

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 15th JUNE 2023

The University Court met today, 15th June 2023 and welcomed Chidozie Nwaigwe, the new Student President, as one of the two new student governors on Court nominated by the Students' Association. The second student governor, Jennifer Abali, one of the Association's Vice-Presidents, would first attend a court meeting as a governor in September. The Chair invited Chidozie to introduce himself to Court and to share a short video of a high impact, low cost community project, funded by GCU, that he had led in his home country of Nigeria.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today, which included an update from TU affiliated staff governors on the unions' various positions relating to current UK wide industrial action. The summary 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. These included the successful DVC and Provost appointment of Professor Ehsan Mesbahi who will join the University on 1st August, Scottish Government funding and the SFC Outcome Agreement, UK immigration changes, the University's successful application for additional CASs to accommodate the high level of qualified international applicants seeking admission to the University, current industrial action, the NSS and student accommodation.

2. Chief Operating Officer and DVC Report

The COO and DVC gave an overview of key developments in finance, IS, foundation, registry, the estate and the recruitment and admissions service. Court agreed that the University should partner with HALO Urban Regeneration Company to bring forward a proposal for new build student accommodation on the University's land in Kyle Street.

3. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on the activities of the Students' Association since the previous Court meeting. Topics addressed included the Scottish Government's Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund, Volunteer Survey 2023. Court also noted the Students' Association Trimester 2 Report.

4. University Secretary's Report

In line with Standing Orders, the Court agreed to grant delegated authority to the Chair of Court during the summer vacation. The Court also approved its work plan for 2023-24.

5. Draft University Budget 2023-24

Court approved the University Budget 2023-24, which had been debated and reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, most recently on 23rd May 2023, and by Court as a whole at a briefing on the draft budget on 30th May 2023. The Court also reviewed the GCNYC budget and agreed to make appropriate provisions for the year ahead.

6. Student Recruitment Report Trimester A 2023-24

The Court noted a report which comprised of an update on the recruitment position for Trimester A 2023-24 for undergraduate and taught postgraduate entry, as at 5th June 2023. The report also provided an overview of the changes to the student immigration policy announced by the UK Government on 23rd May 2023.

7. Update on GCNYC

Court considered a report on the progress of the ongoing GCNYC Transition project.

8. Researcher Development Concordat Action Plan

The Court approved the Researcher Development Concordat (RDC) and HR Excellence in Research Award Action plan 2022-25.

9. Report from Senate meetings held on 5th May and 7th June 2023

The Court noted reports from the Senate's meetings of 5th May and 7th June 2023.

10. Standing Committee Business

The Court noted reports presented by the Chairs of the Remuneration, Audit, Finance and General Purposes, and People Committees. On the annual recommendation of the Remuneration Committee, the Court approved the senior staff remuneration philosophy which underpins the Remuneration Committee's annual work plan. On the recommendation of the Court Governance and Nominations Committee it approved; the appointment of another lay governor, Austin Sweeney, to the People Committee; a period of sabbatical leave for a lay governor. Together with receiving an update on the process to appoint a new Chancellor.

11. Report from GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting held on 17th May 2023

The Court noted the report of the discussions and decisions of the GCNYC Board of Trustees at the meeting on 17th May 2023.

12. Media Coverage Analysis Update

The Court noted the reports which highlights the media coverage received by the University in February, March and April 2023.

13. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 21st September 2023.