

## SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The University Court met virtually today, 9 September 2020, and welcomed Austin Sweeney and Bill McDonald to their first meeting of Court since their appointment as governors on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020. Court also welcomed Dr Nick McKerrell and Ellen Gibson, the new Trade Union nominated members with effect from 1 October 2020, who will be participating in the Court business technically as observers until the end of September.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today, which will also appear on the University website. The Court focused in particular on the University's work to manage the impacts of the Covid pandemic and plans for initiating the safe return to campus.

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 that the University's efforts remained focussed on implementing the most up to date government and public health measures to ensure that, with a new student intake, the University's campus operations remain safe and secure. The Principal confirmed that the University has sent to the Scottish Funding Council its submission for the first phase of the SFC Review of Tertiary Education, which is looking first at financial recovery measures in further and higher education in light of the pandemic as well as the longer term future of the tertiary sector in Scotland. The Principal highlighted notable successes for the University including achieving an overall satisfaction score of 85% in the National Student Survey 2020, an improvement of 4% on last year's position, and being rated the top University in Scotland and the eighth in the UK by StudentCrowd, making the University the only Scottish University to make it into the top 20 list.

### 2. Chief Operating Officer's Report

The Court noted the report from the Chief Operating Officer which focussed on the Safe Return to Campus plan for the University, addressing matters such as: the high level overarching plan; physical changes on campus; people implications; students' behaviour; Covid testing; communications and looking forward to trimester B. The report also provided Court with an update on the financial position of the University and the rebased Budget for 2020/21.

### 3. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on the activities of the Students' Association since the previous Court meeting and confirmed that preparations are currently underway for Trimester A delivery including moving most activities and services online. Court congratulated the Students' Association on its recent performance in the recent National Student Survey, with 56% of students reporting that the Students' Association effectively represents students' academic interests, compared to a Scottish average of 54%, and achieving Excellent accreditation in the Green Impact Awards 2019/20, which exceeds the Students' Association Strategic Plan (The Bigger Plan 2020) objective of maintaining Good within the accreditation scheme. Court complimented the positive leadership shown by the student representatives.

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

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary and approved the Statement of Primary Responsibilities for inclusion in the Annual Financial Statements, the Modern Slavery Statement for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, the refreshed presentation of the amended Court Standing Orders prior to the GCU Amendment Order of Council 2020 coming into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, and the appointment of the first two TU nominated governors on Court.

#### **5. Strategic Report 2019-20 - Review of progress against Strategy 2020 KPIs**

The Court noted the annual Strategic Report from the DVC Strategy, which provided an overview of progress against the University's 2020 Strategic Indicators, and in particular the University's strong performance in a challenging external environment with a number of the 2020 KPI outcomes being maintained or exceeded in the final year of Strategy 2020.

#### **6. Interim Report on Student Recruitment**

The Court noted a summary from the DVC Strategy on the unconditional firm acceptances to undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes in Trimester A as at 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. DVC Strategy emphasised that although it is an advanced point in the Trimester A recruitment cycle, there continues to be flux in the recruitment position, and final intake will not be confirmed until students formally register up to and during October.

#### **7. Annual report on institution-led review of quality and governing body statement of assurance for AY 2019/20**

The Court approved a report from DVC Learning, Teaching and Student Experience on the Annual Report on Institution-led Review of Quality and the Governing Body Statement of Assurance for the academic year 2019/20 which is part of the University's reporting arrangements to the Scottish Funding Council.

#### **8. National Student Survey 2020**

The Court noted a report from DVC Learning, Teaching and Student Experience, which provided an overview of the National Student Survey 2020 results, with the University achieving improved satisfaction scores across all Schools.

#### **9. Graduate Outcomes 2017/18**

The Court noted a report from DVC Strategy which provided a high level summary of the 2017/18 graduate cohort outcomes for the Scottish sector. The University has 91% of graduates in employment and/or further study, above the Scottish rate of 89%, and a proportion of graduates in full-time employment of 66%, compared to the Scottish sector rate of 60% which places the University in second place in Scotland alongside Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde Universities.

#### **10. Research Trimester C Report 2019-20**

The Court noted a report from the PVC Research which highlighted the continuing performance in attracting high-value awards from prestigious sources during a challenging period and, in particular,

the success of the University in winning three projects in the competition for 6-month research projects related to Covid-19 which was recently conducted by the Chief Scientist Office.

#### **11. African Leadership College Partnership: Report on Annual Academic and Contract Review**

The Court noted a report on the progress of the African Leadership College partnership to the end of Session 2019/20. The report included an update on the following areas: academic standards and contract review, Higher Education Commission (the regulatory body for tertiary education in Mauritius), Covid 19, student numbers and performance, project finances and key partnership developments.

#### **12. Renewal of Facility Letter and Resolution - Bank of Scotland plc**

The Court approved the Facility Letter for the University, Glasgow Caledonian University Company Limited and Glasgow Caledonian University Academy Limited with Bank of Scotland plc.

#### **13. GCNYC Board of Trustees Report from Meeting on 2nd July 2020**

The Court noted the report presented by the Chair of the Board on the GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

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

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

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

The next meeting of Court will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Court will, however, meet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September for a strategy session in advance of launching Strategy 2030.

#### **16. Chair of Court Appraisal**

The Chair of Court left the meeting for this item whilst the Vice-Chair of Court led the discussion of the annual appraisal of the Chair of Court.