

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2012

- PRESENT:** Dr N Andrew, Mr D Beeby, Ms D Borrett (SA), Mrs H Brown
Professor I Cameron, Mr J Campbell, Dr D Chalmers, Dr V Charissis,
Mr Ed Clack Mr A Corbett, Mr Alex Craig, Ms C Fyfe (SA), Ms A Gasteen,
Professor P Gillies (Chair), Professor D Greenhalgh, Mrs J Greig,
Ms J Hulme, Mrs C Hulsen, Mrs C Khamisha, Professor J Lennon,
Dr M MacDonald, Professor E MacFarland, Mr V McKay,
Professor J Marshall, Mr G Moorehouse, Mr J Murray, Ms A Nimmo
Mr Brian Pillans, Mr R Ruthven, Professor K Stanton, Professor B Steves,
Mr I Stewart, Professor J Tombs, Dr Ian Trushell, Professor R Whittaker,
Professor J Wilson.
- APOLOGIES:** Professor T Buggy, Professor F Cheater, Dr R Emmanuel, Mrs T Findlay,
Mrs P Hamilton, Professor V James, Mr A Killick, Mr T Kilpatrick,
Ms J Main, Professor M Mannion.
- OBSERVERS:** J Burns (PG), T Brian (Court), Mrs L Clark (G&AQ), Ms M Daly(P&P),
S Davidson (GSBS), W Henderson (GSBS), M McPake (SHLS), Kevin Ward
(SA), A Webster (Court), C Webster (DP) and C Wilson (G&AQ).
- BY INVITATION:** Professor V Webster, Susan McGiffen, Stephen Lopez and Adrian Lui
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs M Henaghan, Secretary to Senate
-

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed colleagues to the second meeting of Senate in session 2012/13 including new members Mr Alex Craig, Vice Principal Learning and Teaching from City of Glasgow and Mr Graham Moorehouse in his new role as Chief Financial Officer (with responsibility for IT). Senate was also advised on some portfolio changes for Executive Board members including Professor Mike Mannion being allocated responsibility for Research and Professor John Wilson with the Learning and Teaching portfolio.

Professor Sue Scott stepped down from her post as PVC Research at the end of November.

A member of Senate requested that a Part C Agenda item (C4) the Glasgow School *for* Business and Society School Board minutes be raised from Part C to Part A for discussion. Following a brief discussion to clarify the need for this action the Chair ruled that it was not necessary to raise the item at this stage in proceedings. School portfolio refresh proposals will be considered by Senate in due course once School deliberations are completed.

Minutes

- 12.47 Considered: The unconfirmed draft minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 12th October 2012 (**Doc S12/22/1**)
- 12.48 Resolved: That the minutes be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

- 12.49 Considered: Any matters arising on the minutes not otherwise provided for on the agenda.
- 12.50 Resolved: There were no matters arising.
- 12.51 Noted: A Senate member noted the late circulation of papers to members.

Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board Report

- 12.52 Noted: A report from the Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executives to update members on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate. (**Doc S12/28/1**).
- 12.53 Reported: In addition to the above report the Principal asked Senate for support and approval to proceed with a review of the academic year. Senate had previously approved changes to the academic year in session 2010/11. At that time it was agreed that there would be a review of the revised calendar within 3 years. The Principal had received feedback from Students, Academic Schools and Support Departments which appeared to indicate that the expected benefits from the academic year change had not been realised. It was therefore pertinent to bring the review forward slightly earlier than anticipated.
- 12.54 Discussed: Senate was unanimous in its support for a review of the academic year and the impact on staff arising from the current academic year structure was acknowledged. There was agreement in particular that the new arrangements did not support international recruitment. In addition there was also a negative impact on learning and teaching in terms of the ability of students to have time to reflect on their learning. Final year students were also affected in terms of preparation for dissertation with a perceived lack of breathing space. The Students' Association wished to ensure that they would be fully involved in the review. This was confirmed.
- 12.55 Resolved: That Senate approved the review of the academic year in light of concerns raised.

Annual Report – Equality and Diversity – session 2011-2012

- 12.56 Considered: The annual report from the Equality and Diversity Committee for session 2011 – 12. **(Doc S12/29/1)**
- 12.57 Reported: By the University Secretary that equality and diversity activity was in a transitional phase. There had been some delay in forward thinking due to the late availability of government guidance. The current report outlines the journey the university is taking to promote equality and diversity including;
- i. What we hope to achieve by integrating equality and diversity into our activities such as internationalisation, student employability, high quality learning and teaching and creating a student friendly environment.
 - ii. Establishing links with external organisations and participation in external projects to advance equality and diversity.
 - iii. A renewed emphasis on mainstreaming equality and diversity into core university strategies and activities. This will be supported by a new Mainstreaming Equality and Diversity Framework and action plan.
- GCU meets all legislative requirements in respect of equality and diversity.
- 12.58 Discussed: Senate welcomed the report overall. There remained some questions relating to:
- i. Resource implications given the percentage of our student population 18 or less - $\frac{1}{3}$ of our cohort in this group; 22% of our students work 21 hours per week; and the needs of part time students. All of this requires pastoral support.
 - ii. The availability of comparative data with other universities and trend analysis in order to benchmark and set targets.
- In response the University Secretary acknowledged the lack of comparative data and contextual information. The developing framework and action plan recognises this requirement and the importance of monitoring progress. It is anticipated that future reports will provide data when set against the framework. It was also acknowledged that pastoral support for students was very important.
- 12.59 Resolved: That the Equality Diversity Report for session 2011-12 be approved.

Internationalisation Strategy

- 12.60 Considered: The draft Internationalisation Strategy 2015: Global **(Doc S12/26/1)**
- 12.61 Reported: By the Vice-Principal and PVC International and External Relations that the revised strategy seeks to support the university strategy 2015 objective to become a globally networked university. Senate was being asked to endorse the strategy at this stage. A number of executive briefings had been held around the campus to brief and consult with staff on the draft strategy thereafter it will be formally approved by University Court.

- 12.62 Discussed: Senate members requested clarification on the following
- i. Relationship with Saudi Arabia given its stance on women’s rights and potential reputational damage to GCU.
 - ii. Whether there would be more Saudi students at GCU or opening a college in Saudi and the implications for staff involved in programme delivery.
 - iii. Opportunities for GCU students to study abroad; financial implications and target of 5%.

In response the Vice–Principal and PVC International and External Relations stated that with respect to :-

- i. This was an important point, however we have to view in the context of the decision making process in considering partnerships at Senate and Court. The University is currently working in other countries where there are humanitarian issues. The strategy is guided by overarching principles and commitment to the “Common Weal”. Executive Board and Court have debated and discussed the Saudi Arabia link and routine boycotting of countries does not keep us true to the common good.
- ii. The relationship with Saudi Arabia refers to the Princess Noura University (PNU). PNU is a women’s university with circa 40,000 students. The current position is that preliminary conversations on how to promote and support women’s education in Saudi have taken place. There are no plans to open a college in Saudi Arabia. In terms of implications for staff Senate will be further involved if any future relationship involves academic programmes.
- iii. With respect to GCU students studying abroad it was acknowledged that financial considerations were very important. This will be looked on favourably however will be led by Schools. The 5% target for Erasmus exchange students will have resource implications for the Exchange Office and Schools. The Vice Principal and Executive Director of Finance and Planning confirmed that 200K has been allocated to this initiative.

- 12.63 Resolved: That Senate endorses the draft International Strategy 2015: Global and that the strategy document is forwarded to University Court for formal approval.

Guidelines for the Management of Student Placements

- 12.64 Considered: A report from GCU Lead on the results of an evaluation of the management of student placements. **(Doc. S12/24/1)**
- 12.65 Reported: By the Head of GCU Lead that this paper represented a codification of policy for both staff and students. The guidelines provided a Risk Assessment Toolkit for the management of student placements, was compliant with the QAA Quality Code and also took into account UKBA requirements.

- 12.66 Discussed: A Senate member asked for clarification on whether these guidelines covered student mobility i.e. Erasmus exchange which can be considered as a placement. It was confirmed that this was a sensible addition to the guidelines.
- 12.67 Resolved: That the guidelines are approved and that GCU Lead should ensure an effective communication strategy for implementation.

Admissions Policy

- 12.68 Considered: The University Revised Admissions Policy (**Doc. S12/30/1**)
- 12.69 Reported: By the Head of Global Admissions that the University Admissions Policy has been reviewed and updated in line with the University's strategic objectives and compliance with the QAA Quality Code; Information for Prospective Students and Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA). The policy will be reviewed annually by the Admissions Committee and revised in light of changes in legislation, University regulations and strategic objectives.
- 12.70 Resolved: That Senate approves the Admissions Policy.

Student Pregnancy and Maternity Policy

- 12.71 Considered: The Student Pregnancy and Maternity Policy (**Doc S12/23/1**)
- 12.72 Reported: That the policy had been developed to meet the Equality Act 2010 and to provide guidance to staff to advise and support pregnant students. A number of revisions have been made to the policy including:-
- i. alignment with UKBA regulation
 - ii. a distinct section for students on some SHLS programme with respect to professional programmes
 - iii. streamlining of the support plan
- 12.73 Discussed: With respect to section 1.2 of the policy it was noted that this should be changed from "students who become pregnant...." to "students who are pregnant". It was also noted that Section 8.1 refers to pregnant students being unable to complete programmes due to inability to comply with professional body requirements. This was perceived to be misleading as time to complete is the factor not pregnancy. It was acknowledged that further reflection on 8.1 was required.
- 12.74 Resolved: That subject to the above amendments the Student Pregnancy and Maternity Policy be approved.

SFC Outcome Agreement – 2013 – 2014

- 12.75 Considered: The Scottish Funding Council Outcome Agreement 2013-14. (**Doc: S12/35/1**).
- 12.76 Reported: By the Director of Policy and Planning that the paper provides an update to Senate on the development of the outcome agreement for 2013 -14.

The SFC has set a timetable for conclusion and submission of outcome agreements by the end of February 2013. The draft outcome agreement will be discussed by the F&GP committee and Court at their February meetings.

- 12.77 Discussed: Clarification was sought on whether Senate would have a further role to play in the development of the outcome agreement. It was acknowledged that the timescales were tight for discussion. A schedule of meetings with key staff from across the University has been developed to input into the draft. The next Senate is not scheduled until March 2013, although the outcome agreement could be circulated electronically in late January/early February.
- 12.78 Resolved: That Senate notes the development of the Outcome Agreement for 2013-14 and progress to date. The draft the Outcome Agreement to be circulated electronically for comment prior to submission to University Court.

League Table Positioning

- 12.79 Considered: A paper on league table positioning. (**Doc. S12.36/1**)
- 12.80 Reported: By the Director of Policy and Planning that the paper provided an analysis of the University's position in the UK league tables and advises Senate of the key elements of the league tables, which relate to the learning and teaching and academic performance. University Court has set a key performance indicator of a rating in the top 10 UK modern universities, with an underlying target of a top 60 position in the Guardian, The Complete University guide, the Times University Guide and the Sunday Times league tables by 2015. The key elements of the league tables including student satisfaction, completion and graduate employment are priorities for the University.
- 12.81 Discussion: It was acknowledged that the target set was ambitious when set against the University's current position. However, it is essential that the University improves and continues to move forward and improve our offerings.
- 12.82 Resolved: That Senate endorses the paper and notes the analysis and planned actions to achieve the improved league table positioning.

Honorary and Visiting Appointments

- 12.83 Approved: The undernoted Honorary appointments

Title	Post	Field of expertise	School/Dept
Mr Ian Grabiner	Honorary Professor	Chief Executive Officer of Arcadia Group	GSBS
Mr Nick Robertson, OBE	Honorary Professor	Chief Executive Officer of ASOS	GSBS

