and Peter Baguley, lay governor, who was returning after a period of sabbatical leave. Court congratulated David Halliday on his re-election for a second term as Professional and Support staff governor.

The Court discussed the implications of the exceptional cost of living pressures, the impact on staff, students and the University's operations, as well as the consultations on industrial action underway across the sector. The business of Court included consideration of the student recruitment profile for the coming session and the strong international numbers; the University's performance in the National Student Survey; and positive feedback on the annual effectiveness review of the Court's own performance, which will be reviewed in more depth at a later meeting. Court welcomed the proposal for a Court briefing on digital learning in October.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today. 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 Court addressed the report including the summary of sector wide issues and recent University developments and achievements and approved the division of the Department of Management and Human Resource Management in GSBS into two smaller departments (Department of Management and the Department of Human Resource Management) to enhance disciplinary profiles and facilitate good management.

2. Chief Operating Officer's Report

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

3. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on issues affecting students and on the activities of the Students' Association drawing particular attention to the work carried out to maintain the Excellent award for the SOS-UK Green Impact Award.

4. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary, which addressed the Court's fulfilment of its Primary Responsibilities in 21/22 and approved the Statement of Primary Responsibilities for 2022/23. The Court also approved the Modern Slavery Statement for inclusion in the financial report and annual accounts for the year ended 31st July 2022.

5. 2022/2023 Student Recruitment - Interim Report

The Court noted the indicators pointing to an overall healthy admissions position for the forthcoming session as well as sector wide challenges, which had an impact on elements of HEIs' recruitment. Although the Trimester A recruitment cycle is at an advanced point, there continues to be flux and the final intake will be confirmed only when student registration is complete in October.

6. National Student Survey 2022

The Court noted a report giving an overview of the results of the mandatory National Student Survey 2022, which showed that the University's overall performance was strong relative to the sector, and also highlighted areas for improvement.

7. Graduate Outcomes 2019-20

The Court noted a report, which provided a high-level summary of the 2019/20 graduate cohort outcomes for the Scottish sector and demonstrated the University's continuing strong performance in this UK wide annual survey.

8. Annual report on institution-led review of quality and governing body statement of assurance for AY 2021/22

The Court approved the Annual Report on Institution-led Review (ILR) of Quality and the Governing Body Statement of Assurance for the academic year 2021/22, which is part of the University's external reporting commitment to the Scottish Funding Council.

9. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 22nd July 2022

The Court noted the report of the GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting which took place on 22nd July 2022.

10. Media Coverage Analysis – May, June and July 2022

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in May, June and July 2022.

11. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 17th November 2022.

12. Chair of Court Appraisal

The Chair of Court and others who are not Court members left the meeting for this item while the Vice-Chair of Court led the discussion on the annual appraisal of the Chair of Court.