

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

The University Court met on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This followed an address on the previous evening by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Mr John Swinney MSP, to a gathering of Court members, Staff and Students on the opportunities and challenges within the Higher Education landscape over the coming years. Court members welcomed the opportunity to discuss these matters in a Q&A session following the address which set important context for the development of the University's new strategic plan which will be the focus of the Court Strategy Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

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

Rob Woodward  
Chair of Court

### **1. Review of the Year and 2017-18 Performance against 2020 Strategic Indicators**

The Principal presented to Court her Review of the Year for 2017-18 which reflected on the University's achievements to date and on the 2017-18 performance against the University's 2020 Strategic Indicators. To complement the address, the Court received a full report on the 2017-18 performance against 2020 Strategic Indicators.

### **2. Early view of Student Recruitment and Admissions Cycle 2018-19**

Court considered a report from the DVC Strategy which provided an early indicative view of student numbers for Trimester A 2018-19, based on confirmed acceptances of a place at GCU as at 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Court was advised by the DVC Strategy that a forecast of income against the budget position will be generated in due course following close of Trimester A student registration.

### **3. Report on 2018 NSS Results**

Court examined a report from the DVC Academic on the University's performance in the 2018 NSS at institutional, School, programme and subject level.

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

Court considered an update report from the DVC Academic on the progress of the partnership between the African Leadership College (ALC) and Glasgow Caledonian University. Court noted that the University's partnership with the ALC continues to make progress. The students' performance in all four programmes delivered in Mauritius remains strong, with student feedback generally positive. Court learned that plans were now underway for the inaugural graduation ceremony in June 2019 where business management and social science students will receive their degrees.

### **5. Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic Year 2017-18.**

Court approved for submission to the Scottish Funding Council the Annual Statement on Enhancement Led Internal Subject Review and Quality Assurance Arrangements for the Academic

Year 2017-18. This statement provides commentary on the University's quality assurance and enhancement processes and activities as part of the University's annual reporting to the SFC.

## **6. Outcome Agreement 2019-20: Guidance and Approach**

The Court received an oral update on the availability of the SFC's guidance and approach to the Outcome Agreement process for 2019-20. Court noted that once the ministerial guidance had been issued and there was clarification of the SFC's approach, a further report to Court would be made.

## **7. Trimester C 2017-18 Research Report**

This report contained information on research success in respect of funding and staff achievements. The Court received an update on larger grants, the work of early career researchers, postgraduate education highlights, outputs, impact and esteem, as well as reporting on UHatch and aspects of public engagement.

## **8. Renewal of Facility Letter and Resolution**

Court approved the renewal of the Facility Letter and Resolution with the Bank of Scotland plc.

## **9. Regular Updates**

The following regular reports are submitted to each Court meeting.

### **a. Items Brought by the Chair of Court**

The Chair welcomed new Chief Operating Officer Susan Mitchell to the meeting.

The Chair provided feedback following governor appraisal discussions and noted that the University would continue to tweak the workings of Court based on the feedback. The Chair noted that the feedback on the lay governor link scheme to date was positive, generally.

The Chair of Court provided details of the focus of the Court Strategy Day to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Glasgow Campus, namely the 2030 horizon and initiation of the 2020-25 Strategy.

### **b. Principal & Vice Chancellor & Executive Board Report**

The report provided a summary of substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the previous Court meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and addressed issues arising in the external environment which could potentially affect the University. Court noted in particular the priorities for 2018-19.

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

Court received with interest the Student President's report on recent issues and activities which included details of the election manifestos of the recently-elected student sabbatical officers and provided detail on the Students' Association's objectives for 2018-19.

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

The Court received a report from the University Secretary which addressed the following matters:

- Annual review and approval of the Court's Statement of Primary Responsibilities for inclusion in the annual financial statements. This statement was approved by Court;
- Approval of the University's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement. This statement was approved by Court; and
- An update on the implementation of the new data protection legislation.

#### **e. Reports from Court Standing Committees**

Court noted a report from the Court Governance and Nominations Committee. The report provided Court with a progress update on the lay governor recruitment exercise being undertaken and proposed staff membership of the Audit Committee, the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

The report also set out the Committee's recommendation that the proposed changes to the University's Statutory Instrument and the Court Standing Orders be approved for submission to the Scottish Government and Privy Council. The changes were primarily required to deliver compliance with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 and the 2017 Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. Court approved the proposed changes for submission to the Scottish Government and Privy Council to progress the amendment process.

#### **e. Reports from GCNYC Board of Trustees Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The Court noted this report.

The Court approved a protocol, endorsed by the GCNYC Board, for the sharing of Court and Board papers between GCU and GCNYC, following a request by the GCU Court at its May meeting for such a protocol to be established.