

University Court

Minutes of the meeting of the University Court held on 22nd June 2017

(Minutes 16.132 – 16.162)

Present: Mrs Hazel Brooke (Chair)
Mr Kevin Campbell, Dr Douglas Chalmers, Mr John Chapman, Dr Morag Ferguson, Professor Pamela Gillies, Ms Laura Gordon, Mr Tom Halpin, Mr Gordon Jack, Mr Ian Kerr, Mr Austin Lafferty, Ms Neena Mahal, Dr Neil Partlett, Professor Ann Priest, Miss Davena Rankin, Mr Alistair Webster, Professor Stephanie Young (Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Mr Paul Reynolds, Ms Caroline Stuart, Mr Alex Killick, Professor James Miller

In attendance: Mr Chris Daisley, Students' Association Vice-President SEBE
Professor Cam Donaldson, Pro Vice Chancellor Research
Ms Jan Hulme, University Secretary & Vice Principal Governance
Ms Claire Hulsen, Director of Strategy & Planning
Drs Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans, Pro Vice-Chancellor International
Ms Seonag MacKinnon, Director of Communications and Public Affairs
Mr Gerry Milne, Chief Financial Officer & Vice-Principal Infrastructure
Professor Valerie Webster, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Mr Riley Power, Head of Governance (Secretary)

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted the apologies as above. The Chair noted that the Student Association officers had taken up their positions since the student elections with Kevin Campbell as Student president and Chris Daisley as the new student in attendance on Court. The Chair welcomed Chris to his first meeting of Court.

Minutes of the meeting of the University Court held 27th April 2017

16.132 Agreed Document UC16/80, the unconfirmed draft minutes of the Court meeting held on 27th April 2017. It was considered that the minutes of the Court meeting held on 27th April 2017 were an accurate record.

Matters Arising Briefing Note

16.133 Noted

- i. Document UC16/81, being a report on the matters arising from the Court meeting on 27th April 2017 and the actions taken since that meeting to address these matters.
- ii. In addition to the matter listed on the report it was queried whether a Gantt chart for GCNYC showing milestones and key interdependencies would be circulated to members (see minute 16.109). The Principal advised that a Gantt chart had been prepared and was being finalised and that a copy would be provided to members the following week.

(Secretary's Note: Following this meeting, the Chair of Court and Principal discussed the Gantt Chart and agreed that the Gantt Chart that had been prepared was not best suited to highlighting for Court the milestones and key interdependencies, given the level of detail contained in the Chart, and that a further progress update would be provided to Court at its meeting in September 2017.)

- iii. One governor queried whether the Digital Strategy Steering Group had reflected on the membership of the Group and considered the inclusion of operational staff in its membership (see minute 16.113(ii)). The DVC Academic advised that, since the last meeting of Court the group had invited operational staff from among the Digital Champions within the University and other staff to join the group.

Chair's Report

- 16.134 Noted
 - i. Document UC16/82, a report from the Chair of Court on the activities she had undertaken and meetings she had attended on behalf of Court.
 - ii. In addition to her report, the Chair noted that a Court open event would be arranged. The Chair noted that the format of the most recent event had been designed with a more sociable setting to facilitate interaction between staff and Court members following poor attendance at previous, more formally structured open events. As this approach had not greatly boosted numbers, the Chair of Court invited members to provide any feedback on how the event could be structured to encourage wider staff engagement.

Principal's and Executive Board Report

- 16.135 Noted
 - i. Document UC16/83, the Principal's and Executive Board Report to Court.
 - ii. The Principal highlighted the following matters in particular:
 - (a) That Phase 2 of the Enterprise & Skills review had been published by the Scottish Government and that a focus of the review was increasing national productivity and stimulating growth. For HEIs this meant high government expectations of innovation and internationalisation. The University would need to seize all opportunities across the spectrum of its activity to grow its offering and income. This would mean a sharp focus on personal and institutional performance. The University would have to make the most of its intellectual capital, in which context the research strategy had a vital role. The Principal indicated that she had brought forward her State of the Nation talk to early July to share with staff as soon as possible the University's current position and the importance to the University's future of all staff delivering a stretching agenda.
 - (b) The results of the UK wide Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) exercise had been published (compulsory in England but optional in Scotland). In accordance with the position adopted by Universities Scotland, which was not to engage with the TEF as matters stood, the University had not participated. This position had not, however, been adopted by a minority of Scottish HEIs which had been awarded either a gold or silver rating. The Principal noted that the University might need to engage with the TEF in the future and that the importance of improving NSS scores more

generally was further underscored by the use of these scores in calculating TEF ratings.

- (c) The Principal advised that the Board of Regents in New York had decided on 13th June 2016 to charter Glasgow Caledonian New York College (GCNYC). The Principal advised members that key reasons for the positive decision included the research-led approach proposed by GCNYC, the new knowledge base to be delivered by GCNYC and the demonstrable industry needs for graduates with the skills proposed to be developed through GCNYC courses. Court members expressed the view that it was important that the whole University should now move forward positively and in unity to support the successful delivery of the project and to derive for students and staff, regardless of their location, the educational and research benefits of a chartered presence in New York. The Court would continue to ensure rigorous monitoring and oversight.
- (d) The University had received a \$2M philanthropic commitment to its Tanzanian Nursing project.

University Secretary's Report

16.136 Considered Document UC16/84, the University Secretary's Report.

- 16.137 Agreed
- i. Court agreed to grant authority to the Chair of Court to exercise summer vacation powers on Court's behalf.
 - ii. Court received the draft University response to a consultation on the draft revised Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. Court approved the submission of the response to the consultation subject to any additional comment to be provided by Court members by Monday 26th June.

(Secretary's note: No suggested changes were provided by Court members following consideration at the meeting and the response was submitted to the consultation on 3 July 2017)

- iii. That the annual Court and staff open event would be held in autumn 2017 to accommodate timetabling issues. The University Secretary advised members that further details of the event would be provided in due course.
- iv. Court endorsed the proposed amendment to Section 4 of the Students' Association Complaints Handling Procedure with regard to the appointment of an independent person to review a complaint in the event that a complainant was dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint. The Court further agreed that the University Secretary should have the delegated authority to determine the independent person from the University who would undertake this function. Members provided additional suggestions to the Students' Association to clarify the circumstances where the independent person would not be able to consider complaints. A member suggested that the Students' Association consider whether the NUS could be invited to nominate an independent person. The Student President indicated that the Students' Association would consider this suggestion.

(Secretary's note: Following the meeting the Chief Executive of the Students Association advised that the terms of the Education Act 1994 provide that the

governing body of the University is required to appoint the independent person under the Complaints Handling Procedure.)

- v. Court agreed that, in addition to the minutes of the Court meeting being published on the University website, a Court Bulletin would be issued following each meeting as had happened in the past before routine publication of minutes.
 - vi. The Court approved the annual programme of work for the Court and noted that additional items would be included in the programme as these arose throughout the 2017-18 session.
- 16.138 Noted
- i. Court noted a report that provided details of the 242 requests for information received by the University under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 throughout 2016.
 - ii. Court noted the schedule of key dates and meetings for 2017-18. The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee noted that there may be a requirement for an additional meeting of the Committee prior to its October 2017 meeting in order to address any matters arising in relation to GCNYC.

An Early Snapshot View on International Growth for September 2017.

- 16.139 Considered
- i. Document UC16/85 being an early snapshot view of the international applications for September 2017 entry for undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes in Glasgow and London as at June 2017. The PVC International advised Court that there had been an increase in enquiries and applications for PGT programmes although there had been a decrease in enquiries and applications for UG programmes. While it was still early in the cycle, the trend data suggested an increase in conversion rates for both UG and PGT programmes. The PVC International noted that spending on international marketing had been refocused on different countries with new and enhanced activities and that this had started to have a positive impact in terms of PGT applications and income generated through international TNE and articulation arrangements.
 - ii. Court considered the update provided by the PVC International and noted the following matters in particular:
 - (a) Court considered that the budgeted international student recruitment numbers were not sufficiently ambitious and that a step-change was required to allow higher targets with a realistic prospect of delivery. The PVC International noted that there would be more ambitious targets once the positive impact of the new measures for international student recruitment had been realised and that this capability would be apparent in the following year and would continue to build to deliver the required step-change.
 - (b) Court expressed uncertainty as to how to interpret the figures which seemed to suggest that applications were up but conversion was not following at the same rate. It could look as if funding had been directed at increasing enquiries rather than conversions. The efforts described in the paper seemed to be bringing low returns. It was queried whether effort was being spread too thinly and with low value foci. Court observed that the general recruitment environment was in many ways inimical and that the cost of delivery of seemed high in proportion to the return. It was queried whether even a flat lining position was realistic. The PVC

International advised that the budget for International Student Income was realistic and that the proposed step change was achievable. Negative factors were balanced in international markets by positives such as the weakness of sterling and the vigour of articulation pipelines.

- (c) Court members queried whether a greater focus was required on increasing conversions rather than applications. The PVC International advised that the University placed significant emphasis on conversions through active communications and incentivising applicants while carefully monitoring the results of these efforts.
- (d) Court members queried whether the University should invest in partnerships which provided low contributions. The PVC explained that the contribution figures in the update were net contribution figures. The Principal noted in this regard that the University would revisit in October its strategy for investment and growth.
- (e) Court queried the overall decrease in agent facilitated applications given that the agent arrangements had been reviewed and a new structure for their working had been put in place which was designed to improve the number of agent facilitated applications. The PVC International explained that the counter intuitive dip was attributable to working out the legacy of the superseded arrangements and she described the approach now adopted.
- (f) Court members queried whether there was a need for a review of the student experience at GCU London and whether this might lead to an increase in the number of applications for full-time PGT programmes. The DVC Academic advised Court that, in light of feedback, work had been undertaken to better understand the international student experience at GCU London and the key drivers for decision-making for this group.
- (g) Court requested that specific information about the numbers of, and income derived from summer school and junior year abroad students be included in future international student recruitment updates.
- (h) Court asked the Executive Board to consider whether establishing a short-life working group to draw on the business experience of Court members could contribute to boosting international student recruitment.

Draft University Budget 2017-18

- 16.140 Considered i. Document UC16/86, being the draft University Budget for 2017-18. The CFO & VP Infrastructure presented to Court the draft budget position proposed by the Executive Board following an extensive set of planning and budgeting activities across the University. The draft budget, which reflected scrutiny by the FGPC, set out what was considered a financially prudent plan in the context of an increasingly challenging external financial and economic environment. The CFO and VP Infrastructure highlighted that there were two imperatives: the first was to grow non-SFC income and to do so at a much faster rate than over the past five years given that there was a £3.84 m gap just to keep up with inflation against a background of depressed public funding. The second was to continue to control the cost base. He noted
- (a) Key challenges in setting the budget included a reduction in SFC grant funding in 2017-18 and likely further reductions in 2018-19 and increases in staff costs.
 - (b) Measures taken to address these challenges included investment in international student recruitment to deliver growth, investment in staff capability and strategic teaching resource to enhance the University's core

- teaching offer and strategic efficiencies.
- (c) The draft budget for 2017-18 showed an operating breakeven position with a final deficit, after extraordinary items, of £4M.
 - (d) The budget factored in the positive decision by the NYSED Board of Regents to grant GCNYC a provisional charter.
 - (e) There was a need to drive further income growth, particularly through internationalisation, and to control the University's cost-base.
- ii. The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee noted that the Committee had spent much time considering the budget prior to recommending approval to Court. The Chair of F&GPC considered that the key challenges were the reduction in core grant funding and achieving international student income objectives. Additional areas probed were the robustness of non-tuition fee income from GCNYC, the achievability of 10% growth target for GCU London and the scope for £4M in strategic efficiencies.
- iii. Court considered the draft budget for 2017-18 and noted the following in particular:
- (a) Court queried whether the budget reflected the forecasts for GCNYC. The CFO & VP Infrastructure indicated that the budgeted figures for GCNYC had been included in the budget for the University as a whole. Court was advised that the budget was an accurate reflection of what was achievable and would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
 - (b) Court members queried whether, following the positive decision from the NYSED Board of Regents, there was a prospect of better than expected recruitment for GCNYC. The Principal advised that a modest target had been set in order to be prudent in budget assumptions but that the University would be driving the GCNYC project forward and were hopeful of delivering beyond the budget expectations.
 - (c) Court members noted that the contract with Transnet had now been signed and had been endorsed by the South African Government.
 - (d) Court members queried how growth would be achieved in conjunction with strategic efficiency and whether the impact had been modelled. The DVC Academic made clear that rather than simply identifying savings, the focus would be on reenergising core activity and doing things differently rather than simply aiming to do more with less. The Chair of the FGPC, noting the intention to review the University's offer and delivery, proposed more ambitious budgets for the future once there was a strengthened record of success.
- iv. In relation to GCU London, the Court considered Document UC16/87 to accompany the main budget paper and which provided Court with an update on GCU London activities since the April Court meeting, designed to support the delivery of the 2017-18 and the 2018-19 GCU London Budget. The DVC Academic noted the following matters in particular:
- (a) Modest student growth of 10% had been included in the 2017-18 budget in recognition of the challenges faced by GCU London throughout 2016-17. However a more stretching 20% target had been set for the School and 2018-19 was expected to see a step change.
 - (b) Actions taken to deliver the refreshed strategy included a revised marketing strategy with a more streamlined approach to recruitment, conversion and admissions and a new strand of work focussed on RUK students; enhanced packages for successful agent recruitment and closer

relationship management; establishment of the INTO Direct network of INTO agents who would recruit directly for Glasgow and London. London and Glasgow marketing strategies had also been aligned to leverage key benefits from both campuses.

- (c) There would be greater use of the space for conferences and events following clarification of terms within the lease.

- v. Court considered the update report from the DVC Academic and noted the following in particular:
 - (a) Court queried whether even the modest growth targets for London were achievable noting the previous challenges in delivering growth there. The DVC Academic advised Court that the budgeted growth was fully expected to be realised through the ongoing successful implementation of the measures outlined in the update paper.
 - (b) Court members queried why conferences and events income had not been pursued previously. The DVC Academic advised that the ability to use the space for this purpose more comprehensively than hitherto had been subject to recent clarification of terms in the lease.
 - (c) A five year forecast of international/RUK student number targets for all the Schools including London was requested to see the expected trajectory and for use as a measure by Court to track progress. It was suggested that thought should be given to a role for a long term incentive plan.

16.141 Agreed

Court agreed to approve the University Budget for 2017-18

League Table Update 2017

16.142 Noted

- i. Document UC16/88 being an update on the University's performance in the UK league tables published as at the date of the meeting. The Director of Strategy and planning provided the following details of the University's performance in the league tables:
 - (a) Complete University Guide published in April 2017 – ranked 79/129 (an improvement of three places)
 - (b) Guardian League Table published in May 2017 – ranked 89/121 (an improvement of 10 places against the 2016 position)
 - (c) THE Young University Rankings – ranked 100-150 of best young universities in the world.
 - (d) Further details of the University's ranking in the Times league table would be provided following its publication in September 2017.

The Director of Strategy and Planning advised that while there had been positive results arising from the University's staff/student ratios, graduate prospects and entry tariffs, further work was needed on improving the University's performance in the National Student Survey which was a key metric in calculating the University's ranking in the league tables.

- ii. The Director of Strategy and Planning agreed to clarify how the staff/student ratio for GCU compared with the ratios across post-92 institutions.

GCU Community: Working Together in Partnership

16.143 Noted

- i. Document UC16/89, being an update on the development of the Partnership Agreement between the University and the Students' Association to replace the GCU Commitment which had previously been developed as part of the Student

Experience Framework 2013-2017).

- ii. The DVC Academic advised Court that the University and the Students' Association had worked together to develop the Agreement which was aligned with both GCU's values and the Students' Association's strategic priority areas. The agreement was focussed on GCU staff and students working as partners in the delivery of excellence in learning and an outstanding student experience.
- iii. The Student President noted that the Students' Association had consulted widely in the development of the plan which had resulted in the Students' Association being shortlisted for a SPARQS Engagement Award.
- 16.144 Agreed. iv. The University welcomed the update on the development of the agreement, commended its content and agreed to approve the draft Partnership Agreement.

Strategy 2020: Mid-Point review

- 16.145 Considered i. Document UC16/90 being a report on the mid-point review of Strategy 2020. The Director of Strategy and Planning provided an update to Court on the results of a high-level review of Strategy 2020 that was undertaken in 2016-17 drawing on the strategic and financial planning process and key discussions with the Executive Board, the Deans group, and the Students' Association as well as a review of competitor strategies and performance indicators. The review had indicated that the University's 2020 vision and goals remained relevant, ambitious and in-line with the University's institutional mission For the Common Good.
- ii. The review process had also allowed the University to assess the targets set for the institutional 2020 Strategic Indicators. The proposals submitted to Court for amending the 2020 Strategic Indicators as a result of the review were as follows:
 - (a) Revision of the target on non-continuation after one year of study from 7% to 8% in recognition of the current position and the potential implications of the additional articulation scheme introduced after the target was agreed.
 - (b) Inclusion of a new target on international student satisfaction as measured by the international Student Barometer (ISB).
 - (c) Revision of the target on international students as a proportion of all students in the UK from 15% to 10%, in light of the current position and external environment.
 - (d) Reshaping of the current target on research, based on REF outcomes, given the timescales for the next REF exercise were now outwith the timeframe for reporting against Strategy 2020.
 - (e) Inclusion of a new indicator on environmental sustainability.
- 16.146 Agreed Court noted the report on the results of the mid-point review and agreed the following in relation to the proposals for adjusting the 2020 Strategic Indicators:
 - (a) The Court agreed to adopt the proposals noted at minute 16.144(ii)(b), (d) and (e);
 - (b) The Court did not agree to the proposals noted at minute 16.144(ii)(a) and (c). Court members considered that the Strategic Indicators expressed the 2020 ambition for the University and were not synonymous with annual targets. Court considered that rather than relaxing the ambition, further focus should be placed on what support was required to deliver the University's objectives contained within Strategy 2020.

Draft SFC Gender Action Plan

- 16.147 Considered Document UC16/91, being the draft SFC Gender Action Plan. The Director of Strategy and Planning advised Court that the plan had been completed in accordance with the Guidance by the SFC. The report included:
- (a) Examples of how the University promoted gender equality amongst staff and on the Court;
 - (b) The University's approach to tackling gender based violence;
 - (c) The University's outreach and aspiration raising work;
 - (d) Case studies on how GCU was addressing the gender pay gap, the Caledonian Club and STEM outreach.
- 16.148 Agreed Court considered the draft plan and agreed to approve the plan for submission to the SFC, subject to some minor changes, which were accepted, being made to the plan. The final plan would be recirculated to members prior to its submission to the SFC on 31 July 2017.

(Secretary's Note: the final revised SFC Gender Action Plan was recirculated to Court members on 31st July 2017 before submission to the SFC)

GCNYC Report

- 16.149 Considered
- i. Document UC16/92 being an update on the activities of GCNYC. The Court was very pleased to note the positive decision of the NYSED Board of Regents on 13th June 2017 to charter GCNYC. In relation to the initial provisional nature of the charter, the Principal explained to members that this was standard practice. For this reason it had not been flagged to the University by advisers and thus to the Court as an issue of any kind. However, given the misperceptions that had since been fomented, it would have been appropriate to send the relevant documentation to Court with full explanation. The normal expectation was that a provisional charter would become absolute after a period of five years and due review. There was no risk of a provisional charter being withdrawn. The Principal noted that negative comments suggesting that a provisional charter undermined the business case for GCNYC were ill-founded. All universities in New York were part of the University of the State of New York and ultimately derived their degree awarding powers from the Board of Regents. While the imprimatur of the Board of Regents was sought for graduating cohorts for the 5 year provisional period, GCNYC was still recognised as holding degree granting powers and was responsible for setting the programmes and quality assuring the academic provision. The Principal advised that toward the end of the 5 year provisional period, the GCNYC would submit a further application for a full charter and, following a review process by NYSED on the adequacy of GCNYC in terms of its delivery throughout the provisional period, a full charter would ordinarily be granted. The Principal noted that the focus was now on delivering the plans set out for GCNYC and previously approved by Court at its meeting on 27th April 2017.
 - ii. Court members sought information about the action plan for recruiting students to GCNYC and US students to GCU campuses in the UK and sought assurance that the correct resources were in place to support these activities. The PVC International advised that a large amount of work was ongoing to refresh marketing materials in light of recent market intelligence. A website and social media marketing campaign would go live imminently. In addition the conversion team had

established workflows in readiness for the start of recruitment activities. The Principal confirmed that the marketing campaign would begin early in the following week and reminded the Court that the University had been advised that it was unable to undertake any recruitment campaign prior to the granting of the charter: any breach could have adversely affected the outcome of NYSED's deliberations. The Vice-President of GCU-NYC had been engaging with the CEOs following a recent highly successful meeting of the group to tell them about the scholarships available to students in September 2017 and referencing the subscription scheme.

- iii. Court congratulated all staff involved in securing the provisional charter and particularly the VP GCU-NYC and the Dean of GCU-NYC, noting that there were now no impediments to driving delivery of the business plan objectives.
- iv. Court members sought clarification on how the GCNYC 2016/17 forecast deficit detailed in the 2017-18 budget paper to Court (Document UC16/86) and the forecast outturn in the P9 GCU New York Management Accounts would impact on the budgeted figures for future years, as previously presented to Court in Document UC16/65 at the April Court meeting. The Principal acknowledged that it would be difficult to meet the 16/17 budgeted income figure in light of the demands of securing the licence. The Principal and CFO agreed to clarify the impact on the GCNYC 17/18 budget of income secured but not received in 16/17 as expected and now scheduled to be received in 17/18.
- v. A Court member queried the NPV implications. The CFO & VP Infrastructure indicated that, while the NPV calculated over the period of the lease would be affected, offsetting additional income generation opportunities would be developed and efficiencies identified in GCNYC operations over the period of the NPV. Moreover, as GCNYC was fully expected to exist beyond the NPV period, there would be continuing future benefit.
- vi. A Court member expressed surprise at the strength of opposition at the public hearing and was concerned that the Court had not been apprised of it. The principal advised that there had been constructive prior engagement with most of the objectors and this opposition had not been apparent at that time. It was also possible to speculate that objectors had since been lobbied by other detractors. The substance of these objections had been made known to the University on the Friday before the Monday Board of Regents hearing. Notwithstanding these objections, the strength of the case for GCNYC and the market need, as confirmed by the senior industry support for GCNYC's agenda, was sufficient to demonstrate to the Board of Regents that the provisional charter should be approved.

Digital Strategy Report

16.150 Noted Court noted document UC16/93 being an update report on the implementation of the digital strategy approved by Court in 2016. Court noted in particular the update on the SIMS project and the development of a benefits realisation approach to the project.

Students Association Trimester 2 Report 2016-17

16.151 Noted i. Document UC16/94, being an update on the Students' Association activities for Trimester 2 in 2016-17. The Student President noted that the report had been

revised to align with the Students' Association strategic plan and noted in particular in Trimester 2 the Students' Association had:

- (a) Been the first modern university students' association in Scotland to achieve Quality Students' Unions Very Good Award;
- (b) Achieved 'Investing in Volunteers' accreditation in January 2017;
- (c) Been shortlisted for the NUS Scotland Full Time Officer Team of the Year Award 2017;
- (d) Won the NUS Scotland Diversity Award 2017;
- (e) Achieved a 93% satisfaction rating in the International Student Barometer, scoring well against benchmarked institutions.

Court members also noted that Jodie Waite, Vice President GSBS, had been elected as NUS Scotland Vice President Education 2017-18 and offered its congratulations.

- ii. Court members welcomed the report and commended the Students' Association on its excellent achievements in Trimester 2.

Complaints Handling Procedure – Session 2015-16 Overview

16.152 Noted Court noted document UC16/95 being an overview of the complaints received by the University in the period 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016. Court noted in particular that in accordance with SPSO requirements, data from the report would be published on the University website.

Senate: Report from Senate Meeting of 2nd June 2017

16.153 Noted Document UC16/96, being a summary of the business discussed by Senate at its meeting on 2nd June 2017

Court Membership Committee Report of 4th May 2017 and Nominations Committee Report of 2nd May 2017

16.154 Considered i. Document UC16/97, being a report on substantive items which the CMC considered at its meeting on 4th May 2017 and the Nominations Committee for appointing a new Chair of Court considered at its meeting on 2nd May 2017.

- ii. The University Secretary noted that work was ongoing to finalise the changes required to ensure that the University's statutory instrument was consistent with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016. Court endorsed the approach proposed by the CMC to limit the number of changes required to the Statutory Instrument and to include the practicalities and detail of the changes in the Court Standing Orders.

16.155 Agreed Court found acceptable a proposal for the method of selection of TU observers on Court until such times as TU nominated governors were appointed. Feedback from the TUs on the proposal for selection had not yet been received.

16.156 Noted Following its meeting on 2nd May 2017, the Nominations Committee had worked on identifying a successor to the present Chair of Court and had conducted candidate interviews for this purpose. The Committee had made good progress and had identified the preferred candidate who had orally committed to accepting the position. In light of professional considerations of the preferred candidate at the time of the meeting, the Nominations Committee had agreed to respect the

request that the recommendation on appointment be made at the Court meeting in September 2017 with due publicity to follow the appointment. The Court was content to accept this approach.

Recommendation for Appointment of New Governors

- 16.157 Considered Court considered Document UC16/97a, being a summary of the process for lay governor recruitment recently conducted by the CMC and a recommendation for the appointment, following interviews held on 16th June 2017, of the following individuals to the position of lay governor:
- (a) Daniel Gallacher;
 - (b) Dr Bill Gunnyeon;
 - (c) Asif Haseeb;
 - (d) Lesley Thomson QC
- Court was provided with short biographies of each individual.
- 16.158 Agreed Court approved the recommended appointments to the role of lay governor.

Finance and General Purposes Committee Report: 5th June 2017

- 16.159 Noted Document UC16/98, a report on substantive items which the Finance and General Purposes Committee had considered at its meeting on 5th June 2017. The Court noted in particular the assurance provided to the University community by the Director of Estates, following the tragic Grenfell Tower fire, as to the safety compliance of the cladding used in the recent Heart of Campus redevelopment.

Audit Committee Report: 13th June 2017

- 16.160 Noted Document UC16/99, a report on substantive items which the Audit Committee had considered at its meeting on 13th June 2017.

Media Monitoring Update June 2017

- 16.161 Noted Court noted a media monitoring update report for June 2017.

Date of next meeting

- 16.162 Noted
- i. The next meeting of Court would be held on Thursday 28th September 2017 at 2.00pm.
 - ii. The Chair noted that the meeting would be the final meeting for John Chapman, who was completing his second term on the Court. On behalf of the Court the Chair expressed appreciation of his consistent support and contribution to the Court and to the wider University community in his role as lay governor and Chair of the Health and Safety Committee. The Court offered its thanks and warm good wishes for the future.