

Statement of Primary Responsibilities of Court 2023-24

General

Under the terms of the Glasgow Caledonian University Order of Council 2010(as amended by the Glasgow Caledonian University Order of Council 2020), Court is the governing body of the University and, as such, is responsible for overseeing the management and administration of the whole of the revenue and property of the University. Court exercises general control over the University and all its affairs, purposes and functions, taking all final decisions on matters of fundamental concern to the University.

Specifically, Court's Primary Responsibilities are detailed as follows:

Staff and Students

1. To appoint the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, including the term and conditions of such appointment, and to put in place suitable arrangements for the monitoring of their performance;
2. To appoint a Secretary to the University Court
3. To ensure a safe working environment is provided for staff and students;
4. To make such provision as it thinks fit following consultation with the Senate, for the general welfare of its students;

Financial responsibilities

5. To ensure the solvency of the University and to safeguard its assets;
6. To ensure the preparation of, and to approve the University's annual accounts and reports;
7. To ensure the proper use of public funds awarded to the University and to ensure that the terms of the Financial Memorandum with the Funding Council are observed;
8. To approve the annual operating plans and budgets and to ensure that these reflect the University's strategic plan and strategic risk assessment;
9. To select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
10. To make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
11. To state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
12. To assess the group and the University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
13. To use the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Court intends to liquidate the group or the University or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Strategic responsibilities

14. To approve the mission statement of the University and its strategic plan and to ensure that these articulate the University's goals and meet the interests of the stakeholders;
15. To approve all substantive policies of the University;

Controls

16. To ensure that the University operates in accordance with the University's Statutory Instruments as well as all applicable legislation;
17. To ensure that in all the University's policies, procedures and actions, the University complies with the requirements of the law relating to equal opportunities as a provider of education and as an employer;
18. To ensure that systems are in place for the assessment and management of risk;
19. To ensure the existence and integrity of financial control systems and to monitor these through the Audit Committee;
20. To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the proper management of health and safety in respect of students, staff and other persons on University premises or affected by university operations;

Monitoring performance and effectiveness

21. To monitor the University's performance against its strategic plan and agreed key performance indicators;
22. To monitor and review the performance and effectiveness of the Court and its standing committees;
23. To ensure that the proceedings of Court are conducted in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance including the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.