

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2012

- PRESENT:** Dr N Andrews, Mr M Andrews(SA), Professor L Baillie, Mr D Beeby, Mrs H Brown, Professor I Cameron, Mr J Campbell, Mr A Corbett, Mr Ed Clack, Dr V Charissis, Mrs T Findlay, Professor P Gillies (Chair), Mrs J Greig, Mrs P Hamilton, Ms J Hulme, Professor V James, Mrs C Kamisha, Mr A Killick, Dr M MacDonald, Professor E MacFarland, Professor M Mannion, Professor J Marshall, Professor A McKay, Mrs A Nimmo, Mr Brian Pillans, Mr I Stewart, Professor J Tombs, Professor V Webster, Professor R Whittaker, Mr M Wilburton (SA) Professor J Wilson,
- APOLOGIES:** Dr J Biggam, Professor T Buggy, Ms J Carson, Professor F Cheater, Mr H Dingwall, Professor D Greenhalgh, Ms A Gasteen, Mr P Henry, Mrs C Hulsen, Mr T Kilpatrick, Professor J Lennon, Mr V McKay, Mr J Murray, Professor S Scott, Professor K Stanton, Professor B Steves, Professor J Stewart, Dr Ian Trushell.
- OBSERVERS:** Ms D Borrett (SA Vice President Education elect), Mr T Brian (Court), J Burns (PG), Mrs L Clark (G&AQ), D Donnet (PG), Ms C Fyfe (SA President elect), I Jones (SHLS). C Webster (OD).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs M Henaghan, Secretary to Senate
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CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed colleagues to the third meeting of Senate in session 2011/12. The Chair advised Senate Members that the change of timing was due to a meeting with the Under Secretary of State for Hong Kong and Principals of Scottish Universities to promote and explore opportunities. The Principal welcomed all new members to their first Senate and observers including Carla Fyfe (Student President Elect) and Danielle Borrett (Vice President Elect - Education).

Minutes

- 11.76 Considered: The unconfirmed draft minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 1st December 2011 **(Doc S/11/29/1)**
- 11.77 Resolved: That subject to some minor typographical corrections in minute 11.61 (correction received by email) that the minutes be approved as a correct record.
(Action: MH)

Matters Arising

- 11.78 Considered: Any matters arising on the minutes not otherwise provided for on the agenda.
- 11.79 Resolved: There were no matters arising on the minutes of the previous Senate.

Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board Report

- 11.80 Considered: A report from the Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executives to update members on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate. **(Doc S11/30/1).**
- 11.81 Reported Staff Opinion Survey
By the Principal that the outcomes from the Staff Opinion Survey have been widely disseminated to the Executive Board, the Joint Consultative Committee, Schools and Support Departments for consideration and action as appropriate. One outcome from the survey, at the request of staff to improve communication, is the formation of a new group known as Staff Voice. This approach is in addition to the usual forums available for staff to engage with the Principal.

Professor Yunus and the Grameen Scotland Foundation

The Chair reported that Professor Yunus had delivered a Masterclass on Social Business to staff and students of the University during his recent visit. At a later meeting, the Cabinet Secretary John Swinney also spoke positively of the University's partnership with Professor Yunus and his personal hope that the Grameen micro credit initiative would start in Scotland. To mark International Women's Day Professor Yunus and the Principal delivered presentations to an audience at the offices of Clifford Chance in London. This successful initiative has raised circa £1m pounds in pledges to support the establishment of the Grameen Bank in Scotland. The singer and well know humanitarian Annie Lennox has also voiced her commitment to the project.

- 11.82 Discussion: Arising on the Principal's report the following matters were raised:-
Governance Review
(i) A member enquired about the University's response to the Universities Scotland consultation on the Review of Higher Education Governance. It was confirmed that the university had made a detailed submission and that the Universities Scotland response is now available on-line.
- It and Campus Improvements
(ii) Members requested further details on the Heart of the Campus

project and other campus developments. The University Secretary reported that the University's campus master plan is a 15 – 20 year vision with a capital investment of circa £25m. The Heart of the Campus project will create innovative learning and teaching facilities in the shape of larger and well adapted lecture theatres and social space expanding on the concept of the Saltire Centre. The project will also include new refectory facilities and improved kitchens. In setting the context for the development the intention is for the designated architectural design team to consult with all interested parties before commencing on the design ideas. This is to ensure that the reflective work with interest groups fully informs the design stage. The University aims to ensure that it achieves best value for the investment. It is anticipated that the contractors will be able to provide some student internships as the project develops.

(iii)The combined Heat and Power installation system project will commence in April 2012. It is a £4.9m development. The initial work will commence in April but will be largely unseen, however by Summer there will be evidence of excavation works.

11.83 Resolved: In respect of (i) above that the University's response to the consultation on the Review of Higher Education Governance is made available to Senate members and via the University Website.
(Action: MH)

Honorary Appointments

11.84 Approved: The following honorary appointments:-

School of Health and Life Sciences

Honorary Visiting Professor	Dr Carol Tannahill
Honorary Professor	Roslyn Crocket

Glasgow School for Business & Society

Honorary Professor	Dr Julie Beardwell
Honorary Fellow	Mr John Peters

School Board Governance

11.85 Approved: A Chair's Action confirming the School Board Terms of Reference and Composition subject to the change of composition to include part time staff with effect from session 2012/13.
(Action: MH)

Senate Disciplinary Committee Membership

11.86 Approved: A Chair's Action confirming the appointment of Professor E MacFarland and Mr J Houston as academic staff members of the Senate Disciplinary Committee.

Academic Staff Appointments

11.87 Received: Notification of recent academic staff appointments. **(Doc S11/33/1)**

University Court

11.88 Received: The highlights of the meetings of University Court held on 1st December 2011 (**Doc S11/34/1**) and 16th February 2012 (**Doc S11/35/1**).

11.89 Noted: In response to a query from a member of Senate arising on Court highlights referring to University Companies, the Executive Director of Finance and VP International advised that there are currently 3 University Subsidiary Companies (INTO JV Ltd; GCU Academy Ltd and GCU Company Ltd). These limited companies are set up for taxation purposes. The companies may or may not lead to a GCU award.

Research Committee

11.90 Received: The confirmed minutes of the meetings of the Research Committee held on 9th November 2011 (Doc REC11/15/1) and 14th December 2011 (**Doc REC11/29/1**)

Academic Policy Committee

11.91 Received: The confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Academic Policy Committee held on 7th December 2011 including the minutes of the Learning and Teaching Sub Committee from 26th October 2011. (**Doc S11/36/1**)

11.92 Noted: A member of Senate requested that the paper "A review of modern foreign language provision at GCU" be circulated to members for information. (**Doc APC11/19/1**)
(Action MH)

Date of Next Meeting

11.93 Received Notification that the next scheduled meeting of University Senate will be held on 15th June 2012 at 09.30 hours.