

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 18th April 2024

The University Court met today, 18th April 2024. Yesterday evening the Court heard from Michael Marra MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance, who joined the Court for dinner. The Court also welcomed the new Dean of SCEBE, Professor Joanna Lumsden.

The Court welcomed two new lay governors, Arlene Cairns and Scott Haldane to their first meeting of Court. As this was the last meeting of student governors, Chidozie Nwaigwe and Jennifer Abali, the Court thanked both for their excellent contributions during their year of office.

The Chair addressed the issue of the confidentiality of Court business and emphasised the importance of confidentiality being assumed for all Court business unless governors are advised otherwise. This is essential for the open and transparent approach which characterises the way information is shared with Court and which in turn is fundamental to Court's deliberations and decision-making.

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 & UEG Report

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting with the Principal highlighting key issues. Court was briefed in particular on the task set by government for the Migration Advisory Committee; SFC Funding Cuts and Announcements; the University's mandatory TRAC (Transparent Approach to Costing) return to the SFC; Million Plus Membership; International Student Barometer Results; Changes to Academic Calendar 2025/26; the Court's 2024 Stakeholder Event on 16 May; Mental Health Day and Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

2. Chief Operating Officer and DVC's Report

The COO and DVC gave an overview of key developments in Finance; Estates; IT; Future Students, Marketing & Communications; Foundation, Alumni & Event; and Registry & School Professional Services.

3. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on the recent activities and initiatives undertaken by the Students' Association drawing particular attention to the NUS Scotland Conference 2024; International Student Barometer; NUS Scotland Awards 2024; Full Time Officer Elections; Black, Asian and Minority Careers Festival; Quality Enhancement and Standards Review; and Governors Meeting.

4. University Secretary's Report

The Court approved the Calendar of dates and Court and Standing Committee meeting dates for 2025/26. The Court approved the appointment of Mr Gavin Munn as a lay governor with significant property experience with effect from 1 June 2024. The Court noted that work to identify a successor to the current Chair of Court, who will demit office in 2025, has been initiated by the Court Governance and Nominations Committee, which will be chaired by the Vice-Chair of Court for this purpose. The CGNC will be known as the Chair Appointment Oversight Committee when in this mode.

5. University Strategy and KPI

The Court discussed interrelated reports on the refresh of the University Strategy, a new set of institutional level Key Performance Indicators and strategy implementation.

6. Student Recruitment Report

The Court considered a report on Student Recruitment showing student intake for academic year 2023-24 including the expected Trimester C intake to a small number of programmes. The paper also provided an early view of Trimester A 2024-25 as of 18 March 2024.

7. GCU London Strategic Plan

The Court welcomed an early report on the proposed strategic plan for GCU London which will be developed and fully defined to align with the wider University International Strategic Plan and support delivery the University's 2030 Strategy.

8. University of Jinan: Joint Proposal

The Court considered the report on the proposal from the University's existing partner, the University of Jinan, for a Joint Institute and supported development of the proposal.

9. Update on GCNYC

The Court noted a report on the progress of the GCNYC transition work.

10. Senate

The Court received a report from the Senate meeting held on 21st February 2024 and approved the University's Research Integrity Annual Statement and Report 2022-23.

11. Standing Committee Business

The Court received reports and where relevant approved recommendations from the People Committee, Audit Committee, Court Governance & Nominations Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

12. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 7th March 2024

The Court noted the report on the GCNYC Board of Trustees' meeting which took place on 7th March 2024.

13. Communications Report – January-February 2024 Update

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in January and February 2024.

14. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 13 June 2024.