

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 16 April 2026

The University Court met on campus on Thursday, 16 April, and the Chair welcomed Professor Craig Gaskell as an observer before he takes up office as DVC and Provost on 1 May.

The Court paid tribute to the contribution of the outgoing Student President, Oluwatomisin Osinubi, wishing her every success in her future endeavours and welcomed the Student President Elect, Chinaenyenwa Ugo, who joined the meeting as an observer. Court congratulated Hamza Siddiqi on his re-election as a Student Officer and his renewed appointment as a student governor.

On 15 April, Court dedicated the day to a Strategic Refocus Event, taking the first step in a consultative process that will result in the University's strategy and planning having an extended timeline to 2035. Court was joined by four of the five newly approved lay governors designate, as well as by Professor Gaskell.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court on 16 April, which will also appear on the university website. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the university website in due course.

Yvette Hopkins
Chair of Court

1. Principal & Vice Chancellor's Report

The Principal presented a report to Court, which covered key activity, including staff Townhall meetings, Senate and student discussions. The report noted indicative Scottish Funding Council allocations for 2026–27 and the emerging policy environment shaped by the Ministerial Letter of Guidance and the Tertiary Education and Training Act 2026, with significant implications for sustainability, transparency, and reform.

Court was updated on the SFC's Outcome Framework and Assurance Model, and civic, sector, and international engagements supporting the University's strategic objectives.

2. Finance and Risk

- **Finance and Risk Report**

The Court discussed a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided an overview of the organisation's financial position, including forward projections, debt and cash status, key financial performance indicators, and the current corporate risk profile.

- **UKVI Compliance and Action Plan Report**

Court discussed an update on action to address the UKVI Action Plan and associated matters.

- **Programme for Change**

Court received and discussed a presentation on the University's programme for change including the TVRS Consultation process and the next steps.

- **GCU London Report**

Court discussed an update on GCU London covering people, the estate, the financial position, market analysis and future focus.

- **Transnational Education Strategy Report**

Court discussed the University's proposed strategy for the development, growth and governance of its transnational education portfolio, including the introduction of a gold, silver and bronze partnership framework to support prioritisation, decision-making and resource allocation.

3. Student Recruitment Report

The Court noted the report, which provided a summary view of student numbers at the Glasgow and London campuses on 1 April 2026, which covers Trimester A and B recruitment and continuing student numbers. Updates on international recruitment for Trimester C 2025-26 and Trimester A 2026-27 were also provided. Final figures for 2025-26 will be updated following the May intake.

4. Students' Association Student President's Report

The Student President provided an update on recent activities and initiatives of the Students' Association, highlighting items such as the new GCU Strategic

Partnership Framework between the University and Students' Association; results of the Full Time Officer Elections 2026; STAR Awards 2026; and student union lobbying on the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill before it was enacted.

5. University Senate Report – 11 March 2026

The Court received a report from the Senate meeting held on 11 March 2026.

6. Research Integrity Report

The Court discussed and approved the Research Integrity Annual Statement and Report for 2024-25 which summarises compliance and progress in meeting the Concordat principles and commitments.

7. Strategic Approach to UK League Tables and International Rankings

The Court discussed the report on the University's approach to, and drivers of, UK league tables and international rankings. The report highlighted the University's recent positive placing in the QS World University Subject Rankings.

8. Standing Committee Business

Court noted reports from the People Committee, Audit and Risk Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee, and the Court Governance and Nominations Committee. It approved the reappointment of Alan Dixon for a second term of office as a lay governor.

9. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary which covered the 2027-28 Court and Standing Committee meeting calendar, the appointment of new lay governors, the Court Effectiveness Review 2024-25 and excellent staff completion of Data Protection training.

10. Operations and Communications Update

The Court reviewed the report, which provided an update on operations across Executive portfolios, focusing on issues of strategic significance. The report

covered estates; security, safety and resilience; environmental sustainability; cyber security training; the HESA statutory data return; AI platform development; student support case management; the virtual learning environment; and progress on the 150th Anniversary Campaign, alumni engagement, and the entrepreneurial hub. It also highlighted the quarterly media coverage received by the University during January, February and March 2026.

11. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday, 11 June 2026, with the Court Dinner taking place on Wednesday, 10 June 2026.