

University Court

Minutes of the meeting of the University Court held on 23rd September 2013

(Minutes 13.001 – 13.037)

Present: Mr Antony Brian, Chair
Mrs Hazel Brooke (Vice Chair), Dr Douglas Chalmers, Mr John Chapman, Professor Pamela Gillies, Ms Laura Gordon, Mr Ian Gracie, Mr Tom Halpin, Mr Gordon Jack, Mr Austin Lafferty (from item 10), Mr Matt Lamb, Dr Rajan Madhok, Dr James Miller, Mr Hugh O'Neill, Mr Iain Stewart, Ms Davena Rankin, Mr Alistair Webster and Professor Stephanie Young

Apologies: Ms Rhona Baillie, Ms Laura Gordon, Mr Hugh O'Neill, Mr David Wallace, Dr Bob Winter and Professor Karen Stanton

In attendance: Ms Jan Hulme, University Secretary & Vice-Principal Governance
Professor Doug Greenhalgh, Executive Dean, School of Engineering and Built Environment and PVC
Mr Alex Killick, Director of People
Professor Mike Mannion, Vice-Principal & Pro Vice Chancellor Research
Mr Gerry Milne, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Professor Lesley Sawers, Vice-Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor Business Development, Enterprise and Innovation
Professor Valerie Webster, Acting Executive Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences
Professor John Wilson, Executive Dean of the Glasgow School for Business & Society and Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching
Dr Jo Edwards, Director of Policy and Planning

Mrs Deborah Donnet, Secretary

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2013/14 academic session and in particular the new staff governors, Ms Davena Rankin (Professional and Support staff nominee) and Dr Douglas Chalmers (Academic staff nominee). He confirmed to Court the appointment of Ms Rhona Baillie, Mr Austin Lafferty and Dr Bob Winter as lay governors. He looked forward to welcoming Mr Lafferty who would join the meeting later as he was committed to an overlapping event earlier that day. Ms Baillie and Dr Winter had been unable to join the Court for this meeting due to existing commitments.

The Chair also welcomed Professor Lesley Sawers, Vice-Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor Business Development, Enterprise and Innovation, and Professor Valerie Webster, Acting Executive Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences, to their first meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of the University Court held on 20th June 2013

13.001 Agreed Document UC13/01, the unconfirmed draft minutes of the Court meeting held on 20th June 2013 were an accurate record subject to the correction of minor typographical errors.

13.002 Noted Court minutes were now available on the University website in draft form once approved by the Chair and then later in confirmed form following approval at each Court meeting.

Matters Arising Briefing Note

13.003 Noted Document UC13/02, which provided an update on matters arising from the meeting of Court held on 20th June 2013.

Chair's Report

13.004 Noted i. Document UC13/03 a report from the Chair of Court on the activities he had undertaken, and meetings he had attended, on behalf of Court.

13.005 Reported ii. The Chair thanked Court members for responding over the summer break to the request to approve the appointment of new governors. One potential new governor had withdrawn their interest for personal reasons but it was hoped that they would be able to maintain contact with the University and might be inclined to review the situation in the future. As a result of the appointment of new governors there were additions/replacements to the membership of Court committees as follows:-

- Finance and General Purposes Committee – Ms Rhona Baillie
- Audit Committee – Mr Austin Lafferty
- Staff Policy Committee – Dr Douglas Chalmers, Ms Davena Rankin and Dr Bob Winter
- Health and Safety Committee - Dr Douglas Chalmers and Ms Davena Rankin

iii. A gap analysis on the Code of Good HE Governance was being undertaken within the University and a report would be submitted to the November meeting. The Scottish Funding Council was still to confirm whether they would consider the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance as the code to be followed by HE institutions but this confirmation was expected soon.

iv. Papers for the Court Awayday on 3rd and 4th October in Dunkeld House Hotel would be circulated the following day to allow governors time to prepare for what would be a stimulating event on the development of the 2020 Strategy.

v. The Chair congratulated the President of the Students' Association on the Association winning the NUS 2013 Equality and Diversity Award, and GCU student Pei Ling Choo who came second in the Student of the Year Award.

vi. In response to a question about the Court undertaking visits to Schools, the Chair indicated that it was hoped to visit all Schools and the Students' Association in the course of the current academic year.

vii. The Chair informed Court that it had not been necessary for him to exercise the delegation of powers devolved to him over the summer recess.

Principal's and Executive Board Report

13.006 Noted Document UC13/04, the Principal's and Executive Board's report to Court.

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| 13.007 | Reported | <p>i. By the Principal that she had attended the United Nations Global Leaders Compact 2013 in New York the previous week. The University is a signatory to the United Nations PRME initiative (Principles for Responsible Management Education) and is the first Scottish university to join the UN Global Compact, the largest voluntary corporate initiative in the world.</p> <p>ii. In The Times/Sunday Times league tables published the previous day, the University had consolidated its position in 81st place.</p> <p>iii. The Principal congratulated the Student President on a highly successful Freshers' Address which had been attended by honorary graduate, Dr Lily Cole. The Students' Association President reported that Dr Cole was keen to develop her relationship with GCU, and the University was to participate in a pilot of her social giving project, Impossible.com, a new social network of non-monetary giving and receiving of goods and services.</p> <p>iv. In response to a question about the University's involvement in Algeria, the Principal advised that this arose after her invitation to visit Algeria from the British Ambassador, and it was now being led by a GCU academic with a particular interest in Algeria. The security issues (which were kept under constant review) that had so far emerged in Algeria had been in the remote far south of the country, many hundreds of miles away from Algiers itself. Discussions were ongoing with a view to developing a pilot for scholarships for students from the L'Ecole Supérieure de Commerce to study at GCU, paid for by the Algerian government.</p> |
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University Secretary's Report

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| 13.008 | Considered | Document UC13/05, the University Secretary's report to Court. |
| 13.009 | Reported | By the University Secretary and VP Governance that the Statement of Court's Primary Responsibilities would be looked at in light of the new Scottish Code of Good HE Governance and revised as necessary, but that the existing Statement should be reaffirmed by Court on a temporary basis until this had been done. |
| 13.010 | Discussed | The draft Court Annual Programme of Work 2013/14, outlining that this may be added to throughout the year as new issues emerged or priorities changed. |
| 13.011 | Agreed | <p>i. To reaffirm the acceptance of the Statement of Court's Primary Responsibilities as set out in appendix 1 to Document UC13/05 on a temporary basis with a revised version being submitted to Court at a future date taking account of the requirements of the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance.</p> <p>ii. To note the Annual Programme of Work for Court for 2013/14 as detailed in Appendix 2 and that the following amendments be made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students' Association Report Trimester 1 to be moved to 30th January meeting 2014; • Report on the appointment of new Auditors to be considered at meeting on 29th May 2014. • An update on Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing be included in the report on collaborative arrangements scheduled for 29th May 2014. • The delegation of summer powers to be added to agenda for 3rd July |

2014.

- An update on INTO joint venture to be included in the Internationalisation Strategy on 3rd July.
- GCU London to be included as part of mainstream business reporting and not subject to a separate annual report.

GCU New York Update

- 13.012 Reported i. By the Principal that good progress was being made and the project was on schedule. The lease for Wooster Street had been signed by both parties and we had taken occupation of the building.
- ii. The Vice President (Operations) had been involved in extensive discussions with stakeholders and excellent progress was being made.
- iii. The launch of GCU New York would be taking place later this week on 26th September and there were over 300 confirmed attendees including a number of New York Universities and UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister with responsibility for North America. Central to the launch was an engagement piece giving attendees the opportunity to contribute ideas for town hall meetings, with the University Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yunus having already agreed to deliver one on social business.
- 13.013 Discussed Work was ongoing on securing the educational licence which was required before the University could offer credit bearing courses. The University's letter of intent had been accepted earlier this year and a consultant had been engaged to help with the very detailed licence application. Discussions had been held with a number of New York based universities about the planned portfolio and these had been well received. Whilst the licence application process could take at least a year, plans were on target for the delivery of executive education courses in January or February 2014 which did not need a licence, with degree courses planned for September 2014.

SFC Outcome Agreement 2012/13 Self Evaluation Progress Report

- 13.014 Considered Document UC13/06, an initial draft of the self-evaluation report required by the Scottish Funding Council as a progress update on targets and activities agreed for the 2012/13 Outcome Agreement.
- 13.015 Reported i. By the Director of Policy and Planning that the initial draft covered key areas of widening access, articulation and regional collaboration as required by the SFC but also information on retention, patterns of provision, equality and diversity, and research and knowledge exchange, with a view to providing a broad overview of the University's key activities.
- ii. Overall, there was progress in a number of areas, especially in relation to education (completion rates, non-continuation rates and graduates in positive destinations).
- iii. By the Principal that, as a result of the University missing the demanding articulation targets set by the SFC over the two year period of 2011/12 and 2012/13 by 8%, it had indicated in July that it would claw back funding of £104k in 2013/14 from the University's Greater Glasgow Articulation Partnership

allocation of up to £650k. The University was on target for reaching its articulation figures for 2013/14, and the SFC had confirmed that it would expect to provide up to £650k of GGAP funding in 2014/15.

- 13.016 Discussed A number of minor editorial amendments were suggested, including more information on the increase in high value research grants and information on GCUSA success in the NSS.
- 13.017 Agreed To note the draft self-evaluation report and that the finalised report would be approved by the Principal prior to submission to the SFC by the 31st October with the finalised report being circulated to Court members.

Outcome Agreement 2014/15: GCU Approach

- 13.018 Considered Document UC13/07, an overview of the University's intended approach to preparing the Outcome Agreement for 2014/15 .
- 13.019 Reported
- i. By the Director of Policy and Planning that the Outcome Agreement will be guided by the University Strategy and KPIs, and it had been agreed with the SFC that the University would not transition to a 3 year Outcome Agreement until 2015/16 in order to stay aligned with the Strategy 2015 and the development of the 2020 Strategy.
 - ii. Communication with staff was key and involvement had already begun via the Management Breakfast. A cross university working group, which included a GCUSA representative, had also been established with members acting as Outcome Agreement Champions to develop staff and student engagement.
 - iii. GCU's earlier use of case studies had been welcomed by the SFC and work was underway to identify suitable case studies to demonstrate impact for 2014/15.
- 13.020 Discussed
- i. Measurement data to be included was currently under discussion with the SFC but was not expected to be problematic.
 - ii. Wider staff engagement was discussed and in particular the involvement of Senate and it was noted that Senate would have the opportunity to consider the 2014/15 Outcome Agreement. As the Outcome Agreement is closely connected to the University Strategy, staff engagement with the Strategy is essential.
 - iii. The question of whether the Outcome Agreement could be mapped back to the Scottish Government National Outcomes was raised and it was agreed to circulate the University's report on this to Court members.
- 13.021 Agreed To note the report.

Annual Institutional Statement to the Scottish Funding Council of Internal Review Activity

- 13.022 Noted Document UC13/08, the annual statement to SFC on internal review activity for 2012-2013.
- 13.023 Reported By the Executive Dean of the Glasgow School *for* Business & Society and Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching that the statement related to the

Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review (ELISR) of the Department of Business and Management, as well as the review of a number of programmes by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies during 2012/13.

- 13.024 Noted In response to a question regarding whether this report covered GCU London programmes, Court were advised that where a department delivered a course in GCU London then the course would be included in the ELISR for that department, and that in the case of the Business and Management ELISR, students from GCU London had participated in the event. Further, a GCU London Board had recently been established as an additional tool to ensure the quality assurance and enhancement of all courses delivered there.
- 13.025 Agreed To approve the annual statement to SFC on internal review activity for 2012-2013 as presented in document UC13/08.

Annual renewal of Facility Letter and Resolution, Bank of Scotland plc.

- 13.026 Considered Document UC13/09, requesting the approval of
- a) the Facility Letter which is joint between the University and GCUC Ltd and GCU Academy Ltd, replacing the Letter approved by Court in April 2013; and
 - b) a Resolution to reapprove the Facility with Bank of Scotland plc replacing the Resolution approved by Court in April 2013.
- 13.027 Reported By the Acting Chief Financial Officer that the Facility Letter had previously been reviewed in full by the University's lawyers and that it and the Resolution remained unchanged from those approved in April 2013.
- 13.028 Agreed To approve the renewal of the Facility Letter and Resolution.

Principal's Objectives 2013/14

- 13.029 Considered Document UC13/10 outlining the Principal's overarching objectives for 2013/14.
- 13.030 Reported By the Chair that the Principal's objectives were developed following discussions between the Chair and the Principal and consideration by the Executive Board, and that the Executive's objectives then stemmed from the Principal's.
- 13.031 Discussed It was suggested that fewer objectives, all strategically formulated, would be more appropriate. The Principal responded that each of her objectives was underpinned by KPIs including both qualitative and quantitative measures, and although her ten objectives were challenging, this number was not unusual.
- 13.032 Agreed i. To note the Principal's objectives for 2013/14 subject to the slight rewording of objective 9 to make it clearer; and
- 13.033 ii. For the Chair to consider whether fewer objectives might be more appropriate for 2014/15.

Research Excellence Framework Update Report

13.034 Noted Document UC13/11 outlining the University's progress towards its submission to the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise in November 2013

Court Membership Committee Report

13.035 Noted Document UC13/12 a report of the Court Membership Committee meeting on 14th August 2013.

Key Dates and Events

13.036 Noted Document UC13/13 detailing key dates and events.

Date of next meeting

13.037 Noted The next meeting of Court would be held on Thursday 28th November 2013 at 4.30pm.