

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 13th November 2025

Yesterday evening Court hosted a dinner in honour of Professor Steve Decent to thank him for his outstanding contribution as his tenure as the University's fourth Principal & Vice-Chancellor draws to a close. A portrait of Professor Decent by the award-winning photographers, broad daylight, was unveiled and will join the University's gallery of portraits.

The University Court was delighted to welcome Professor Mairi Watson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor Designate, as an observer at its meeting today. Professor Watson will join the University on 1 February 2026. The Court also expressed its deep appreciation and thanks to Susan Mitchell for her dedication and immense contribution as she steps down as the University's COO & DVC.

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.

Yvette Hopkins
Chair of Court

1. Principal & Vice Chancellor's Report

The report covered items arising since the previous Court meeting, with the Principal highlighting key issues and providing a brief update on handover arrangements ahead of his departure at the end of December 2025.

2. Students' Association Student President's Report

The Student President provided an update on recent activities and initiatives undertaken by the Students' Association. Particular attention was drawn to updates on the Full-Time Officer team and their objectives for 2025-26, the Association's engagement with Black History Month, ongoing work relating to the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2025, and the implementation of the Students' Association's recently approved strategic plan to 2030.

3. Chief Operating Officer & DVC's Report

Reflecting the interim arrangements put in place to cover the imminent departure of the COO & DVC, the Vice-Principal Strategy & Planning, Chief

Financial Officer, and Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement together provided an overview of key developments across Finance, Estates, IT, Registry, Future Students, Marketing & Communications, and Foundation, Alumni & Events.

4. UKVI Compliance and Action Plan – Progress Report

Court received an update on progress against the UKVI Action Plan, noting in addition that the 2024-25 Basic Compliance Assessment was submitted in September.

5. Key Performance Indicator Report 2024-25

Court discussed and approved a report on the University's performance against the Key Performance Indicators for 2024-25, the first year of reporting under the refreshed University Strategy.

6. Student Recruitment Trimester A 2025-26

The Court noted the report on student recruitment for Trimester A 2025-26 and current student numbers across the Glasgow and London campuses.

7. International Recruitment & Programme Development

The Court noted the report on international student recruitment and a new centralised approach to TNE management and governance.

Court considered the business case for a Joint Education Institute with the University's long-standing partner, the University of Jinan. The Court agreed that the University should proceed with the step of developing and negotiating a contractual agreement for consideration and approval.

8. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary which highlighted development opportunities for Court Members, the Court Annual Effectiveness Review 2025, the refresh of the Court membership skills matrix and the Principal & Vice Chancellor Designate's induction programme.

9. Overview of UK and International 2026 League Tables

The Court considered a high-level overview of the University's performance in the 2026 UK and international league tables. The University performed strongly in the Daily Mail and Times and Sunday Times rankings, maintaining its position as the top-ranking Scottish modern university. International rankings remained stable, with a continued focus on enhancing global academic reputation and positioning.

10. GCU Corporate Risk Register

The Court received an update on the University's Corporate Risk Register following a dedicated session on risk for Court members in October.

11. University Senate – 24th September 2025

The Court received a report from the Senate meeting held on 24th September 2025.

12. Communications Report – August and September 2025

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in August and September 2025.

13. Standing Committee Business

Court received reports, and where appropriate, approved recommendations from the People Committee, Court Governance and Nominations Committee, Remuneration Committee, Audit Committee, and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

14. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place online on Thursday, 11th December 2025, when the Annual Accounts 2024-25 will be submitted for approval.