

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The University Court met virtually today, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and welcomed Dr Nick McKerrell and Ms Ellen Gibson to their first Court meeting as the new Trade Union nominated members (as opposed to observers) and Ms Tabitha Nyariki similarly as the second student governor in addition to the Student President, Ms Susan Docherty.

The Vice-Chair of Court, Stephanie Young, joined me for a recent tour of the campus and on a personal note it was wonderful to be back at GCU and see for myself the changes that have taken place to ensure the safety of our staff and students. It was impressive to see.

The Court's meeting took place on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 2020, and Court members joined me in observing the two-minute silence at 11 am in remembrance of those who died in the line of duty.

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 with the Principal highlighting the University's steps to manage and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on its students and staff, its extensive work to promote mental health, the findings in the SFC's first report from its continuing review of the tertiary sector in Scotland commissioned by the Government and the good progress made by the University this year in leading league tables.

### **2. Student President's Report**

The Student President reported on the activities of the Students' Association since the previous Court meeting drawing particular attention to the strong collaborative work with the University to support students through the disruptive impact of Covid, the Association's promotion of student engagement and well-being. Tabitha Nyariki outlined the Association's activities particularly during Black History Month to support the University's Tackling Racism Working Group.

### **3. Chief Operating Officer's Report**

The Court noted the report from the Chief Operating Officer which focussed on the many aspects of Covid including the arrangements for the safe return to campus for small numbers of students and staff and the support provided for the many staff who continued to work from home. The Student Information Management System (SIMS) Release 1 (Admissions) successfully went live in October 2020.

#### **4. University Secretary's Report**

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary and in particular the date of the University's online stakeholder event entitled *GCU Civic Leaders Forum* which students, staff and external stakeholders are invited join at 3.30 pm on Zoom on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. Court also approved revisions to the Court's Statement of Primary Responsibilities.

#### **5. 2020-21 Student Recruitment**

The Court noted the report which provided an overview of students who have registered as at 30 October 2020 as well as an early view of Trimester B recruitment. The report was encouraging particularly given the concerns of the University, and the sector, earlier this year. A more definitive picture of the Trimester A position will be possible in late November.

#### **6. Annual Financial Statements 2019-20**

Court considered and gave in principle approval to the consolidated 2019-20 Annual Financial Statements for the University and the Annual Financial Statements for its subsidiaries. Court also noted the Annual Financial Statement for GCNYC and approved the revised accounting treatment of funding for GCNYC with future funding being delivered by grant rather than loan. For technical reasons the auditors were unable this year to complete their work by the time of the Court meeting. Accordingly, Court has delegated to a sub-group, comprising the Chair of Court, the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, receipt of the last audit confirmation from the auditors, and final approval of the University's consolidated Annual Financial Statements.

#### **7. Annual Procurement Report 2019-20**

The Court approved the report which summarises the procurement activities carried out by the University in the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and which must be published annually.

#### **8. GCU Corporate Risk Register**

The Court approved the updated Corporate Risk Register.

#### **9. Strategy 2030 and KPIs**

The Court approved the Strategy 2030 and the associated KPIs which is planned to be launched in January 2021.

#### **10. University Senate**

The Court noted a report from the Senate meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### **11. Standing Committee Business**

The Court received reports and where relevant approved recommendations from the People Committee, Court Governance & Nominations Committee, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

#### **12. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**

The Court noted the report presented by the Chair of the Board on the GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting which took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.

#### **13. Principal's Objectives 2020-21**

The Court approved the Principal's Objectives for 2020-21 which sets out the high-level objectives for the Principal in the current year.

#### **14. Media Coverage Analysis – September Update**

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in September.

#### **15. Date of next Court meeting**

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.