

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 12th December 2018

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

Senate received a report from the Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board to update members on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate.

Additionally, Senate was informed

- The SFC had appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Karen Watt, formerly Director of External Affairs, Scottish Government. Chris Skidmore had recently been appointed Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation. The University's engagement with the Minister at Westminster would be primarily through Universities UK.
- The University had recently received information and guidance in relation to Brexit from the SFC. Whilst some of this was a reiteration of previously published information, it was intended to share this information with staff and students. It was noted that Executive Board had agreed to pay the application costs for EU staff who wished to apply for settlement status, and this was welcomed by Senate.
- That the Principal had attended Glasgow Partnership for Economic Growth (GPEG), the economic forum for Glasgow City Region. The University had been invited to participate in GPEC, which was considering the development of City Deal Two, which would involve a number of organisations from a range of sectors working together to grow the economy of the Glasgow City Region.
- The appointment of seven new Assistant Vice Principals (AVP) was noted and the Chair advised that the appointments had been made to provide leadership and enable cross university working to facilitate best practice being embedded in all areas of the University. They were three year appointments in the first instance and the impact of the new roles would be evaluated.

2. REF 2021 Update and Appointment of Unit of Assessment Leads

Senate received an update report on the REF 2021 and the Appointment of Unit of Assessment Leads. The PVC Research informed Senate that whilst some guidance had been received, there were still areas where more detailed information was awaited. Key outstanding issues related to

- The definition of an "independent" researcher. Whilst the current guidelines were quite stringent, it was considered that there was scope to be more inclusive.
- The criteria around "significant responsibility for research" for staff on teaching and research (T&R) contracts. By the summer, it was anticipated all T&R s will be "flagged" in the 2018-19 HESA returns.

The paper detailed key local actions to chart progression, which would mainly be undertaken by the REF Management Group. This included the drawing up of a Code of Practice, which would be considered by Senate at a future meeting. The appointment of Unit of Assessment (UoA) Leads and their Assistants had been approved by Executive Board for seven UoA's and a decision had yet to be made about participating in up to a further three UoA's. It was highlighted that there was a degree of flexibility in defining staff with "significant responsibility for research", and whilst our criteria had to be approved by the SFC, it was anticipated that the University would be able to make a strong submission.

3. GCU British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2018-2024

The University's British Sign Language (BSL) Plan which had been mandated by the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 and approved by the People Committee was noted.

4. 2019/20 Outcome Agreement: Guidance and Approach

Senate was informed that guidance on the 2019/20 Outcome Agreement had been received and guidance themes were similar to previous years, with a small number of additional requirements. In relation to the key themes, it was highlighted that

- The University received funding from the Widening Access Retention Fund (WARF) in order to support its widening access activities, however not all universities received this funding. The Fund would be reviewed in 2019, so whilst there would be no change in this funding in 2019/20, it was anticipated that there may be a reduction in GCU's allocation in 2020/21.
- An updated Gender Action Plan was required, particularly in relation to increasing the number of females in engineering and males in nursing. There had been extensive discussions about the University's role in influencing and supporting a gender balance and it was acknowledged that work in this area was required at college and school level in particular.

The final Outcome Agreement was due to be submitted by 30th April, however whilst the University was developing actions, it was not yet known what the full budget allocation would be for the 3 year period covered by the outcome agreement.

5. GCU's Partnership with NHS Lanarkshire

Senate received an update on the Strategic Partnership with NHS Lanarkshire to deliver a shared 2023 Vision: Achieving Excellence for the Common Good. A Strategic Board had been set up to oversee the partnership and this had met three times.

Three work streams had been developed

- **Research and Innovation:** This was well developed area of work, with research being undertaken at all levels and Professor Jim Woodburn and Professor Kay Currie had been appointed Honorary Visiting Professors with NHS Lanarkshire. A number of roadshow events had been held and two co-funded PhD studentships were planned to commence in early 2019.
- **Learning and Teaching:** A number of honorary appointments had been made and work was ongoing in developing increased collaboration with clinical academics contributing to practice as well as exploring the potential for posts with both clinical activity and academic delivery. GCU staff were involved in discussions around the learning and teaching needs of a new NHSL hospital at Monklands.
- **Workforce and Service Capacity:** A range of work was underway to enhance professional capability and capacity, including the development of clinical academic career pathways.

In discussion, it was highlighted that there were potential linkages with the University's Research Strategy in respect of health economics and digital health and in addition to activities within the Glasgow School *for* Business and Society and the School for Computing, Engineering and Built Environment that could be built upon.

6. Digital Classroom Developments

Further to Senate's consideration of issues relating to Beyond Lecture Capture at the last meeting, the Director of Academic Quality and Development informed that a fully interactive, collaborative digital classroom had been installed. The space was being piloted to allow staff training and feedback from staff and students. Drop in sessions were also being offered for staff and the facility was being used for the VLE refresh project. A CleverTouch smart board had also been installed in another classroom and the use of both spaces was being evaluated to inform future development. Positive feedback was received from Senate members who had used the facilities and Senators were invited to encourage colleagues to attend the training sessions so that more staff and students would be able to use the classrooms.

7. Programme Withdrawals

Senate approved

- The extension of the Graduate Diploma in Psychology programme approval to cover a 2019/20 intake and then the subsequent withdrawal of the programme; and
- The withdrawal of BA (Hons) International Sports Management.

8. Other Matters Approved

- The revised Composition & Membership of University Senate 2018/2019.
- The revised Composition of the University Research Committee 2018/19.
- Honorary Appointments
- The appointment of Ms Sarah Renton as a School of Health and Life Sciences member on the Senate Disciplinary Committee for the period 12th December 2018 to 11th December 2021.
- The revised Terms of Reference and Composition and Membership of the International Committee.

9. Other Matters Noted

- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy and Practice Committee held on 12th September 2018.
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 11th September 2018.
- The confirmed minutes of the Glasgow School *for* Business and Society School Board held on 25th April and 14th June 2018.
- The confirmed minutes of the GCU London School Board held on 2nd May 2018.
- The confirmed minutes of the School of Engineering and Built Environment School Board held on 17th May 2018.
- The confirmed minutes of University Court held on 22nd November 2018.
- Notification of Staff achieving professional recognition of teaching and supporting student learning (UKPSF, 2011) in academic session 2017/2018.

Date of the next scheduled meeting of Senate is Friday 1st March 2019