

General Council Half Yearly Meeting 31st January 2015

Minute of General Council Half Yearly Meeting held 31st January 2015, Kelvin Gallery, University of Glasgow

Item

1 Introduction and Welcome

The Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, welcomed and thanked those present. He noted the positive past year for the University, with the end of the Academic Year approaching, before introducing the panel – Amber Higgins, Clerk to the General Council (GC), Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal, and George Tait, Convenor of the General Council Business Committee (GCBC).

2 Election of Members to serve on General Council Business Committee

Following the nominations and election process the Chancellor announced that four Members of the General Council had been elected to serve on the General Council Business Committee for four years until January 2019:

Iain Brown (LLB 2007)

Douglas Cusine (LLB 1969)

Gerard Friell (MA 1982)

Rev. Stuart MacQuarrie (MBA 2002)

It was reported that a number of existing members of the GCBC who's first term of office was due to expire, had intimated that they wished to stand again for another four year term of office. They were as follows:

Mr Jim Ewing (MA 1983)

Mr Fred Hay (MA 1966, MLitt 2011)

Dr Gordon Hamilton (MBChB 1977, Dip 1988, MPhil 1994)

Sheriff Des Leslie (MA 1978)

Dr Ann Lowe (MBChB 1972)

Mr Duncan Marley (MA 2002)

Mrs Helen McAvoy (MA 1972)

Mr Graham Paterson (MA 1975, MBA 1990)

The Chancellor thanked the outgoing members of the General Council Business Committee. He also extended thanks to all 5 candidates for taking part, to Amber Higgins and colleagues in the Development and Alumni Office for their assistance, and to voters for their participation.

3 Minutes of meeting of 19th July 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2014 were approved. Concerns were raised about the short notice given to review the minutes and it was agreed that it would be ensured that the minutes of the meeting would be available in advance

Item

online as stated in the Avenue Magazine. The Clerk to the General Council apologised for this error and ensured the General Council that this would not happen again.

4 Report of Convenor of the General Council Business Committee

Convenor, George Tait, advised that this would be his 8th report and final report as convenor. The Convenor thanked Mr Lewis Niven and Dr Wilson Totten for their time and effort that they had given to the General Council and University as General Council Business Committee members.

It was reported that the General Business Committee had put forward Mr John Marsh to succeed Mr Tait and it was agreed to appoint Mr Marsh as the next Convenor for a period of four years. The incoming Convenor also thanked Mr Tait on behalf of the Business Committee for his services and assured him that his leadership had been greatly valued.

The Convenor reported that the Business Committee had received two presentations. At the October meeting Ms Cathy Bell, Director of the Development and Alumni Office updated the Committee on the new developments within the Office and highlighted a number of ways in which the General Council and the Development and Alumni Office could work together. The Business Committee had also received a presentation by Mrs Mhairi Taylor, Equality and Diversity Manager and Mrs Christine Barr, Director of Human Resources in January which highlighted all the work that was currently been undertaken in this area.

The Convenor reported that two meetings had been held since the July meeting and that one again a significant amount of discussion had taken place on the Court's proposal to reduce the number of GC Assessors from 5 to 2 due to changes outline in the Draft Ordinance 207. This Draft Ordinance was replacing 206 which had previously been submitted to the Privy Council in July 2014 and then withdrawn by the University following consultation with the Privy Council about the nomenclature used.

It was noted that the General Council Business Committee had contacted all General Council Members to gain their views and so far 31 responses had been received. It was noted that a GCBC Working Group had been established to take forward all the comments submitted and would provide a report to Court by 19 February 2015.

The Convenor stated that the Business Committee considered that a reduction in the number of General Council Assessors from 5 to 2 would not be appropriate, as suitably skilled candidates could be identified from within the pool of graduates without having to appoint co-opted members. It was also noted that at the previous Half Yearly meeting in July 2014 a number of General Council members had also expressed concerns about the reduction in General Council Assessors and it was disappointing that Court had chosen to move forward with a new Draft Ordinance.

The Convenor finished his report and thanked all those that had helped to support him during his time on the General Council Business Committee and latterly as the Convenor of the General Council Business Committee.

The Chancellor thanked the Convenor for his report and all his hard work over the last four years and previously as a member of the committee; the Chancellor also thanked the GCBC for all they do for the University, before inviting comments.

A GC member present questioned why Court had continued with a new Draft Ordinance considering the opposition at the GC Half Yearly meeting in July 2014.

The Convenor of Court noted that it was important for Court to continue with a new Draft Ordinance to ensure that the University was compliant Code of Governance and

Item

to ensure that people with key skills and expertise were appointed to Court. The Convenor of Court also noted that the consultation process that was being undertaken was as set out for Statutory consultation and that any views submitted under this consultation process would be taken into account. Court would meet on 19 February 2015 to review all the comments submitted including a report from the GCBC.

A GC member raised concerns about Court having the ability to appoint more of its own membership and that this raised the query over the singularity of appointment to Court. The importance of GC Assessors was noted by members present, highlighting their independent position, representing the interests of the General Council and the University.

The Chancellor drew this section to a close, noting that it is an important discussion, with communication at its heart – it should be ensured that messages are delivered and encouraged all members to put forward their views to the Clerk so that they could be included in the consultation process.

5 Principal's Address and Questions

The Principal thanked all present for their attendance, and explained that his report would outline progress over the last year, focussing on:

- Research Excellence Framework;
- Campus Redevelopment .

Research Excellence Framework (REF): the Principal reported that REF 2014 had recently been undertaken which had replaced the RAE from 2008.

It was reported that all four UK higher education funding bodies use the REF results to inform the selective allocation of their research funding. Submissions were made by 154 UK HEIs in the 36 REF Units of Assessment (UOAs).

A total of 1,911 submission were made, including a total of 52,061 FTE staff. This establishes a system of benchmarking critical to reputation – both at home and internationally. The University had submitted 32 units of assessment which included 1152 staff.

The key outcomes were:

- % *4 research (world leading) doubled from 15% RAE2008 to 30% REF2014.
- GPA increased from 2.6 (RAE2008) to 3.1 (REF2014).
- UoG ranked 12th in UK for Research Power - UoG performance up 9 places from 33rd RAE2008 to 24th REF2014
- UoG ranked 15th in UK for Research Intensity
- Urban Studies (submitted to UoA 16 – Architecture, Built Environment and Planning) top in UK based on GPA (3.38) and Research Intensity.
- Veterinary School (submitted to UoA 6 – Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Sciences) is top in UK based on % world leading research (46% at 4*)
- Human Geography (submitted to UoA 17 - Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology) top in UK based on %4* + 3* research (88%).
- UoG ranked 2nd in Scotland for Research Strength, Research Power and Research Intensity (out of 18 institutions). University ranked 3rd for GPA behind Edinburgh and St. Andrews respectively.

The Principal thanked all the staff involved with REF 2014 for their hardwork and dedication.

Item

Campus Redevelopment: the Principal explained that the University would continue to support ongoing projects and that £15m was being spent on 'business as usual' projects. Court had recently approved first stages of the finance for the campus development with £175m being approved for the new developments. Court had also recently approved the Framework Strategy and that business cases were being developed.

It was reported that the prudent use of resources over recent years means that the University has a healthy reserve of £150m and an ambitious Development Campaign is being drawn up, with a target of £100m – some funds going to non estates development and for KH Phase 2 and Chronic Disease research - £50m to support the £450m capital programme.

It was noted that this 14 Acres of opportunity, a 23% increase in our landscape to expand our capacity to create and innovate, potentially, 60,000 sqm of new accommodation to inspire our staff and students – is a great moment in our history. It was also seen as not just an opportunity to build on Western site, but an opportunity to develop the whole campus.

It was reported that the Glasgow City Council agreed the Campus Development Framework earlier in the summer, a major milestone and the first time such a complex planning document had been approved by the council from an external organisation.

It was noted that Court had approved the framework strategy and key objectives for the redevelopment which are to:

- Provide additional capacity, which is efficient and effective
- Provide larger purpose built inter-connecting buildings which support cross disciplinary working and enable co-location of colleges
- Develop flexible purpose research space which encourage partnership and industry engagement
- Develop quality, purpose designed teaching and learning facilities
- Develop an infrastructure that supports this level of development
- Improved condition of buildings

This was seen as a fantastic opportunity and the University wants the design of the campus to be visionary and inspirational, and to support knowledge exchange and collaborative working.

The new campus should:

- encourage cohesion and connectivity
- be open and outward looking
- reflect our civic identity through the public spaces and pathways we create.

The Principal noted that its stature, presence and image must reflect our ambition, our international standing, and our aspirations. In short it has to support, enable, facilitate the delivery of our strategy. It was important then to develop a picture of what the University could afford, deliver and sustain financially.

The Principal noted that through this quick overview of the REF outcomes, and the

Item

campus development it is clear that the University's strengths in Learning and Teaching, the student experience, research, our internationalisation, global reach and influence, the capacity to open up and widen educational opportunities to society, and to drive to invest in a new campus development, the University is engaging with local and global communities to shape the knowledge landscape for future generations.

The Chancellor thanked the Principal for his report and welcomed the positive news delivered in his report which showed that the University continued to grow and move forward, before inviting comments.

A GC member welcomed the news on the REF2014 but it was important that the University supported teaching and that it was important that research and teaching were not seen as competing for resources.

The Principal noted that there are tensions but that there was as strong correlation between excellence in research and excellence in teaching. Research-led teaching was seen as a key strength to all degree programmes and would continue to be supported. The new Learning and Teaching Hub which would be the first major project highlighted the University's continued commitment to support learning and teaching at the University.

The Chancellor drew this section to a close and thanked the Principal for his presentation.

6 AOCB

The Chancellor thanked all those present and informed the meeting that the next meeting would take place on Saturday 27 June 2015 in the Lecture Theatre 2, Boyd Orr Building at 11am.

The Chancellor closed the meeting by thanking all present for their attendance.