

TO: UNIVERSITY COURT

**Report from the meeting of Senate held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013**

**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**

**Herald Society Award**

The GCU UK Recruitment and Outreach Team won the “Team of the Year” award at the Herald Society Awards in November. The team was recognised for making a difference to the lives of people in Scotland through their widening access and outreach work. In making the award the judges stated that “if you are serious about closing the gap on disadvantaged kids this is what a University should be doing”.

**State of the City Economy Conference**

Professor Lesley Sawyers (VP and PVC Business Development, Enterprise and Innovation) delivered a keynote address on “Glasgow – An Eco-System for Success” at the State of the City Economy conference in November. The conference was hosted by the Glasgow Economic Partnership and speakers included the Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon and the Leader of Glasgow City Council, Gordon Matheson.

**Visit by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning**

Michael Russell (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning) visited the University in November. The visit was held in conjunction with the announcement of the new successful applicants for the Scottish Government’s Saltire Scholarships for Outward Mobility. Barry Levine of GCU successfully applied for ten scholarships to allow Social Work students to go on a 7-10 day study visit to Sweden was also in attendance.

**BIS and Scotland Office Roundtable Discussion**

The Principal attended a roundtable discussion, arranged by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Scotland Office. The discussion was chaired by The Rt. Hon. David Willets MP, Minister for Universities and Science, and the Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland. The event focussed on the programme of work that the UK Government is undertaking to inform and support the debate on Scotland’s future in the lead up to the independence referendum. There was a particular emphasis on science and research.

**University Activities**

**Strategy 2020 Consultation**

A variety of routes for staff and students to engage with the development of the University Strategy 2020 have been made available. This includes open consultation sessions, materials on the staff

portal, social media and existing internal communication tools such as Caledonian Connected. Activities to date have included a Strategy 2020 themed Management Breakfast, a lunchtime open staff consultation and an all-day engagement event held at the Students' Association. A plan for engaging external stakeholders in the development of the 2020 strategy is also under consideration.

### **Caledonian Court**

Facilities Management has secured a contract to utilise Caledonian Court during the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Caledonian Court has also retained the Gold Green Tourist Award following a recent audit by the International Centre for Responsible Tourism and Visit Britain.

### **Research Update**

Good progress is being made on the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 submission. This includes agreement on the Units of Assessment for the 2014 submission, and the results of the REF Appeals Panel. Work will now begin to prepare for the post REF Research Strategy. The new Strategy will be developed in line with the University wide 2020 strategy and a planned timetable for the consultation process is currently underway.

### **Launch of the People Management Passport**

The People Passport is a 3 day programme aimed at all staff with people management and leadership responsibilities. The core aim of the programme is to equip staff who have people leadership and management responsibilities with the knowledge, tools and confidence to effectively carry out their role. This is an interactive programme with some additional online learning which has been designed on agreed people management and leadership accountabilities.

### **Library Services**

Following a departmental visit to Library Services it has been agreed that Library Services will now be transferred from the IT portfolio to the Learning and Teaching portfolio under Professor John Wilson.

### **State of the Nation Address**

The Principal delivered the annual State of the Nation Address. The event was well attended by a wide representation of academic and support staff and featured some helpful contributions from staff members on the importance of a digital strategy, mobility for staff and students and the future of GCU research. The State of the Nation Address is now available on line for staff to peruse. There was also a live stream of the address to the GCU London campus.

## **International Activities**

### **GCU New York**

Significant progress is being made in establishing GCU New York. The University is hosting a table at the forthcoming RFK Ripple of Hope Awards ceremony, where Chancellor Yunus will be presented with an Award for Social Justice. Work continues on the development of a suite of Executive Education courses and the progression of the application for the educational licence for the campus. The State Education Department of New York has indicated that a team of independent reviewers will visit the University as part of the licence application process.

### **Visit by Chinese Delegation**

A delegation of senior leaders from Chinese Universities recently visited the University. The visit included meetings and presentations by members of the Executive Board, a visit to the Scottish Parliament and a reception held at the Glasgow City Council.

### **International Visit Report: China, October 2013**

GCU participated in the Guanghau Nurse Fund (GNF) Roadshow alongside a number of UK HEIs in session 2012/13. Discussions took place with 15 institutions at the event. As a result of GCU participation and the collaboration with GNF, a number of institutions were recommended to GCU as potential partners. The October 2013 visit followed up on these earlier discussions with 5 academic institutions and a private hospital in China. In addition, a visit to Jinan University also took place on behalf of GSfBS. The outcomes from the visit include opportunities to broaden and engage through a partnership with Glasgow Colleges and the potential to consider a physical presence in an education zone at Tongziang.

### **World Islamic Economic Forum**

The Principal delivered a keynote address at the World Islamic Economic Forum held in London on “International Higher Education Collaboration” alongside representatives from the British Council and the National Centre for Universities and Business. The Forum is renowned worldwide as an annual gathering for world leaders and top CEO’s. It attracts thousands of small and medium businesses from all over the world and highlights new business opportunities in the Muslim world.

### **Magna Carta Symposium – Bologna**

Following attendance at the recent Magna Carta event in Bologna, the VP & University Secretary highlighted discussions with the President of the Qatar Foundation and the potential to build further relationships. It was indicated that the invitations to future Qatar Foundation are likely to be forthcoming, and this has since been confirmed with Professor Valerie Webster representing the Principal at the World Innovation Summit for Health, (the “Davos” of Healthcare) being held in Qatar in December.

## **2. OUTCOME AGREEMENTS**

Senate considered and approved the self evaluation report on the Universities 2012/13 Outcome Agreement. This report is submitted to the Scottish Funding Council and provides a progress update on targets and activities agreed as part of our Outcome Agreement. Commentary specifically includes progress with widening access; articulation; regional collaboration on nursing provision; any other provision issues that may have arisen and early indications on delivery of additional strategic funded places for 2013/14. The Principal stated that the University had much to be proud of in its achievements including the first University in Scotland to be recognised with prestigious gold EcoCampus award, marking the commitment of its students and staff to sustainable principles. In addition the University has met and exceeded its articulation targets and continues to meet all widening access targets. Initiatives such as the Caledonian Club and our approach to widening access are a different way of engaging schools and families.

Senate also noted the draft Outcome Agreement for 2014-15.

### **3. STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON SENATE**

Senate approved a proposal from the Students' Association to increase student representation on Senate. Two additional student members will be co-opted to represent international and research students. The Students' Association will be arranging elections for these positions in due course.

### **4. SOME OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED AND APPROVED**

- Honorary Appointments
- The award of 4 PhDs and 1 ProfD qualification.

### **5. OTHER MATTERS NOTED**

- Academic staff appointments
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013
- Notification of the new Caledonian Scholars and Associates for session 2013-14
- The GCULead Board Terms of Reference
- Date of next meeting Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013