

SUMMARY REPORT OF COURT 13th June 2024

The University Court met today, 13th June 2024. Yesterday evening Court heard from Dr Stuart Patrick CBE, CEO of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, on the City regional economy and the next steps to grow it. Tributes were also paid to Ian Kerr and Neena Mahal MBE, both of whom are about to step down after nine years of outstanding service to the Court as lay governors, latterly holding office as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the People Committee respectively.

The Court welcomed a new lay governor, Gavin Munn, to his first meeting and heard from Professor Jo Lumsden, Dean of SCEBE, who joined the University in April. Professor Lumsden described her professional background and her aspirations for the School.

What follows is a high-level summary of the main issues addressed by Court today, which will also appear on the University website. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the University website in due course.

Rob Woodward
Chair of Court

1. Principal & Vice Chancellor & UEG Report

The report provided a summary of items arising since the previous Court meeting with the Principal highlighting key issues including: the findings of the Migration Advisory Committee; SFC developments; the University's success in widening access; REF2029 planning; the Chancellor's May visit; his appointment as chair of the Scottish Government's Graduate Apprenticeship Enhancement Group; the Senate Workshop on AI; the development of the London Campus Estate; the Stakeholder Event 2024; the Magnusson Awards; and the visit by Sir Alex Ferguson CBE to meet beneficiaries of his scholarships and other awards.

2. Chief Operating Officer and DVC's Report

The COO and DVC gave an overview of key areas of work including: continuing excellent engagement with the Students' Association; Finance; Estates; IT; Future Students, Marketing & Communications and the appointment of a new Director for the service; Foundation, Alumni & Events; and Registry & School Professional Services.

3. Student President's Report

The Student President reported on the recent activities and initiatives undertaken by the Students' Association drawing particular attention to Fulltime Officers 2024/25; Give It A Go Programme; and Policy Remits.

4. Students' Association Trimester B Report

The Student President reported on the activities for Trimester B undertaken by the Students' Association in the academic year 2023/24 drawing particular attention to Strategic Plan 2025; ReFreshers Week; Liberation Networks; Representation Groups; Ethics and Environmental Green Impact; GCU London Events; Sports Clubs; Advice Centre; Student Leadership Programme; Societies; STAR Awards 2024; Academic Representatives; Teaching Awards 2024; Governance; Full Time Officer Elections; NUS UK and Scotland Conference; and Campaigns

5. University Secretary's Report

The Court noted a report from the University Secretary where topics included: the process, overseen by the Chair Appointment Oversight Committee (CAOC) chaired by the Vice-Chair of Court, to identify a successor to the Chair of Court when he demits office in February; Delegated Authority during Summer Vacation; Court Annual Programme of Work 2024/25; Freedom of Information 2023 Report; ongoing Senate Quinquennial Effectiveness Review; GCNYC governance; Governor Cyber Security Training; Court Briefing events; and October Court Strategy event & Meeting.

6. University Strategy and KPIs

The Court discussed and provided feedback on the near final draft of the University Strategy, Key Performance Indicators and the approach to the Strategy Implementation and Launch.

7. Student Recruitment Report

The Court considered a report on Student Recruitment which provided an update on international PG registrations in Trimester C 23-24 and a forward view of Trimester A 2024-25 recruitment as at 28 May 2024.

8. Draft Budget 2024-25

The Court, which had received a budget briefing earlier in June, approved the budget for 2024-25, recognising that it would continue to monitor the budget given a volatile funding context and the current uncertainties affecting the sector as a whole which could have substantial budgetary impact.

9. Update on GCNYC

The Court noted a report on the progress relating to GCNYC.

10. Research Update Trimester 2

The Court noted the report which included an update on the University's investment in research, key research policy changes and a summary of research submissions and awards for the third quarter of 2023-24.

11. Senate

The Court received a report from the Senate meeting held on 5th June 2024.

12. Standing Committee Business

The Court received reports and where relevant approved recommendations from the People Committee, Audit Committee, Remuneration Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Chair of the CAOC gave an oral account of recent progress and next steps.

13. Communications Report – March-April 2024 Update

The Court noted the report which highlights the media coverage received by the University in March and April 2024.

14. Date of next Court meeting

The next meeting of Court will take place on Wednesday 2nd October 2024, the same day as the Court's annual strategy event.