

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 20th JUNE 2019

The University Court met today, 20 June 2019, and welcomed a new governor, Peter Baguley, who brings considerable commercial experience and in particular property and estates expertise. This was the last meeting for governors who step down at the end of July, namely Paul Reynolds, a lay governor since 2015, and Dr Davina Rankin who has now served a maximum three terms as professional and support services elected governor. On 19 June academic staff elected Dr Douglas Chalmers for a third term of office as a staff governor, and David Halliday was elected by professional and support service staff as a new staff governor to take up office on 1 August 2019.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Professor James Miller, Deputy Vice Chancellor, and Stephanie Pitticas, International Director, on “Attracting and Converting Prospective Students”.

To mark the fact that the University’s Centre for Climate Justice is hosting the Elsevier First World Forum on Climate Justice, chaired by Professor Tahseen Jafry, governors joined Forum participants yesterday evening for a civic reception in the City Chambers. Governors continued discussion of climate justice over dinner where the Court’s guests included keynote speakers from the World Forum as well as staff and students from the Centre. Earlier in the day Court had held its annual risk workshop.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today, which will also appear on the University website. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the University website in due course.

Rob Woodward
Chair of Court

1. Principal & Vice Chancellor & Executive Board Report

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting. Among topics highlighted were recent successes in promoting high profile public and professional recognition of the University’s research strengths, the University’s success in the Times Higher Education Social Impact rankings, the appointment of and early tasks assigned to the interim Provost in GCNYC, the place of the Augar *Post-18 review of education and funding* commissioned by the Prime Minister, and the Principal’s opportunity to address the British Council’s influential Going Global Conference in Berlin.

2. Student President’s Report

The Student President, Eilidh Fulton, who was attending her first meeting of Court since taking up the role in early June reported on the Students’ Association’s current issues and presented the Students’ Association Trimester 2 Report 18/19 and the Full Time Officer Accountability Schedule. This last was approved by Court.

3. Chief Operating Officer’s Report

The Court noted the report which referred to topics relating to finance, staffing and the estate.

4. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted the report and approved the normal summer delegation of authority to the Chair as well as a number of appointments to Court Committees.

5. Draft University Budget 2019-2020

The Court considered the budget and key strategic elements within it, received the views of its Finance and General Purposes Committee which had tested the budget during its development, and approved the budget for 2019/20.

6. League Table Update 2019 Review and Analysis

The Court was pleased to note the progress made by the University in the three key league tables and its excellent performance in the first THE Impact Rankings. The Court heard how the University would take steps to capitalise on and maintain this upward momentum.

7. 2019-2020 Trimester A Student Recruitment – Summary at June 2019

The Court noted the report and the work underway to support recruitment and conversion, while recognising that for some key recruitment categories it remained early in the cycle.

8. Student/Staff Ratios

The Court noted the report recognising that, while it is not possible to make direct subject comparisons across the sector, the University is largely consistent with comparable institutions in most subject areas on the basis of available data.

9. Strategy 2030

The Court noted the consultative work that has been undertaken as the strategy is developed and the excellent level of student and staff engagement. The Court will address the draft strategy again in October in light of this feedback and other work strands in progress.

10. Widening Access Update

The Court was pleased to note that the SFC's recently published *Report on Widening Access 2017-18* and its *Report on Articulation from Scottish Colleges to Scottish Universities 2017-18* demonstrate the University's continued strong performance in widening access.

11. Annual Statement on Research Integrity

The Court approved the University's annual statement on research integrity as part of its pledge to meet the Commitments of the Universities UK Concordat to support Research Integrity.

12. Partnership Ethical Framework Monitoring Report

The Court noted the report.

13. Report from Senate meeting held on 31st May 2019

The Court noted the business of the Senate meeting on 31 May 2019.

14. Standing Committee Business

The Court noted reports presented by the Chairs of the Audit, Remuneration, Finance and General Purposes, and People Committees. The Court accepted the recommendation of the Remuneration Committee to approve the Remuneration Philosophy for 2019-20.

15. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Friday 20 September 2019.