

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 10 MAY 2018

Court welcomed the **Lay Governors Link Scheme** as a new way of connecting with the university community. Under the Scheme each lay governor will be partnered with a School or other academic unit or one or more services. The governor's role is to listen, keep up to date with local developments, understand the ambitions and challenges and contribute fresh perspective drawing on their own experience and skills. Once senior managers have been briefed, there will be more information on the Court webpage – including who has been linked to which area.

The Court welcomed **Rachel Simpson**, the Student President Elect, who was attending her first meeting of Court as an observer prior to taking up her role in June. Thanks were extended to **Kevin Campbell**, the outgoing Student President, for his contribution to the work of Court and the committees of which he had been a member. **Chris Daisley** was also thanked as he completed his year as a student attendee at Court meetings. The Court wished Kevin and Chris every success for the future.

The Court congratulated **Tom Halpin** on his appointment as a Board member of the Scottish Police Authority but will miss his presence as a member of Court when he stands down at the end of June. Warm thanks were offered for his contribution over nearly three terms as a governor. The Court expressed its appreciation of the contribution made by **Caroline Stuart** who is also standing down in the summer. Caroline has generously agreed to continue to make her expertise in information systems and governance available to the University.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main matters addressed by Court yesterday, 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

1. GCU Tanzanian Nursing Education Business Case

The project aims to build the capacity and capability of the nursing workforce in Tanzania to drive progress in health and health care delivery and aligns well with GCU's corporate strategy.

The Court approved the business case following detailed discussion and consideration of comment from its Finance and General Purposes Committee which had tested the financial projections, due diligence undertaken, benefits, risks and risk mitigation and the governance and reporting arrangements in place to monitor implementation of the project.

2. Student Recruitment Report

Court received a high-level overview of student recruitment in the academic year 2017/2018 to date and an early view of applications and conversions for Trimester A of 2018/2019.

3. Trimester B Review – Final Report

The Committee received a report on the review of Trimester B 2017/18 recruitment which had been initiated because the intake had been disappointing after an encouraging Trimester A entry.

The DVC Strategy advised Court that progress was now being made and applications for 2018/19 Trimester A appeared to be recovering.

A task group had been established under the convenorship of the DVC Strategy to drive changes and monitor impact. Outcomes would be reported to the Executive Board who would monitor developments closely.

4. Strategic Overview of Achievements of Glasgow Caledonian New York College

Court received a report commissioned by the Chairs of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the GCNYC Board summarising the achievements of Glasgow Caledonian New York College when assessed against the original strategic goals set by Court.

5. Minutes of the Meetings of the GCNYC Board of Trustees and Minutes of the GCU-NYC, Inc. Board

Court noted the draft unconfirmed minutes of the meetings of the GCNYC Board of Trustees and the GCU-NYC, Inc. Board held on 4th April 2018.

6. Data Protection and Privacy Policy

The policy is required as the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) is being replaced by the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in May 2018. The new Regulation enhances the rights of individuals, places ever greater value on personal information and means organisations and their staff must take an even more stringent approach to data protection and privacy. Failure of the University and its staff and students to comply risks heavy financial penalties as well as reputational damage. The Court sought ongoing reassurance that training and support were in place and implemented.

Court approved the Data Protection and Privacy Policy subject to amendments.

7. Regular Updates

The following regular reports are submitted to each Court meeting.

a. Items Brought by the Chair of Court

The Chair introduced the lay governor link scheme whereby each lay governor would be associated with a different School, professional service or other significant focus of university activity to promote understanding and interaction between Court members and the wider University.

He reported on a recent meeting of the Chairs of Scottish Courts and the Chairs' initiation of dialogue with the senior Scottish Government official responsible for Higher Education, Aileen McKechnie, about the future of HE in Scotland.

A further topic of the meeting had been the HE Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 where the practicalities of implementation posed numerous challenges.

The discussion of the corporate risk register had been held earlier in the day and had been a productive event.

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 in on 15th March and addressed issues arising in the external environment which could potentially affect the University.

Court noted in particular the University's excellent performance in the Times Higher Student Experience Survey which had seen the University rise 32 places to 67th out of 116 UK universities.

c. Student President's Report

Court received with interest the Student President's report on recent issues and activities which included working with the University to develop a Postgraduate Social Space in the Library and the selection of four of the Association's volunteers as QAA Scotland institutional reviewers – the first time any GCU students have been selected. This year has also seen a 70% increase in nominations to the Students Association's Teaching Awards.

d. 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. While lay governors had a standing invitation to attend Senate meetings, a roster of lay governors was in preparation to ensure that all would attend at least one Senate meeting annually. Court noted the membership of the new People Committee, to be chaired by **Neena Mahal**.

e. Senate Report

Court noted a highlights report on the substantive items discussed at the meeting of Senate on 16th March 2018.

f. Reports from Court Standing Committees

Court noted reports from the Audit Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee on issues discussed since the last Court meeting on 15th March 2018.

Following Tom Halpin's departure next month, **Stephanie Young** has kindly agreed to become Chair of the Remuneration Committee.