

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022

- Present:** Professor Pamela Gillies (Chair), Dr Bipasha Ahmed, Professor Tuleen Boutaleb, Jane Burt, Fiona Campbell, Professor Iain Cameron, Kanwal Chaudhry, Dr Lyle Grey, Jan Hulme, Dr Catriona Khamisha, Professor Gunter Loffler, Professor Mike Mannion, Samantha MacLean, Wendy Mazzucco, Professor Kerri McPherson, Aspen Milledge, Professor Andrea Nelson, Dr Val Ness, Chidozie Nwaigwe, Professor Angela O'Hagan, Dr Adrian Pierotti, Dr Shirley Rate (Vice Professor John Lennon), Professor Alastair Robertson, Professor Carl Schaschke, Linda Shearer, Professor Anita Simmers, Brian Smith, Professor Sheila Smith, Professor Bonnie Steves, Laiba Tareen, Dr Karen Thomson, and Professor Bruce Wood.
- Apologies:** Mark Anderson, Professor Katrina Bannigan, Professor Mohamed Farrag, Dr Karen Fryer, Claire Hulsen, Professor Sharon Jackson, Naveed Kayani, Steven Latta, Professor John Lennon, Jackie Main, Tom McAlear, Dr Ben Middleton, Jodie Murdoch, Dr Nadia Northway, Bolaji Oyewo, Professor Ole Pahl, Robert Ruthven, Dr Omair Uthmani.
- In Attendance:** Stephen Lopez, Academic Registrar
Susan Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer
Dr Linda Walsh, Vice Chair, Senate Disciplinary Committee

Deborah Donnet, Clerk to Senate
- Observers:** Paul Brown (Governance and Legal Services), Julie Burns (Executive Support), Louise Clark (Governance and Legal Services), Mary Daly (Strategy, Planning and Business Intelligence), Anastasia Fliatoura (Governance and Legal Services), Dr Michael Tong (Interim Director, GCU London), Lizzie Reather (People Services).

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of Senate in academic session 2022/23. The Chair welcomed the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Mike Mannion, who was attending Senate for the first time as Acting DVC and Vice Chair. New student members were also welcomed. Thanks were given to Professor Katrina Bannigan who was stepping down as Head of Department in the new year and therefore would no longer be a member of Senate.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair informed Senate that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th October 2022 had been approved by prior circulation.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1 Senate **noted** a report on the matters arising from the Senate meeting on 19th October 2022 and the actions taken since that meeting to address them.

3. Principal & Vice Chancellor and Executive Board

- 3.1 Senate **noted** a report from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor that provided an update on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate.
- 3.2 The VP People and Student Wellbeing provided an update on the accommodation shortages in Glasgow. Work would be continuing to support around 400 students in Tri B.
- 3.3 In summarising 2022, the Chair highlighted the University's strong financial position and positive student metrics and that this provided a strong foundation for the University to continue to build on.

4. Strategy for Learning Implementation Roadmap 2025/26

- 4.1 The PVC Learning and Teaching introduced a report that provided guidance on the priorities and target outcomes for learning and teaching to help inform Schools' and Services' three-year strategic planning across the Glasgow and London campuses. The aim of the report was to provide a roadmap for Strategy Learning 2030 until the end of 2025/26, building upon the foundations of the current roadmap running until the end of 2022/23. A thematic analysis of School and Service learning and teaching related plans would be undertaken in early 2023 to ensure that the roadmap was updated as needed.
- 4.2 Key points that were highlighted included the growth and importance of digital technology in learning and teaching, the impact of the significant growth in international students and the SFC's implementation of their review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability which had implications for the University on widening access. The SFC review also included the development of a single quality assurance and enhancement framework for tertiary education and whilst this would have ramifications for GCU policy and practice, the extent was not yet clear.
- 4.3 It was stressed that the roadmap was organic and would be analysed and refreshed in the spring, incorporating new initiatives from operational plans.
- 4.4 In discussion the following points were raised:-
- Ensuring E&D work, and work in support of the Race Equality Charter in particular, is appropriately championed and resourced and is not a "tick box" exercise, including acknowledging and tackling racism where it exists;
 - The increase in international students and the differing cultural perspectives and expectations was putting pressure on existing resources and services;
 - Clearer and earlier information for international students on requirements for successful applications for graduate route visas;
 - The increase in the number of students with Recommended Adjustment Pages and the impact this was having on placement provision and support for students;
 - The identification and resolution of Wi-Fi blackspots and improved access to printers on campus;
 - Genuine and authentic consultation to be embedded in all operational plans; and
 - The need for a balance between strategy development and how we operationalise and resource it.
- 4.5 The PVC Learning and Teaching welcomed the feedback and advised that this would be reflected in the roadmap refresh.

5. Standing Committees and School Board Summary Reports

5.1 Senate **noted** reports from the following Standing Committees and School Boards and the respective Chairs highlighted key points from the reports: -

- Academic Policy and Practice Committee held on 2nd November 2022.
- University Research Committee held on 15th November 2022.
- International Committee held on 3rd November 2022. The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor indicated that this had been his first meeting as Chair of the International Committee, and he had reflected that whilst Strategy 2030 had internationalisation as a common thread throughout, it may be appropriate to have a separate International Strategy that pulled all the threads together. This would be given further consideration and brought back to a future meeting of Senate as required.
- Glasgow School *for* Business and Society held on 19th October 2022.
- School of Health Life Sciences held on 5th October 2022.

6. Research Degrees Committee

6.1 Senate approved the award of 7 PhDs.

7. Programme Withdrawals

7.1 Senate considered and **approved** the withdrawal of the following programmes.

7.2 Diploma in Paramedic Practice: The Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences presented a paper seeking approval for the withdrawal of the Diploma in Paramedic Practice. The programme had been due to expire in 2022, but its delivery was extended due to COVID. The paper outlined the rationale and expiry plan and had been agreed and approved at both the GCU/SAS Contract Board and at the Dip HE Programme Board.

7.3 MSc Construction Programme: The Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and the Build Environment, presented a paper seeking approval from the Senate for the withdrawal of the MSc Construction programme. The MSc Construction Programme was developed in 2018 and designed specifically for Clarke Contracts. Only 5 students each year had undertaken the programme and there were no current students.

8. Honorary Appointments

8.1 Senate was informed that the following honorary appointments were awarded by the University Executive Board.

Post	Title	Field of expertise	School
Honorary Professor	Dr Erio Ziglio	Public Health	GCU London

9. Academic Appointments

9.1 Senate received a paper on academic appointments made since the last meeting of Senate.

10. Summary Report of Court

10.1 Senate received the summary report of the meeting of the University Court held on 17th November 2022.

11. Professional Recognition of Teaching and Supporting Learning

11.1 Senate received a report on the Professional Recognition of Teaching and Supporting Learning.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

12.1 Senate noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 22nd February 2023.

13. AOCB – Thanks to the Principal

13.1 The Vice Chair of Senate reminded Senators that this was the last Senate meeting that would be chaired by the Principal, Professor Pamela Gillies, who was stepping down from her role at the end of the current calendar year. He remarked that it was the 153rd meeting of Senate, and that Professor Gillies would have chaired almost half of these in her 17 years as Principal. He commended Professor Gillies for returning the University to its core mission of being for the Common Good and highlighted that under her leadership the University had transformed lives via its teaching and research at home in Glasgow and London, and globally around the world. Senate had played a part in this transformation by supporting robust but courteous debate, and reaching consensus to agree a way forward. He wished the Principal well for the future, highlighting plans she had with GCU colleagues to write two books.

Senate echoed the Vice Chair's sentiments via a round of applause.

14. Chair's Closing Remarks

14.1 The Chair thanked Senate for the open, inclusive, trustworthy and collegiate approach it had taken to conducting business, even when there had been challenging issues to be considered. She indicated that she was looking forward to continuing her relationship with the University as an Emeritus Professor in the School of Health and Life Sciences, as well as co-authoring books. She thanked Senators for their support throughout her tenure, and wished all well for the continued growth and success of the University under its new leadership.