

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 21st JUNE 2018

Dear Colleagues

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court yesterday, which will also go on the University website.

The Court welcomed Rachel Simpson, the new Student President, and Yetunde Ogedengbe, Student Vice-President, School of Health & Life Sciences, to their first meeting of the Court in their new roles.

Prior to its meeting the Court had received an excellent presentation from Dr Carol Emslie of the School of Health and Life Sciences on her internationally recognised research on gender, alcohol and health. Professor Cam Donaldson introduced Dr Emslie's presentation by providing the broader university research context and locating Dr Emslie's research within the University's research strategy.

A full agenda included approving the University's budget, which had been subject to rigorous prior testing and review including scrutiny by the Court's Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Court also considered the progress and near completion of the Schools Refresh which is being led by the DVC Academic, Professor Valerie Webster.

Minutes of the Court meeting will be published on the University website in due course.

Rob Woodward
Chair of Court

1. Draft University Budget 2018-2019

Court received the draft budget for GCU and the supporting budgets for GCU London and GCNYC. The DVC Strategy stated that the University Budget had been developed following extensive planning and budgeting activities across the University and robust scrutiny by the appropriate governance bodies over the past seven months. Court tested the draft budget thoroughly and sought and received further information or clarification on a range of topics before approving the University budget for 2018-2019.

2. School Refresh Update

The Court approved the implementation of a refreshed academic department structure to replace the current three-department composition of each School. The Court noted that the total number of departments would be finalised imminently.

3. Overview of 2017-2018 League Tables and Rankings

Court received an update on the University's performance in the key university league tables and rankings published in 2017-2018.

4. Teaching Excellence Framework

Court received an overview of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and noted the implications for the Scottish Sector and for GCU of the current and future development of TEF. Court was advised

that the Executive Board would maintain a watching brief of the TEF and keep abreast of policy developments. At sector level, the University continued to engage in sector discussions through Universities Scotland, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council.

5. Research integrity Annual Report

As part of the University's adherence to the Commitments of the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, the PVC Research presented the annual report on research integrity to Court for approval.

6. Equality and Diversity Annual Report

Court approved the first annual report on Glasgow Caledonian University's Equality Outcomes 2017-2021 which focused on progress made from April 2017 to March 2018. Our equality outcomes are the results that we aim to achieve to help meet our Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duty obligations, specifically to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

7. Minutes of the Meeting of the GCU-NYC, Inc. Board

Court received the draft unconfirmed minutes of the meetings of the GCU-NYC, Inc. Board held on 4th June 2018.

8. Transfer of Assets and Liabilities from GCU-NYC, Inc. to GCNYC

Court approved the transfer of Assets and Liabilities from GCU-NYC, Inc. to GCNYC, a planned technical step following the University's success in achieving the provisional charter for GCNYC Inc.

9. Report Highlights

The following reports are submitted to each Court meeting.

a. Items Brought by the Chair of Court

The Chair noted the launch of the governor link scheme whereby each lay governor had been 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.

The Chair advised that he was arranging a series of individual meetings with governors in which the key focus would be issues raised in the annual Court effectiveness questionnaires.

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 10th May 2018.

Court noted in particular the priorities for the remainder of 2017-2018 which centred on successful student recruitment, and that the Principal had been appointed as the lead member for the Mental Health for Universities Scotland.

Court offered its congratulations to the School of Engineering and the Built Environment on receiving a bronze award from Athena Swan in recognition of its commitment to promoting gender equality among students and staff.

c. Student President's Report

The Court received with interest the six monthly report of the Students' Association activities for Trimester 2 in the academic year 2017-18 as well as hearing the sabbatical officers' manifesto highlights from Ms Simpson and Ms Ogedengbe. The Student President provided a further report on recent issues and activities which included an update on the Student Mental Health Agreement which has been finalised and submitted to NUS Scotland, an update on the review of the safe taxi scheme, a review of the way in which the workshops on preventing and responding to gender based violence might be delivered in future and the intention to undergo a review of the academic representation model at GCU to ensure that this aligns with the Schools following the implementation of the refreshed academic department structure.

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.

e. Senate Report

Court noted a highlights report on the substantive items discussed at the meeting of Senate on 1st June 2018 and approved the Digital Preservation and Archiving Policy.

f. Court Standing Committees

Court noted reports from the Audit Committee, the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the People Committee and the Remuneration Committee on issues discussed since the last Court meeting on 10th May 2018.

Court approved the changes to the terms of reference and composition of the newly formed People Committee.