**DRAFT**

**COURT BULLETIN: 13 DECEMBER 2012**

Dear Colleagues

This is the fifth in a series of bulletins on University Court meetings, which will be available on the University website after each meeting. The summaries are not a formal record of the Court meeting.

The University Court held its third meeting of session 2012/2013 on 13th December 2012. The main issues discussed were as follows:

**Draft Marketing and Communications Strategy 2012-2015**

The University Court received a presentation from the Director of Marketing which outlined the key priorities of the Marketing and Communications Strategy and the research and consultation processes which had been undertaken in developing the strategy.

Court endorsed the direction of travel set out in the draft noting that it would receive a final version at its meeting on 28th February 2013.

**Internationalisation Strategy**

Court had previously engaged in substantive discussion at its retreat on 2nd October 2012 to test and challenge the breadth and depth of the internationalisation strategy and the capability and capacity of the University to achieve the strategy’s aims and objectives. Court noted that since then, the Vice Principal International and External Relations had undertaken briefings for the wider University community which some 400 staff had attended.

Court approved the Internationalisation Strategy 2015.

Court received a brief update on progress in relation to the establishment of the GCU New York Centre.

**Policies**

Court discussed and approved the following policies:

* Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
* New and Expectant Mothers Policy and Guidance
* Policy and Protocol for Donations

Court noted that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy and the New and Expectant Mothers Policy and Guidance had been subject to thorough discussion by the Health and Safety Committee and the Policy and Protocol for Donations by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

**Students’ Association**

Court agreed to roll forward the five- yearly Licence Agreement between the University Court and the Students’ Association which governed the Association’s occupancy of GCU premises.

Court approved minor changes to the Students’ Association’s Constitution.

**Equality and Diversity Annual Report**

Court noted the Equality and Diversity Annual Report noting that it would be published on the University website.

**Regular Updates**

The following summary reports are submitted to each Court meeting to keep governors informed of significant matters arising between Court meetings.

* **Chair of Court’s Report**

The Chair of Court advised Court that Universities Scotland was aware of the HE sector’s concerns about wording in the new draft Education Bill relating to powers of Scottish Ministers to impose governance and management forms on HEIs and noted that the detail of the provisions would need to be considered carefully. The progression of the Bill would be closely monitored and the University would work with Universities Scotland during this process.

* **Principal & Vice Chancellor & Executive Board Report**

The report summarised substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the previous Court meeting on 1st November 2012, including:

Court noted that the University had signed a new partnership with Doble, a multinational engineering firm, to open a Doble Centre for Innovation based at the University. Court offered its congratulations to the staff involved in securing this prestigious partnership.

The Principal referred to the Ministerial Letter of Guidance for 2013/2014, a copy of which Court had previously received, which set out the Government's priorities for the college and university sectors, with the expectation that these would be realised through a 'robust' outcome agreement process for 2013‐14. The Letter of Guidance was a preliminary to the receipt of the main Letter of Grant. The Principal advised that, although the parameters might change between the receipt of the Letter of Guidance and the Grant Letter, there should be no significant impact on the delivery of the University’s 2015 strategy.

At the invitation of the British Ambassador, the Principal and the VP and PVC International and External Relations had visited Algeria in December 2012. The itinerary had been organised by the Embassy Head of Trade and Investment and included a number of meetings with Rectors and senior executives of Algerian universities, the Director of the British Council, Algeria and the Algerian Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The Principal and the VP and PVC International and External Relations had met with 3 universities all of whom were keen to work with the University. Any proposals for developing academic and business partnerships which might emerge would be brought to Court for consideration.

* **University Secretary’s Report**

The report included a summary of work relating to areas of governance which had been undertaken since the last Court meeting.

* **Senate Report**

Court noted a report on the substantive items discussed at the meeting of Senate on 3rd December 2012.

Court endorsed the University’s response to the findings of the Enhancement Led Institutional Review for submission to the Scottish Funding Council.

* **Reports from Court Standing Committees**

Court noted reports from the Court Membership Committee, the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Staff Policy Committee on issues discussed since the last Court meeting.

Tony Brian

Chair of Court