

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 14th December 2022

1. Principal and Vice Chancellor's and Executive Board Report

Senate received 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.

The VP People and Student Wellbeing provided an update on the accommodation shortages in Glasgow. Work would be continuing to support around 400 students in Tri B.

In summarising 2022, the Chair highlighted the University's strong financial position and positive student metrics and that this provided a strong foundation for the University to continue to build on.

2. Strategy for Learning Implementation Roadmap 2025/26

The PVC Learning and Teaching introduced a report that provided guidance on the priorities and target outcomes for learning and teaching to help inform Schools' and Services' three-year strategic planning across the Glasgow and London campuses. The aim of the report was to provide a roadmap for Strategy Learning 2030 until the end of 2025/26, building upon the foundations of the current roadmap running until the end of 2022/23. A thematic analysis of School and Service learning and teaching related plans would be undertaken in early 2023 to ensure that the roadmap was updated as needed.

Key points that were highlighted included the growth and importance of digital technology in learning and teaching, the impact of the significant growth in international students and the SFC's implementation of their review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability which had implications for the University on widening access. The SFC review also included the development of a single quality assurance and enhancement framework for tertiary education and whilst this would have ramifications for GCU policy and practice, the extent was not yet clear.

Senate provided feedback and the PVC Learning and Teaching advised that this would be reflected in the roadmap refresh.

3. Standing Committee and School Board Summary Reports

Senate noted reports from the following standing committees and School Boards:-

- Academic Policy and Practice Committee (APPC) held on 2nd November 2022
- University Research Committee held on 15th November 2022
- International Committee held on 3rd November 2022. The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor indicated that this had been his first meeting as Chair of the International Committee, and he had reflected that whilst Strategy 2030 had internationalisation as a common thread throughout, it may be appropriate to have a separate International Strategy that pulled all the threads together. This would be given further consideration and brought back to a future meeting of Senate as required.
- The Glasgow School for Business and Society held on 19th October 2022
- School of Health Life Sciences held on 5th October 2022.

4. Research Degrees Committee

Senate approved the award of 7 PhDs.

5. Programme withdrawals

Senate considered and approved the withdrawal of the following programmes:-

Diploma in Paramedic Practice: The Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences presented a paper seeking approval for the withdrawal of the Diploma in Paramedic Practice. The programme had been due to expire in 2022, but its delivery was extended due to COVID. The paper outlined the rationale and expiry plan and had been agreed and approved at both the GCU/SAS Contract Board and at the Dip HE Programme Board.

MSc Construction Programme: The Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment, presented a paper seeking approval from the Senate for the withdrawal of the MSc Construction programme. The MSc Construction Programme was developed in 2018 and designed specifically for a private company. Only 5 students each year had undertaken the programme and there were no current students.

6. Other Matters Approved/Noted/Received for Information.

- Honorary Appointments.
- Recent academic staff appointments.
- The summary report from the meeting of University Court held on 17th November 2022
- A report on the Professional Recognition of Teaching and Supporting Learning

7. Thanks to the outgoing Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Pamela Gillies

The Vice Chair of Senate reminded Senators that this was the last Senate meeting that would be chaired by Professor Pamela Gillies, who was stepping down from her role as Principal and Vice Chancellor at the end of the current calendar year. He remarked that it was the 153rd meeting of Senate, and that Professor Gillies would have chaired almost half of these in her 17 years as Principal. He commended Professor Gillies for returning the University to its core mission of being for the Common Good and highlighted that under her leadership the University had transformed lives via its teaching and research at home in Glasgow and London, and globally around the world. Senate had played a part in this transformation by supporting robust but courteous debate, and reaching consensus to agree a way forward. He wished the Principal well for the future, highlighting plans she had with GCU colleagues to write two books. Senate echoed the Vice Chair's sentiments via a round of applause.

The Principal responded by thanking Senate for the open, inclusive, trustworthy and collegiate approach it had taken to conducting business, even when there had been challenging issues to be considered. She thanked Senators for their support throughout her tenure, and wished all well for the continued growth and success of the University under its new leadership.

The next scheduled meeting of Senate will be held on Wednesday 22nd February 2023.