

## GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

TO: UNIVERSITY COURT –

### Report from the meeting of Senate held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

#### 1. Principal & Vice-Chancellor & Executive Board report to Senate

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This paper provides a summary of substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the previous Senate meeting in March 2015. The paper also provides an overview of substantive items considered by Senate since the last meeting in March 2015.

#### **External Environment**

##### **SPARQS AWARDS - 2015**

The University is delighted to receive two awards from SPARQS for our student engagement initiatives:

- (i) GCU Engage: a model for sustainable student engagement and partnership working in higher education.
- (ii) GCU School Conference: a picture of School specific engagement across GCU.

The Principal offered her congratulations to the GCU Engage Team and the Students' Association in achieving the sector awards in Scotland. The President of the Students' Association noted his thanks to Schools for support and input from the Vice President Education.

#### **GCU NEW YORK**

The Principal, Vice-President GCU New York, and Dean GCU New York visited the New York State Education Department in Albany and met with the Deputy Commissioner for Education, John D'Agato and the Director of Higher Education Programmes, Leslie Templeman. The meeting was productive and gave NYSED officers considerable comfort over aspects of our application for our higher education license which is now receiving due attention from the Department. The University continues to promote GCU by partnership working with other Universities and high profile events. The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will deliver the Caledonian Lecturer at the New York Campus.

#### **SFC Outcome Agreement and Offer of Grant Funding**

GCU has received its funding allocation from the SFC, based on its agreed Outcome Agreement for 2015-16 to 2017-18. The feedback from the SFC on the Outcome Agreement has been positive and the final allocation of resource is in line with expectations.

The Principal attended the SFC Outcome Agreements Launch event held at Heriot-Watt University. The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Angela Constance MSP and the SFC Chief Executive, Lawrence Howells, and other figures from across the higher and further education sectors spoke at the event, discussing the progress of Outcome Agreements and Scottish Government priorities.

#### **University League Tables**

The 2015 Complete University Guide has been published and GCU has seen a drop in overall ranking from 72nd to 83rd which places the University 11th in Scotland. The decline in positioning is due in part to high student numbers which have had an adverse effect on scores where student population is part of the calculation. Measures to control student numbers are already being addressed through the revised planning procedures overseen by the Deans' Group. There are positives in the results, with GCU seeing its highest ever scores in the 'Completion' and 'Good Honours' categories. GCU is also 10th in the UK in the new category of 'Green Score.'

The Guardian University Guide (GUG) league table has also recently been published and shows GCU at 89th out of 119 institutions, an increase of two places from last year's 91st, which places GCU 12th in Scotland. The overall league table is comprised from subject level tables, and GCU saw improvements in nine of the subject level areas (out of 17), which will have contributed to this rise. GCU are positioned 2nd out of 19 institutions for Anatomy & Physiology and are in the top twenty for Social Work, positioned 15th out of 76 institutions.

### **Scottish Parliament Inspiring Young Women Event**

The Principal acted as a role model, at the invitation of the Rt Hon. Tricia Marwick MSP, the Presiding Officer, at an event to inspire young women to achieve their goals. The conference, held in the Holyrood Parliament building, welcomed 128 young women from across Scotland and was designed to encourage them to develop the confidence and leadership needed to help them to succeed. Other speakers and mentors included Cara Henderson, who set up anti-sectarianism charity Nil By Mouth; Amal Azzudin, Glasgow Girls campaigner; Khaleda Noon, youth development manager for Sikh Sanjog; and Louise Macdonald, chief executive of Young Scot. Politicians from across the political spectrum contributed to discussions including Scottish Conservatives Leader Ruth Davidson; Scottish Labour Deputy Leader Kezia Dugdale; Scottish Lib Dem MSP Alison McInnes; and Scottish Greens MSP Alison Johnstone. The First Minister, the Rt Hon. Nicola Sturgeon delivered a video message urging young women to stand together to fight sexism.

## **2 University Activities**

### **Ashoka U Event**

An event was held on campus to celebrate the University's designation as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus. Social entrepreneur Mel Young, co-founder of the Big Issue and Homeless World Cup, spoke at the event, alongside the Principal and Ross Hall, Global Leader at Ashoka Europe. GCU is the first university in Scotland to achieve Ashoka U recognition, joining the network alongside prestigious institutions such as Brown, Cornell, Duke and Johns Hopkins. Senate was provided with an update report outlining how GCU will embed a culture of "social innovation" across the University; develop "changemaker" attributes in our students and staff and play an active role within the Ashoka U network. The PVC also thanked the original team of Professors Wilson, Whittaker and Teasdale in leading the successful bid to join the Ashoka U network.

### **Denise Restauri Masterclass**

Author and CEO of GirlQuake Denise Restauri presented a masterclass at Glasgow Caledonian University entitled 'In Business, it's Personal: Brutally Honest Tales of Successful Women.' The Masterclass told stories from female professionals, providing a perspective on the challenges they face, along with their advice on how to succeed. Denise Restauri was the executive producer of the inaugural Forbes Women's Summit, which took place in New York City in 2013, and serves on the boards of a number of influential female-led organisations.

### **Gordon Strachan Caledonian Sporting Conversation**

GCCU welcomed Scotland Manager Gordon Strachan OBE to the campus to speak to students, staff and guests for the second Caledonian Sporting Conversation. The conversation event was hosted by GCU PhD student and BBC commentator John Cullen. The Principal introduced Mr Strachan, who answered questions about his playing and managerial career before being interviewed by Multimedia Journalism students from Glasgow School for Business and Society.

### **Magnusson Awards Ceremony**

The latest Magnusson Awards Ceremony has taken place, with eight students receiving awards so

they can carry out social action projects that will make a positive difference to the lives of others. The awards are named in honour of GCU's late Chancellor, the well-known journalist and broadcaster Magnus Magnusson KBE. Students, their families and friends, staff and invited guests attended the annual event hosted by the Principal and Dr Sally Magnusson, daughter of the late Chancellor and Honorary President of the Magnusson Fellowship at GCU.

### **Mary's Meals Book Launch**

GCU hosted the launch event for a new book written by the founder of Mary's Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE called 'The Shed That Fed A Million Children.' Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow was awarded an Honorary Degree by GCU in 2013. The event was very well attended, with the official welcome delivered the Vice-Principal & PVC, Learning & Student Experience, and a Q&A was session facilitated by GCU Honorary Professor in Media & Journalism, Charles McGhee. GCU is currently exploring a number of ways in which staff and students from across different disciplines can support the work of Mary's Meals.

## **3 International Activities**

### **GCU New York – Gerard Burns Exhibition, Scotland Week – April 7th**

GCU New York hosted an exhibition of portraits by the noted portrait artist, Gerard Burns, as part of Scotland Week. Comedian Billy Connolly, broadcaster Kirsty Wark, and actors Alan Cumming and Laura Fisher, were all in attendance at the launch event. They were among prominent Scots who have been depicted in an exhibition of portraits – 'A Brush with Inspiration.' Portraits of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Ewan McGregor, Brian Cox, Helena Kennedy QC and composer Craig Armstrong also feature in the exhibition. The Principal, and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP addressed the large gathering of guests at the launch event.

### **GCU New York - Fair Fashion Convening – April 27th**

GCU New York hosted a Fair Fashion Convening event, attended by the Principal, Chancellor Yunus, and 20 Chief Executives and senior leaders from major companies within the fashion industry. The focus of the event was on sustainability and responsible leadership in the fashion industry. The event was held under Chatham House rules.

### **Synergos Fundraising Lunch, New York – April 27th**

The Principal attended a lunch, hosted for GCU by Synergos, founded by the noted philanthropist Peggy Rockefeller Dulaney, at which Chancellor Yunus spoke. Synergos is a global nonprofit organization that helps solve the complex problems of poverty and inequality by promoting and supporting collaborations among business, government, civil society, and marginalized communities.

### **Babson College – April 29th**

The Principal visited Boston's Babson College, and met with a range of individuals including the University President, Kerry Healey. The meetings were successful and a range of activity is currently being explored, including a joint Masters Degree in Fair Finance and various research collaborations.

## **4 Senate Activities**

### **Revised Senate Standing Orders**

Senate endorsed revised set of Standing Orders for implementation with effect from academic session 2015/16. The Standing Orders have been refreshed and modernised taking cognisance of the Code of Good HE Governance and now incorporate a procedure for electing members of Senate. The Standing Orders will be considered and formally approved by Court.

### **Interim Open Education Resource Policy (OER)**

Senate approved an interim policy to provide guidance for staff on the use, creation and publication of Open Education Resources. The policy is required to support the development of EDShare@gcu, the University's education resources repository. The policy will be adopted as an interim measure whilst an overarching GCU policy on Intellectual Property, Copyright and OERs is developed.

### **Strategy for Learning Refresh**

Senate considered and approved the refreshed Strategy for Learning in light of comments from staff and to support the delivery of the GCU 2020 Strategy. The main change is in the reduction of KPIs and other metrics, many of which were already being captured via other processes e.g. annual monitoring and NSS.

### **GCU London**

Senate approved new governance arrangements for GCU London creating a fourth School of the University.

### **Academic Year: Review of Calendar**

Senate considered and approved a revised academic calendar which brings Trimester B teaching weeks into line with Trimester A and C. The introduction of an additional teaching week in Trimester B (while retaining the study week) has been made in response to comments from staff and students and was very much welcomed by all. Graduation will now take place in early July each year.

### **HESA Performance Indicators**

Senate noted the strongest set of HESA KPIs to date. The University now leads the modern sector in Scotland in the key areas of degree completion and low drop-out rates. The Principal stated that our performance was a testament to joint working across the University in partnership with the Students' Association.

### **Key Information Sets**

Senate noted progress to date on the production of the Key Information Sets for 2015. The data will be submitted to HESA at the end of July and will go live on the Unistats website in September 2015. A fact sheet or all staff will be produced for circulation by the end of June.

### **Public Duty Sector Report**

Senate approved a report on the Public Sector Equality Duty outlining the progress made by the University in mainstreaming equality and implementing our Equality Outcomes Framework. Overall good progress is being made with 93% of respondents in the Staff Survey stating they are satisfied with their level of awareness of diversity issues. The University can also report a reduction in the gender pay gap from 18.3% in April 2013 to 15.4% in April 2015 and a year on year rise in the number of female professors from 25.4% (1 in 4) in 2012 to 33.3% (1 in 3) in 2014. The overall picture is one of strong staff and student engagement with the agenda through the core activities of teaching and research as well as our operational and support activities. It was also acknowledged that there is further work to be done.

## **11. OTHER MATTERS APPROVED**

- The undernoted Honorary and Visiting appointments

<b>Title</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Field of expertise</b>	<b>School</b>
Professor John Pugh	Emeritus Professor	Engineering	SEBE

Professor Douglas Greenhalgh	Emeritus Professor	Research into sustainable engineering technologies	SEBE
Prof Ghassan Aouad	Visiting Professor	Construction & IT Research	SEBE
Prof Mohammed Dulaimi	Visiting Professor	Construction Project Management & IT	SEBE
Mr Alan Thornburrow	Honorary Professor	UK & International Financial Markets	GSBS
Paloma Diaz Soloaga	Visiting Professor	Cross cultural research & PhD supervision	GSBS
Mr Dan Bena	Honorary Professor	Sustainability	GCU New York
Denise Restauri	Honorary Professor	Women's issues & media knowledge	GCU New York
Maureen McGuire	Honorary Professor	Bloomberg Philanthropy	GCU New York

- Recommendations from the Higher Degrees Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 14 PhDs; 3 ProfD.
- Changes to the Higher Degrees Regulations
- Amendments to the regulations for the degree of PhD by previous publication
- An academic calendar for GCU New York to comply with US practices and regulations
- Terms of Reference and Composition of the GCU New York Campus Board
- An addition to the University Assessment Regulations to accommodate Integrated Masters Degrees (UG)
- Reports from Schools on the conclusion of the postgraduate portfolio refresh exercise.

## 12. OTHER MATTERS NOTED

- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015
- The confirmed minutes of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014
- The confirmed minutes of the undernoted Boards of Senate
  - GSBS – held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015
  - SEBE – held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015
  - GCU London Campus Board – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014
  - GCU LEAD Board – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014
- The highlights of the meeting of University Court held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

- International Committee Quarterly Report
- The date of the next meeting of Senate will be **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015**