

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2017

PRESENT: Dr T Boutaleb, Prof I Cameron, Dr D Chalmers, Prof. C Donaldson, Dr M Ferguson, Dr H Gallagher, Mr M Gallagher, Prof. P Gillies(Chair), Dr J Gregersen-Hermans, Prof. T Hilton, Ms J Hulme, Mrs K Roden (vice for Mrs C Hulsen), Mr A Killick, Mr S Lopez, Dr D Lukic, Ms J Main, Dr S McChlery, Mr B McConville, M McNab (vice for Ms J McGillivray), Mr A Middleton, Dr C Miller, Prof. J Miller, Mr V McKay, Dr S Ogden, Dr A Pierotti, Mr B Pillans, Miss L Ramage, Ms D Rankin, Mr R Ruthven, Prof A Simmers, Prof. B Steves, Mr I Stewart, Ms K van Dongen, Miss J Waite, Prof. V Webster, Prof. R Whittaker.

APOLOGIES: Prof. Britton, Mrs J Broadhurst, Dr L Cuthbertson, Mrs C Hulsen, Prof. L Kilbride, Ms J McGillivray, Prof. S McMeekin, Prof. A Morgan, Dr A Nimmo.

OBSERVERS: Mrs L Clark (Governance), Mr K Fleming (PG), Dr E Reather (Exec Support), Mr K Ward (SA), Ms F Campbell (People Services), Mr A Lui (People Services).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs D Donnet, Secretary to Senate.

PART A (FOR CONSIDERATION)

Minutes

16.139 Considered: The unconfirmed draft minutes of the meetings of Senate held on 9th December 2016. (**Doc S16/37/1**) and 27th January 2017 (**Doc S16/38/1**).

16.140 Resolved: That both minutes be approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

16.141 Noted: Matters Arising Briefing Note (**Doc S16/39/1**).

Principal & Vice Chancellor and Executive Board Report

- 16.142 Considered: A report from the Principal & Vice-Chancellor and Executive Board to update members on substantive items considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of Senate. **(Doc S16/40/1)**
- 16.143 Reported: By the Principal in relation to GCU NY, that the licence application had moved to the next phase and the University had responded to a request for additional information from NYSED. A date for a site visit had been set and a decision on the application would be made at the beginning of April 2017.
- Confirmation had been received that the Fair Fashion Research Centre had been awarded \$500k by the United Nations as part of the Rockefeller fashion sustainability initiative. This project would include examining the manufacturing supply chain, working environment and workers' pay and conditions in countries including Bangladesh and Ethiopia. Overall, the Fair Fashion Research Centre had secured \$1.25m in funding and its work was embedded in the work of the Yunus Centre and the Centre for Climate Justice.
- 16.144 That the letter of funding from the SFC had been received and there had been a further reduction in core funding. This downward trajectory of core funding reinforced the need for universities to look for areas where there was the potential for growth, particularly in the international market.
- 16.145 In response to a question regarding the implications of Brexit on EU students, the Principal reassured Senate that Universities Scotland were continuing to lobby the government on behalf of the sector.
- 16.146 Agreed To note the report.

Internalisation Strategy

- 16.147 Considered: The Internationalisation Strategy. **(Doc S16/48/1)**
- 16.148 Reported: By the Principal that the Strategy had been approved by Court at its meeting on 24th November 2016 but it was a living document, and Senate's comments and input were welcomed.
- 16.149 Received: A presentation from the VP International on the main points of the strategy. The focus of the International Strategy was to strengthen and enhance GCU's position as networked academic community thereby attracting international student, staff and researchers to join GCU. Based on the analysis of the market place for internationalisation and GCU's current position it was concluded that in principle GCU was well placed to achieve its strategic aim of functioning as a globally networked university by 2020. Building on the results of GCU's Going Global strategy

and in collaboration with partners in business and industry, further and higher education, that aim was to strengthen our international reach and impact by co-creating innovative educational programmes that will deliver graduates who are global citizens and leaders, and upskill the workforce in industry at home and abroad.

Although there was a slowing down of international students coming to the UK at present time, the Strategy would benefit from the growing demand for accessible and affordable higher education world-wide. It would put in place new processes and actions to attract international students to join GCU in Glasgow, London or one of its partner locations, currently established in Mauritius, Oman, Bangladesh and South Africa, and achieve international growth for the university as a whole.

In five years' time, the aim was that GCU would be known for its exceptional international student experience; it will have significantly improved the proportion of students it recruits to GCU Glasgow, London and New York from North America, Africa and selected Asian and European countries; and it will have grown its partnerships in higher education and industry for exchange, articulation pathways, transnational education and capacity building.

To achieve this the following five top-level goals had been formulated

1. Attract international students to the university;
2. Grow GCU's transnational education;
3. Market and position our education, research and service to society to an international audience;
4. Strengthen the international orientation of our staff and attract international staff to the university; and
5. Enhance the financial sustainability of the University.

For each of these five goals objectives and actions and performance measures had been formulated. Further, underpinning the Internationalisation Strategy was an implementation and resource plan which was being developed to realise the proposed organisational change and the return of investment in the short, medium and long term.

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| 16.150 | Discussed | The Strategy was welcomed by Senate and key areas discussed included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need to focus recruitment activities on areas with the greatest likelihood of success;• Working strategically with partners; and• Engaging with applicants and potential applicants. |
| 16.151 | Resolved: | To endorse the Internationalisation Strategy. |

Senate Effectiveness Review

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| 16.152 | Received: | A report outlining the process for the Senate Effectiveness Review (Doc S16/49/1) . |
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16.153 Reported: By the University Secretary and VP Governance that the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance published in 2013, required periodic review of Senate effectiveness. As Court delegated key academic responsibilities to Senate, it was proposed that the Senate effectiveness review should coincide with Court effectiveness review which was to be initiated in April 2017.

16.154 Discussed: In response to a question about whether the proposed Senate Effectiveness Review Steering Group should include internal audit membership, Senate was advised that external objectivity would be provided by the chair, Professor Ann Priest, who was a lay member of Court. Additionally, it was considered that a key element of good governance was self-reflection.

It was questioned why the review was not undertaken on an annual basis. Senate was informed that The Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance outlined that reviews should take place at least every 5 years. Whilst there was scope to undertake reviews more frequently than this, it was unlikely to be done on an annual basis, however the position would be kept under review in light of forthcoming changes to Senate's composition.

16.155 Resolved: To approve the process for the Senate Effectiveness Review.

Research Degrees Committee

16.156 Approved: A recommendation from the Research Degrees Committee for the award of 9 PhDs and 1 Prof.D. **(Doc S16/41/1)**

Religious Observance Policy

16.157 Approved: The Religious Observance Policy subject to the inclusion of information on facilities for GCU London students being included in the policy. **(Doc S16/43/1)**

Student Carer Policy

16.158 Received: The Student Carer Policy **(Doc S16/44/1)**.

16.159 Discussed: In response to a question regarding the impact of the Policy on the maximum period of study, Senate was reassured there was flexibility within the regulations and each case would be considered on an

individual basis. It was also noted that the Mitigating Circumstances Policy would be reviewed and carers would only have to declare their needs once and not repeatedly throughout their studies.

16.160 Resolved: To approve the Student Carer Policy.

Student Pregnancy and Maternity Policy

16.161 Approved: The Student Pregnancy and Maternity Policy subject to the inclusion of a statement regarding the suspension of stipends for post graduate research students .**(Doc S16/45/1)**

Trans Student Support Policy

16.162 Received: The Trans Student Support Policy.**(Doc S16/46/1)**

16.163 Discussed: It was brought to Senate's attention that it was a criminal offence to disclose that a person was trans without their explicit written consent. It was noted that there would be a communication strategy to make staff aware of the Trans Student Support Policy as all student wellbeing policies.

16.164 Approved: The Trans Student Support Policy.

Academic Appeals Committee Membership Refresh

16.165 Approved: The refresh of the Academic Appeals Committee Membership (Doc S16/47/1).

Senate and Senate Standing Committees' Calendar of Meetings 2017/18

16.166 Approved: Senate and Senate Standing Committees' Calendar of Meetings 2017/18 (Doc S16/50/1).

Withdrawal of the MSc IT (Oil and Gas) Programme

16.167 Approved: A proposal to withdraw the MSc IT (Oil and Gas) Programme on the basis that staffing issues, combined with the downturn of the oil and gas market, meant that it had not been possible for the programme to be delivered as intended and there were currently no students **(Doc S16/32/1)**.

Withdrawal of the MSc Health and Social Care (Forensic Mental Health) Pathway

16.168 Approved: A proposal to withdraw the MSc Health and Social Care (Forensic Mental Health) Pathway on the basis that the programme did not strategically align with the strategic plans for growth or staff expertise. Additionally it was not financially viable as it had not recruited well and had a high dropout rate.

Academic Appointments

16.169 Received: A paper on academic appointments made since the last meeting of Senate. **(Doc S16/42/1)**

Academic Policy and Practice Committee

16.170 Received: The confirmed minute of the meeting of the Academic Policy and Practice Committee held on 16th November 2016. **(Doc APC16/27/1)**.

University Research Committee

16.171 Received: The confirmed minute of the meeting of the University Research Committee held on 2nd November 2016. **(Doc REC16/19/1)**

International Committee

16.172 Received: The confirmed minute of the meetings of the International Committee held on 10th November 2016. **(Doc IC16/31/1)**

School Board/Boards of Senate Minutes

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

- i. School of Engineering and the Built Environment held on :
11th November 2016 **(Doc EBE SB16/01/19)**
- ii. Glasgow School for Business and Society held on:
27th April 2016 **(Doc GSBS/SB/15/02/31)**
28th September 2016 (extra ordinary) **(Doc GSBS/SB/16/01/03)**
26th October 2016 **(Doc GSBS/SB/16/03/01)**
- iii. School of Health and Life Sciences held on:-
22nd June 2016 **(Doc HLS/SB/1/001)**
25th October 2016 **(Doc HLS/SB/16/009)**
- iv. GCU London held on
27th April 2016 **(Doc GCUL/SB/15/29/1)**
5th October 2016 **(Doc GCUL/SB/16/10/1)**

Date of Next Meeting

16.174 Received: Notification that the next scheduled meeting of University Senate will be held on Friday 2nd June 2017 at 09:30 Hrs in CEE06/07.