

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 20th February 2020

The University Court met today, 20 February 2020, following the Inaugural Annual Stakeholder Event that was held yesterday afternoon. The Scottish Code of Good HE Governance provides that the University Court must conduct an annual stakeholder meeting at which members of the governing body, including the Principal, are expected to provide an account of performance. We were therefore delighted to welcome approximately 125 staff, students and external stakeholders to the Stakeholder Event to hear from the Principal on the progress and development of the University, Eilidh Fulton, Student President, on the important work carried out, on behalf of students, by the Students' Association and Dr Andrew McAuley, a Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for Living in our School of Health and Life Sciences, who gave a fascinating presentation on his ground-breaking research on HIV and injecting drug use.

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 the successful winter graduation ceremonies held at the campuses in Glasgow, London and the third commencement ceremony at GCNYC, along with a range of inspiring honorary graduates who delivered captivating speeches to our graduands, the fact that the University has climbed three places to be rated 89th most sustainable university in the world in the UI Green Metric World University Rankings, and the achievement by the University of a Silver Award from The Ministry of Defence for its outstanding support for Armed Forces veterans and their families at a prestigious ceremony at Edinburgh Castle in November attended by Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Valerie Webster and GCU's Veterans and Armed Forces Champion Jim Castle. The report also highlighted notable staff successes including three GCU honoraries and a Senior Research Fellow being honoured in the Queen's New Year Honours: Dr Rose Reilly MBE, Dr Jackie Kay CBE, Professor Brian Wilson CBE, and Dr David McDonald MBE, and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon choosing GCU's School of Health and Life Sciences Researcher Dr Ima Jackson to jointly lead her flagship National Advisory Council for Women and Girls.

2. Student President's Report

The Student President, Eilidh Fulton, reported on the Students' Association's current issues in her Court Report and confirmed that the nominations closed on Friday 14th February 2020 for GCU students to stand as a candidate in the Full Time Officer Elections 2020. The election will take place between Monday 2nd and Thursday 5th March 2020, with the results being announced on Friday 6th March 2020 from 7pm.

3. Students' Association Trimester 1 Report

The Student President went on to report on the activities of the Students' Association in Trimester 1 of the academic year 2019-20 and noted in particular that The Bigger Plan, the strategic plan of the

Students' Association, would be extended by one year to finish in Summer 2021 to ensure that the strategic plan is aligned with the GCU Strategy 2030.

4. Chief Operating Officer's Report

The Court noted the report which referred to topics relating to finance, staffing and the estate and confirmed that the Student Information Management System (SIMS) Project had achieved an important milestone in December with the successful conclusion of iteration 1 of release 1.

5. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted the report and in particular the update on the progress of the amended version of the University Statutory Instrument which will come into force on 1st October 2020.

6. Strategy 2030

The Court noted the report which provided an update on the development of Strategy 2030.

7. KPI Presentation and Discussion

The Court noted a presentation on the early thinking with regard to the 2030 KPIs that will accompany Strategy 2030. This was followed by a full and detailed discussion on the KPIs by Court Members, which will inform and steer the development of the final version of the KPIs.

8. Student Recruitment Report 2019-20 Trimester B

The Court noted the report which provided an overview of the near final position in terms of applications and acceptances to the Trimester B intake of academic year 2019-20.

9. Research Report

The Court noted the Research Report which provided an update on the achievements of the University in relation to research funding, as well as showcasing research students, impact and engagement.

10. Report from Senate meeting held on 6th December 2019

The Court noted the business of the Senate meeting on 6th December 2019.

11. Standing Committee Business

The Court noted reports presented by the Chairs of the Audit, Finance and General Purposes, Court Governance and Nominations and People Committees.

12. Report from GCNYC Board of Trustees meeting held on 13th December 2019

The Court noted the report of the discussions and decisions of the GCNYC Board of Trustees at the meeting on 13th December 2019.

13. Media Coverage Analysis – January Update

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in January and commended the positive publicity that the University had received.

14. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Thursday 23rd April 2020.