UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2012

PRESENT:	Dr N Andrews, Mr D Beeby, Ms D Borrett (SA), Mr J Campbell, Dr D Chalmers, Dr V Charissis, Mr A Corbett, Mr Ed Clack, Mrs T Findlay, Ms C Fyfe (SA), Ms A Gasteen, Professor P Gillies (Chair), Mrs J Greig, Mrs P Hamilton, Ms J Hulme, Mrs C Hulsen, Professor V James, Mrs C Khamisha, Mr T Kilpatrick, Dr M MacDonald, Professor E MacFarland, Mr V McKay, Ms J Main, Professor M Mannion, Professor J Marshall, Mr J Murray, Mr Brian Pillans, Mr R Ruthven, Professor B Steves, Mr I Stewart, Professor J Tombs, , Professor R Whittaker, Professor J Wilson.
APOLOGIES:	Mrs H Brown, Professor T Buggy, Professor I Cameron, Professor F Cheater, Dr V Charissis, Dr R Emmanuel, Mr A Killick, Professor J Lennon, Professor A McKay, Ms A Nimmo. Professor S Scott, Professor K Stanton, Dr Ian Trushell, Professor V Webster.
OBSERVERS:	H Brooke (Court), J Chapman (Court), Mrs L Clark (G&AQ), Ms M Daly K Fleming, N Kayani, A McCulloch, K Ward, C Webster.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs M Henaghan, Secretary to Senate

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed colleagues to the first meeting of Senate in session 2012/13 and in particular the Student President Carla Fyfe and Danielle Borrett (Vice President - Education) to their first Senate in office. The Principal also welcomed Senate observers including Court Governors Hazel Brooks and John Chapman and staff members. The Chair also reported that Janis Carson co-opted from City of Glasgow College period of tenure had expired. Ms Carson had served two periods of tenure on Senate and will be replaced by Mr Alex Craig, Vice Principal Learning and Teaching from City of Glasgow College. Senate wished to record its thanks to Ms Carson and wished her well for the future.

Minutes

12.01	Considered:	The unconfirmed draft minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 15th June 2012 **(Doc S11/51/1)**

12.02	Resolved:	That the minutes be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

12.03	Considered:	Any matters arising on the minutes not otherwise provided for on the agenda.

12.04	Resolved:	There were no matters arising

Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board Report

12.05	Noted:	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 S12/18/1).**
12.06	Reported:	In addition to the above report the Principal tabled a paper from the Scottish Government to the SFC outlining draft budget proposals for 2013/14 and setting out the Government's priorities for investment in colleges and universities. The highlights from the strategic guidance letter and areas of particular interest to GCU included;

- Network of regional colleges and their link with HE and articulation
- Employability fund and the creation of Innovation Centres
- Carbon reduction

Senate members were encouraged to review the guidance and come forward with ideas as appropriate.

12.07	Discussed:	Key Information Set

With reference to the Principal's report a Senate member enquired if the KIS would be used as a tool for rationalisation of programmes as questions remained on the accuracy of data and therefore its use as a driver for rationalisation.   It was confirmed that there was no intention to use KIS as a driver for rationalisation of programmes. The University continues to monitor the range of data sets utilised to inform the KIS and working with Schools to ensure clarity and accuracy.

British School of Fashion

A Senate member enquired about the request to acquire a trademark for the British School of Fashion and not the Scottish School of Fashion, particularly in light of the future referendum on Scottish independence. In response it was stated that there was esteem to be gained in the relationship with British fashion designers and industry. This did not preclude being highlighted with the British Fashion School trademark.

Annual Reports – Senate and its Standing Committees – session 2011-2012

12.08	Considered:	Annual Reports from: Senate **(Doc S12/19/1);** Academic Policy Committee (**Doc APC12/9/1**); Research Committee **(Doc S12/20/1).**

12.09	Discussed:	A Senate member asked why there was not a Standing Committee report

from the Equality and Diversity Committee. The University Secretary explained that the annual report was currently under consideration.

| 12.10 | Resolved: | That the above annual reports are noted and approved. |

Annual Reports 2011/2012: School Boards

| 12.11 | Considered: | Annual Reports from:
The Glasgow School *for* Business and Society(GSBS*)* **(Doc S12/1/1)**
School of Health and Life Sciences (SHLS) **(Doc S12/11/1)**
School of Engineering and the Built Environment (SEBE) **(Doc S12/2/1)** |

| 12.12 | Discussed: | With reference to the GSBS annual report a Senate member asked for clarification on the status of INTO students and if there were any UKBA issues. It was reaffirmed that INTO Scotland is a Joint Venture partnership arrangement. All students undertaking programmes of study are GCU students who are participating in programmes wholly owned and awarded by GCU.   INTO is the vehicle for delivery of these programmes. It was confirmed that there are no UKBA issues with respect to students. Attendance monitoring arrangements have been reviewed for robustness and are excellent. |

A Senate member asked for further information on the establishment of a School Advisory Council in the GSBS. The Dean of School explained that the establishment of an advisory group was a typical model used in other business schools. The advisory group would include representation from the private and public sectors bringing both international and local perspectives. The remit of the group would be to advise on the School's plans for future development.

The Head of GCU Lead requested that she be included in the GSBS Articulation Committee. **(Action MH)**

There were no comments on the Annual Reports from the School of Health and Life Sciences or School of Engineering and Built Environment.

| 12.13 | Resolved: | That the Annual School Board reports for session 2011/12 be approved. |

Key Information Sets

| 12.14 | Considered: | An update report on the submission of the Key Information Sets (KIS) and publication on the Unistats website. **(Doc S12/12/1)** |

| 12.15 | Reported: | By the Director of Policy and Planning that the data included in the KIS had been signed off by Schools. The University had seen some improvements in the external data sources which inform the KIS including the NSS and ISB. Graduate level employment data and HESA Destination of Leavers statistics showed some high returns but also some areas of concern. In preparation for the next KIS Policy and Planning is working with colleagues in Governance and Schools to address issues highlighted from the first submission. |

| 12.16 | Discussed: | Senate members raised questions as follows: |

  i.   Concern about the level of accuracy of information
  ii.   Issues with ISIS and its use to map programmes
  iii.   The use of employment statistics for programmes such as LLB

where students continue onto postgraduate study.

iv. Proportion of time allocated to learning and teaching given the University's wider mission; uniformity across the sector should not be the objective.

In response the Director of Policy and Planning confirmed that

i. Discussions are ongoing with the various Schools/Support Departments to ensure the integrity of the data.

ii. All Universities are reliant on their management information systems and will experience similar difficulties in extracting/articulating information for the KIS. The ISIS Enhancement Board is identifying and addressing issues with ISIS to improve its effectiveness in the longer term.

iii. Students continuing in further education are not included in the statistics. Discussions with the Careers Service and Schools are ongoing to resolve data issues.

iv. The University would not expect to have the same learning and teaching output as an "ancient" university for example. The HE sector as a whole has concerns on this part of the data set. This information has not been made available previously and there is an opportunity to improve it.

| 12.17 | Resolved: | That Senate notes the report and will be provided with regular update reports on the Key Information Sets implementation. |

SFC Outcome Agreements 2012 -2013

| 12.18 | Considered: | A paper outlining the University's Outcome Agreements with the Scottish Funding Council for session 2012-2013. **(Doc.S12/10/1)** |

| 12.19 | Reported: | By the Director of Policy and Planning that the Outcome Agreements for session 2012-2013 has been approved by Court and agreed with the Scottish Funding Council. Due to the tight timescales for negotiating the agreement over the summer months there was not enough time for wider consultation. The proposed timetable for the Outcome Agreements for session 2013 – 2014 will commence in late October 2012 to be finalised by March 2013. The University will seek to set a clear timetable and process map with the SFC that will enable us to ensure that Court, F&GP Senate and APC are formally consulted throughout the development of the 2013-2014 Outcome Agreements. It is understood that the priorities in the 2012-2013 Outcome Agreements of knowledge exchange; access; efficiency of the learner journey and retention; equality and diversity and coherent pattern of provision may be expanded to include economic impact; international competitiveness in research and the entrepreneurial and employability skills of graduates for the 2013-2014 Outcome Agreements. |

| 12.20 | Discussed: | A Senate member raised the Outcome Agreements on mainstreaming equality and diversity and the development of an implementation plan for approval in session 2012-13 with implementation to begin by April 2013. The University Secretary confirmed that work in this area is ongoing. In terms of the legislative requirements the University would be putting in place clear plans setting out how equality and diversity are |

embedded in the implementation of the University strategy 2015 and the development of new strategies. This would be an inclusive and consultative process to ensure equality and diversity is integrated into core objectives.

| 12.21 | Resolved: | Senate will be consulted on the draft 2013-2014 Outcome Agreements in due course. |

GCU London Report

| 12.22 | Considered: | The GCU London report on the quality enhancement visit held on 1st March 2012. **(Doc S12/16/1)** |

| 12.23 | Reported: | By the Chair that the report outlined progress to date and an action plan for future oversight and management of the satellite campus and continued enhancement of the student experience. The establishment of the GCU London Board will oversee the action plan, operational matters and future developments. |

| 12.24 | Discussed: | A Senate member stated that the report was an honest appraisal of the satellite campus activities and welcomed the action plan to manage the way forward. The following issues were raised: |

i. The cost associated with the action plan and affordability
ii. Health and safety
iii. Recognition and reward for staff teaching on the satellite campus
iv. Student feedback

In response the Chair advised that in respect of:

i. Affordability of any improvement activities that this had to be set in context and in terms of the GCU London business plan and income generation. The initiative is developmental and is not solely focussed on financial benefits; there are cultural diversity and brand recognition value added benefits.
ii. Health and safety - the University Secretary confirmed that the London campus complies fully with planning regulations. A recent disability audit of the campus has been completed and the Head of Facilities Management is working on the outcomes with the landlord.
iii. Recognition and reward for staff - The PVC Learning and Teaching advised that this was a valid point but not appropriate for Senate discussion/approval. Financial implications will be considered in conjunction with the Director of People and the Staff Policy Committee.
iv. Student Feedback - it was noted that this is not solely a GCU London issue. Feedback should be in line with GCU policy and continued monitoring of feedback will show evidence of improvement.

| 12.25 | Resolved: | That Senate notes the report.
*Note by Secretary: Senate will in future be provided with an annual report on the GCU London campus for consideration. **(Action MH)** |

National Student Survey

12.26	Considered:	A report on the results of the National Student Survey 2012. **(Doc S12/13/1)**

12.27	Reported:	By the Director of Policy and Planning that the report sets out the high level results. This year's survey has attracted the highest participation rate to date. Schools have been provided with full analysis at the programme level for discussion and action. The University has also held an NSS summit with around 100 staff attending. The main highlights from the survey results include a 3% improvement in overall satisfaction; a 2% increase in satisfaction with teaching and a 1% increase in satisfaction with academic support. Assessment and feedback recorded a disappointing decrease in satisfaction of 4%; 7% behind the sector in Scotland. In the new category Students' Association, GCU is 10% behind the Scottish sector. Overall the University needs to see improvements in these key areas of feedback and assessment. This is also highlighted in the Key Information Sets and gives a negative perception for new students.

12.28	Discussed:	By the PVC Learning and Teaching that in putting the results into perspective we are positive about learning and teaching. The aim is to achieve up to 90% satisfaction in this area in the next survey in 2013. A Senate member felt that from an academic and philosophical point of view the focus is on satisfaction when it should be on engagement in making judgements about the student experience. However it was also stated that there are serious consequences for the University in terms of impact on league tables. In terms of the Students' Association, the Vice President (Education) stated that they were keen to campaign to address this result. The wording of the questions on the survey was not helpful. For example use of the word "union" is associated with the availability of a bar facility and not all associations have this. It was the intention to lobby the sector/NUS Scotland to have the wording changed. The Student Leaders programme and School Officers are committed to making results better.

12.29	Resolved:	That Senate notes the report and actions in preparation for the next National Student Survey in 2013.

AcceleRATE

12.30	Considered:	The AcceleRATE CPD (Learning and Teaching Policy Framework **(Doc S12/17/1)**

12.31	Reported:	By the Head of GCU Lead that the HE landscape has changed with greater recognition of the professionalisation of HE staff. The new policy framework is accredited by the Higher Education Academy and is an extension of the existing Fellowship accreditation. The framework now recognises an informal route to accreditation for experienced staff. GCU wants to send a clear signal on the professionalisation of academic staff and impact on student learners. HESA data will also capture this information. The Framework will be formally launched via the Learning and Teaching Awards event. Currently GCU has 30% engagement and staff should be encouraged to engage to increase the number of staff

with professional qualifications.

| 12.32 | Discussed: | A Senate members raised the following for clarification: |

         i)   Would this activity be captured within the Performance, Development and Review scheme?

         ii) Section 15.1 Appeals the framework implies that there is no automatic right of appeal for route 1 and 2

In response the Head of GCU Lead confirmed that the CPD activity would be captured within PDAR and that this was a condition of the accreditation by the HEA. It was also agreed that the appeals process could be better reflected in the document. **(Action RW)**

| 12.33 | Resolved: | That Senate approved the AcceleRATE (Learning and Teaching) Policy Framework. |

Vice Chair of Senate

| 12.34 | Approved: | A recommendation from the Principal that Professor M Mannion, PVC Learning and Teaching be appointed as Vice-Chair of Senate for the period up to and including 31st August 2013. (**Doc S12/21/1).** |

Honorary and Visiting Appointments

| 12.35 | Approved: | The undernoted honorary and visiting appointments |

Name	Title	Institution
Diane Elson	Visiting Professor	Institute for Society & Social Justice Research
Pekka Sulkunen	Visiting Professor	Institute for Society & Social Justice Research
Avi Levy	Visiting Professor	Engineering & Environment Institute
Mr Derek Lovelock	Honorary Professor	Glasgow School *for* Business & Society
Mr Kenneth Cole	Honorary Professor	Glasgow School *for* Business & Society
Prof Charles Egbu	Visiting Professor	School of Engineering & Built Environment
Prof Chimay Anumba	Visiting Professor	School of Engineering & Built Environment
Dr Manuel Carballo	Visiting Professor	School of Health & Life Sciences
Prof Cathy Greenblat	Honorary Professor	Institute of Applied Health Research
Prof William Storrar	Visiting Professor	University wide
Ann Marie Di Mambro	Honorary Professor	Glasgow School *for* Business & Society

Higher Degrees Committee

| 12.36 | Approved: | i) Chair's Action confirming the award of 1 PhD (**Doc S12/3/1**) |

         ii) Awards by the Higher Degrees Committee including (9 PhDs and 5 Prof.Ds). (**Doc S12/4/1**)

Honorary Degrees Committee

| 12.37 | Received: | A Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee on Honorary Awards approved in session 2011/12. **(Doc S12/6/1)** |

Academic Staff Appointments

12.38	Received:	Notification of recent academic staff appointments **(Doc S12/5/1)**

University Court

12.39	Received:	The highlights of the meeting of University Court held on 2nd July 2012. **(Doc S12/7/1)**

Academic Policy Committee

12.40	Received:	The confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Academic Policy Committee held on 23rd May 2012 with the minutes of the Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee from 25th April 2012 and 13th June 2012. **(Doc S12/14/1)**

Senate Membership and Terms of Reference 2012 – 2013

12.41	Received:	The membership of University Senate and Terms of Reference for Session 2012 – 2013. **(Doc S12/15/1)**

Senate Disciplinary Committee Membership 2012 – 2013

12.42	Received:	The membership of the Senate Disciplinary Committee for session 2012 - 2013 **(Doc S12/8/1)**

Honorary Degrees Committee 2012 – 2013

12.43	Received:	The membership of the Honorary Degrees Committee for session 2012 - 2013 **(Doc S12/9/1)**

Research Committee

12.44	Received:	The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 8th February 2012. **(Doc REC11/35/1)**

AOCB

12.45	Noted:	A member of Senate made a request for an induction process for members of staff serving on Senate. In addition it was noted that papers were slightly delayed in being sent to members for this meeting. The University may wish to consider making papers available via an intranet.

A member of Senate requested a copy of item C3 APC 23rd May 2012 APC11/63/1 GCU Work and Study Research Report. **(Action MH)**

Note by Secretary (post committee): Work has commenced on establishing Standing Committee folders linked to membership within the Staff Portal.

Date of Next Meeting

12.46	Received:	Notification that the next scheduled meeting of University Senate will be held on **Monday** 3rd December 2012 at 09.30 hours.