**COURT BULLETIN: 27 APRIL 2017**

Dear Colleagues

This University Court Bulletin provides a high- level summary of the main issues discussed by Court and will be available on the University website after each meeting. The bulletins are not a formal record of the Court meeting. Minutes of the Court meetings are also published on the University website.

**GCU New York**

The Vice-President of GCY New York presented a progress report in relation to GCU New York including the process for obtaining a licence and the draft budget projections for 2017/2018 if the licence was awarded as hoped. During a detailed and robust discussion Court members sought and received assurances from the Executive Board on a number of points including income and costs.

**GCU London**

Court received and discussed a monitoring report from the DVC Academic which updated Court on progress on actions required to control costs and increase income in line with the refreshed strategy for GCU London.

**Public Sector Equality Duty Report**

Court members approved the Public Sector Equality Duty Report that described the University’s progress over the period 2015-2017 in mainstreaming equality and delivering its equality outcomes as required by the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The report demonstrated that positive progress had been made, with the University’s Common Good mission clearly aligned with the requirements of the general duty.

**Equality Outcomes 2017-2021**

Court approved the GCU Equality Outcomes for 2017-2021 which build on the original outcomes developed in 2013 on the basis of wide involvement and consultation. Reports will be provided at least annually over the next four years in relation to the achievement of these outcomes and the statutory Public Sector Equality Duty Report will next be published in 2019.

**Digital Strategy**

Court received and discussed an update from the DVC Strategy on the implementation of the Digital Strategy approved by Court in June 2016. This included progress with providing a new student information management system.

**Interim Update on African Leadership College Partnership**

Court received and discussed a progress update from the DVC Academic on the partnership between the African Leadership College (ALC) and GCU. The DVC Academic advised that the first degree programmes had commenced.

**Tanzania Project**

Court received and discussed an update report from the Director of the School of Work-Based Education on the opportunity to deliver nursing education in Tanzania through a partnership which included the prospect of partial philanthropic investment.

**HESA Performance Indicators 2017**

Court noted that an analysis of the HESA performance indicators demonstrated that the University had continued to perform well in comparison to the overall sector in Scotland. However, SFC investment in old universities’ activity to widen access meant that the University’s own work needed sustained energy and momentum.

**THE Young Universities Rankings 2017**

Court members welcomed the news that GCU had been ranked within the top 150 of the best young universities in the world and was one of only four Scottish Universities that had appeared in the rankings.

**Regular Updates**

The following regular reports are submitted to each Court meeting.

* **Chair of Court’s Report**

The report provided a summary of activities the Chair of Court had undertaken and meetings she had attended on behalf of Court including quarterly meeting with the sabbatical officers of the Student Association and the Vice Chair of Court. These meetings give the opportunity for the Chair and Vice Chair to hear at first-hand what the Association is doing and what the current issues are for students.

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

The report provided a summary of substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the previous Court meeting in February 2017 including progress on international activities; government funding plans for HE and issues arising in the external environment which impact on GCU and University activities and events.

* **University Secretary’s Report**

The report provided a summary of work relating to areas of governance and legislative changes pertinent to the work of Court and the University including progress on the process for conducting the Court and Senate Effectiveness reviews and progress on the amendments to the University’s statutory instrument required to conform to the provisions of the Higher Education (Scotland) Governance Act 2016.

* **Senate Report**

Court noted a highlights report on the substantive items discussed at the meeting of Senate on 24th February 2017.

* **Reports from Court Standing Committees**

Court noted reports from the Audit Committee, the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the Health & Safety Committee, Nominations Committee and Staff Policy Committee on issues discussed since the last Court meeting. The Court noted the work of the Nominations Committee in connection with the search for a new Chair to succeed Mrs Hazel Brooke in February 2018.