

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2018

Present: Dr T Boutaleb, Prof A Britton, Prof I Cameron, Dr D Chalmers, Dr S Dolan, Prof C Donaldson, Dr M Ferguson, Ms J Hulme, Miss M Jorgensen, Prof G Loffler, Mr T McAlear, Dr J McCallum, Dr B McConville, Dr K McPherson, Mr A Middleton, Prof M Mannion, Dr C Miller, Prof J Miller (Chair), Prof A Morgan (by phone), Prof A Nelson, Dr S Ogden, Dr A Pierotti, Miss R Simpson, Mr B Smith, Prof S Smith, Prof B Steves, Dr K Thomson, Dr M Tong, Prof. V Webster and Prof B Wood

Apologies: Mr J Doherty, Prof P Gillies, Mrs C Hulsen, Mr A Killick, Prof J Lennon, Dr S Lodge, Mr S Lopez, Dr D Lukic, Mr S Mattar, Mr D McGallagly, Mrs S Mitchell and Dr D Rankin

In Attendance: Ms J Main, Director of Student Life
Mr R Ruthven, Director of Library Services
Prof R Whittaker, Director Academic Quality and Development

Mrs D Donnet, Clerk to Senate

Observers: Mrs L Clark (Governance), Miss L Johnson (Executive Support), Mr A Haseeb (Lay Governor), Mr I Kerr (Lay Governor), Mr J Paisley (Communications and Public Affairs), Mrs J Burns (Communications and Public Affairs), Ms F Campbell (People Services), Ms M Armstong (People Services), Dr S Whittaker (Strategy and Planning) and Mr D Carse (Student Association)

Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed new members to their first meeting of Senate and Professor Morgan who was participating in the meeting via telephone. A welcome was also extended to Lay Governors Mr Asif Haseeb and Mr Ian Kerr who were attending as observers.

PART A (FOR CONSIDERATION)

Minutes

18.048 Received: The unconfirmed draft minutes of the meeting of Senate held 12th October 2018 (**Doc S18/19/1**).

18.049 Resolved: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising Briefing Note

18.050 Approved The Matters Arising Briefing Note (**Doc S18/20/1**).

Principal & Vice Chancellor and Executive Board Report

- 18.051 Considered A report from the Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board to update members on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate (**Doc S18/21/1**).
- 18.052 Reported
- i. The SFC had appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Karen Watt, formerly Director of External Affairs, Scottish Government.
 - ii. Chris Skidmore had recently been appointed Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation. The University's engagement with the Minister at Westminster would be primarily through Universities UK.
 - iii. The University had recently received information and guidance in relation to Brexit from the SFC. Whilst some of this was a reiteration of previously published information, it was intended to share this information with staff and students. It was noted that Executive Board had agreed to pay the application costs for EU staff who wished to apply for settlement status, and this was welcomed by Senate.
 - iv. In response to a query about the Glasgow Partnership for Economic Growth (GPEG), which the Principal had attended, Senate was informed that GPEG was the economic forum for Glasgow City Region. The University had been invited to participate in GPEC, which was considering the development of City Deal Two, which would involve a number of organisations from a range of sectors working together to grow the economy of the Glasgow City Region
 - v. Following a question regarding the rationale behind the appointment of seven new Assistant Vice Principals (AVP), the Chair advised that the appointments were made to provide leadership and facilitate cross university working to facilitate best practice being embedded in all areas of the University. They were three year appointments in the first instance and the impact of the new roles would be evaluated.
- 18.053 Resolved To note the report and the oral updates.

REF 2021 Update and Appointment of Unit of Assessment Leads

- 18.054 Considered An update report on the REF 2021 and the Appointment of Unit of Assessment Leads. (**Doc S18/22/1**)
- 18.055 Reported
- i. By the PVC Research, that whilst some guidance had been received, there were still areas where more detailed information was awaited. Key outstanding issues related to
 - a) The definition of an "independent" researcher. Whilst the current guidelines were quite stringent, it was considered that there was scope to be more inclusive.
 - b) The criteria around "significant responsibility for research" for staff on staff on teaching and research (T&R) contracts. By the summer, it was anticipated all T&R s will be "flagged" in the 2018-19 HESA returns.
 - ii. The paper detailed key local actions to chart progression, which would mainly be undertaken by the REF Management Group. This included the drawing up of a Code of Practice, which would be considered by Senate.
 - ii. The appointment of Unit of Assessment (UoA) Leads and their Assistants had

been approved by Executive Board for seven UoA's. A decision had yet to be made about participating in up to a further three UoA's.

- 18.056 Discussed
- i. It was raised that for staff to be considered as having "significant responsibility for research" the application of some of the criteria listed e.g. research time included in workload allocation model, or access to research leave and sabbaticals, was applied differently across the three main schools so there may be inconsistencies in terms of applying and meeting the criteria. Senate was advised that in the first instance concerns about this should be raised with the UoA lead, and then escalated to the VP Research if necessary, and that more information on this would be included in the Code of Practice, which would also contain appeal information. The DVC Academic advised that sabbaticals had recently been discussed at Executive Board and People Services had been requested to develop a fresh set of principles to ensure consistency across the University.
 - ii. It was further raised that there was a degree of flexibility in defining staff with "significant responsibility for research", and whilst our criteria had to be approved by the SFC, it would allow the University to make a strong submission.
- 18.057 Resolved Senate noted the update.

GCU British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2018-2024

- 18.058 Noted The University's British Sign Language (BSL) Plan which had been mandated by the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 and approved by the People Committee.
(Doc S18/23/1)

2019/20 Outcome Agreement: Guidance and Approach

- 18.059 Considered An update on the process, requirements and timetable for the 2019/20 Outcome Agreement.
(Doc S18/24/1)
- 18.060 Reported
- i. By the Chair that the guidance themes were similar to previous years, but there was a small number of additional requirements. In relation to the key themes, it was highlighted that
 - a) The University received funding from the Widening Access Retention Fund (WARF) in order to support its widening access activities, however not all universities received this funding. The Fund would be reviewed in 2019, so whilst there would be no change in this funding in 2019/20, it was anticipated that there may be a reduction in GCU's allocation in 2020/21;
 - b) An updated Gender Action Plan was required, particularly in relation to increasing the number of females in engineering and males in nursing. There had been extensive discussions about the university's role in influencing and supporting a gender balance and it was acknowledged that work in this area was required at college and school level in particular.
 - ii. The final Outcome Agreement was due to be submitted by 30th April, however whilst the University was developing actions it was not yet known what the full budget allocation would be for the 3 year period covered by the outcome agreement.
- 18.061 Resolved To note the guidance received and the approach and timetable for development for the GCU Outcome Agreement 2019/20.

GCU's Partnership with NHS Lanarkshire

- 18.062 Considered An update on the University's partnership with NHS Lanarkshire.
(Doc S18/25/1)
- 10.063 Reported
- i. By the Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences, that in 2017 the University established a Strategic Partnership with NHS Lanarkshire to deliver a shared 2023 Vision: Achieving Excellence for the Common Good. A Strategic Board had been set up to oversee the partnership and this had met three times.
 - ii. Three work streams had been developed:
 - a) Research and Innovation: This was well developed area of work, with research being undertaken at all levels and Professor Jim Woodburn and Professor Kay Currie had been appointed Honorary Visiting Professors with NHS Lanarkshire. A number of roadshow events had been held and two co-funded PhD studentships were planned to commence in early 2019.
 - b) Learning and Teaching: A number of honorary appointments had been made and work was ongoing in developing increased collaboration with clinical academics contributing to practice as well as exploring the potential for posts with both clinical activity and academic delivery. GCU staff were involved in discussions around the learning and teaching needs of a new NHSL hospital at Monklands.
 - c) Workforce and Service Capacity: A range of work was underway to enhance professional capability and capacity, including the development of clinical academic career pathways.
- 10.064 Discussed Senate welcomed the update and activities being undertaken. The DVC Research advised that there were linkages with the University's Research Strategy in respect of health economics and digital health and it would be worthwhile exploring these themes further, and it was raised that there were activities within the Glasgow School for Business and Society and the School for Computing, Engineering and Built Environment that could be built upon.
- 10.065 Resolved To note the update.

Digital Classroom Developments

- 18.066 Noted Digital Classroom Project Update.
(Doc S18/26/1)
- 10.067 Reported Further to Senate's consideration of issues relating to Beyond Lecture Capture at the last meeting (minute reference 18.028), the Director of Academic Quality and Development informed that a fully interactive, collaborative digital classroom had been installed. The space was being piloted to allow staff training and feedback from staff and students. Drop in sessions were also being offered for staff and the facility was being used for the VLE refresh project. A CleverTouch smart board had also been installed in another classroom and the use of both spaces was being evaluated to inform future development.
- 10.068 Discussed Positive feedback was received from Senate members who had used the facilities and Senators were invited to encourage colleagues to attend the training sessions so that more staff and students would be able to use the classrooms.

PART B (FOR FORMAL APPROVAL)

Glasgow School for Business and Society: Programme Withdrawal

- 18.069 Considered A proposal for the withdrawal of BA (Hons) International Sports Management. **(Doc APPC18/19/02)**
- 18.070 Noted The existing events and tourism management programme would be redeveloped to incorporate sport. Full consultation with students and articulating colleges had been held and the final cohort of students had been recruited.
- 18.071 Approved The withdrawal of BA (Hons) International Sports Management.

School of Health and Life Sciences: Programme Withdrawal

- 18.072 Considered A proposal for the withdrawal Graduate Diploma in Psychology and Extension to Period of Programme Approval. **(Doc APPC18/20/01)**
- 18.073 Noted That due to changes in the standards of accreditation by the British Psychological Society the programme would no longer be an accredited programme after session 2019/20. Programme approval was due to expire in 2019, so an extension to this was requested to cover a 2019/20 intake prior to the programme being withdrawn.
- 18.074 Approved The extension of the Graduate Diploma in Psychology programme approval to cover a 2019/20 intake and then the subsequent withdrawal of the programme

Revised Composition & Membership of University Senate 2018/2019

- 18.075 Approved Revised Composition & Membership of University Senate 2018/2019 **(Doc S18/27/1)**

Revised Composition of the University Research Committee 2018/19

- 18.076 Approved The revised Composition of the University Research Committee for session 2018/19. **(Doc S18/28/1)**
- 18.077 Noted That the research student leads attended in rotation

Honorary Appointments

- 18.078 Approved The following honorary appointment awarded by the University Executive Board:

Title	Post	Field of expertise	School
Honorary Professor	Iain Renwick	Fashion	GCU London

Senate Disciplinary Committee Membership

18.079 Approved The appointment of Ms Sarah Renton as a School of Health and Life Sciences member on the Senate Disciplinary Committee for the period 12th December 2018 to 11th December 2021.

Revised Terms of Reference and Composition and Membership of the International Committee

18.080 Approved The revised Terms of Reference and Composition and Membership of the International Committee **(Doc S18/32/1)**

PART C (FOR INFORMATION)

Academic Appointments

18.081 Received A paper on academic appointments made since the last meeting of Senate. **(Doc S18/29/1)**

Academic Policy and Practice Committee

18.082 Received The confirmed minute of the meeting of the Academic Policy and Practice Committee held on 12th September 2018. **(Doc APPC18/13/01)**

University Research Committee

18.083 Received The confirmed minute of the meeting of the University Research Committee held on 11th September 2018. **(Doc REC18/06/01)**

School Board/Boards of Senate Minutes

18.084 Received The confirmed minutes from the under noted meetings of Boards of Senate:

Glasgow School for Business and Society held on:

- i. 25th April 2018 **(Doc GSBS/SB/17/04/04)**
- ii. 14th June 2018 **(Doc GSBS/SB/17/06/04)**

GCU London held on:

- iii. 2nd May 2018 **(Doc GCUL/SB/18/5)**

School of Engineering and the Built Environment held on:

- iv. 17th May 2018 **(Doc EBESB17/01/58)**

University Court

18.085 Received The bulletin from the meeting of the University Court held on 22nd November 2018. **(Doc S18/30/1)**

Professional Recognition of Teaching and Supporting Learning 2017-2018

18.086 Received Notification of Staff achieving professional recognition of teaching and

supporting student learning (UKPSF, 2011) in academic session 2017-2018.
(Doc S18/31/1)

Date of Next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of University Senate will be held on Friday 1st March 2019 at 09:30 Hrs in The Lantern.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair advised that this was Professor Ruth Whittaker, Director of Academic Quality and Development's, last meeting as she was leaving the University to take up the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience at the University of Brighton in the New Year. The Chair thanked Professor Whittaker for her service to the University and the wider Scottish HE sector over the last 26 years and on behalf of Senate wished her well for the future.