

**GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY**

**TO: UNIVERSITY COURT**

## **Report from the meeting of Senate held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

### **1. Principal & Vice-Chancellor & Executive Board report to Senate**

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

#### **External Environment**

##### **Learning for All Event**

The Principal attended the 'Learning for All' strategic discussion event for College and University Principals, University Senior Managers for Access and College Regional Chairs held in Edinburgh. The discussion was chaired by Professor Alice Brown, Chair of the Scottish Funding Council and featured an address by The Rt Hon. Alan Milburn, Chair of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. Professor Ruth Whitaker, Director of GCU LEAD, was also in attendance. The discussions were positive and constructive, and the Principal was able to contribute, highlighting GCU's work to widen access and offer opportunities for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

##### **Consultation on new Higher Education Bill**

The Scottish Government has published a Consultation Paper on a Higher Education Governance Bill: "aimed at enhancing and improving governance in higher education institutions in Scotland." GCU's response to this consultation is currently being discussed and progressed.

##### **Scottish Government Reshuffle**

Following the confirmation of Nicola Sturgeon as the new First Minister of Scotland, a reshuffle of the Scottish Government Cabinet has taken place. Angela Constance, the former Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth and Women's Employment, was appointed the new Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. The new Scottish Cabinet now has a 50:50 gender split. The Principal has written to the new First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning welcoming them to their new roles.

#### **University Activities**

##### **Student Recruitment Trimester A 2014-15**

Applications to study at GCU for September 2014 rose on the previous year, with applications for SFC undergraduate programmes increasing by 6.5% compared to the sector average of 1.4%. The University filled all of its undergraduate places and is now at its limit for SFC-eligible full-time undergraduate students in non-controlled subjects. We have met the SFC target for 850 articulating students, as agreed through the Outcome Agreement process. Recruitment to the controlled nursing and newly-commissioned nursing groups was also strong, with intake just above target but within the SFC consolidation limits. Trimester A recruitment to SFC part-time undergraduate and taught postgraduate study is sitting at almost 90% for both of these cohorts.

Applications from international students also increased in both Glasgow and GCU London. The University achieved 90% of the Trimester A international student target for Glasgow, and GCU London met its Trimester A target. Recruitment and conversion activities are ongoing for the Trimester B intake, and the Admissions team continues to process applications and deposits for international students intending to join GCU in January.

### **State of the City Economy Conference**

The Principal took part in a panel discussion at the State of the City Economy Conference as I featuring the guest speakers for the event. The panel took place in front of an audience of over five hundred delegates who had assembled to discuss Glasgow's economy and look ahead to the next 12 months. The Rt Hon. Gordon Brown MP was the keynote speaker for the conference, and the panel also featured the Leader of Glasgow City Council, Councillor Gordon Matheson, BT Group Director, Wireless Cities, Devices, Mobility and Innovation, Mark Harrop, and Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive, Stuart Patrick. The Principal's contributions highlighted the work that Glasgow's universities are doing to support businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises, and the importance of recognising the leadership potential of young people.

### **Scottish Politician of the Year Awards**

The Principal attended the Scottish Politician of the Year Awards as a guest of The Herald. The Herald Editor, Magnus Llewellyn, hosted a table and the Principal's fellow guests included the new First Minister, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Managing Director of Glasgow Airport amongst others.

### **Centre for Climate Justice**

Glasgow Caledonian University's Centre for Climate Justice has been awarded funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund for a new project to improve access to water among the poorest and most vulnerable groups in Malawi and Zambia. The 18-month £600,000 Water for ALL project aims to help build sustainable capacity in achieving equity and entitlement in accessing water. The award was announced by the Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse MSP at an 'Achieving Climate Justice' Dialogue event held at GCU London.

GCU's Director of the Centre for Climate Justice, Professor Tahseen Jafry, will lead the project, working with the Centre for Social Research at the University of Malawi, and the University of Lusaka. The Centre for Climate Justice was recently funded by the Scottish Government via Scotland's Climate 2020 Group for a campaign encouraging communities in Malawi to replace dangerous and costly kerosene lamps, batteries and candles with environmentally friendly solar lighting that helps families to tackle poverty.

Professor Jafry is also working with The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). Headquartered in Mexico, CIMMYT is the global leader in research for development in wheat and maize based farming systems. CIMMYT works throughout the developing world to

improve global food security and livelihoods. Professor Jafry's research will be part of a global study on gender and social justice in South Asia, and the project will receive £310,633 in funding.

The Centre has also launched a new, unique MSc Climate Justice programme. The programme, recruiting for a 2015 start, will provide in-depth understanding, analysis and knowledge about the principles that underpin climate justice - human rights, development and climate change. The Centre is working in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is also home to a unique research repository within the field of climate justice, which was created with the Mary Robinson Foundation- Climate Justice.

### **GCU London Graduation Ceremony**

The GCU London graduation ceremony took place at a ceremony held in Christ Church, Spitalfields. Graduates were joined by Jane Shepherdson MBE, CEO of Whistles, who was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award and appointed an Honorary Professor of GCU, and Douglas Dawson, Chief Operating Officer of Caparo Group, who was presented with an Alumni Achievement Award. Ms Shepherdson was honoured in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the fashion industry and was presented with an award that was crafted for GCU by the renowned Scottish sculptor Andy Scott, who created The Kelpies horse head sculptures in Falkirk.

### **Glasgow Kelvin MOU**

GCU has established a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Glasgow Kelvin College, and a signing ceremony took place between the Principal, and Alan Sherry, Glasgow Kelvin's Principal. The agreement follows long standing collaboration between the University and the college's legacy institutions – Stow, North Glasgow and John Wheatley. The project will be governed by a joint Strategic Partnership Steering Group, with representation from senior management, academic, professional support services and students' associations from both institutions.

## **International Activities**

### **Transnet Freight Rail Graduation Ceremony**

The first graduation ceremony for Transnet employees who have completed degrees, diplomas and certificates in railway operations management, in the programme delivered in partnership between GCU, the University of Johannesburg and the UK's Institution of Railway Operators has taken place. The programme is the first of its kind that offers a formal qualification in railway operations management in South Africa, utilising course content co-created with and relevant to the needs of Transnet Freight Rail. The ceremony, which took place at the Transnet School of Rail in Johannesburg, was led by the Principal and the Group Chief Executive of Transnet SOC Ltd, Mr Brian Molefe. Eighty five employees received awards, including Bachelor of Science degrees in Railway Operations Management, Diplomas of Higher Education and Certificates of Higher Education.

GCU delegates also met with Judith MacGregor, British High Commissioner to South Africa and attended a Reception hosted by the British Chamber of Business Southern Africa, and the British Trade Commissioner to South Africa, Andrew Henderson.

## **Caledonian College of Engineering Graduation Ceremony - Oman**

The Principal, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Acting Dean of the School of Engineering and Built Environment attended the graduation ceremony at GCU's partner institution, Caledonian College of Engineering. They were joined by His Excellency Dr Said Hamed Said Al Rubaii, Secretary General of the Education Council, and members of the College's Board of Directors, Executives, and Governing and Academic Councils. During the trip, the Principal and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor also met with the Undersecretary Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Sarmi – Ministry of Education.

## **Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing**

The third graduation ceremony for the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing is due to take place, in Dhaka, on Monday 8th December. The ceremony will be officiated by Chancellor Yunus and the Principal of the College, Professor Frank Crossan, with founding Principal, Professor Barbara Parfitt in attendance. Thirty nine students are expected to graduate in the ceremony.

## **Communication University of China**

Following a trip to the Communication University of China (CUC) by the VP Learning and Student Experience, a memorandum of understanding has been signed. The agreement focuses on offering progression pathways for students from CUC in Beijing to pursue Postgraduate study with GCU in either Glasgow or London and offering opportunities for CUC students who meet the eligibility criteria to register for a PhD, with a supervisory team comprising two colleagues from GSBS and one from CUC. CUC is ranked number 1 in China in the subject area of media and communications.

## **2. ELIR UPDATE**

Senate was provided with an update on the University's ELIR preparations. The Reflective Analysis, Case Studies and Advance Information Set have been submitted to the QAA (Scotland) for review by the panel. The next steps include the preparations for the Part 1 and 2 Visits. Key dates for noting are:

- Part 1 Visit – 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015
- Part 2 Visit – week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015
- Key themes letter with overarching judgement – week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

The Reflective Analysis is available on the Department of Governance and Quality Enhancement portal.

## **3. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

Senate approved a revised Code of Student Conduct for implementation in academic session 2015-16. The revised code aligns with the QAA Quality Code; the University's Complaints Handling Procedure and offers a fair and transparent process for dealing with student conduct. The Code will be made available on the Department of Governance and Quality Enhancement portal and the University website.

#### 4. OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH POLICY

Senate considered and approved a new policy on Open Access to Research Policy. From April 2016 all research active staff must publish their work on Open Access. The University is strongly committed to the principle that the outcomes arising from its publicly funded research are a public good that should be made widely available. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) sheet has been developed and will be made available to all staff.

#### 5. AMENDED SENATE COMPOSITION

Following approval by Senate to increase the number of co-opted places available on Senate from four to six, the University will seek Privy Council approval to amend the composition of Senate. This change will be included as part of other proposed amendments to the University's Statutory Instrument soon to be submitted to the Privy Council. These changes are being sought to ensure that the University is fully compliant with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance.

#### 6. COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Senate received an annual overview report on all collaborative arrangements; satellite campus and off campus activities. The report which had previously been considered by the Academic Policy Committee provides the University with institutional oversight of all award bearing and credit rated activities delivered by a partner or off campus, is compliant with the QAA Quality Code and ensures maintenance of academic standards.

#### 7. OTHER MATTERS APPROVED

- The undernoted honorary appointments

Title	Post	Field of Expertise
Prof Alan Tomlinson	Emeritus Chair in School of Health & Life Sciences	Vision Sciences
Dr Harry Orbach	Emeritus Position in School of Health & Life Sciences	Vision Sciences
Prof Barbara Parfitt	Emeritus Professor in School of Health & Life Sciences	Nursing and Midwifery

- Following recommendations from the higher Degrees Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 9 PhDs and 2 Prof Ds.
- The appointment of Professor Bruce Wood to the Senate Disciplinary Committee
- A quarterly report from the newly established International Committee outlining the programme of work to date.

## **8. OTHER MATTERS NOTED**

- Notification of recent academic staff appointments
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- The confirmed minutes of the undernoted School Boards and the London Campus Board:
  - SHLS – held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014
  - GSBS – held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014
  - SEBE – held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014
  - LCB – held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- The highlights of the meeting of University Court held on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- A Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Co-operation between GCU and the University of Glasgow relating to Nursing and Midwifery
- An Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement with Glasgow Kelvin College
- The Strategy for Learning Operational Plan for session 2014-15
- Senate annual programme of work
- The date of the next meeting of Senate will be Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015