

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT MEETING 21st September 2023

The University Court met on campus today, 21st September 2023, the first Court meeting of the 23/24 academic year. The Chair welcomed Alan Dickson, Chief Financial Officer at the BBC, to his first meeting as lay governor. Professor Ehsan Mesbahi, Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor John Lennon, Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement, and Dawn Anderson, Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement and interim Director of the International Office were also welcomed to their first meetings in attendance in their new roles. The Court recorded its warm appreciation of Peter Baguley who has stepped down as a lay governor. The Court was delighted to welcome back Professor Ann Priest, former lay governor and now Chair of the Board of the GSA, who joined the Court for dinner on the evening before the court meeting.

The meeting was observed by Carol Burns of Advance HE as part of her work conducting the Quinquennial Court Effectiveness Review commissioned to complement the annual court effectiveness review.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today. 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 Court addressed the summary of recent discussions with the Glasgow City Council Management focusing on our estate, student accommodation, economic regeneration and inclusive growth, graduate apprenticeships, graduate employment. Updates were also given on Student Recruitment; Scottish Government matters and the NSS results. The Court expressed its appreciation of the dedicated work of staff reflected in the University's progress in recent league table results.

2. Industrial Action

The Court heard from the Principal and staff governors about current industrial action.

3. Chief Operating Officer and DVC 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. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on issues affecting students and on the activities of the Students' Association drawing particular attention to the work carried out to maintain the Excellent award for the SOS-UK Green Impact Award, the National Student Survey 2023 and the Teaching Awards 2023.

5. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary, which addressed the Court's fulfilment of its Primary Responsibilities in 22/23 and approved the Statement of Primary Responsibilities for 2023/24. The Court also approved the Modern Slavery Statement for inclusion in the financial report and annual accounts for the year ended 31st July 2023.

6. Appointment of the Chair of Court

To ensure that the University has arrangements in place to address the process mandated by the Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2016 for appointing a Chair of Court, members reviewed and approved a protocol.

7. Student Recruitment Trimester A 2023/24

The Court noted the report detailing the indicative student recruitment for Trimester A 2023-24, at undergraduate and postgraduate taught levels.

8. Draft SFC Outcome Agreement 2023/2024

The Court endorsed the draft SFC Outcome Agreement 2023/2024.

9. Research Update Trimester A

The Court noted the report on research successes, our positive trajectory, the revised approach to research investment, various policy updates and the future research excellence framework (REF28).

10. Update on GCNYC

Court received an update relating to the business of GCNYC.

11. Annual report on institution-led review of quality and governing body statement of assurance for AY 2022/23

The Court approved the Annual Report on Institution-led Review (ILR) of Quality and the Governing Body Statement of Assurance for the academic year 2022-23, which is part of the University's external reporting commitment to the Scottish Funding Council.

12. Standing Committee Business

The Court received reports and where relevant approved recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Audit Committee.

13. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 23rd June 2023

The Court noted the report of the GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting which took place on 23rd June 2023.

14. Media Coverage Analysis – May-July 2023

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in May, June and July 2023.

15. Date of next Court meeting

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

16. Chair of Court Appraisal

The Chair of Court and those in attendance other than the University Secretary left the meeting for this item while the Vice-Chair of Court led on the Court's annual appraisal of the Chair of Court.