

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 11 December 2015

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

UK Government Green Paper

The UK Government Higher Education Green Paper signals a number of potentially radical shifts for the future of the sector and its supporting infrastructure, primarily in England. There is a strong focus on promoting competition and choice, the student interest, and transforming sector infrastructure to support these objectives. The Green Paper is structured into four broad areas:

- Teaching excellence, quality and social mobility, which includes an outline of how the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) is going to work
- Market entry and opening the sector up to new providers
- Sector infrastructure, including the creation of the Office for Students (OfS)
- Simplifying the research funding system

Senators expressed concern about the potential implications of the Green Paper and the introduction of a teaching excellence framework (TEF) in particular. This would replace the ELIR (Enhancement Led Institution Review) in Scotland. Senate was advised that the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council were in agreement that there was no desire to move away from the current approach to teaching quality enhancement in Scotland. This view was reinforced in a recent visit to the University by the Cabinet Secretary for Life Long Learning. It was noted however, that as TEF data would be used in league tables, Scottish HE institutions may have to engage with aspects of a TEF to ensure inclusion in league tables.

UK Government Spending Review

The Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the 2015 Spending Review and Autumn Statement, which together set the course of UK Government spending over the next four financial years, up to the next General Election in 2020. The BIS budget cut of 17% is not as significant as anticipated, and the science budget is being protected in real terms. Postgraduate loans are going ahead and the UK Government will lift the age cap on new loans to postgraduates from 2016-17 so they are available to all those under 60. Grants for student nurses are being replaced with loans and the cap is being lifted on places.

The Spending Review also has accepted the recommendations of the Nurse Review and will introduce Research UK – which will work across the seven Research Councils. The UK Government will also begin a review of the Research Excellence Framework, with more details forthcoming.

The Scottish Government Spending Review is expected on December 16th with more detail on the future funding of Scottish Universities expected in the New Year.

Senate noted that Universities Scotland was lobbying the government on behalf of the sector and extent of the cuts was not likely known until the new year. It was hoped that any cuts could be introduced over a 3 year period.

University Activities

Chancellor Yunus

Salt, a UK-based business publication has named GCU Chancellor Professor Muhammad Yunus third in its Top 100 list of Compassionate Leaders. The magazine praised him for his pioneering work in the Grameen model of microcredit and for his efforts in aiding economic and social development. First and second on the list were Unilever CEO Paul Polman and GCU Honorary Graduate entrepreneur Richard Branson.

Scottish Business Pledge

GCU has signed the Scottish Business Pledge, a voluntary code established by the Scottish Government that supports fair and sustainable policies to boost productivity and increase diversity. Made up of nine components, signatories must be Living Wage-accredited, delivering on at least two Pledge elements and committed to achieving the remainder over time.

European Parliament Research Funding

The European Parliament has voted to award funding of €1 million to GCU to develop protocols for the assessment of urban green infrastructure. The bid for funding was submitted by Dr Ian Duncan MEP and GCU Professor Rohinton Emmanuel to develop a set of standards to assist the creation, management and governance of green infrastructure projects with the aim of improving the use of green infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve human health. This pilot project will develop protocols for the establishment of region/city assessment schemes specifically to aid climate change mitigation in cities, and provide planners with evidence-based assessment tools to aid their decision-making.

Herald Society Awards

The Advanced Higher Hub was shortlisted at the Herald Society Awards 2015 in the Education Initiative of the Year category. The Hub was launched in 2013 in partnership with Glasgow City Council and supported by the Scottish Funding Council. It allows students from across Glasgow City Council schools to study Advanced Highers they could not otherwise access, and in its second year of operation achieved a pass rate of 90%, up from 16 % from its first year, compared to a national average of 81%. The eventual winner crowned at the ceremony on November 5, was a City of Edinburgh Council initiative 'Growing Confidence Secondary Schools Programme.'

GCU London Graduations

The GCU London Graduation Ceremony took place, with 120 graduates, at Christ Church in Spitalfields. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mahmud Kamani, fashion entrepreneur and joint-CEO of online fashion retailer boohoo.com. In addition, Mr Kamani was appointed a GCU Honorary Professor.

MATV Fiction Writing Celebration

The annual celebration of GCU's flagship MA TV Fiction Writing programme was held on the Thursday, November 12, with students, staff and alumni joined by leading industry figures at a ceremony held at STV Studios. The Principal presented the awards, including the first scholarship for creative writing established in honour of Scots writer, actor and GCU honorary graduate, the late David MacLennan. GCU Cultural Fellow and actor Juliet Cadzow, who was married to David MacLennan, also attended. The Student of the Year award was presented to GCU's EU Funding Officer, Mark Anderson.

GCU Glasgow Graduations

The winter graduations took place at the Glasgow campus in November, with over 1,200 students graduating from three ceremonies. Honorary degrees were awarded to the sculptor Andy Scott; GCU Alumnus and broadcaster Pat Nevin; the CEO of Howden Ian Brander; former Archbishop of Glasgow Mario Conti; Managing Director of Glasgow Airport, Amanda McMillan OBE; former GCU Chair of Court, Mr Tony Brian; and Rev Laurence Whitely, Minister at Glasgow Cathedral.

Assembly Installation

GCU was the first University to host "Assembly", a touring installation that inspires reflection on the legacy of the First World War. Created by Val Carman, the first artist-in-residence at the 'In Flanders Fields Museum' in Belgium, assembly features five memorial chairs taken from Passchendaele's St. Audomarus Church, which was the scene of one of the worst battles of the conflict, and is accompanied by a memorial book which forms an integral part of the installation. Members of the public and students and staff were invited to participate in the art project and share their stories, memories and reflections of the Great War or other conflicts – either drawn from their own experience or which have been passed down from families and friends.

International Activities

GCU New York

The second Fair Fashion CEO roundtable was successfully held at GCU NY on November 9th, 2015. Attendees included CEOs from Kering (Gucci Group), Nordstrom, Macy's, PVH (Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger) VF Corporation (Northface, Nautica Wrangler, Vans etc.), Eileen Fisher, Kenneth Cole, LVMH, Uniqlo/Fast Retailing, Gilt, Patagonia etc. The CEOs represent over \$178 billion in global business, 31,000 facilities, operating in 102 countries, with over 760,000 employees around the world. The Rockefeller's Bellagio Center will be hosting a GCU led Fair Fashion conference with the CEOs, as well thought leaders from related disciplines. The event is scheduled for the week of April 11th, 2016. GCU NY has been confirmed as one of the 20 style panels at the prestigious South by Southwest conference in Austin, Texas, in March 2015. As the conference will begin a focus on sustainability in the apparel sector, they have asked the Fair Fashion Center to host a panel.

In Executive Education, the first two of the seven part educational salon series were successfully delivered on behalf of Dress for Success and Wal-Mart, and discussions on follow up activity are on-going. The first course for the 92Y Fashion Fellows has also taken place. A new series of Town Halls focused on social business and impact investing have begun with Tania Carnegie, Leader of Impact Ventures and National Executive Director of Community Leadership at KPMG addressing the first event.

Transnet Freight Rail Graduations – South Africa

The second graduation ceremony for Transnet Freight Rail employees took place in October. 180 Transnet Freight Rail staff graduated at the ceremony, which featured a keynote address by Lynne Brown MP, the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises in South Africa. The programme is the first of its kind that offers a formal qualification in Railway Operations Management in South Africa, and is delivered in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, the UK's Institution of Railway Operators and Transnet's School of Rail.

Caledonian College of Engineering Graduations - Oman

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and its partner institution Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE) in Oman held its graduation ceremony in November. It saw the graduations of 390 students, of which over 340 are GCU graduates. The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Dr Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Sarmi, Undersecretary of Oman's Ministry of Higher Education; Sheikh Dr Salim Bin Said Bin Hamed Al Fannah Al Araimi; and Dean Dr Ahmed Al Bulushi at the ceremony.

International Activities

British High Commissioner to South Africa

GCU vision sciences students volunteering on the Phelophepa 'Train of Hope' met the British High Commissioner to South Africa, Judith Macgregor. Three students studying BSc (Hons) Optometry, were part of a team of 31 GCU students delivering primary healthcare to remote areas of the country this summer. The School of Health and Life Sciences students were working alongside full-time professional staff on the train which delivers health care in rural and remote parts of South Africa.

2. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

The annual report outlining the Equality and Diversity Committee's work in 2014-15 in relation to fulfilling its terms of reference was considered and noted. Senate was informed that membership of the Committee would be reviewed in line with the application for Athena Swan Bronze (see item 5 below).

3. LIVING THE GCU VALUES

Senate receive a presentation from Professor Caroline Parker on the GCU Values project. Professor Parker outlined the background to the project and explained that staff and students had been consulted to ensure the identification of values most associated with the University and the common good mission. The project had then focused on how the agreed values of integrity, creativity, responsibility and confidence linked to behaviours. The next stage of the project will involve embedding the values and behaviours into practice. All staff will be given information on values and behaviours and there will be a number of activities in 2016 starting with the launch in January.

Senate welcomed the work undertaken to date and noted that further work and development would continue in 2016.

4. OPEN ACCESS IN RESEARCH: SPRINGER GOLD OPEN ACCESS POLICY CHANGE

Senate noted that the University had signed up to the Springer Gold Open Access Policy. This innovative 3 year agreement had been agreed by UK HEI libraries with the publisher Springer, and allowed open access publishing in over 1600 journals. Most UK HEIs had signed up to the agreement and it was hoped that other publishers would follow suit.

5. ATHENA SWAN

Senate was advised that it had been decided to defer the application for Athena Swan Bronze to April 2016. This would mean that the application would be submitted under new guidelines and would include GSBS and professional support services in addition to STEM subjects.

A significant amount of work was being put into the revised application which included more detailed information on areas of good practice within the University and it was anticipated that the University would be in a position to submit a strong application in April 2016. Work was also underway with articulating colleges and this would be included in the submission.

6. OTHER MATTERS APPROVED/ NOTED

- Following recommendations from the Higher Degree Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 7 PhDs and 1 Prof. D.
- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 16th September 2015.
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 9th September 2015.
- The confirmed minutes of the International Committee of 14th July 2015 and 10th September 2015.
- The confirmed minutes of the undernoted meetings of School Boards
 - School of Health and Life Sciences held on 29th July 2015
 - GCU London Campus Board held on 9th June 2015
- The highlights of the meetings of University Court held on 24th September 2015.
- Updated Senate membership for 2015/16.
- **Date of the next meeting of Senate is Friday 4th March 2016.**