

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The University Court met virtually today, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This being the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 2021, Court members joined me in observing the two-minute silence at 11 am in remembrance of those who died in the line of duty.

As the historic COP 26 conference in Glasgow moves to a close this week, the Court took the opportunity to commend the Principal on the excellent contribution the University had made to debate and inspiring thought leadership on the topic of the Climate Emergency and in particular Climate Justice.

The Court welcomed Ms Fiona Campbell to her first meeting in attendance as VP People and Student Wellbeing. The Court also welcomed Mr Paul Brown, who was observing his first scheduled Court meeting. We look forward to welcoming Paul in the new role of Director of Governance and Legal Services when he joins the University on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

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 & Executive Board Report**

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting with the Principal highlighting: the University's activity associated with the COP 26 conference; the likely SFC funding settlement for 2022/23; and potential next steps following the Scottish Government's response to the SFC tertiary review.

### **2. Student President's Report**

The Student President reported on the activities of the Students' Association drawing particular attention to activities during COP 26, the Association's Black History month contribution and work undertaken to tackle racism.

### **3. Chief Operating Officer's Report**

The COO gave an overview of key developments in finance, staffing, IT and the estate as well as the University's management of the continuing impact of Covid.

### **4. University Secretary's Report**

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary and in particular in the date of the University's online stakeholder event which students, staff and external stakeholders are invited join at 3.30pm on Zoom on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The Court noted/approved the appointment of Ian Kerr, lay governor and Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, as Director of all four university companies wef 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

## **5. Strategy 2030 KPI Report 2020/21**

The Court noted a report from the DVC on the Strategy 2030 following the first year of its launch and reviewed the University's performance against the associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) approved by Court. The Court welcomed a presentation on the new KPI dashboard that will provide governors and all staff with a rich source of information about the University and the university's progress against the agreed KPIs.

## **6. Outcome Agreement 2021/22**

The Court noted a report from the DVC on 2021/22 Outcome Agreement and endorsed it for submission to the SFC on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## **7. 2021/22 Trimester A Student recruitment report**

The Court noted a report from the DVC which provided an overview of students who have registered as at 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 as well as an early view of Trimester B recruitment. The report highlighted notable growth in the international student recruitment.

## **8. Draft Annual Financial Statements to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

Court considered and approved the consolidated 2021/22 Annual Financial Statements for the University and noted the approved Annual Financial Statements for its subsidiaries for the year ended in 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

## **9. Annual Procurement Report 2020/21**

The Court approved the report which summarises the procurement activities carried out by the University in the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and which the University is required to publish annually.

## **10. GCU Corporate Risk Register**

The Court noted the updated Corporate Risk Register.

## **11. Senate**

The Court noted a report from the Senate meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and approved the University's position statement regarding recognition of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism.

## **12. Standing Committee Business**

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

## **13. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

The Court noted the report presented by the Chair of the Board on the GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting which took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

#### **14. Principal's Objectives 2021/22**

The Court approved the Principal's Objectives for 2021/22 which sets out the high-level objectives for the Principal in the current year.

#### **15. Media Coverage Analysis – September Update**

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in September 2021.

#### **16. Climate Pledge**

The professional and support staff appointed governor, David Halliday, invited fellow governors to adopt and share #myclimatepledge - a voluntary pledge not to fly to destinations that can be reached by train in six hours.

#### **17. Date of next Court meeting**

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, in person if prevailing Covid related circumstances allow.