**COURT BULLETIN: 25 FEBRUARY 2013**

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 25th February 2013. The main issues discussed were as follows:

**Outcome Agreement**

Court endorsed the 2013/14 Outcome Agreement for submission to the Scottish Funding Council having noted that it focussed on high level objectives and was closely based on the University Strategy and key performance indicators for 2015.

**Draft Marketing Strategy**

Court approved the draft Marketing Strategy having noted that it was aligned to the demands of the University’s 2015 Strategy and the challenges of the marketplace, with the overall focus on enhancing the esteem of the University and contributing to the achievement of its key performance indicators.

**GCU New York Progress Report**

The Principal and the VP and PVC International and External Relations updated Court on the progress made and advice received in relation to the establishment of GCU New York. In light of this, Court approved a revised phasing for the establishment and launch of GCU NY, with the launch brought forward to September 2013 to take advantage of New York Fashion Week and to build on the considerable momentum, expectation and goodwill already established.

Court also approved the acceleration of £400k of funding into the current financial year to meet the change in the phasing of the project, having noted that this funding was already in the overall budget for the project.

**Pulse Staff Survey 2012 Highlight Results**

Court received a report on the Pulse Staff Survey 2012 Highlight Results and noted that overall the results showed encouraging progress in many areas although work still needed to be done to meet the desired scores. Most improvement was needed under Health and Wellbeing where there had been no significant change since 2011, but that there was real scope to work with staff and trades unions to develop this area.

**Analysis of Key Information Sets**

Court received a detailed analysis of the 2012 Key Information Sets and noted that this confirmed issues already identified in a report previously considered at the September Court meeting and that action was already underway to address issues raised.

**Progression and Retention 2011/12**

Court received a summary of progression and retention for 2011/12, which advised that overall undergraduate performance had continued to improve although there were concerns about level 3 performance which Schools were working to address, and that postgraduate progression remained strong. Further analysis was being done which would come to a future Court meeting.

**Students’ Association Trimester 1 Report 2012/14**

Court congratulated the Students’ Association on gaining a Bronze Award in the Students’ Union Evaluation Initiative, with the Association being the first from a modern university in Scotland to achieve this and the fourth in Scotland overall.

Court received an update on the activities undertaken by the Students’ Association in Trimester 1 of the 2012/13 academic year.

**Calendar of Committee Meetings**

Court approved the schedule of meetings for 2013/14 which contained a slight change from the timetable in previous years with two Court meetings before Christmas and four meetings after it.

**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 informed Court that the draft code of Governance would be available in early April for consultation. It was expected that the final code would be available in June for implementation on 1st August 2013.

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

The report summarised substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the previous Court meeting on 13TH December 2013, including:

* The Principal advised that the SFC had confirmed that the claw back for not meeting Outcome Agreement targets in 2013/14 would be restricted to incentive funding only and would not impact on core funding. Delivery against the 2012/13 Outcome Agreements will not be reviewed until November 2013, making the timings very tight for the indicative grant letter.
* The Principal reported that she had recently met with the High Commissioner for Malawi; the University in conjunction with North Glasgow Housing Association were providing two scholarships for Malawian students in Construction Management.
* Building on the success of the collaborative partnership between GCU, Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), the University of Johannesburg and the UK Institute of Railway Operators to deliver a Railway Operations Management programme to TFR staff, discussions were underway regarding an additional, larger contract.
* **Reports from Court Standing Committees**

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

Tony Brian

Chair of Court