

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The University Court met virtually today, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, having held its annual stakeholder event virtually on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 'Engaging with the University for the Common Good'.

Approximately 135 staff, students, alumni and external stakeholders joined the latter event to hear from the Principal, Professor Cam Donaldson, PVC Research, Susan Docherty, Student President, who interviewed Chris Milligan, one of our students working on the Covid front line, and Professors Sharon Hutchison, Michael Roy and Lesley Price, who are among our leading researchers engaged in Covid related work. There were reflections on the past year and a view of our ambitions for the decade ahead captured in the newly launched 2030 strategy. The audience showed their strong engagement in a final Q & A session and through subsequent contact with the University.

What follows is a high level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today, 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. Principal & Vice Chancellor & Executive Board Report**

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting. Among topics highlighted were the Scottish Government's budget decisions for higher education, the impact of Covid restrictions on the University's operations, the introduction of the Alan Turing student mobility scheme to fill the vacuum left by the UK's departure from the EU's mobility programme, the launch of Strategy 2030, initiatives to survey and improve student mental health, and the University's Staff Well-being survey results which are currently being analysed.

### **2. Chief Operating Officer's Report including Covid management update.**

The Court noted the report which referred to managing the impact of Covid and associated government guidance, finance, staffing, IT and the estate. The COO drew attention to the work that was in train to implement the recommendations of the working group on Tackling Racism, a key theme in the Court's recent strategy event.

### **3. Student President's Report**

The Student President reported on the Students' Association's current issues and activities and the strong partnership working with the University. The Court commended the outstanding work of the Association to promote engagement and inclusivity to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the student experience. Court also noted the Students' Association Trimester 1 Report and the wide range of activities that had been organised despite the constraints of Covid restrictions.

### **4. University Secretary's Report**

The Court noted the report and approved the amendments to the Court Standing Orders which included making explicit provision for the holding of virtual meetings, and the approval of Court business by electronic means.

## **5. Strategy 2030**

The Court noted the update reports on the Learning and Teaching Strategy and the Research Strategy designed to underpin the recently launched 2030 Strategy. Both these strategies will be presented to the April Court meeting for approval together with the supporting plans for People, Infrastructure and Finance.

## **6. Student Recruitment Report 2020-21 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 2020-21.

## **7. Complaints Handling Procedure Annual Report 2019-20**

The Court discussed the report which is published annually.

## **8. Research Update Trimester A**

The Court noted the Research Report which provided an update on the achievements of university staff and students in relation to a range of esteem indicators including research funding. The Court commended these successes achieved despite the challenges of the pandemic.

## **9. Report from Senate meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

The Court noted the business of the Senate meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

## **10. Standing Committee Business**

The Court noted reports presented by the Chairs of the Audit, Finance and General Purposes, and People Committees.

On the recommendation of the Court Governance and Nominations Committee the Court appointed Meg Lustman as the next chair of the Remuneration Committee wef 1 August 2021 and approved a second term of office as governor for Sharon Lowrie wef 1 January 2022.

The Court also approved the procedure and role description for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of Court which involves a call for seconded nominations and election if there are multiple nominations. (Dr McKerrell, Dr Chalmers and Ms Gibson wished it noted that they declined to approve.)

## **11. Report from GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

The Court noted the report of the discussions and decisions of the GCNYC Board of Trustees at the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and approved ratification of the appointment of Sylvie Freund-Pickavance as the [nominated] new Chair of the Board at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

## **12. Media Coverage Analysis – December 2020 and January 2021 Updates**

The Court received the reports which highlight the media coverage received by the University in December/January.

### **13. Date of next Court meeting**

The next meeting of Court will take place virtually on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.