

General Council Half Yearly Meeting 23th January 2017

Minute of General Council Half Yearly Meeting held 23th January 2017, Kelvin Hall, City of Glasgow

Item

1 Introduction and Welcome

The Chancellor welcome Professor David Gaimster, Director of the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery. Professor Gaimster took the members present for a tour of the new University of Glasgow facilities at Kelvin Hall.

The Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, welcomed and thanked those present for attending the meeting. He introduced the panel – Amber Higgins, Clerk to the General Council (GC), Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal, and John Marsh, Convenor of the General Council Business Committee (GCBC).

2 Minutes of meeting of 26th June 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2016 were approved.

3 Election of Members to serve on General Council Business Committee

Following the nominations and election process the Chancellor announced that the following Members of the General Council had been elected to serve on the General Council Business Committee for four years until January 2021:

Alan Crawford Daly	MA(Hons) 2012
Em. Professor Peter Holmes	BVMS 1966
Emily Howie	MA(Hons) 1999
Iain Fleming McTaggart	MA(Hons) 1981
Steven Robert Quither	LLB 1982
Hiliary Roberts	MA(Hons) 1986
Alison Warren Scott	MA(Hons) 1982
Dr John McEwen Trushell	MBA 1980

4 Report of Convenor of the General Council Business Committee

Convenor, John Marsh, thanked the Chancellor for his introduction and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Convener reported that Helen McAvoy, Ruth Sharp, Ann Lowe and Kate Dunlop had recently resigned from the GCBC and that Arthur Allison, Bobby Logan and Eve Johnston had completed their second term of office.

The Convener expressed his appreciation for the contributions that they had all made during their time on the GCBC and that their contribution had been valued and appreciated not only by the GCBC, but also by the University. It was noted that the GCBC had been discussing The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 which since been introduced, having effect from December 2016.

The Convener reported that there had been 3 meeting of the GCBC since the last Half Yearly Meeting and that Peter Aitchison, Director of Communications and Public Affair had recently given an informative presentation to the GCBC.

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The Convener also reported that the General Affairs Sub Committee continued to support the Convener in identifying matters of interest or concern to the GCBC. The main areas highlighted were monitoring the implications of the Brexit, the use of Graduate Teaching Assistants and the role of University Teachers within the University. The meeting was also informed about the work of the Academic Standards Committee and the matters noted by the GCBC were the proposals for the Teaching Excellence Framework., the level of discretion to be allowed to external examiners and the results of the Undergraduate College Monitoring Summaries for 2015-2016.

The meeting was also informed about the changes to the University of Glasgow Trust. It was noted that James Pirrie, Chairman of the University of Glasgow Trust had explained to the GCBC that the trust would be restructured due to change in the assets held by the Trust. After consultation, the Trustees agreed to restructure the Trust, by reducing their number and reducing the number of Business Committee Trustees from 2 to 1, and by allowing funds to be directed to the University rather than the Trust. The Trust will continue under a simplified structure in order to accept any existing regular gifts or legacies directed to it. The General Council raised no concerns about the change in membership of the University of Glasgow Trust.

The Chancellor thanked the Convenor for his report and thanked all the GCBC members for all their hard work on behalf of the General Council. It was noted that no questions were raised and thanked John for his presentation.

5 Principal's Address and Questions

The Principal thanked all those present for their attendance at the meeting and updated the meeting on the University's progression against the KPIs. It was noted that work was still to be done on improving NSS UoG satisfaction and on Assessment and Feedback.

It was noted that the University had delivered a strong operational cash flow performance during 2015 (£34.2m) and 2016 (£35.2m), with a further £30.2m expected during 2017. During this period the overall cash balances at each year end has been in excess of £140m. Over the past 5 years the University's research order book has been the highest ever which was endorsed in 2014 REF that indicated the University was producing twice as much of the highest quality research as in 2008. International Student recruitment had also continued to grow 2009/10 -2495 to 2016/17 -5273.

The Principal reported to the General Council that BREXIT continued to be a key focus of the SMG team and that challenges lay ahead but emphasised just how much this University values EU staff and student contribution to the University community and that they were a vital and essential part of our University.

The General Council was informed that the Campus Development Plan was due to go forward for full council meeting on 16 February following approval by the planning committee of the masterplan. Key and overarching priority is to develop more integrated College, cross College and Research Institute environments to enable that energizing interaction essential for forging and developing new ideas. The University is also currently exploring the potential and design of a Research Hub at the centre of the new campus. Phase 1a and 1b have been approved by Court and a business case for each building would need to be approved. The new Learning and Teaching Hub was approved by Court in December and work would start on this building in mid 2017.

The Principal noted earlier that the University would be exploring the idea of a Research Hub. Part of the thinking behind this was to bring together key research activities and researchers into a shared space to engender cross disciplinary, creative and innovative work. The Research themes/beacons are Precision Medicine & Chronic Diseases, One Health, Addressing Inequalities, Cultural & Creative Economies, Nano & Quantum Technology, Future Life.

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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.

GC members commented on the positive report by the Principal and were delighted that the University continued to go from strength to strength under the guidance of the Principal.

A GC member asked about the financing of the campus redevelopment and how the University would finance this.

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 in June 2017 with further details available on the General Council Webpages.

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