

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

TO: UNIVERSITY COURT

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 10th October 2014

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:-

External Environment

Ministerial Letter of Guidance 2015-2016

The Scottish Government has issued the Ministerial Letter of Guidance for 2015-2016. The Letter is usually published in October, but has been brought forward this year to 31 July 2014 in order to inform Outcome Agreement negotiations. The letter has a number of aspects that could be positive for GCU, including on developing research excellence and these are being followed up on appropriately. The SFC has also been asked to support practical action to improve the gender balance of governing bodies and in senior management, as well as reducing gender segregation in courses. The letter seeks further progress on widening access, enhanced partnership working, and improvements in retention rates and the level and quality of student support.

University Activities

Commonwealth Games

The University was involved in a range of activity to support and complement the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. This included:

- GCU hosted a leg of the Queen's Baton Relay. Baton Bearer Greg Warnecke, who works for Glasgow 2014, arrived on campus and made his way to the Govan Mbeki Building, before passing onto Glasgow community worker Ian Shillinglaw. Two GCU staff members, Dr Noreen Siddiqui and Rachel Hyslop also had the chance to carry the baton at different legs of the journey. Noreen, Senior Lecturer in Glasgow School for Business and Society was nominated to take part in recognition of her fundraising achievements for the Anthony Nolan Trust. Rachel, a School's Coordinator in GCU's Schools and Colleges Engagement and Transition Team was nominated by Dell, who she worked closely with for several years on GCU's S6 Professor's Challenge project.
- The Principal represented GCU at a number of high profile events including attending the Opening Ceremony as a guest of Cisco, the Official Network Infrastructure Supporter. The Principal also attended the Commonwealth Games Business Conference, a Glasgow Chamber of Commerce address by Dame Tessa Jowell DBE MP, the former Olympics Minister who championed London's successful Olympic Games in 2012 and a Scottish Government event highlighting the roles of women, education and the Commonwealth, hosted by the Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP.
- GCU hosted the Beyond the Games Conference where an influential group of sport and civic leaders came together to take part in an international summit for social change through sport. Paralympic legend Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson; World Anti-Doping Association

President and GCU honorary graduate Sir Craig Reddie; psychologist, organisational consultant and former NBA star John Amaechi; and former Unicef President Lord Puttnam all addressed the conference.

- The University launched 'GCU Games On' a free online event designed and developed by the University's Learning Enhancement and Academic Development team (GCU LEAD). It allowed people to come together to explore online learning and to share their experiences during Glasgow 2014. Over the course of three weeks, users received regular news updates on the Commonwealth Games, and were encouraged to contribute to social media.
- The Pacific Island nations announced their flag bearers for the Commonwealth Games at a ceremony held at the University. Athletes from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu gathered at the campus for the event.
- Five GCU students formed part of a team of Multimedia Journalism students who uploaded live bulletins and reports throughout the Games from their newsroom base in the city's Mitchell Library. The online forum Future NEWS operated 10 virtual newsrooms and an international desk reporting on the Games, as part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme.

Unilever International Award Supported by Business Fights Poverty

The University received the 'Unilever International Award, Supported by Business Fights Poverty' at Business in the Community's Responsible Business Gala Dinner, for its support of the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing. GCU is the first University to win this prestigious award, which recognises organisations which demonstrate positive impact against one or more of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. GCU was recognised for promoting education, improving healthcare, empowering women and reducing child poverty.

Scottish Fashion Award

GCU was awarded the 2014 Fashion Ambassador Award, at the Scottish Fashion Awards for the British School of Fashion's ground-breaking educational partnership with Marks and Spencer. Professor Christopher Moore, Assistant Vice-Principal and Director of GCU's British School of Fashion, and Belinda Earl, Style Director of Marks and Spencer, received the honour at the ceremony. It is the second honour bestowed upon the University by the influential Scottish Fashion Awards, after the Principal was named Scottish Fashion Innovator of the Year in 2011.

Santander Universities

The Principal paid tribute to the Executive Chairman of Santander, Emilio Botin, who sadly passed away. The remarks focused on his belief in the power of education to transform lives, and his work to promote social justice and stimulate social innovation. Emilio Botin founded the Santander Universities Network which promotes educational opportunities through scholarships for member Universities. The University has been a member of the Universia network for five years and our students have benefited from over £350,000 worth of Santander funding, through which 135 students and colleagues have been able to travel and study overseas on Scholarships. GCU has been awarded a new round of funding from Santander and will receive more than £54,000 to support new internship and mobility opportunities for GCU students and staff.

The value of GCU's partnership with Santander Universities was recently highlighted at the official reopening of GCU's Santander branch, attended by the Principal and Simon Bray, Head of Santander Universities. The branch has relocated from the George Moore building to modern, purpose-built premises on the ground floor of the Centre for Executive Education as part of the Heart of the Campus project.

Gathering the Voices Association Exhibition

The Principal addressed the official opening of the Gathering the Voices Association's (GtVA) new mobile exhibition. GtVA has been gathering the oral testimonies of men and women who sought refuge in Scotland to escape the racism of Nazi-dominated Europe in the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibition will be available for use in Scottish schools, libraries, and museums and consists of brief extracts from interviews recorded by GtVA, as well as photographs and other historical information. As part of the opening of the exhibition, GtVA will introduce four recent GCU graduates from the School of Engineering and Built Environment, who are building an educational digital game based on the experiences of Marion Camrass, a political prisoner in Siberia.

Independence Lecture

Crawford Beveridge CBE delivered a guest lecture on the future of the economy in the event of an independent Scotland at GCU. Mr Beveridge, who is Chair of the Fiscal Commission Working Group and Chair of the First Minister's Council of Economic Advisers, presented the lecture entitled the 'Economic foundations of an independent Scotland'.

Glasgow City Council Leader visits GCU London

Glasgow City Council Leader, Cllr Gordon Matheson visited GCU London to learn about the first university campus to be opened in the capital by a Scottish university. Cllr Matheson met with Assistant Vice-Principal and the Director of GCU British School of Fashion Professor Christopher Moore and Jane Gotts, Director of International Business Development, to hear about GCU London's postgraduate programmes and the GCU British School of Fashion.

International Activities

Universia Meeting – Rio de Janeiro

The Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor attended the world's largest global meeting of heads of universities, with more than 1000 rectors, presidents and vice-chancellors in attendance. They joined university leaders from 46 countries at the third Universia International Meeting of Vice-Chancellors, a Santander Universities initiative, on July 28 and 29. The theme of this year's meeting was "The University of the 21st century: a reflection from Ibero-America" and delegates analysed the future of higher education and how institutions can respond to the demands of today's society.

Professors Gillies and Stanton also visited Unigranrio University and had very productive talks about a possible joint Master's degree in writing for television, and in a range of health subjects. It was also agreed that the institutions will explore a possible collaboration in social-impact indicator assessment with GCU's Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health.

India Trade Delegation

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor joined the Deputy Prime Minister the Rt Hon Nick Clegg on a three-day trade delegation to India. They were part of a 40-strong delegation representing British businesses, education and the aerospace industry hoping to boost trade between India and the UK as the new Indian government focuses on economic growth. During the trip, Professor Stanton addressed the UK-India: Business is Great Conference in New Delhi on preparing graduates to meet the needs of employers.

2. SENATE AND STANDING COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORTS 2013-14

The annual report outlining Senate's work in 2013-14 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 Equality and Diversity Committee.

With respect to the Research Committee a query was raised in relation to the Research Strategy referring to teaching as being "research-informed" and Senate agreed that this reference should be changed to reflect that teaching must be "research-led".

When considering the Equality and Diversity Committee Annual Report, Senate was informed that the FAIR (Flexible, Accessible, Inclusive) Curriculum was a key element of the Strategy for Learning and that there would be a consultation with staff to get an understanding of what this means across the University. Staff workshops on the FAIR Curriculum are planned and will be advertised via Caledonian Connected.

3. School Board Annual Reports 2013-14

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 and the School of Engineering and Built Environment.

4. Draft Strategy 2020

Senate endorsed the Draft Strategy 2020 which had been developed following extensive consultation with staff and students. The final draft Strategy had been reviewed at the recent Court Awayday and a set of performance indicators had been developed and would be submitted to Court in November 2014 for approval.

5. External Survey Results

Senate noted a report detailing high level results for the 2014 National Student Survey (NSS) and the 2014 Summer International Student Barometer (ISB). In relation to the NSS, the University had a response rate of 66% which was the highest to date and the overall satisfaction rate had remained static at 84% just below the University's 2015 KPI of 85%. There had been improvements in areas such as assessment and feedback but there had been small decreases in satisfaction in relation to teaching and organisation and management. In relation to the Summer ISB there had been a drop in overall satisfaction by 9% to 82%, and whilst the University was above the sector average in a number of areas, there were areas where improvement was required. It was noted that in the

future, the University would only take part in the autumn wave of the ISB. The results of both surveys will be discussed at the forthcoming Student Experience Awayday.

Senate commended the efforts undertaken by the Students' Association to improve their ratings in the NSS as this had resulted in a 15% increase in two years.

6. SFC Outcome Agreements 2015-16 Guidance and Approach and Self Evaluation Report 2013-14

Senate noted a report outlining the preparations for the Outcome Agreement 2015-16. It was intended to set a three-year Outcome Agreement to cover the period up to academic year 2017-18. The timetable for developing the Outcome Agreement was tight, but this would be done by the Outcome Agreement Working Group and there would be sessions for staff, led by the Depute Vice-Chancellor in November. The Outcome Agreement would align with the Strategy 2020, and the priorities would be in line with the Ministerial Letter.

The Self Evaluation Report: Outcome Agreement 2013-14 was also noted by Senate.

7. QAA Thematic Review of London

Senate was informed that the QAA had undertaken a detailed review of all external campus HEI provision in London, including GCU London. The draft report for the University had recently been published and overall it was positive, with the QAA noting that the University had clear systems in place for quality. The finalised report covering all the HEIs involved would soon be published on the QAA website.

8. Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic Session 2013-14

Senate noted the Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic Session 2013-14. In line with SFC requirements, the report detailed the outcomes from Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review (ELISR) activities in 2013-14 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 in order to ensure that the process remained current and enhance the student experience, it was intended to undertake an evaluation of the process in advance of the 2016-2021 cycle.

9. Enhancement-led Institutional review 2015: Reflective Analysis

The Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning & Student Experience and Vice Principal informed Senate of the preparations to date and the timetable of future activities for the Enhancement-led Institutional Review 2015. Senate noted a copy of the latest draft of the Reflective Analysis.

10. Other Matters Approved

- The Appointment of Professor Karen Stanton, Deputy Vice Chancellor as Vice-Chair of Senate for the period up to 1st August 2015.
- Senate Composition and Membership 2014-15.

- Following recommendations from the Higher Degree Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 20 PhDs and 1 Prof. D.
- The Chair's Action approving the appointment of Professor David Harrison, SEBE, as an academic staff member of the Senate Disciplinary Committee for the period up to 31 July 2019.
- A report on the Strategic Partnership Agreements between Glasgow Caledonian University and Glasgow Clyde College and Glasgow Kelvin College which were due to be signed during October and November 2014.
- The revised GCU Policy on Student Performance Feedback.
- The Terms of Reference and Composition of Academic Policy Committee and Research Committee.
- The undernoted honorary appointments were noted

Title	Post	Field of expertise	School
Mr Mal Young	Honorary Professor	Television production and writing	GSfBS
Ms Tania Carnegie	Honorary Professor	Social innovation and corporate social responsibility	GSfBS
Mr Christopher Vogler	Honorary Professor	TV Fiction Writing	Caledonian Academy
Professor David Smith	Emeritus Professor	Research	GSfBS
Mr Henry Holland	Honorary Professor	Fashion	SHLS
Dr Rhona Hogg	Honorary Reader	Health	SHLS
Ms Ellen Hudson	Honorary Lecturer	Health	SHLS

11. Other Matters Noted

- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 21st May 2014.
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 30th May 2014.
- The confirmed minutes of the undernoted meetings of School Boards
 - School of Health and Life Sciences held on 4th April 2014
 - Glasgow School for Business and Society held on 28th May 2014
- The highlights of the meeting of University Court held on 3rd July 2014.
- Membership of the Senate Disciplinary Committee 2014/15.
- Membership of the Academic Appeals Committee for the period up to July 2016.
- Membership of the Honorary Degrees Committee 2014-15.
- Membership of the Equality and Diversity Committee 2014-15.

- The Overview Report of the Complaints Handling Procedure for the 2013-14 academic session.
- An update paper on the Caledonian Scholar Initiative.
- Date of the next meeting of Senate is Friday 12th December 2014