

General Council Half Yearly Meeting 12th June 2017

Minute of General Council Half Yearly Meeting held 12th June 2017, Wolfson Medical School

Item

1 Introduction and Welcome

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 Frank Coton, Vice-Principal (Academic and Educational Innovation), and Mr John Marsh, Convenor of the General Council Business Committee (GCBC). The Chancellor pass on apologies from the Principal who was unable to attend the meeting.

2 Minutes of meeting of 23rd January 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2017 were approved.

3 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 Convenor reported that 14 candidates had put themselves forward for election to the GCBC and a total of 8 new members have joined the Committee as reported at the last meeting. It was positive to see the increased level of engagement in nominations for the Committee.

The Convenor reported that there had been 2 meetings of the GCBC since the last Half Yearly Meeting and that Cathy Bell, Director of the Alumni and Development Office had recently given an informative presentation to the GCBC.

The Convenor also reported that the capital plan had been approved by Court and now work would start on site with the Learning and Teaching Hub being the first building. The Convenor also noted that Aamer Anwar had been elected as the Rector and had replaced Edward Snowden.

The Committee had also been kept up to date on the University's progress to compliance with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 which they had until 2020 to comply. The process for appointing the Convenor of Court was currently being looked at as it would involve advertisement and interview with at least two candidates put forward for staff and students to vote on. Senate has already made progress towards the changes that were required and would look at the Council of Senate to see what further changes were required. It was also reported that Court membership would be reshaped to include trade unions.

The Convenor reported that GCBC members and alumni were updates on vacancies on Court and encouraged all members to apply. It was also noted that the new University Secretary Dr David Duncan, had met with the Clerk and the Convenor.

It was highlighted to the Council that the Business Committee has ongoing discussions about the role and purpose as it was clear that the Graduate Body of the University had changed over the last few years and included an increasing number of alumni. The Convenor was due to attend the Annual meeting of General Councils of Scottish Ancient Universities and this issue would be raised to see how other GC's are tackling this issue.

It was noted that the GCBC was hugely excited by the campus development plans and hoped to have a constructive and supportive role to help drive this forward.

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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.

4 **Principal's Address and Questions**

The Chancellor welcomed Professor Frank Coton, Vice-Principal to the meeting. Professor Coton was attending in the place of the Principal. Professor Coton reported on the University's progress towards the KPI's and that 5 areas had significantly improved since 2010. It was noted that the University had moved up two places in the Complete University Guide and 3 places in the Guardian League table.

The University continues to expand and we are now a larger and more research-intensive institution, with international students growing from 2665 in 2009/10 to 5407 in 2016/17. The Student community continues to grow with over 324 clubs and Societies with 15,500 students participating. There are 35 student businesses which shows the increase in entrepreneurial skills in students. The University also has over 1000 studying for Glasgow degrees at the University of Glasgow Singapore and our two partners institutions in China with the first students graduating at Nankai and UESTC.

It was reported that the University continued to work towards the new development plans to expand the University's footprint, placing it at the heart of an innovation district and cultural quarter. A number of options for opening up the campus with pathways crossing through the campus linking the University Avenue Dumbarton Road and Byres Road. Phase 1A will take place from 2017-23 with a total cost of £430m and will include the Learning and Teaching Hub, Research Hub, Institute of Health and Wellbeing and Adam Business School. The Learning and Teaching Hub will be the first building completed and will provide students with the support they need to succeed. Phase 1B will take place from 2023-26 and will be around £100m.

In summary so far, Court approved the initial financial envelope of £430m which will be spent over the next five years on the first phase of the project. Glasgow City Council has approved the campus masterplan in January 2017. Maths & Stats have moved into their new modular home. This has allowed the University to secure the new Learning & Teaching Hub site for asbestos removal and the building should start to come down over the summer. Our delivery partner Brookfield Multiplex has been confirmed. Multiplex has been delivering landmark property and infrastructure for more than 50 years.

The Chancellor thanked the Professor Coton 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 and were delighted that the University continued to go from strength to strength. A GC member asked about future proofing the buildings and it was confirmed that the University was looking at this as long term investment into the campus.

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

5 **AOCB**

The General Council agreed to the changes proposed to the University Glasgow Trust membership.

The Chancellor thanked all those present and informed the meeting that the next meeting would take place in January 2018 with further details available on the General Council Webpages.

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