

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 24th February 2017

1. PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR'S AND EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

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

External Environment

Funding Environment

The SFC announced the sector's indicative funding for 2017/18. Final confirmation will be received in April.

Key highlights for the University include:

- Overall funding is down in cash terms from £65.8m to £65.5m (0.4%)
- Funding for teaching is down in cash terms from £47m to £46.5m (1%)
- Tolerance levels have been reduced from 4% down to 2% in the teaching funding model. This has had a negative impact of c£470k for GCU and drives the 1% funding reduction. The SFC has announced that they intend to reduce the tolerance level to zero from 2018/19 while working to update the student data set underpinning the funding model. This presents particular challenges for modern Universities within the sector. Scenario planning will be undertaken as part of the budget setting process to inform future financial forecasts.

Universities Scotland has continued to lobby the Scottish Government ahead of the final vote on its budget plans by the Scottish Parliament. It is seeking to convey a number of key messages about the overall funding environment for the sector. These include:

- Between 2010-11 and 2017-18 SFC funding to universities will have fallen by over 13% in real terms.
- In the July 2016 report into HE funding, the Auditor General notes that in 2014-15 public funding was not covering the costs of either teaching or research. She found that universities received only 94.2% of the cost of publicly-funded teaching and only 84.8% of the cost of research.
- Since 2014-15 Audit Scotland data shows that SFC research funding was cut by a further 7% in real terms and teaching funding by 5% in real terms to and 2016-17.
- Whilst offering cash-terms protection of teaching and research funding, the Scottish Government 2017-18 budget for higher education will not begin to address these risks. Indeed, they are likely to intensify further.
- In 2014-15, seven Scottish institutions were in deficit. Of the 14 institutions with Financial Statements for 2015-16 published, seven report a deficit before actuarial losses for pensions. When those actuarial losses are included 10 of the 16 report a deficit in 2015-16. These figures for 2015-16 pre-date the 3.6% cash cut to the SFC revenue budget in 2016-17.

Enterprise and Skills Review

Universities Scotland continues to carry forward activity to convey the sector's concerns regarding the Enterprise and Skills Review. This work has focused on achieving an institutional architecture that protects institutional autonomy and ensures there is no reclassification of Universities as public bodies by the Office for National Statistics. Nine work streams have been

developed by the Scottish Government to support Phase 2 of the Review which is expected to last around six months.

Commissioner for Fair Access – Widening Access

Professor Peter Scott has been appointed Commissioner for Fair Access to Higher Education in Scotland. Peter Scott is Professor of Higher Education studies at University College London. Before that he was Vice-Chancellor of Kingston University and Pro Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs at the University of Leeds. He was a member of the board of the Higher Education Funding Council for England where he chaired its widening participation strategic committee.

GCU is able to engage with the new Commissioner from a positive position, with strong performance in a number of key metrics, and a clear focus on widening access with quality. These statistics include:

- At GCU, the percentage of young students from the 20% most deprived zones has risen by 2.7% percentage points to 17% and by 3.6% to over 34% of entrants from the 40% most deprived zones since 2006-07.
- In 2014-15 SFC data on retention showed GCU was ahead of the Scottish sector for MD20 and MD40 entrants, and has shown improvement of over 5% points a five year period.
- The 2017 HESA Performance Indicators on the percentage of young first degree entrants from a state school or college show that GCU has had a slight increase to 97.3%. We remain ahead of our benchmark of 91.6%, and also well ahead of the Scottish sector average of 87%.

Scotland’s Universities Welcome the World

Universities Scotland hosted an event at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh, attended by the Principal, to launch the ‘Scotland’s Universities Welcome the World’ campaign. The campaign was supported by all 19 of the Universities in Scotland and sought to celebrate the diversity and inclusivity of Scottish higher education. The First Minister spoke at the event and highlighted that Scotland is a nation with a deep seated sense of internationalism and warmly welcomes all overseas students to its Universities. The University launched its Welcome Wall to International Students the following week, with an event attended by the Principal and some GCU International students. A Welcome Wall has been included at each University to allow staff and students to write positive messages about international students.

University Activities

i. General

Magna Charta Observatory Workshop

The University organised and hosted a workshop in collaboration with the Magna Charta Observatory entitled ‘Fundamental and Institutional Values in Practice.’ Vice-Chancellors and other senior representatives of universities from more than 20 countries gathered for the two-day event. The Principal delivered the welcome to the event, and a keynote address was delivered by Richard Sermon who focused on the role of values in the financial sector. GCU’s Professor Caroline Parker shared insights on the University’s Values and Behaviours Framework during the discussions. The Magna Charta Observatory is the organisation committed to upholding the principles of openness, academic freedom, institutional autonomy and civic responsibility, enshrined in the Magna Charta Universitatum.

Migrant Voice Conference

The University hosted a conference organised by migrant-led advocacy charity Migrant Voice. Academics, activists and civil society groups came together to discuss practical ways to tackle anti-migrant sentiment and change the political landscape. It featured contributions by the Scottish Government Minister for International Development and Europe, Alasdair Allan MSP,

and GCU Cultural Fellow and Scotland's Makar, Jackie Kay.

Celtic Connections

The University hosted a Celtic Connections on Campus for a second year. More than 600 people enjoyed the five days of live music performances held in the Students' Association, as part of the world's largest Celtic music festival. GCU Audio Technology and Audio Systems Engineering students provided support at the free concert series, which featured up-and-coming talent drawn from Scotland's universities, colleges, schools and beyond

ii. International activities

Chancellor Yunus Award

Chancellor Yunus was awarded the President's Medal from George Washington University in Washington DC, USA, in recognition of his pioneering work in creating economic development through microcredit. The George Washington University President's Medal recognises individuals who have exhibited courage, character and leadership in their chosen fields and who exemplify the ability of all human beings to improve the lives of others. Previous recipients include Nobel laureate and former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, former Israeli Prime Minister and Nobel laureate Shimon Peres and journalist Walter Cronkite.

GCU NY

- Progress towards the license application from NYSED continued to be made with CUNY withdrawing its note of concern following a meeting with the GCUNY VP. A meeting is being progressed with Fordham to discuss its outstanding objection, and the objection from FIT has already been withdrawn. The final objection by LIM, which is a private, for profit college, is on the basis of competition, a basis not allowed under NYSED guidelines. A decision on the application will be made in April 2017.
- 32 individuals, including 21 CEOs, attended the 4th Convening of the Fair Fashion Membership Network established by the Fair Fashion Center, including new member, Marvin Ellison, JC Penney CEO. The meeting was held at Bloomberg Headquarters and was opened by its Chairman, Peter Grauer.
- The Fair Fashion Research Centre had been awarded \$500k by the United Nations as part of the Rockefeller fashion sustainability initiative. This project would include examining the manufacturing supply chain, working environment and workers' pay and conditions in countries including Bangladesh and Ethiopia.
- The GCU NYVP was invited to give a keynote presentation at the Harvard School of Design on 14th November in which she described the work of the Fair Fashion Centre. In addition, she took part in a panel on sustainability held by the Accessories Council during its second annual Summit last week. The Accessories Council is a not-for-profit, international trade organisation established to stimulate consumer awareness and demand for fashion accessory products.

2. INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

Senate received a presentation from the VP International on the main points of the Internationalisation Strategy. The focus of the Strategy was to strengthen and enhance GCU's position as a networked academic community thereby attracting international student, staff and researchers to join GCU.

Based on the analysis of the market place for internationalisation and GCU's current position it was concluded that in principle GCU was well placed to achieve its strategic aim of functioning as a globally networked university by 2020. Building on the results of GCU's Going Global strategy and in collaboration with partners in business and industry, further and higher education, the aim was to strengthen our international reach and impact by co-creating innovative educational programmes that will deliver graduates who are global citizens and leaders, and upskill the workforce in industry at home and abroad.

Although there was a slowing down of international students coming to the UK at present time, the Strategy would benefit from the growing demand for accessible and affordable higher education world-wide. It would put in place new processes and actions to attract international students to join GCU in Glasgow, London or one of its partner locations, currently established in Mauritius, Oman, Bangladesh and South Africa, and achieve international growth for the university as a whole.

In five years' time, the aim was that GCU would be known for its exceptional international student experience; it will have significantly improved the proportion of students it recruits to GCU Glasgow, London and New York from North America, Africa and selected Asian and European countries; and it will have grown its partnerships in higher education and industry for exchange, articulation pathways, transnational education and capacity building.

To achieve this the following five top-level goals had been formulated

1. Attract international students to the university;
2. Grow GCU's transnational education;
3. Market and position our education, research and service to society to an international audience;
4. Strengthen the international orientation of our staff and attract international staff to the university;
5. Enhance the financial sustainability of the University.

For each of these five goals objectives and actions and performance measures had been formulated. Further, underpinning the Internationalisation Strategy was an implementation and resource plan which was being developed to realise the proposed organisational change and the return of investment in the short, medium and long term.

3. SENATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

The Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance published in 2013, requires periodic review of Senate effectiveness. As Court delegated key academic responsibilities to Senate, it is therefore intended to undertake a Senate Effectiveness Review which will coincide with the Court effectiveness review to be initiated in April 2017. Senate approved the process for the Review.

4. STUDENT WELLBEING POLICIES

Senate approved the following student wellbeing policies:-

- Religious Observance Policy
- Student Carer Policy
- Student Pregnancy and Maternity Policy
- Trans Student Support Policy

5. OTHER MATTERS APPROVED

- The award of 9 PhDs and 1 Prof.D. Research Degrees Committee.
- Refreshed membership of the Academic Appeals Committee Membership.
- Senate and Senate Standing Committees Calendar of Meetings 2017/18 (See Appendix 1)
- Withdrawal of MSc IT (Oil and Gas) Programme.
- Withdrawal of MSc Health and Social Care (Forensic Mental Health) Pathway

6. OTHER MATTERS NOTED

- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy and Practice Committee held on 16th November 2016
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 2nd November 2016.
- The confirmed minute of the meetings of the International Committee held 10th November 2016.
- The confirmed minutes of the School of Engineering and the Built Environment School Board held on 11th November 2016.
- The confirmed minutes of the Glasgow School for Business and Society School Board held on 27th April 2016, 28th September 2016 (extra ordinary) and 26th October 2016.
- The confirmed minutes of the School of Health and Life Sciences School Board held on 22nd June 2016, 25th October 2016.
- The confirmed minutes of the GCU London School Board held on 27th April 2016 and 5th October 2016.

Date of the next scheduled meeting of Senate is Friday 2nd June 2017

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

SENATE AND STANDING COMMITTEES: 2017/2018

Department of Governance

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Room (tbc)

09:30 Hrs

Friday 6 October 2017
Friday 8 December 2017
Friday 23 February 2018
Friday 1 June 2018

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Room (tbc)

10:00 Hrs

Thursday 21 September 2017
Thursday 9 November 2017
Thursday 1 February 2018
Thursday 29 March 2018
Thursday 10 May 2018

ACADEMIC POLICY & PRACTICE COMMITTEE (APPC)

Room (tbc)

14:00 Hrs

Wednesday 13 September 2017
Wednesday 15 November 2017
Wednesday 31 January 2018
Wednesday 21 March 2018
Wednesday 9 May 2018

LEARNING AND TEACHING SUBCOMMITTEE (LTSC)

Room (tbc)

14:00 Hrs (unless otherwise indicated below)

Wednesday 16 August 2017
Wednesday 25 October 2017
Wednesday 7 March 2018 (Annual Monitoring ½ day session)
Wednesday 20 June 2018

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Room (tbc)

14:00 Hrs

Wednesday 30 August 2017
Wednesday 25 October 2017
Wednesday 24 January 2018
Wednesday 14 March 2018
Wednesday 2 May 2018

RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE (RDC)

Room (tbc)

14:00 Hrs

Wednesday 4 October 2017
Wednesday 29 November 2017
Wednesday 7 February 2018
Wednesday 18 April 2018
Wednesday 13 June 2018

RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE

Room (tbc)

14:00 Hrs

Thursday 2 November 2017
Thursday 12 April 2018

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Room (tbc)

Monday 2 October 2017 at 2.30pm
Monday 23 April 2018 at 2.00pm

HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

Room B219/B221

15:00 Hrs

Thursday 12 October 2017
Thursday 1 March 2018