

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 16th November 2023

The University Court met today, 16th November 2023. On the previous evening the Court hosted a reception to mark the opening of the Hamish Wood Gallery in the Sir Alex Ferguson Library and to welcome members of the late Professor Wood's family including his daughter and grandson. Also present were Barry and Linda Atherton who painted the highly regarded portrait of Professor Hamish Wood CBE, the University's first Chair of Court. Subsequently the Court received a talk by Professor Peter Jones, Director of GCULondon, on the growth of student numbers in London, the development of the campus, and the opportunities and risks he saw ahead.

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.

Rob Woodward
Chair of Court

1. Principal & Vice Chancellor & Executive Board Report

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting with the Principal highlighting key issues. Court was briefed in particular on external engagement, Open Day, 2030 Strategy refresh, international student recruitment and campus activities.

2. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on the recent activities and initiatives undertaken by the Students' Association drawing particular attention to the Full Time Officer Team and Individual Objectives, the Winter Warmer Campaign and the Governor Sessions.

3. Chief Operating Officer and DVC's Report

The COO and DVC gave an overview of key developments in finance, IS, foundation, registry, the estate and the recruitment and admissions service.

4. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary which included reference to induction and development for Court Members and forthcoming Court briefing seminars and events.

5. Quinquennial Review

Approximately every five years the Court complements its own annual effectiveness review by an externally facilitated effectiveness review. The draft report following the review was presented to the Court for discussion, and Court remitted the report's recommendations to the Court Governance and Nominations Committee for consideration and further report to Court.

6. Strategy and KPI Refresh

The Court noted a report from the VP S&P on the Strategy and KPI Refresh which sets out an inclusive process and timeline for the review and refresh of the current University Strategy and proposes an outline framework for development of the strategy.

7. Strategy 2030 KPI Report 2022-23

The Court noted a report from the VP S&P on the Strategy 2030 KPI report for 2022-23 reflecting the University's performance against the current set of institutional key performance indicators.

8. Student Recruitment Report

The Court noted a report from the VP S&P on Student Recruitment for Trimester A 2023-24 at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

9. League Table Report

The Court noted a report from the VP S&P on the University's enhanced performance in the UK league tables: the Guardian University Guide; the Mail University Guide; the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide and the Complete University Guide. The Court warmly commended the outstanding hard work and dedication of staff in the achievement of this performance.

10. Update on GCNYC

The Court noted a report on the progress of the ongoing GCNYC Transition Project.

11. GCU Corporate Risk Register

The Court approved the updated Corporate Risk Register following meetings of the Risk Management Forum and University Executive Group.

12. Senate

The Court received a report from the Senate meeting held on 18th October 2023, including a report on the impact of the marking and assessment boycott. The Court commended Heads of Department and other members of staff who had worked tirelessly to safeguard students' progress and graduation.

The Court noted the extensive consultation that was being launched on potential changes to the academic calendar.

13. Standing Committee Business

The Court received reports and where relevant approved recommendations from the People Committee, Audit Committee, Court Governance & Nominations Committee and Remuneration Committee.

14. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 27th September 2023 and 12th October 2023

The Court noted the report on the GCNYC Board of Trustees' meeting which took place on 27th September 2023 and 12th October 2023.

15. Principal's Objectives 2023-4

The Court approved the Principal's Objectives for 2023-24 and associated measures. These high-level objectives include Strategy Refresh, London Campus enhancement, external engagement, SFC targets and Finance.

16. Media Coverage Analysis – August-October Update

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in August, September and October 2023.

17. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 14 December 2023 in order to review and approve the University's Annual Report and Accounts for 2022-23. The next ordinary meeting of the Court will take place on 8th February 2024.