

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 17th November 2022

The University Court met virtually today, 17th November 2022, for the last regular Court meeting to be attended by Professor Pamela Gillies CBE before she demits office at the end of December. The Court paid tribute to Professor Gillies's immense contribution to the University's growth and success over the past 17 years and to her leadership in transformational change within Scottish Higher Education.

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 fully briefed in particular on the SIMS student management system, the implementation issues that have arisen and new steps to support the university community in our adoption of the system. Other topics included discussion of the cost of living crisis and action taken and planned to support our students against a background of a shortage of student accommodation in Glasgow and acute financial pressures.

2. Industrial Action

Court invited the TU nominated Governors to set out the detail of the current sector wide industrial dispute and the campus unions' proposed action.

3. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on the activities of the Students' Association drawing particular attention to the Full Time Officer Team and Individual Objectives which focus on the Cost of Living Crisis, reviewing the new Fit to Sit Policy and satisfaction with the current GCU hybrid approach to learning, teaching, assessment and student support.

4. Chief Operating Officer's Report

The COO gave an overview of key developments in finance, staffing, IT, the SITS implementation, and the estate as well as the University's moderated approach to the management Covid.

5. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary which included a report, approved by Court, summarising findings and actions arising from the Court Effectiveness review conducted by the Chair of Court in the summer.

6. Strategy 2030 KPI Report 2021/22

The Court discussed a report from the Acting DVC on the Strategy 2030 and reviewed the University's performance against the associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) following the first full academic year of the launch of Strategy 2030.

7. Outcome Agreement 2022/23

The Court noted a report from the Acting DVC on the 2022/23 Outcome Agreement and endorsed it for submission to the SFC on 5th December 2022.

8. 2022/23 Trimester A Student recruitment report

The Court noted a report from the Acting DVC which provided an overview of students who have registered as at 2nd November 2022 as well as an early view of Trimester B recruitment. The report highlighted notable growth in the international student recruitment as well as areas of recruitment challenge.

9. Research Report Trimester A

Court noted a report, which summarised quarterly and annual applications and awards, the annual research income and trajectory, and REF related activity, including benchmarking against sector wide summaries of research income and research degree completions.

10. GCU Corporate Risk Register

The Court noted the updated Corporate Risk Register, which was subject to some minor amendments before submission to Court for approval.

11. Annual Procurement Report 2021/22

The Court approved the report which summarises the procurement activities carried out by the University in the period 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2022 and which the University is required to publish annually. Court delegated approval of the report to its Audit Committee for future years.

12. Senate

The Court noted a report from the Senate meeting held on 19th October 2022.

13. Standing Committee Business

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

14. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 20th October 2022

The Court noted the report on the GCNYC Board of Trustees' meeting which took place on 20th October 2022.

15. Principal's Objectives 2022/23

The Court approved the Principal's Objectives for 2022/23 which sets out the high-level objectives for the Principal in the current year until the end of her tenure. Objectives relating to the Principal Designate will be discussed and presented to Court for approval after he has taken up his role.

16. Media Coverage Analysis – August and September Update

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in August and September 2022.

17. Tenure of the Chair of Court

Chaired by the Vice-Chair of Court and with the Chair absent, Court approved the recommendation of its Governance and Nominations Committee to appoint the Chair of Court for a further year from February 2024 until February 2025.

18. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 16th February 2023.