

University of Glasgow

General Council Half-Yearly Meeting

A meeting of the University of Glasgow's General Council meeting will be held on Monday 23 June 2025 at 1800 hours via Zoom Webinar (details are sent to those who [register](#)).

The Chancellor, Dame Katherine Grainger will chair the meeting and the agenda for the meeting is given below. If you have any matters you wish to raise in connection with the meeting or the General Council, please email clerkgc@glasgow.ac.uk

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2025
3. Matters Arising
4. Report on Financials by Gregor Caldow, Executive Director of Finance *Verbal*
5. Report by Dr David Duncan, Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary *Verbal*
6. Report by Gavin Stewart, Convener of Court *Verbal*
7. Report from Dr Cameron Marshall on behalf of the General Council Business Committee *Verbal*
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of Next Meeting

Lee McClure
Executive Officer (Court) and Clerk to the General Council
07977633460/clerkgc@glasgow.ac.uk

University of Glasgow – General Council Half-Yearly Meeting (by Zoom)

28 January 2025

Online via Zoom

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chancellor, Dame Katherine Grainger, opened the meeting and welcomed members to the first General Council Half Yearly meeting of 2025.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved; the meeting was quorate.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. General Council Business Committee Election

The live vote opened for five new members of the General Council Business Committee. It was noted that a total of 12 candidates were standing for election. The General Council was informed that election results would be posted on the University of Glasgow website, and successful candidates would be notified via email.

5. Report from Dr David Duncan, Deputy Vice Chancellor/Chief Operating Officer

Dr David Duncan provided an overview of University business since the last General Council meeting in July 2024.

Appointment of new Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Andy Schofield had been appointed as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow. Professor Schofield had held the position of Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University since May 2020, and will join the University of Glasgow on 1 September 2025.

Financial Update

The Higher Education sector in the United Kingdom continued to be under considerable stress due to a lack of funding and turmoil in the international student recruitment markets. Despite the increasing challenges, the University of Glasgow had continued to post financial surpluses which enabled continued investment in student experience, research activities, new buildings and staffing levels.

League Tables

The University had maintained its position in the top 100 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and the QS World rankings.

It was noted that the University reputation was largely based on research activities. The results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2021, which was the UK's system for assessing the excellence of research in UK higher education providers, confirmed the very high quality of research that was undertaken across the institution – with 93.1% of research judged to be world leading or internationally excellent. Following REF2021, the University was now ranked 13th in the UK which was a significant improvement from REF2014 where the University was ranked 24th in the UK. This achievement was noted as the most substantial research performance improvement of any UK University, solidifying the foundation of the University's global reputation.

Values and Mission

The University remained committed to upholding its values and driving global change. It was reported that the University had been supporting Ukrainian universities and welcoming asylum seekers since the Russian invasion. Moreover, the University had offered support to those affected by the Middle East conflict, led campaigns on homelessness and engaged students in substance abuse initiatives. The University remained dedicated to making a positive social impact locally and globally.

University Estate

The University Court had recently approved the construction of the Keystone Building, which would be the fifth new building in the Campus Development Programme. As one of the largest developments, the Keystone Building would expand the University's research capabilities and teaching facilities and enhance the global reputation and impact. The total cost of the building was expected to be £300 million and construction work was underway and was expected to continue until the summer of 2028.

It was reported that the University had 330 building across all campuses. In addition to the new building which was under construction, the University had also devoted funds to maintain the existing campus buildings. Facilities for research activities, particularly in the College of Medical, Veterinary and Lif Sciences, were expected to undergo maintenance. Moreover, a scoping exercise was being undertaken related to the Hunterian Museum within the Gilbert Scott Building and the Hunterian Art Gallery which aimed to improve the visitor experience. Finally, maintenance was expected on the student facing buildings; Glasgow University Union, Queen Margaret Union and the McIntyre Building.

Impact

The University had increased the emphasis on the economic development and innovation agenda, particularly the impact on the local and regional economy in the West of Scotland. There was a strong focus on increasing the number of spin-out companies from research and expanding licensing agreements with existing companies. There was also work ongoing to enhance the Innovation District along the river Clyde, which the University was developing in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, and others. The University was also adopting a more dynamic approach to supporting student enterprise and fostering enterprise activities among students.

Student Experience

The University had invested in excess of £6million over the past few years on a variety of projects to create a stronger sense of community for students. The projects were supported by the Student Representative Council (SRC) and other student associations, the Student Unions and the Glasgow University Sports Association (GUSA).

Industrial Relations

An update was provided on national negotiations regarding pay and related matters. It was noted that no industrial relations disputes had arisen thus far this year.

University Strategy

The current University strategy covered the period of 2020-2025. Therefore, Prof Frank Coton was leading the development of a new University strategy. The new strategy would not be finalised until Professor Andy Schofield had commenced his post as Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

Celebrations

The University celebrated the life and legacy of Lord Kelvin through a series of events and reflections over the course of this year. Moreover, in 2025 the University of Glasgow would be supporting Glasgow City Council with a year-long celebration marking 850 years since the city of Glasgow gained Burgh status. Finally, celebrations would take place throughout 2026 as the University of Glasgow approaches its 575th anniversary.

6. Report from Dr Cameron Marshall, Convenor of General Council Business Committee

The Convenor, Dr Cameron Marshall, provided an update on the General Council Business Committee.

The Convenor reflected upon his first meeting as a General Council Business Committee member in 2016 where the Principal had outlined ambitious plans for a £775m redevelopment of the University's Gilmorehill campus - the biggest single education project in Scotland - on the site of the old Western Infirmary, and reported that the transformation of the site since then had been remarkable. This included the construction of the Clarice Pears Building, the Advanced Research Centre, the Adam Smith Business School and the James McEwan Smith building, with work recently commencing on the Keystone Building. The Convenor paid tribute to the Principal, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, and the senior management team of the University who have had courage to invest in the campus during difficult financial times.

It was reported that the General Council Business Committee members would join the academic procession at the annual Commemoration Day on 18 June 2025, which was the celebration of the foundation of the University in 1451. The visible presence in the procession would highlight that the staff and graduates of the University are important and engaged stakeholders. The Convenor praised the Principal and senior management team for their presence and efforts throughout Commemoration Day, noting that the University of Glasgow should be commended for keeping this important tradition alive.

It was noted that the General Council Business Committee had received presentations from Prof Jo Gill (Vice Principal and Head of College of Arts & Humanities), Prof Sara Carter (Vice Principal and Head of College of Social Sciences) and Prof Iain McInnes (Vice Principal and Head of College Medicine Veterinary and Life Sciences) over the last 12 months. The Convenor reported that the sense of sheer energy, optimism and innovation was evident in each presentation. Moreover, the Convenor highlighted that it was clear from the presentations that the degree programmes had undergone significant evolution, marked most notably by a clear and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence, which left Business Committee members with the feeling that the best days were still ahead of the University of Glasgow.

The Convenor noted that the General Council Business Committee had been aware of the protests from student groups related to divestment from defence companies. The Convenor reported that a consultation exercise with staff and students was carried out in October/November 2024, and General Council Business Committee members were invited to take part in this consultation. Following a lengthy discussion, the University Court ultimately decided to retain its investments in the defence sector and the Convenor noted that the process and subsequent communications were robust and transparent.

The Chancellor thanked the Convenor of the General Council Business Committee for the comprehensive update.

7. Election Update

The online election was brought to a close. General Council members were reminded that the election results would be posted on the University of Glasgow website, and successful candidates would be notified via email.

7. AOCB

The Chancellor, Dame Katherine Grainger, expressed thanks to all attendees for their continued support of the General Council.

No other business was reported.

8. Post-Meeting Note

Following the meeting, the results of the General Council Business Committee election were ratified. Although this item was not discussed during the meeting, it is recorded here for transparency.

Election Results:

Name	Votes
Ryan Lightbody	71
Jessica Constable	49
Selina Wu	42
David Williams	34
Ian Thomson	33
Junaid Ashraf	24
Zhaofeng Zhou	24
Azizbek Toyirov	15
LIU TSZ KA	5
Nien Ching-Fang	2
Kong Sang Lie (Keith)	0
Dr Rabinder Buttar	0

The following candidates were confirmed as elected: Ryan Lightbody, Jessica Constable, Selina Wu, David Williams and Ian Thomson.

8. Date of next meeting

Monday, 23 June 2025

(MEETING CLOSED AT 19.30)