

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 16th February 2023

The University Court met virtually on Thursday 16th February 2023 and welcomed the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steve Decent, to his first Court meeting since taking up the post in January.

The annual virtual stakeholder event took place on Wednesday 15th February, with over 200 staff, students, alumni and external stakeholders joining the event across the globe. The Principal in conversation with the Chair of Court shared his first impressions of GCU and his thoughts on the future. Also taking part was Professor Anita Simmers, Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences and Interim PVC Research, and Professor Claudia Estcourt, Professor of Sexual Health and HIV. Professor Estcourt gave an insight into the work being carried out on one of our leading research programmes “Beyond Blood Borne Viruses”. Kenny Murray, one of our former MATV Script Writing students, reflected on his experiences whilst studying at the University as a care experienced student and how they have helped him through his career journey. The final section of the event ended with a Q&A session which had strong engagement from the audience.

The Court meeting welcomed Professor Simmers and Professor Baker in their new job share role as Interim PVC Research, and Claire Hulsen to her first Court meeting in her new role as VP Strategy and Planning. The meeting coincided with a day of industrial action for some unions across the sector leading to the absence of four staff governors. The TU nominated governors were invited to provide Court with a written update on the industrial action, and this was shared with Court.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court. The report 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 and highlighted areas where the Principal deems greater or renewed focus is required.

2. Chief Operating Officer and DVC (Operations) Report.

The COO gave an overview of key developments in finance, staffing, IT, the estate and the refreshed approach to our student recruitment objectives.

3. Student President’s Reports

The Student President reported on the current activities of the Students’ Association drawing particular attention to the Strategic Plan 2025, promotion of the Full-Time Officer elections and International Student Barometer results.

4. University Secretary’s Report

The Court approved amendment to the Court’s Standing Orders relating to Court Committees’ Terms of Reference.

5. Student Recruitment Report 2022-23

The Court noted the report which provided an overview of the near final position in terms of applications and acceptances to the Trimester B intake of academic year 2022-23 and looked ahead to 2023-24 recruitment.

6. Senate Disciplinary Committee Annual Report

The Court noted the annual report.

7. Complaints Handling Procedure Annual Report

The Court noted the annual report.

8. Update on GCNYC

The Court discussed the College's financial position and had a preliminary review of how this could be addressed.

9. Research Update Trimester A

The Court noted the Research Report which provided an update on achievements in relation to the University's research profile and funding.

10. Report from Senate meeting held on 14th December 2022

The Court noted the business of the Senate meeting on 14th December 2022.

11. Standing Committee Business

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

12. Report from GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting held on 9th December 2022

The Court noted the report of the discussions and decisions of the GCNYC Board of Trustees at the meeting on 9th December 2022.

13. Media Coverage Analysis – October, November and December 2022

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in October, November and December 2022.

14. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 20th April 2023.