

General Council Half Yearly Meeting 30th January 2016

Minute of General Council Half Yearly Meeting held 30th January 2016, Senate Room, University of Glasgow

Item

1 Introduction and Welcome

The Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, welcomed and thanked those present for attending the meeting despite the weather concerns. 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 27th June 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2015 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 Member of the General Council had been elected to serve on the General Council Business Committee for four years until January 2020:

Dr Cameron Graham Marshall (BSc (Hons) 1979)

It was reported that an existing member 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:

Mr John Marsh (BSc (Hons) 1968)

The Chancellor thanked the outgoing members of the General Council Business Committee. He also extended thanks to all 14 candidates for taking part, to Amber Higgins and colleagues in the Development and Alumni Office for their assistance, and to voters for their participation.

4 Report of Convenor of the General Council Business Committee

Convenor, John Marsh, thanked the Chancellor for his introduction and welcome to his second meeting as the Convenor of the General Council Business Committee

The Convenor reported that the Business Committee had held three meetings since the last Half Yearly meeting in June, with the Committee continuing to discuss the proposed Draft Ordinance 207. It was reported that Ordinance 207 was approved on the 15 July 2015 by the Privy Council and had taken effect from the 1st August 2015. The principal effect of this would be to reduce the number of General Council Assessors from 5 to 2. Court had agreed that the reduction would take effect as the current General Council Assessors terms of office came to an end.

The Convenor also reported that the Business Committee had continued to look at ways to voice concerns over the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill. The Bill had been based on the Code of Practice for HE Governance and the result of the Von Prondzynski Report. The Business Committee had submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Call for Evidence on the Higher Education Governance Bill and had emailed all General Council members to invite members to make representation to their MSP's. The Chair of Court appointment had a number of significant changes proposed with the introduction of an election following the nomination process. The potential impact of this raised concerns amongst the GCBC. The GCBC would continue to monitor the situation.

It was noted that the General Affairs Standing Committee continued to highlight areas of concern to the GCBC and the Convenor thanked the University for responses that they provide. The issues covered included non-completion rates, representation of women in senior positions and widening access.

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The Convenor highlighted that there had been much discussion about how best to communicate with GC members. Progress had been made with the GC having a standing item in the E-Newsletter and a recent email had been sent out to all GC members drawing their attention to the HE Governance Bill and the GCBC vacancies. Further discussions with the Development and Alumni Office would continue to develop the communications strategy and to update the webpages.

The Convenor stated that the Standing Orders Working Group had been looking into the possibility of introducing online voting for the Chancellors and Assessors elections which are currently governed by an Ordinance. The Standing Orders currently only govern the Business Committee elections and it was felt that these should be updated to ensure maximum participation and to use the latest technology to facilitate the elections. It had been agreed to wait for the outcome of the HE Governance Bill before any further discussions took place.

The Chancellor thanked the Convenor for his report and thanked all the GCBC members for all their hardwork on behalf of the General Council.

GC members supported the GCBC's approach and ongoing dialogue on the HE Governance Bill. A number of concerns about the impact of the Bill were raised and it was unclear at present what the full impact of the Bill would be on the General Council. A GC member raised concern that the bill did not have any statutory rights for the GC members on Court but that this was protected as long as the Ordinance was in place. The Convenor of the GCBC reported that the GC would be kept informed about the progress of the Bill.

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

5 Principal's Address and Questions

The Principal thanked all present for their attendance, and explained that his presentation would focus on the "Inspiring Economic Impact" report. The "Inspiring Economic Impact" report outlined how the University of Glasgow sustains more than £1.5bn of output in Scotland. The report was published to coincide with a new five year strategy of 'Inspiring People, Changing the World' the economic report shows that the University of Glasgow sustains almost 15,000 jobs in Scotland, 40% of which are located outside of the city of Glasgow. Around £900m of output and £500m of GVA (Gross Value Added) can be attributed to the direct impact of the University, its students and international visitors. A copy of the report is available at http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_439420_en.pdf

The Principal highlighted that in 2014-15 Glasgow's income rose to £569m which included over £172m from research grants and contracts. The University's ability to leverage is also documented in the economic report - with every £1 of Scottish Government funding generating an additional £8.37 of output.

The Principal also highlighted the 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. The project will expand the University's footprint on the city by 25%, creating around 2,500 jobs and adding over £130m GVA to the local economy. Plans included the creation of a state of the art learning and teaching centre, a research and innovation hub that will house large-scale interdisciplinary projects and incubator space for spin out collaborations with industry and the creation of a new 'cultural quarter' for the west end.

The Principal reported that more than 27,000 students from over 140 countries provide for a vibrant and cosmopolitan campus at Glasgow and it's estimated that overseas-based students will grow from a baseline of 324 in 2012-13 to more than 1,800 in 2017-18 – a six-fold increase. The University has over 300 formal agreements in place with overseas partner institutions and a fifth of Glasgow's income comes from international sources. It was also noted that Research income alone more than doubled in the past five years to £20m. As a place of learning, Glasgow was the university of choice for more than 1 in 8 Scottish students and welcomed more students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds than any other Scottish Ancient – with 25% of recent Scottish undergraduates from the areas identified as the

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most deprived by the Scottish Government.

The Principal also reported that one in six of all Scottish university staff had chosen to work at Glasgow. In addition to the 5,395 full-time equivalent jobs directly provided by the University, another 6,947 were generated outside the University. The impact of the University on local employment should not be underestimated: the university provided 1.4% of all jobs in Glasgow, mainly in high-skilled 'white-collar' positions, giving major boosts to local economies:

- nearly 1,000 jobs were sustained in South Lanarkshire
- 800 in North Lanarkshire, and
- over 600 in Edinburgh

It was also noted that spin-out companies created over the last ten years have supported around 500 full-time equivalent jobs each year and produce £130m GVA across Scotland. The 139 licences that the university hold generated licence income of £1.2m per year – a total of £4.7m between 2011 and 2014.

The economic report came at a time of major achievement. In 2015 the University attained its highest ever global ranking, and was rated joint top in Scotland in the National Student Survey, won the Herald newspaper Higher Education Institution of the Year and was the first and only UK university to be given a five stars plus rating by the QS organisation.

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.

GC members welcomed the plans for the Campus redevelopment and the sound financial position that the University was in.

A GC member asked about the financing of the campus redevelopment and if the University would be borrowing to support this. The Principal stated that Court was looking into a number of different financing options but that the University currently had no outstanding debt and that interests rate were at a record low.

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

6 AOCB

A GC member raised concerns that the meetings were no longer being filmed for the website. The Clerk explained that the decision had been made in conjunction with Chancellor and Convenor of the Business Committee, on the basis that the viewing figures for the meetings was often in the single figures. It was stated that the website and minutes could become more interactive and would allow members to access the information more efficiently. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next GCBC Meeting.

The Chancellor thanked all those present and informed the meeting that the next meeting would take place on Saturday 26 June 2016 with further details available on the General Council Webpages.

The Chancellor closed the meeting by thanking all present for their attendance. Following the meeting a presentation of Mrs Ann Allen, Director of Estates and Buildings gave a presentation on the campus development plans. Further information on the campus development can be found at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/about/campus/consultation2016/>