

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2015

- PRESENT:** Professor I Cameron, Dr D Chalmers, Dr L Amrane-Cooper, Ms A Doherty, Dr R Emmanuel, Dr M Ferguson, Dr H Gallagher, Mr M Gallacher, Professor P Gillies (Chair), Dr A Grant, Mrs P Hamilton, Professor T Hilton, Ms J Hulme, Mrs C Hulsen, Dr K Kehoe, Mr A Killick, Mr B McConville, Mr V McKay, Ms J Main, Professor M Mannion, Professor J Marshall, Dr C Miller, Dr A Nimmo, Dr S Ogden, Mr B Pillans, Mr E Robert, Mr R Ruthven, Professor L Sawers, Professor K Stanton, Mr M Stephenson (SA), Professor B Steves, Mr I Stewart, Professor J Tombs, Professor V Webster, Professor R Whittaker.
- APOLOGIES:** Mrs H Brown, Professor T Buggy, Dr V Charissis, Miss P L Choo, Dr A Corbett, Mr A Craig, Ms B Kelly, Professor L. Kilbride, Mr T Kilpatrick, Professor S McMeekin, Miss D Rankin, Professor A. de Ruyter, Professor J Wilson, Professor J Woodburn.
- OBSERVERS:** Ms G Bartsch (Strategy & Planning), Ms J Dunlop (Strategy & Planning), Ms S Young (Court), Mrs L Clark (G&QE), Mr Lee Goodfellow (SA), Prof. P Kirby (GSBS), Mr S Lopez (Registry), Mr A MacKinlay (G&QE), Ms J Malcolm (G&QE), Ms E Reather (PG), Mrs K Roden (Strategy & Planning), Mr P Yetton (ISSS).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs M Henaghan, Secretary to Senate

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed colleagues to the third meeting of Senate in session 2014/15 including new members, Professor Toni Hilton, Dean, Glasgow School for Business and Society; Bernadette Kelly, Chief Information Officer; Alison Grant, elected member representing the School for Health and Life Sciences; and Gerda Bartsch, Director of Strategic Projects.

Minutes

- 14.104 Considered: The unconfirmed draft minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 12th December 2014. **(Doc S14/47/1)**
- 14.105 Resolved: That the minutes be confirmed as an accurate record of the Senate held on 12th December 2014.

Matters Arising

14.106 Reported: There were no matters arising on the minutes of the 12th December 2014 meeting.

Principal and Vice Chancellor and Executive Board Report

14.107 Considered: 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 S14/48/1)**.

14.108 Reported: REF 2014 - By the Principal that Senate notes the update report in particular highlighting the excellent REF 2014 result and corresponding increase in the University's research funding from £1.826m in 2014/15 to £2.738m by 2017/18.

ASHOKA U – Senate was advised that the Principal attended the Ashoka U Exchange 2015 in Washington and was presented with the award and designation of Changemaker Campus at the event. The Ashoka U Exchange is a prestigious event and networking opportunity to gain resources for teaching and research in social entrepreneurship; share lessons on institutional change models and collaborate with peers and develop partnerships. The Principal highlighted a potential development on a joint master's programme with Babson University.

14.109 Discussed: A Senate member referred to a previous Senate discussion on Ashoka U (arising on 14.07 October 2014) which stated that Senate would be provided with a follow up paper. The Principal confirmed that a draft paper was currently in progress and it was anticipated that it would be on the Senate agenda for June 2015.

14.110 Resolved: That Senate notes the update report.

*Note by Secretary to Senate: That Senate agreed item C3 – Minutes of the University Research Committee is raised to an A item for discussion. This is noted as item A13 on the revised agenda.

ELIR Early Draft Outcome Report

14.111 Considered: The QAA ELIR Early Draft Outcome Report **(Doc S14/49/1)**

14.112 Reported: By the Principal that the University has received the early draft outcome report from the QAA Enhancement-led Institutional Review and had been judged by the panel to have effective arrangements in place for securing academic standards and enhancing the quality of the student learning experience. This is the highest judgement an ELIR panel can confer and the Principal extended her and Senate's thanks to the ELIR team and all student and staff participants in the process.

By the Head of Governance and Quality Enhancement that the early draft outcome report was a very positive outcome for the University. The panel identified five positive areas of practice relating to the student experience including students as partners; student support; internationalisation of the student experience; focus on employability and graduate attributes and supporting widening participation and transition. In addition, the panel confirmed that our strategic approach to staff development is underpinning the implementation of institutional strategies and that changes we have made to our quality assurance processes to enhance modules is benefitting students. Areas for development were also identified by the panel including the research student experience; institutional oversight of GTAs; feedback on assessment and capturing the “off campus” student voice. The University will consider these areas for development and report on progress in due course.

The next steps include the publication of the Technical Report (for University use) and the Outcome Report (for all stakeholders) published by the QAA on their website on 12th June 2015. One year later, the University is required to provide a response to the report and progress made on the areas for development. This response is endorsed by University Court. The Head of Governance thanked the Academic Schools and all Professional Support Departments for their assistance throughout the review process.

- 14.113 Discussed: A Senate member enquired about the status of the GTAs mentioned in the report. It was explained that they are PhD students undertaking teaching activities. The Director of the Graduate School confirmed that work on enhancing the research student experience is already well underway.
- 14.114 Resolved: That Senate notes the ELIR early draft outcome report.

Research Excellence Framework

- 14.115 Considered: A paper presenting the University’s Research Excellence Framework outcome. **(Doc S14/50/1)**
- 14.116 Reported: By the PVC Research that overall the University had performed very well in the REF. In particular 61% of all work submitted was 3*/4* - internationally excellent or better and the quality of our submission also improved with GCU the best Post-92 in Scotland by Power (quality x number of staff submitted). It was however recognised that we remain low in the league tables overall and that we have further work to do looking ahead to 2025. In terms of funding GCU received more of the REF pot due to changes in the allocation model rising from £1.826m in 2014/15 to £2,738m by 20/21. The PVC extended his thanks to the REF team and all participants. In particular their engagement and understanding of the approach to inclusion in the exercise was noted.

14.117 Discussed: A Senate member enquired about an article which had appeared in the Times Higher Education Supplement stating there would be less emotional and financial support for staff that did not focus their research on the priorities identified in the Research Strategy. In response the PVC Research stated that Senate had previously approved the Research Strategy which centred around three societal challenges and three key themes to focus the strategic direction of our research and concentrate our efforts. Looking ahead to 2025 we need to ensure that the University continues to do well. There will also be an opportunity to review the Research Strategy as we move forward.

14.118 Resolved: That Senate notes the outcomes from the REF 2014.

People Strategy 2020

14.119 Considered: The People Strategy 2020 (**Doc S14/51/1**)

14.120 Reported: By the Director of People that the paper is presented to Senate as part of the consultation process to inform the development of the People Strategy for 2020, as part of the enabling strategies to support the University's 2020 vision. The People Strategy will support the delivery of the core 2020 strategies including Strategy for Learning, Research and Internationalisation. Two key themes have emerged in developing the strategy; "Enhancing Capability" and "Working Well". The recent staff survey had provided information on areas requiring development such as a focus on improving line management capability, overcoming bureaucracy and people moving through career plans.

14.121 Discussed: Senate members made the following comments:

- i) page 3 of the strategy listed a number of strands relating to the "workwell model", were there any examples to support these.
- ii) Page 3 reference to creating both physical and psychological space (head space) welcomed particularly if it helped to free academics and administrators from bureaucracy

In response to (i) above the Director of People stated that there were no examples available as yet but happy to receive comments from all staff to inform. In response to (ii) it was noted that the new CIO is considering ways to improve IT systems to release the burden on staff as a priority. The University Secretary advised that progress was already underway on a number of projects including areas such as timetabling and attendance monitoring. The Director of the Graduate School welcomed the opportunity to work on staff development initiatives to extend our research capacity and capability.

14.122 Resolved: That Senate notes the direction of travel on the development of the People Strategy 2020. Further written feedback and comments should be sent to the Director of People.

Module Evaluation Feedback

- 14.123 Considered: A Report on the pilot of the EvaSys electronic Module Feedback system. **(Doc. APC14/66/2)**
- 14.124 Reported: By the Director of GCU LEAD that LTSC and APC had recently considered the report and recommended that the University considers the purchase of the EvaSys online system for module evaluation. Currently a variety of methods to gather feedback were in operation in the academic Schools. This did not provide the University with systematic institutional level information. An evaluation of the most recent pilot confirmed that it had been well received by the sample of module leaders who participated and an overall response rate of 43.63% was achieved. It was acknowledged that any system purchased must integrate with ISIS and will require some dedicated support. Senate was asked to consider the pedagogical issues. It was also noted that any resource implications would require the consideration and approval of the Executive Board
- 14.125 Discussed: Senate members comments included:
- (i) Care to ensure that students are not perceived as consumers
 - (ii) Uncertainty that the richness of the student experience can be captured using this type of questionnaire
 - (iii) Welcomed as long as there can be customisation of the questions
 - (iv) The Students' Association welcomed the introduction of an MFQ and were keen to be involved in development. Imperative that we have a consistent method.
 - (v) Consider developing our own bespoke system and potentially exploit a gap in the market
- In response the Director of GCULEAD confirmed that the University would continue to work closely with the Students' Association on any further development of an MFQ. Consideration had been given to developing bespoke Programme tool, but this had not come to fruition in the timeframe and we need to put something in place. The Students' Association confirmed that they would like to see a system in place.
- 14.126 Resolved: That Senate agreed a Business Case outlining the proposal for the EvaSys on line module evaluation system is submitted to Executive Board for further consideration of the resource implications.

Revised Qualifications Framework

- 14.127 Considered: The revised Qualifications Framework **(Doc APC14/71/2)**
- 14.128 Reported: By the Head of Governance that Senate is invited to note the changes to the University's Qualifications Framework. The Framework has been updated to harmonise with the recently revised Assessment Regulations e.g. maximum period of registration on a programme of study. Changes to language and terminology to reflect the current Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework have also been made.
- 14.129 Discussed A Senate member enquired why 120 credits at SCQF level 11 were required for a Master's programme where normally 180 credits are

required. It was explained that this refers to a master's award following an integrated programme of study. It was noted by Senate that Integrated Masters should be shown under section 4 undergraduate credit accumulation and modular scheme. The definition of credit in relation to notional student learning effort should also be shown as a footnote, e.g. 1 credit = 10 hours.

14.130 Resolved That Senate notes the revised Qualifications Framework subject to the above minor amendments.

SFC Outcome Agreement

14.131 Considered: The final Outcome Agreement 2015-16 to 2017-18 submitted to the SFC in February 2015. **(Doc S14/52/1)**

14.132 Reported: By the Director of Strategy and Planning that the agreement represents the University's strategic objectives whilst addressing the Scottish Government and SFC priorities. This 3 year agreement is the product of consultation with staff, via the Outcome Agreement Working Group and an open consultation session and input from the Students' Association. The University is performing well in terms of government and SFC priorities in areas such as living wage and sustainability. Our HESA indicators have also shown much improvement. A summary document is available on the Strategy and Planning portal. The SFC will publish all Outcome Agreements alongside the final grant allocation in April 2015.

14.133 Resolved: That Senate notes the Outcome Agreement for 2015-16 to 2017-18.

Code of Student Conduct

14.134 Considered: An update on the Code of Student Conduct following comments by Senate in December 2014. **(Doc S14/42/2)**

14.135 Reported: By the Head of Governance that the Code of Student Conduct has been updated following the comments received at the December Senate. The minor changes include the provision of flow diagrams and these have been aligned with the approved document text. These minor changes have not materially altered the version approved by Senate. The Code is now completed and will come into operation from academic session 2015-16.

14.136 Discussed: With reference to appendix 1, Senate asked for a clearer definition relating to a minor misconduct offence. It was agreed that this will be included in the next version of the code. Senate also queried point (ii) under major misconduct. The University Secretary clarified that there are cases whereby a police investigation does not proceed or where there is a not guilty verdict returned. In such cases the University may proceed with a Senate Disciplinary case, for example in cases involving reputational damage.

14.137 Resolved: That Senate notes the minor revisions to the Code of Conduct. The next iteration of the Code will include a footnote covering the clarifications outlined above.

SFC Consultation on the review of the Quality Enhancement Framework

- 14.138 Considered: A paper outlining the University's response to the SFC consultation on the review of the Quality Enhancement Framework. **(Doc S 14/53/1)**
- 14.139 Reported: By the Head of Governance and Quality Enhancement that the outcome from the sector wide consultation process will inform the strategic approach taken by the higher education sector in Scotland in relation to managing the quality of the student learning experience and public confidence in the quality and standards of higher education. The University's response confirmed what is valued by the current approach e.g. the collaborative partnership approach; focus on enhancement and engagement of students in quality management and as partners. There were a number of areas where enhancements to the current process could be achieved including a lengthier period between institutional review process and more impact from the Enhancement Themes at the programme level. The new review method will be implemented in academic year 2016-17.
- 14.140 Resolved: That Senate noted the University response.

Quality Enhancement Review of Caledonian College of Engineering Oman (CCEO)

- 14.141 Considered: The Report of the Quality Enhancement Review of CCEO carried out in November 2014. **(Doc S14/54/1)**
- 14.142 Reported: By the Head of Governance that a review panel conducted the review of CCEO as part of the University's normal quality assurance and enhancement process. The aim is to assure the University that the academic health of our collaboration and the off campus student experience continues to meet the universities requirements. The panel was impressed with the operation in Oman and reported very positive meetings with both students and staff; the maturity of approach to enhancing the student experience and the significant growth and achievements of the College over the last few years. The report also identifies the deliberate steps taken by the College to enhance the student experience; areas of good practice for dissemination and areas where the College practices could be enhanced. These matters will be taken forward by GCU and CCEO in line with our normal processes including a one year on progress update and thereafter as part of our 5 year review cycle.
- 14.143 Resolved: That Senate notes the Quality Enhancement Review of CCEO.

Research Committee – item raised from part C of the agenda

- 14.144 Considered: Chair's Report from the minutes of the Research Committee held on 12th November 2014; item 014.045 Research Institutes as virtual entities.
- 14.145 Discussed: By a member of Senate that in adopting the previously approved Research Strategy, Research Institutes played an important part. The Chair's Report refers to an Executive Board decision for Research Institutes to continue as virtual entities. This is perceived as a major

change and staff have expressed some concerns. It was important to ensure that there is a wider discussion on this change.

By the PVC Research, that the intention is to provide a further paper on the way forward in May/June with the opportunity for a fuller debate. Prior to the adoption of the Research Strategy 2020 with clear themes, Research Institutes were a useful tool and remain a valid concept. There are issues around where line management of research staff lies, either the academic home (School) or the Research Institute. The thinking behind the way forward to ensure successful implementation of the new Research Strategy is via the Associate Deans Research in the Schools and a stronger central research infrastructure. The aim is to bring the research community together building on what we have achieved and providing greater clarity on how we use research funding.

It was noted that the opportunity for further discussion is welcomed and the opportunity to fund more research locally is also welcomed.

14.146 Resolved: That Senate notes the position and the provision of a further paper for consideration in due course.

Honorary and Visiting Appointments

14.147 Approved The undernoted Honorary and Visiting Professor appointments awarded by the Executive Board.

Title	Post	Field of Expertise	School
Prof Antony Morgan	Visiting Professor in School of Health and Life Sciences	Public Health Education and Research	SHLS
Mr John McKay	Honorary Professor in Broadcast Journalism	Journalism	GSfBS

Higher Degrees Committee

14.148 Approved: Recommendation from the Higher Degrees Committee for the award of 13 PhDs; 1 Prof.D and 1 MPhil. **(Doc S14/55/1)**

Senate Chair's action

14.149 Noted: (i) A Chair's action approving the award of 1 PhD. **(Doc S14/56/1)**

Memorandum of Agreement: Accreditation of BSc Oral Health Sciences

14.150 Approved: Memorandum of Agreement: Accreditation of BSc Oral Health Sciences (School for Dental Care Professionals at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School) Second period of accreditation. **(Doc S14/571)**

Memorandum of Agreement: Joint Delivery and Award of PGC in Mental Health Social Work (Collaborative Agreement)

14.151 Approved: The MoA between GCU and University of Strathclyde and Learning Network East for the joint delivery and award of a PGC in Mental Health

Social Work (Mental Health Office Award) leading to joint awards of the GCU and UoS. **(Doc S14/58/1)**

Senate and Senate Standing Committee Calendar of Meetings: Session 205-16

14.152 Received: The Senate and Senate Standing Committee Calendar of Meetings for session 2015-16 for information. **(Doc S14/59/1)**

Academic Policy Committee

14.153 Received: The confirmed minutes of the Academic Policy Committee held on 3rd December 2014. **(Doc APC14/47/1)**

Research Committee

14.154 Received: The confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 12th November 2014. **(Doc REC14/20/1)**

Equality and Diversity Committee

14.155 Received: The confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 2nd May 2014. **(Doc S14/60/1)**

School Board Minutes

14.156 Received: The confirmed minutes from the undernoted meetings of Boards of Senate:
School of Health and Life Sciences held on:
17th October 2014 **(Doc HLS/SB/14/015)**

Glasgow School for Business and Society held on:
12th November 2014 **(Doc GSBS/SB/14/01/25)**

School of Engineering and the Built Environment
28th October 2014 **(Doc EBE/SB 14/01/18)**
27th November 2014 **(Doc EBE/SB14/01/25)**

University Court

14.157 Received: The highlights of the meetings of University Court held on 29th January 2015. **(Doc S14/61/1)**

Senate Membership

14.158 Received: The updated Senate Membership for session 2014-15. **(Doc S14/62/1)**

Date of Next Meeting

14.159 Received: Notification that the next scheduled meeting of University Senate will be held on Friday 5th June 2015.