

COURT BULLETIN: 28 SEPTEMBER 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.

Appointment of Chair of Court

Court approved the recommendation of the Nominations Committee to appoint Mr Rob Woodward as a lay governor on the University Court with effect from 28th September 2017 and as the Chair of Court with effect from 6th February 2018.

Annual Institutional Statement to the Scottish Funding Council on Institutional Led Review of Quality for the Academic Session 2016/2017 and Annual Statement of Assurance for the Scottish Funding Council

Court approved the University's Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic Session 2016-17. The DVC Academic advised Court that this statement was part of the University's reporting arrangements to the SFC in addition to the Outcome Agreement and the statutory and financial data returns.

Early View of GCU Student Recruitment and Admissions Cycle 2017/2018

Court received an early indicative view of student numbers for Trimester A of the Academic Year 2017/18.

GCU New York

Court received an update report from the Principal on the overall position of GCNYC including student recruitment, registration and student experience, finance, faculty and governance. The paper also provided an update on matters relating to the Middle States Accreditation process, the recognition required to allow GCNYC to recruit internationally and to recruit students who required financial aid to pursue their studies.

Digital Strategy

Court received an update on the implementation of the Digital Strategy approved by Court in 2016. Court was advised that following one year since approval and noting the refresh of the research strategy, it was proposed to undertake a light touch review of the digital strategy to ensure that its objectives continued to be aligned with the wider strategic goals of the University and that any proposals to adjust the strategy would be presented to Court in early 2018.

National Student Survey Summary of Outcomes 2017

Court received a summary of the key outcomes from the 2017 NSS and provided an overview of the results at an institutional and School level. It was noted that the overall satisfaction score was 81% which was below the University's 2017 HEFCE benchmark of 83%.

Whilst it was recognised that there were some methodological issues with the survey arising from the use of specific questions and how these questions were interpreted, it was agreed that the University still needed to engage with the survey and learn from the results with a view to enhancing the student experience at GCU.

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.

- **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 June 2017, issues arising in the external environment which impact on GCU and University activities.

The Principal highlighted in particular the report on Widening Access for 2015-16 which had been published on 26 September 2017 and showed that the University had exceeded widening access targets and was second in the sector for recruiting SIMD20 students. The Principal also advised Court that Professor Valerie Webster had been asked to become a member of the SFC's Access and Inclusion Committee.

- **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. Main issues included:

- Court reaffirmed its Statement of Primary Responsibilities for 2017/2018.
- Court considered and approved the University's Statement on Modern Slavery for 2016/17 for publication on the University's website.
- Court approved a number of changes to the membership of Court's standing committees

- **Reports from Court Standing Committees**

Court noted a report from the Finance & General Purposes Committee on issues discussed since the last Court meeting.

- **Other Matters Approved/Endorsed/Considered by Court**

- Court endorsed a proposal to establish a state of the art imaging centre at the GCU Glasgow Campus.
- Court received a progress report on the African Leadership College Partnership and noted in particular the major review activity which had taken place within the context of the collaborative agreement and the revised income from the contract.
- Court endorsed the Strategic Report 2016/17 which provided an overview of progress against the University's 2020 strategic indicators which were approved by the Court as the mechanism for measuring the University's performance against Strategy 2020.
- Court noted that the SFC Outcome Agreement guidance had yet to be received and further details would be provided once this had been received.
- Court received details of GCU's first degree apprenticeship programme in England delivered in collaboration with Geason Training Ltd, endorsed the model used to deliver these apprenticeships and was supportive of scaling up this model.
- Court received the Annual Reports for 2016/2017 from the Court standing committees, approved the standing committee objectives for 2017/2018 and approved minor changes to the terms of reference for the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Health & Safety Committee
- Court approved the renewal of the Facility Letter and Resolution from the Bank of Scotland plc.