

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 3rd June 2016

1. PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR'S AND EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Senate received an update from the Principal on a number of substantive items considered by the Executive Board, including:-

Scottish Funding Council Dialogue Meeting

The SFC meets with all colleges and universities through a three year programme of meetings, with the intention of strengthening relationships and enhancing its understanding of institutions. The GCU Strategic Dialogue Meeting took place on campus on 25 April 2016. The SFC delegation met with GCU Court and Executive members and held informal discussion sessions with staff and students. During the visit, the SFC delegation visited the clinical simulation facilities and Eye Clinic in the School of Health and Life Sciences. Feedback provided by the SFC was very positive, particularly on the clarity of Strategy 2020 and our achievements in learning and teaching, widening access, internationalisation and research. The SFC noted the commitment of staff to the University's mission and the excellent support that students receive during their studies.

Scottish Government Ministerial Appointments

John Swinney MSP has been appointed Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. The appointment of the Deputy First Minister to this portfolio reinforces the importance that the Scottish Government places on education, attainment and improving opportunities for young people, and will be considered by many in the sector as a positive development. John Swinney has previously engaged with GCU through the Grameen UK initiative and the WiSE research centre. Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP has been appointed Minister for Further and Higher Education and Science. Given the breadth and depth of Mr Swinney's portfolio, the Junior Minister is likely to be heavily involved in HE policy matters, particularly on widening access.

UK Government White Paper

The White Paper on higher education entitled Success as a Knowledge Economy has been published. The full document can be accessed through this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-success-as-a-knowledge-economy-white-paper>

Senate expressed concern about the White Paper and, in particular, the plans to introduce a teaching excellence framework (TEF), which, whilst directed at England, would have a knock on effect on Scotland. The Principal informed Senate that this issue had been discussed by Universities Scotland and as education was a devolved matter, it was not considered to be worthwhile to campaign against the introduction of the TEF in England. The TEF will be used in league tables so there would have to be some engagement with it by Scottish universities to avoid being disadvantaged. There was consensus in the sector that efforts must be made to protect the enhancement led approach to quality in Scotland and the QAA Scotland were keen to participate in planned discussions with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills at the end of the month.

Report on Commission on Widening Access

GCU was mentioned favourably in the final report of the Commission. Our work on the Caledonian Club was highlighted. The sector now awaits the Scottish Government's response to the Commission's recommendations through the development of the Scottish Framework for Fair Access. It is however expected that a Commissioner for Fair Access will be appointed in Scotland.

Athena Swan Bronze Award

The University submitted an application for the Athena Swan Bronze award by the due date of 30 April 2016. Senate will be informed of the outcome when it becomes known although this is unlikely to be before September 2016. The University continues to implement the actions committed to in the submission.

University Activities

Impact of Industrial Action on Assessment Boards

In light of the recent and potentially ongoing industrial action, the Principal reminded Senate of guidelines for assessment boards affected by industrial action.

This provision, supported and approved by Senate at an extra ordinary meeting on 30th May 2006, included guidelines for assessment boards for considering student progression and awards when marks were missing, lack of engagement by External Examiners (then called External Assessors) and Quoracy of Assessment Boards. Senate also delegated authority to the Principal to take such decisions as are necessary in accordance with the assessment processes of the University.

Sir Alex Ferguson events

The inaugural Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation Dinner 'An Evening with Sir Alex Ferguson' took place raising more than £80,000 for a range of activity including student scholarships and awards. The event was sponsored by Johnston Mailing, Robertson Group and Turner and Townsend, as well as University donors and friends, including GCU alumnus Khalid Abdul Rahim. The next day Sir Alex met the first four recipients of the Sir Alex Ferguson Award and addressed students and staff, at 'An Audience with Sir Alex Ferguson', hosted by GCU graduate David Farrell.

Inaugural McKay Lecture

Pre-eminent feminist economist Professor Nancy Folbre delivered the inaugural McKay Lecture, established in memory of the late GCU Professor Ailsa McKay. The Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst delivered a lecture entitled 'The political economy of patriarchal capitalism.' The McKay Professorial Lecture, hosted by GCU's WiSE Research Centre, was followed by a reception and the launch of a new book, 'Feminist Economics and Public Policy: Reflections on the work and impact of Ailsa McKay', edited by GCU's Dr Jim Campbell and Morag Gillespie.

Young Scientist of the Year Award

GCU student, Kelsey Hunter, was named Scotland's first undergraduate Young Scientist of the Year in a competition run by the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST). The fourth-year Food Bioscience student was recognised for her project investigating the ability of essential oils in chilli and turmeric to reduce the growth of micro-organisms in food. Kelsey was one of 12 students, including six from GCU, who made it through to the final of the Young Scientist competition after being invited by the IFST Scottish Branch to submit a short abstract about a project related to food science, food technology, human nutrition, sensory science, food safety management or food consumer behaviour.

Future Business Leader Award

A GCU business student will complete an internship with world-leading food manufacturer Mars after being named Future Business Leader of the Year. International Business with Business Law student Sarahjane Sarkhosh won the Target Jobs Undergraduate of the Year award. The award is sponsored by Mars and Sarahjane will now spend the summer with the company, including a week at its food site in South Africa. More than 3000 students submitted applications across 12 award categories and Sarahjane was one of 120 undergraduates invited to the London final.

International Activities

GCU NY – Licence Application

The Principal informed Senate that the period of canvassing was complete. Out of more than 100 universities and colleges in New York, to date only one known objection had been received. This was from the Fashion Institute of Technology on the basis of competition. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) does not consider competition to be a reasonable objection, however it was intended to meet with the Fashion Institute of Technology to discuss the planned GCUNY offering, and the comparatively small number of places involved. It was anticipated that the NYSED will visit the campus in September 2016 to ensure that the premises are suitable. It is hoped that a final decision by the Board of Regents will be made by the end of the year.

GCU NY Conference – Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center

Rockefeller Foundation supported GCUNY to lead a distinguished group of experts on sustainability in relation to the business of fashion at their intellectual think tank in Bellagio, Italy. The Principal and Vice President of GCUNY led the University's delegation for the 4 day conference crafted GCU-NY's Fair Fashion Center. The event was attended by fashion experts, and industry CEO's and representatives, seeking to discuss transformational change in business-focussed sustainability including initiatives such as the carbon reduction project GCUNY has received \$500,000 dollars from the UN to pursue with the fashion industry. The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, through a combination of conferences and residency programs, supports the work of scholars, artists, thought leaders, policymakers, and practitioners who share in the Foundation's pioneering mission to "promote the well-being of humanity around the world." The process of winning a conference space is arduous and extremely competitive.

Babson College Commencement

Chancellor Yunus was the keynote speaker at the Babson College, Massachusetts, Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. During the ceremony he received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, in recognition of his work as an example of innovation and inclusiveness. The Principal attended the Commencement Ceremony as an invited guest and took in a part in a series of meetings exploring opportunities for collaboration, with Babson College and external third parties.

UN World Summit on Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Principal and Vice President GCUNY attended the World Summit on Entrepreneurship and Innovation hosted by the United Nations at its New York headquarters. The event brought together over 100 presenters, including chief executives, social activists and entrepreneurs to discuss new approaches to innovation across different disciplines. Keynote speakers came from a diverse range of organisations, including NASA, the US State Department, The New York Times and Hewlett Packard.

2. OUTCOME AGREEMENT UPDATE 2016-17

Senate received the 2016-17 year 2 Update to the University's three year Outcome Agreement with the SFC, which had been negotiated in line with the University's Strategy 2020. Senate was informed that 2 years funding from Glasgow City Council had recently been secured for the Advanced Higher Hub and an application for match funding would be submitted to the SFC in addition to applications to other philanthropic funders. Senate congratulated the Higher Hub team in securing the funding to enable the Higher Hub to continue.

3. HESA PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016

An overview of the University's performance in the 2016 HESA Performance Indicators (PIs) on projected outcomes, non-continuation and participation of under-represented groups was

considered. It was noted that the University's performance in the 2016 PIs remained strong and it continued to lead the modern sector in Scotland in the key areas of degree completion (80.2 %) and low dropout rate (8.6%). Despite these good HESA indicators it was noted with concern that NSS feedback remained disappointing. The 2016 NSS results were due in the summer and would be reported to Senate. There will be a revised NSS for 2017 that will focus on feedback, engagement and the student voice and Strategy and Planning will work with Schools to ensure a clear understanding of the questions.

4. KEY INFORMATION SETS 2016-17

Senate noted the report on the data collected for the 2016/17 Key Information Sets (KIS) for submission in August 2016. The information related to undergraduate courses offered for 2017/18 and it was anticipated that submissions would be made for 91 programmes, 9 fewer than in August 2015. However, it was likely that a KIS resubmission would be required in December 2016 once the current portfolio refresh was complete.

5. STRATEGY FOR LEARNING OPERATIONAL PLAN 2015/16

Senate noted the annual update on the implementation of the Strategy for Learning (SFL) operational plan for 2015/16. It had focused on the two priority areas agreed by Academic Policy Committee in November 2015: Digital Learning and the Common Good Curriculum. Under each priority area, the plan stated objectives for 2015/16, reported on action taken and progress made and outlined recommendations for 2016/17.

6. COMMON GOOD CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE

In June 2015 as part of the University's Ashoka U action plan, Senate approved the development of a framework to support, recognise and embed the Common Good (CG) within the curriculum and the wider student experience. This development also supported the implementation of Strategy 2020 and the Strategy for Learning. Common Good Attributes in line with the GCU Values had been developed and all GCU students will develop these through their taught curriculum in addition to being given the opportunity to develop these further by engaging with co and extracurricular activities aligned to the Common Good. These Attributes will formally replace the current graduate attributes as part of mainstream programme development and review.

A Common Good Curriculum Steering Group involving the schools, professional support departments and the Students' Association had been established along with a School Leads' operational group. Through these school leads, a hub and spoke approach to staff engagement had been adopted and this was working well and additionally work was ongoing with Marketing and Communication to support further staff and student engagement.

Senate welcomed the work undertaken to date, indicating that it was a distinguishing feature of studying at GCU.

7. DRAFT DIGITAL STRATEGY

Following further consultation on the Draft Digital Strategy a stakeholder group had been convened to review all feedback and make recommendations. Those recommendations were incorporated into an updated document and shared with GCU staff and students who were invited to review and provide feedback online. The stakeholder group considered final feedback prior to preparing the final draft. The revisions included clarifying the links to Strategy 2020, the connections to learning and teaching and research, and ensuring that the Digital Strategy would underpin and support all other GCU strategies. Senate endorsed the draft Digital Strategy and noted that it would be submitted to Court on 23rd June for approval. The Strategy will be supported by significant investment over the next 2 years and proposals for this will be considered by Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting in October 2016.

8. COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE – SESSION 2014/15 OVERVIEW

Senate received an overview of the Complaints received by the University during the period 1st August 2014 to 31st July 2015. That this was the second year of operation of the Complaints Handling Procedure, and whilst there had been a reduction in the number of stage 1 frontline complaints, there had been an increase in from 15 to 22 in the number of stage 2 complaint investigations. The report would be submitted to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and data from the report will be published on the Governance Department pages of the University website.

9. ENHANCEMENT LEAD INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW (ELIR) YEAR ON REPORT

In accordance with the ELIR process the University is required to submit a follow up report one year after the publication of the ELIR Outcome and Technical Reports.

This report provide evidence that the University had reflected on the outcomes of the ELIR and indicates the actions taken (or in progress) by the institution to address these outcomes. This includes:

- Outcome of the Thematic Review of the PGR experience
- Student Survey Strategy
- Review of the Student Experience Framework

The report will be submitted to University Court for endorsement. QAA Scotland will consider the report which will inform the agenda for the University's annual discussion meeting.

10. ELIR FOLLOW ON ACTIONS: GCU ACADEMIC PILLARS FOR LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY

Following the completion of the ELIR, discussions and consultations were held with staff and students and three key 'academic pillars', supporting a robust and effective approach to quality assurance and enhancement were identified:-

- Curriculum Design
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Programme Management and Monitoring

Each of these pillars will be governed by the overarching principle that all programmes at GCU should maintain a clear focus on academic rigour and coherence bound by a set of key minimum threshold standards for curriculum design and academic quality assurance.

Senate welcomed the restating of the University's core principles and priorities of learning, teaching and quality as "Academic Pillars.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT

The Equality and Diversity Annual report was approved. Senate was informed that the Equal Pay Working Group of the JCC had undertaken an audit on equal pay for gender and this had revealed that in most areas, there was no pay gap but there was a gap in some areas at job family level. However, if the data was controlled for age and length of service the pay gap could disappear in some areas. This highlighted the need for more detailed analysis of the data. Whilst the University performed well in some areas, it was acknowledged that there remained areas where further work was required. The University's commitment to ensuring fair pay was reaffirmed and Senate was reminded that the University was the first Scottish university to pay the living wage. The more detailed analysis of the equal pay audit data will be reported back to Senate.

It was acknowledged that there were challenges in ensuring that all GCU policies and strategies undertook Equality Impact Assessments (EIA), and that this should be done as part of the policy development process and not at the end. A revised committee coversheet with more detailed guidance on this will soon be available and it was hoped that this would assist in ensuring EIA compliance.

12. POLICY APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS

The following policies were approved:-

- The University Admissions Policy.
- Criminal Convictions Policy and Procedures for Applicants and Registered Students.
- The GCU Online Similarity Checking Policy.

Amendments to the following policies were approved:-

- Assessment Regulations and Associated Policies.
- Code of Student Conduct.

13. OTHER MATTERS APPROVED

- The process for appointing the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Disciplinary Committee and increasing the membership of the Committee to include and additional two members.
- Following recommendations from the Higher Degree Committee, Senate confirmed the award of 28 PhDs, 5 Prof.Ds and one MPhil.
- Chair's Action approving the appointment of Professor Caroline Parker to fill a School of Engineering and Built Environment vacancy on the Senate Disciplinary Committee.
- Senate Composition and Membership.
- The undernoted honorary appointments were noted

TITLE	POST	FIELD OF EXPERTISE
Mr Bill McRaith	Honorary Professor	Fashion Supply Chains
Mr Tony Blunden	Honorary Professor (Extension)	Operational Risk

14. OTHER MATTERS NOTED

- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 3rd February 2016 and 23rd March 2016.
- The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 27th January 2016.
- The confirmed minute of the meetings of the International Committee held on 11th February 2016, 10th March 2016 and 14th April 2016
- The confirmed minutes of the undernoted meetings of School Boards:-
 - School of Health and Life Sciences held on 10th February 2016
 - GCU London Campus Board held on 24th February 2016
 - School of Engineering and Built Environment School Boards held on 18th May 2015, 28th October 2015, 28th January 2016, and 22nd March 2016
 - Glasgow School for Business and Society School Boards held on 15th April 2015, 8th May 2015, 28th October 2015, 2nd March 2016 and 6th April 2016
- The confirmed minute of the meeting of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 19th October 2015.
- The highlights of the meetings of University Court held on 3rd March 2016 and 28th April 2016

- Academic Calendar Session 2016/17.
- A paper on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) as considered by Executive Board on 10th May 2016.

Date of the next meeting of Senate is Friday 7th October 2016.