

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 21st February 2014

1. PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLORS 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

Scottish Government White Paper on Independence

The Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence 'Scotland's Future' has been launched. The Higher Education Sector is prominently featured in the document. The most noteworthy aspect for the sector is that the Scottish Government intends to continue to charge rUK students fees in the event of independence, based on the "unique and exceptional position of Scotland in relation to other parts of the UK" which they contend form the basis for "objective justification" of this policy. Whether this would be legal under EU Law has attracted significant media attention and wider debate. The White Paper is also strongly supportive of internationalisation, including the intent to create an immigration system which would be more conducive to recruiting international students, and confirmation that the Scottish Government would intend to stay in the common UK research area.

University Activities

Student numbers

The University submitted the annual Early Statistics Return to the SFC in December 2013. We have met our recruitment target on overall SFC-eligible student numbers, and we are within the consolidation threshold for full-time undergraduate students. As anticipated, we have reported c230 fees-only students. The University received additional places for articulating and taught postgraduate students for 2013/14. All of the articulation places have been filled by partner colleges, with the intention that these students will articulate to GCU programmes in 2015/16. The sector as a whole experienced some challenges in recruiting to the additional postgraduate places in the first year of implementation, and we expect that just over half of the places allocated to GCU will be filled in 2013/14.

International recruitment in Trimester A was below the challenging targets set for 2013/14, but significantly above international recruitment in Trimester A in 2012/13 (+30%). Registration is ongoing in Trimester B, but early indications show that international recruitment is stronger than anticipated for the January intake. A clearer picture of overall international student numbers will be available in February. Recruitment to GCU London is on target for Trimester A, and registration for Trimester B is ongoing. RUK student numbers are broadly on target.

Principal's Learning and Teaching Awards

The Principal's Learning and Teaching Awards took place for the third year. Senior Lecturer, Dr Michelle Govan from SEBE was named winner of the Principal's Award (Individual) for Learning and Teaching, for work including the introduction of the five-year MEng / MEng (Hons in) Digital Security. A group from SEBE also received the inaugural Principal's Team award for Learning and Teaching for its flagship Scottish Game Jam event, a 48-hour challenge to design and develop original game content together with GCU students and industry professionals. The annual Learning and Teaching

Awards are organised by GCU LEAD to highlight innovative strategies and inspirational individuals among the University's teaching staff.

HR Excellence in Research Badge

The University has been awarded the EU HR Excellence in Research Badge by the European Commission. The accreditation reflects GCU's commitment to supporting researchers throughout their careers, and acknowledges the University's alignment with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their recruitment.

Strategy 2020 Consultation

Consultation for GCU Strategy 2020 remains ongoing, with further open consultation events for staff taking place. Following the success of the event held at GCSUA, another feedback session for students is being scheduled. Progress has also been made on mapping and planning for the external stakeholder portion of this activity.

Executive Board Portfolios

There have been a series of changes to the responsibilities and portfolios of members of the Executive Board. Professor Mike Mannion, in addition to his role as Vice Principal and PVC Research, has become Provost of GCU New York. He has taken on responsibility for academic matters at GCU New York and will work to coordinate academic activities between New York and Glasgow, and to support GCU New York Vice President, Cara Smyth who has the overall leadership responsibility for the delivery of the initiative. Given his new responsibilities, Professor Mannion's existing oversight of RIE, has been taken over by Professor Lesley Sawers, in her capacity as Vice Principal and PVC for Business, Innovation and Enterprise. As our new Executive Dean for SHLS, Professor Valerie Webster has taken on External Relations (Communications and Marketing) as her PVC responsibility. Professor Karen Stanton now oversees a renamed PVC portfolio of Global Engagement which includes DARO, the International Office, Admissions and Enquiry Service and UK Recruitment and Outreach Teams, and remains the Executive Lead for GCU London.

Campus visit by Secretary of State for Scotland

The Secretary of State for Scotland, the Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael visited GCU on the 30th January. He attended a lunch with the Principal, Vice Principal & PVC for Business, Enterprise & Innovation, and, the University's Chair of Court. Discussions focused on GCU's common good mission and internationalisation strategy. He also visited the Students' Association, where he took part in an informal Q&A session, and was interviewed for student station, Radio Caley. GCU then hosted a meeting of the Scottish Business Board, a group established by the Scotland Office to raise issues and help provide solutions to problems facing the Scottish economy.

Co-hosting speech by the Prime Minister

GCU co-hosted an event at the Olympic Park Velodrome, with an address by the UK Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron on the constitutional future of the UK to a high-profile business audience of around 200. The Principal introduced the Prime Minister for his speech, and also welcomed him to the event alongside the Chair of Court, the Vice Principal & PVC for Business, Enterprise & Innovation and the Vice Principal & PVC Global Engagement. The University itself remains neutral on political issues. This event is part of an ongoing commitment to engage with figures from across the political spectrum, and GCU is looking forward to welcoming a senior member of the Scottish Government to deliver the inaugural Caledonian Lecture at GCU's New York campus on April 7th. The event was a valuable business development opportunity, and a number of follow up opportunities are being progressed with significant figures from sectors including fashion and finance.

College Connect Strategy

Glasgow Caledonian University marked the launch of its College Connect Strategy for 2013-2020 by welcoming the new Chair of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Professor Alice Brown CBE, to deliver a keynote address to staff, student representatives and invited guests. The College Connect strategy provides a framework for GCU to support articulation and further enhance GCU's existing relationships with its partner colleges. The Exec Dean GSBS and PVC for Learning and Teaching, Director of UK Recruitment and Outreach, Director of GCU LEAD all delivered presentations, as well as contributions from student officers, including the Students' Association Vice President for Education.

The event was well attended by a range of colleagues from both Universities and Colleges, and positive feedback has been received on the success of the event.

International Activities

GCU New York

Members of the Executive Board took part in a very successful and productive trip to support the development of GCU New York. Interviews were held for an academic Dean for GCU New York, and a successful appointment was made. Dr Robert Clougherty has wide ranging experience in the United States and joins GCU from Empire State College. The University also hosted a table at the RFK Ripple of Hope Awards ceremony, where Chancellor Yunus was presented with an Award for Social Justice. A dinner was held for prominent Global Scots, which included attendees from Bloomberg, IBM and Bank of America, as well as a dinner with Margiray McKee, the President of Saks, and meetings with local HE stakeholders.

2. Portfolio Refresh

Senate considered a paper outlining the governance arrangements and timeline of consultation undertaken across the University for the Portfolio Refresh exercise. This was produced at the request of the December meeting of Senate. The paper outlined the University level governance and consideration via Senate and APC; School governance and consideration via School Boards and Programme Boards and other consultative activities such as "away days", meetings with students and external stakeholders. Senate was pleased to note the level of consultation and acknowledged the importance of hearing the staff and student voice in this portfolio refresh exercise.

3. Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR)

Senate was provided with an update on progress to date with the ELIR preparations. The PVC Learning and Teaching, Professor Wilson advised that the Steering Group has commenced the drafting of the Reflective Analysis and will produce the draft by the end of March. At this stage there will be a period of consultation via the committee structure and various staff groupings. Work has also commenced on the production of the Advance Information Set. This covers the quality assurance part of ELIR freeing up time for the panel to explore enhancement activities. Key dates for ELIR are as follows: Part 1 visit 21/22nd January 2015; Part 2 visit week commencing 2nd March 2015. The University will receive the outcome letter one week after the part 2 visit.

4. GCU Outcome Agreement 2014-2015

Senate noted the 3rd annual Outcome Agreement which was approved by Court at the end of January 2015. Senate had previously considered a draft of the Outcome Agreement at its October meeting. The agreement is aligned with our 2015 Strategy and emerging 2020 Strategy. GCU is the first University to embed Case Studies in its outcome agreement and this has been well received by

the SFC. The University's strategic and financial planning process will take cognisance of the Outcome Agreement and associated targets. This is important as the SFC is changing to a method of allocating streams of funding on the basis of outcome agreements with institutions and, as such, there are potential financial implications where an institution fails to meet certain targets within the agreements. This is the last annual Outcome Agreement as the SFC move to a 3 year cycle with effect from 2015-2016.

5. Some other matters considered and approved

- Following recommendation from the Higher Degrees Committee the award of 12 PhDs

6. Other matters noted

- Academic staff appointments
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 13th November 2013
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 17th December 2013
- The confirmed minutes from the undernoted meetings of School Boards
- **Glasgow School for Business and Society held on:**

23 rd April 2012	(Doc S13/39/1 to follow)
13 th March 2013	(Doc GSBS/SB/04/26)
9 th September 2013	(Doc GSBS/SB/13/01/01)
- **School of Engineering and the Built Environment held on:**

2 nd May 2012	(Doc EBESB11/22/01)
21 st November 2012	(Doc EBESB12/1/18)
13 th February 2013	(Doc EBESB12/01/31)
30 th October 2013	(Doc EBESB/13/01/17)
- **School of Health and Life Sciences held on:**

25 th June 2012	(Doc HLS/SB/11/24)
15 th August 2012	(Doc HLS/SB/11/28)
23 rd January 2013	(Doc HLS/SB/12/32)
3 rd April 2013	(Doc HLS/SB/12/44)
28 th June 2013	(Doc HLS/SB/13/01)
18 th October 2013	(Doc HLS/SB/13/15)
- The highlights of the meeting of University Court held on 28th November 2013 and 30th January 2014
- Date of next meeting of Senate is Friday 13th June 2014