

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 9th October 2015

1. PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR'S AND EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Senate received an update from the Principal on a number of substantive items considered by the Executive Board, including:-

University Activities

Strategy 2020 Launch

A Strategy 2020 event for managers hosted by the Principal began a wider programme of activity to communicate key messages to GCU staff and students. This was followed by two open events for all staff hosted by the Principal. A suite of online and printed communications supported a cascade approach for communication. Feedback from staff on the success of the cascade approach is being sought.

Advanced Higher Hub

The Advanced Higher Hub saw a significant increase in its pass rate in its second year, from 74% to 90%. The hub is supported by the Scottish Funding Council and is delivered in partnership with Glasgow City Council. It is the first project in Scotland to employ school teachers on a University campus. There were 167 exam presentations from 155 students attending 21 Glasgow City Council schools. The pupils studied English; Mathematics; Biology; Chemistry; History; Business Management and Modern Studies at the Advanced Higher Hub, with 40% of the pupils receiving A grades, and a further 30% receiving a B grade. Pupils studying History and English received 100% pass rates.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Angela Constance has written to the University to positively commend these achievements, and is provisionally scheduled to visit GCU in December to see the work of the Hub.

Herald Higher Education Awards

GCU won the Research Project of the Year award at the inaugural Herald Higher Education Awards, for its submission on 3D printed personalised foot orthotics. The Herald Higher Education Awards were launched in March to recognise the outstanding contribution made by colleges and universities across Scotland. GCU's research through the £3m EU-funded A-Footprint project has beneficially impacted on patients' health and wellbeing as new 3D-printed orthoses have been designed and produced, as well as helping to enhance the reputation of the institution through the achievement of 'Flagship' project status by the European Commission.

International Summer School

GCU welcomed 73 students from China, Canada, the US and Ghana to the inaugural International Summer School. The students studied in GCU's three Schools, covering themes including Digital Media in Society, Global Finance, Computing Science and Healthcare Management as well as taking part in a packed programme of cultural activities such as tours of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fort William, and Loch Lomond.

Richard Lemarchand Masterclass

World-leading game designer and GCU Honorary Graduate, Professor Richard Lemarchand, delivered a second Masterclass, "Infinite Play". This investigated game design where play does not necessarily result in victory or defeat, but unlimited character development. Professor Lemarchand, Lead Designer at Naughty Dog in California from 2004 to 2012, helped drive the concept for the hugely successful 'Uncharted' series of games, and was awarded an Honorary Degree from GCU in 2013.

Gathering the Voices

Gathering the Voices (GtVA), in partnership with the University, hosted a special viewing of its mobile exhibition at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on August 27 2015. The exhibition began touring last year and features the oral testimonies of men and women who sought refuge in Scotland to escape persecution in Nazi-dominated Europe in the 1930s and 1940s. Supported by GCU, the Heritage Lottery Fund and many local donors, GtVA has completed the first stage of the project creating a website (www.gatheringthevoices.com) where over 30 testimonies can be freely accessed in audio and written form.

CIOB Global Challenge

A team of GCU engineering students won the final of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Global Student Challenge, held in Hong Kong. The Challenge is an international construction business contest open to all students studying a degree level course in the built environment or related field. GCU's team consisted of 3 students from the BEng Building Services Programme and one from the BSc in Environmental Civil Engineering Programme. The successful students received £2000 prize money and will be mentored for the next 12 months by key construction industry figures to help them further develop and progress their careers in the industry.

World Hepatitis Summit

GCU was an official partner of the World Hepatitis Summit held over three days in Glasgow from the 2nd September. The three-day gathering was a World Hepatitis Alliance and United Nations World Health Organisation event, hosted by the Scottish Government and supported by Health Protection Scotland and the University. It was attended by patient groups, and policy-makers and public health experts from around the world. A keynote address was delivered by Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, Shona Robison.

International Activities

African Leadership College for Higher Education

GCU and African Leadership Unleashed were successful in their accreditation application for the African Leadership College for Higher Education, to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) of Mauritius. Wider communications activity on the launch of the college will follow, following discussion and agreement on with ALU partners.

British High Commissioner to South Africa

GCU vision sciences students volunteering on the Phelophepa 'Train of Hope' met the British High Commissioner to South Africa, Judith Macgregor. Three students studying BSc (Hons) Optometry, were part of a team of 31 GCU students delivering primary healthcare to remote areas of the country this summer. The School of Health and Life Sciences students were working

alongside full-time professional staff on the train which delivers health care in rural and remote parts of South Africa.

2. SENATE AND STANDING COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORTS 2014-15

The annual report outlining Senate's work in 2014-15 in relation to fulfilling its terms of reference was considered and noted. Senate also noted annual reports from Academic Policy Committee, Research Committee and the International Committee.

3. SCHOOL BOARD ANNUAL REPORTS 2014-15

Senate received the School Board Annual Reports for 2013-14 from the Glasgow School *for* Business and Society, the School of Health and Life Sciences, the School of Engineering and Built Environment, GCU London Campus Board and GCU Lead.

4. NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY 2015

Senate noted a report detailing high level results for the 2015 National Student Survey (NSS) approval. Overall student satisfaction had increased by 1% to 85%, meeting the last KPI for Strategy 2015. The University had its highest ever response rate of 68% and following a change in the eligibility criteria, an additional 24 programmes with smaller cohorts had been submitted, taking the University's return up to 60 programmes in total. There were a number of areas for improvement including Assessment and Feedback and Organisation and Management and these would drive improvements for the 2016 NSS.

Bespoke action plans will be developed at School level to target improvement and work was underway to improve communication so that students have increased opportunity to provide feedback.

5. NULLIFICATION OF SEBE MODULE

Senate was advised of the steps taken following the nullification of a module. It was noted that no students had been disadvantaged as a result of the nullification.

6. UPDATE ON AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GCU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Senate was informed that following the decision to develop an academic partnership between the University and African Leadership Unleashed (ALU) to provide high-quality, affordable tertiary education in Africa to specifically address the shortage of tertiary education on the African continent, progress had been made to develop the inaugural campus in the Republic of Mauritius.

As a result of discussions with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) in Mauritius, it had been agreed that GCU/ALU collaboration will be referred to as the African Leadership College (ALC). The University will be the lead academic partner and will act as the awarding body to ALC providing academic programmes, oversight and governance.

A successful approval event, attended by a number of staff from across Schools and professional support departments, was held in August 2015. The TEC commended the University on the quality of its documentation and the professionalism of staff. The application for the registration of ALU Ltd trading as the African Leadership College as a private postsecondary educational institution was approved for a period of five years from 21 August 2015 to 31 August 2020; and four programmes were granted provisional accreditation for one year from 21 August 2015 to 31 August 2016 (all applications to TEC for programme accreditation, if successful, receive a provisional one year's accreditation). The next steps involve signing a new MOA, developing the

programmes for online delivery, approval of governance arrangements and work to establish the campus and develop the student experience.

It was noted that there was no capital investment from the University but the ALC would contribute to income generation. It also met with the University's strategic goal of aligning with the Common Good by providing affordable education in Africa

7. SFC OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2016/17: GUIDANCE AND APPROACH AND 2014/15 SELF EVALUATION REPORT.

Senate received a summary of the guidance from the SFC for the completion of Outcome Agreements for 2016/17. It was noted that as a three year agreement in 2015-16 had been provided, only limited revisions and additions would be needed for 2016-17. These revisions included improvement in gender balance, especially in subjects with severe imbalance and increases in recruitment and retention of students with care experience.

The Outcome Agreement had been developed to align with the Strategy 2020 and the SCF had commended the University on this.

Senate also noted the Outcome agreement 2014-15: Self-Evaluation Report which set out the University's achievements against the 2014-15 Outcome Agreement.

8. ANNUAL STATEMENT ON ENHANCEMENT LED INTERNAL SUBJECT REVIEW AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2014-15

Senate noted the Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic Session 2014-15. In line with SFC requirements, the report detailed the outcomes from Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review (ELISR) activities in 2014-15 and provided information on the University's quality assurance and enhancement activities, including the management and consideration of External Examiner reports, programme approval and review and annual programme monitoring. Senate was advised that hat the report demonstrated that there was a high degree of confidence in the University's academic assurance system.

9. UPDATE ON PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY REPORT

Senate was informed that considerable work had taken place in developing the University's new submission for Athena Swan recognition. This would be finalised for submission by the end of November. There had been an internal audit on Equality and Diversity which found no significant risks but made helpful recommendations concerning communications, membership of the Equality and Diversity Committee in the context of the accountability of Schools, and data monitoring.

10. CHANGES TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Senate approved proposals for revisions in Postgraduate Research Student governance arrangements whereby decisions about the progression and awards of PGR students would be devolved to Schools to enable more academic staff to become involved in research progression. School based PGR Progression and Awards Boards (PABs) will be established to make decisions around research progression. This would have the benefit of situating considerations of the PGR student experience closer to the locus of their activity and enabling the formation of a new Research Degrees Committee, replacing the Higher Degrees Committee, to focus on benchmarking University-wide activity against evolving international policies and best practices.

11. RESEARCH LED TEACHING THRESHOLDS

Senate approved proposals to guide research-led teaching both at GCU and at partner institutions that send students to GCU with advanced standing. Integrating research into teaching, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, was considered to be a fundamental part of providing the highest quality student experience possible, and staff and students were overwhelmingly in favour of enhancing and strengthening links between research and teaching at all levels of teaching. It was planned to do this through the development of 5 Research-teaching Enhancement Thresholds. All undergraduate students would complete thresholds 1-4 and Masters students 1-5.

Next steps will involve discussion with academic staff to develop the thresholds and develop guidance. Discussions with partner institutions that send students to GCU with advanced standing to explain the research-led teaching thresholds will also be held.

12. RESEARCH STRUCTURES

Senate agreed proposals for organising research across the university. It was proposed that the University cohere around a set of Research Centres, principally situated within Schools, rather than a small number of large Research Institutes situated outside Schools. The Research Institute concept would remain, but as a virtual presence. The formation and progress of Research Institutes and Research Centres would be overseen by the University Research Committee and Research Centre Advisory Panels reporting to the Research Committee would be established.

13. OTHER MATTERS APPROVED

- To move towards a paperless approach to Senate and its standing committees with papers being circulated electronically only and hard copies of papers only being circulated in exceptional circumstances.
- The Appointment of Professor James Miller, Deputy Vice Chancellor as Vice-Chair of Senate for the period up to 1st August 2016.
- Senate Composition and Membership 2015-16.
- Following recommendations from the Higher Degree Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 16 PhDs and 5 Prof. Ds.
- The revised Composition and Membership of the University Research Committee.
- The undernoted honorary appointments were noted

Title	Post	Field of expertise
Prof James Sommerville	Emeritus Professor	Project Management & Construction Management
Dr Paolo Graziano	Honorary Professor	Europeanisation & EU public policy issues
Prof Ann Marie di Mambro	Honorary Professor	Media & Journalism
Prof Richard Lemarchand	Visiting Professor	Computer Games Design

14. OTHER MATTERS NOTED

- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 19th May 2015.
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 26th May 2015.
- Research Income Report 2012-15
- The final postgraduate research student numbers for 2014/15.
- The confirmed minutes of the International Committees held on 16th September 2014, 9th October 2014, 18th November 2014, 13th January 2015, 10th February 2015, 16th April 2015 and 14th June 2015
- The confirmed minutes of the undernoted meetings of School Boards
 - School of Health and Life Sciences held on 28th January and 14th May 2015
 - GCU London Campus Board held on 16th March 2015
- The highlights of the meetings of University Court held on 7th May and 25th June 2015.
- Overview report of the cases considered by the Senate Disciplinary Committee in session 2013/14
- Date of the next meeting of Senate is Friday 11th December 2014

15. CHANGE TO SUMMER 2016 GRADUATION DATES

The Principal advised Senate that summer 2016 graduation had been brought forward one week to 28th and 29th June 2016. There will be no changes to dates of Assessment Boards and the Academic Registrar will liaise with Schools to ensure appropriate help is available to support Assessment Boards in meeting earlier deadlines.