

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 17th February 2022

The University Court met virtually on Thursday 17th February 2022 and congratulated Professor Alastair Robertson, PVC Learning and Teaching, and Fiona Campbell, Vice-Principal People and Student Wellbeing, on their now substantive appointments. The Court further extended congratulations to Professor Cam Donaldson and Professor Sebastien Chastin for their exceptional placing in key world academic rating reviews.

Court noted that the annual virtual stakeholder event for staff, students and external stakeholders would be taking place at 4pm on the same day as Court on the topic of 'Our sustainable future'.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court, 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. Recruitment of the Principal's successor

The Court approved the framework for the recruitment as well as the final membership of the Search Committee. The Search Committee is based on the Court Governance and Nominations Committee membership with the addition of a TU nominated governor and the professional and support staff elected governor. The Committee is not large, being designed for agility rather than comprehensive representation. The Committee's work will be undertaken, however, against the background of feedback from thorough consultation activity led by Saxton Bampfylde, the executive search company appointed to support the Court in this important task. The Search Committee membership is:

Mr Rob Woodward (Chair)

Ms Meg Lustman (Vice-Chair of Court and Chair of Remuneration Committee)

Mr Austin Sweeney (Lay Governor)

Mr Ian Kerr (Lay Governor and Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee)

Mrs Sylvie Freund Pickavance (Lay Governor and Chair of GCNYC Board of Trustees)

Dr Morag Ferguson (Senate elected governor on Court)

Mr Adil Rahoo (Student President and Student Governor)

Dr Nick McKerrell (Trade Union nominated Governor)

Mr David Halliday (Professional and Support Staff elected Governor)

2. Principal & Vice Chancellor & Executive Board Report

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting including the findings of Biggar Economics showing the University's high economic impact. Among the topics discussed were the sector consultations on changes affecting the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and the National Student Survey (NSS), and the Thriving Learners report on student mental health.

3. Chief Operating Officer's Report including Covid management update.

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

4. Student President's Reports

The Student President reported on the current activities of the Students' Association and Trimester A activity drawing particular attention to contributions during COP 26, the Association's Activism Against Gender Based Violence and work to increase support for disabled students.

5. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted the report.

6. Student Recruitment Report 2021-22 Trimester B

The Court noted the strong positive features of the report which provided an overview of the near final position in terms of applications and acceptances to the Trimester B intake of academic year 2021-22 and looked ahead to 2022-23 recruitment.

7. Senate Disciplinary Committee Annual Report

The Court noted the annual report.

8. Complaints Handling Procedure Annual Report

The Court noted the annual report.

9. Research Update Trimester A

The Court noted the Research Report which provided an update on achievements in relation to the University's research profile and funding.

10. Report from Senate meeting held on 8th December 2021

The Court noted the business of the Senate meeting on 8th December 2021.

11. Standing Committee Business

The Court noted reports presented by the Chairs of the Audit, Finance and General Purposes, Remuneration and People Committees and approved the strategic Key Performance Indicator for staff engagement as well as a change to financial exceptions reporting.

12. Report from GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting held on 8th December 2021

The Court noted the report of the discussions and decisions of the GCNYC Board of Trustees at the meeting on 8th December 2021.

13. Media Coverage Analysis – December 2021

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

14. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 21st April 2022 which, it is hoped, will be the first one to be held in person since the advent of the pandemic.