

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2023

- Present:** Professor Steve Decent (Chair), Professor Rachel Baker, Professor Tuleen Boutaleb, Dr Jane Burt, Fiona Campbell, Professor Iain Cameron, Kanwal Chaudhry, Dr Diane Dickson, Professor Mohamed Farrag, Dr Lyle Gray, Jan Hulme, Claire Hulsen, Naveed Kayani, Dr Catriona Khamisha, Professor John Lennon, Professor Mike Mannion, Samantha MacLean, Wendy Mazzucco, Mrs Susan Mitchell, Professor Andrea Nelson, Dr Val Ness, Chidozie Nwaigwe, Professor Angela O'Hagan, Professor Ole Pahl, Dr Adrian Pierotti, Professor Alastair Robertson, Professor Carl Schaschke, Linda Shearer, Professor Anita Simmers, Professor Sheila Smith, Professor Bonnie Steves, Laiba Tareen, Professor Craig Thomson, Dr Karen Thomson and Professor Bruce Wood.
- Apologies:** Dr Bipasha Ahmed, Mark Anderson, Dr Karen Fryer, Dr Sharron Jackson, Steven Latta, Tom McAlear, Jackie Main, Irene Mains, Professor Kerri McPherson, Aspen Milledge, Bolaji Oyewo, Robert Ruthven, Aryan Stravastava, Brian Smith and Dr Omair Uthmani.
- In Attendance:** Stephen Lopez, Academic Registrar
Dr Linda Walsh, Vice Chair, Senate Disciplinary Committee

Paul Brown, Director of Governance and Legal Services and Acting Clerk to Senate
- Observers:** Danny Gallacher (Lay Governor), Louise Clark (Governance and Legal Services), Karen McMillan (Exec. Support), Elaine Anderson (Exec. Support), Julie Burns (Exec. Support), Kathleen Cleary (PS), Adrian Lui (OD), George Loumakis (SCEBE), Alan MacKinlay (QAE), Christine Clark (SHLS), Lizzie Reather (PS), Ann Turner (SHLS), Amanda David (U2B).

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of Senate in academic session 2022/23.

The Chair advised Senators this would be a single item meeting to highlight contingency arrangements set out in the guidelines, approved by Senate in 2006, for handling missing marks in circumstances of industrial action and consider the tools developed to support Programme Assessment Boards (PABs) in implementing the guidelines.

1. Updated Guidance for PABs affected by Industrial Action

- 1.1 Senate **noted** updated guidelines for Progression and Award Boards for situations where Assessment marks were missing due to industrial action.

- 1.2 A task group led by the PVC Learning & Teaching reviewed the guidelines approved by Senate in 2006 and found that they remained robust. The group took the opportunity to refresh the guidelines to reflect changes in the environment which have occurred since 2006 (notably, some key terminology had changed). The task group additionally prepared a tool which would help PABs work through scenarios and apply the guidelines.
- 1.3 In discussion, Senators were broadly supportive of the guidelines however concern was expressed that the academic integrity of University awards could be undermined for example, single marking of Honours projects. It was also noted that the guidelines may not be able to be applied where programmes were governed by professional body requirements. Reference to Consideration of Special Factors (CSF) was also flagged as this procedure was replaced by the Mitigating Circumstances Policy and the by the Fit to Sit Policy. The PVC Learning & Teaching welcomed the feedback and gave assurance that quality, standards and maintain academic rigor was paramount in the task group's thinking in ensuring the guidelines were fit for purpose. He acknowledged that where professional body requirements prevented the application of the guidelines, this needed to be made clearer.
- 1.4 A member expressed concern that the guidelines were not being presented for Senate's approval and requested consideration be given to conducting a vote in relation to this. This request was seconded and therefore, in accordance with Section 4.10 of Senate Standing Orders, it was agreed to conduct a show of hands to determine the wish of members present as to whether or not a vote should be taken. It was agreed by a majority that a vote was not required on this occasion.
- 1.5 It was queried whether FAQs would be prepared to support colleagues in the application of the guidelines. The PVC Learning & Teaching confirmed these were under development. They also advised that a pre PAB meeting would be held the following week to discuss and that VISA colleagues were primed to address any issues and to support international students impacted by application of the guidelines.

2. AOCB

- 2.1 The Chair informed Senators an email would be issued later that day to advise colleagues that the University had been informed of an error in relation to the 2023 National Student Survey (NSS). Ipsos, the company that administered the NSS survey, had miscoded Glasgow Caledonian University as an English university, leading to the English NSS questionnaire being administered to students instead of the Scottish questionnaire. While the first 26 questions were exactly the same, and would therefore generate valid and valuable data, the standard question relating to 'overall satisfaction' was not asked as this was not part of the NSS in England this year.

The University had worked closely with the SFC, the Office for Students and Ipsos to mitigate any potential negative impact. In the immediate term, it had been agreed with the SFC that the Scottish sector average for overall satisfaction would be applied to Glasgow Caledonian at institutional level given that we were at the Scottish sector average in the 2022 NSS. At course and discipline level, having explored a number of options, it was agreed that the 2022 overall satisfaction scores will be noted where appropriate.

Senate echoed the Chair's disappointment that the University would not receive the overall satisfaction rating, however it was noted that the University would still learn a great deal from the NSS results when published, and the outcomes would inform and enhance the student learning experience, building on the considerable progress made in recent years.