

University of Glasgow

University Court – Wednesday 21 June 2017

Communications to Court from the meeting of Senate held on 01 June 2017

Dr Jack Aitken, Director, Senate Office

(All matters are for noting)

1. Estates Strategy Update

Mrs Ann Allen, Director of Estates and Buildings provided an update on the Estates Strategy. Mrs Allen reported that over the last twelve months:

The Capital Plan had been approved by Court in December 2016 and the Master Plan had been approved in February 2017, which was a key milestone. Mathematics and Statistics had also moved in to their new temporary building ahead of work starting on the Learning and Teaching Hub, enabling works had started and demolition was expected to start in the September 2017, to prepare for construction starting in January 2018 with completion expected at the end of 2019. The full business case for infrastructure would be received by Court in June 2017.

The Research Hub was Stage 4 and the design and target price were expected to be finalised in August 17 with consideration of the Full Business Case to Court October 17. The Research Hub Director had been appointed and planning was underway with construction due to start in April 2018 and completion expected in 2020.

The following stages would include the Joseph Black Building, Institute of Health and Wellbeing
Adam Smith Business School and PGT support, College of Arts and the School of Engineering.

In terms of additional investment, Mrs Allen reported that changes to the service model had been implemented in February 2017. Estates and Buildings and Campus Services had been merged, to form a single Directorate to align services to new ways of working and to make the services as effective as possible and would provide opportunities to trail and test new ways of working. £30.7m spend per annum on smaller projects and maintenance. Continued short term challenged of space needs.

Mrs Allen reported that there were opportunities for student engagement with industry in terms of:

- Building on existing relationships

- Building new relationships
 - Atkins
 - Grahams
- Within Estates and Commercials Services
 - Internships
 - Talks and visits

There were also opportunities to develop a smart campus through:

- Innovation in construction
- Sensors
- Digital
- Environmental
 - Research bids
 - Internships
- Commercial opportunities
- Encouraging mixed use
- Active environments
- retail shops, café, hotels, sports and recreation facilities residential flats

It was reported that development of all projects were dependent on a sound business case that was able to demonstrate benefits, that it delivered to the University of Glasgow strategy, appropriate costings and assurances regarding delivery.

2. Draft Budget

Senior Vice-Principal, Professor Neal Juster, provided a presentation on the University's draft Budget for 2017/18 and four-year financial forecast. The final draft Budget would be received by Court for approval on 21 June 2017.

3. Education Policy and Strategy Committee - Report of meeting held on 3 May 2017

3.1 Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy

A proposed policy on Accessible and Inclusive Learning had been developed by a working group, established by EdPSC in response to its consideration of changes in legislation, which included the expectation that higher levels of support would be provided as a matter of routine.

Professor Coton reported that the Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy would be circulated to members of Senate for approval ahead of the forthcoming academic year.

4. Convenor's Business

4.1 Complete University Guide

Professor Juster reported that the Complete University Guide had initially been published with some incorrect data which had caused the University to fall in the table. This was due to errors in the HEIDI data, which meant that entry requirements were understated. The Guide had been republished and UoG had increase by 2 places, not fallen by 7 as initially reported.

5. Clerk of Senate's Business

5.1 Senate Assessors on Court – Consultation Paper

The Clerk of Senate introduced a paper for consultation regarding Senate Assessor on Court. It was reported that to consider the implementation of the HE Governance Act specifically with regard to Senate representation on Court, a Court-Senate Working Party had been established. The Working Group, mindful of the restrictions to University membership on Court imposed by the legislation, had reached a position on which it now wishes to consult with Council of Senate to seek Council's view before the Working Group goes any further in its thinking. It was reported that there were some key elements from the legislation which define a framework for future governance, and these were:

There were some key elements from the legislation which defined a framework for future governance, and these were:

- Court should comprise no more than 25 members.
- There should be "a clear lay majority" among Court's membership. Currently, Court is made up of 14 lay members and 11 University members, so providing the required clear lay majority (see Note below).
- With regard to the structure of the University membership of Court, the HE Governance Act is quite prescriptive and requires that among the 11 University members of Court there must be at least:
 - two persons elected by the staff of the institution from among their own number;
 - one person nominated by a trade union from among the academic staff of the institution;

- one person nominated by a trade union from among the support staff of the institution; and
- two persons nominated by a students' association of the institution.

A consequence of Point 3 above was that of the 11 places available for University membership of Court, six were already committed to particular persons by the legislation, leaving only five places for other members. It seemed reasonable therefore, that one of these remaining five positions should be reserved for the Principal, as the Principal was not a member of Court by legislation. This leaves only four positions for Senate Assessors on Court, a reduction of two from the present complement of six Senate Assessors.

The interim position which the working party has reached is as follows:

Four Senate Assessors, as currently constituted, would continue to be elected by Senate onto Court.

Of the two positions to be elected by the staff of the institution, as provided for in the legislation, it was suggested that one should be elected by the academic staff and one by the support staff of the University. With reference specifically to the elected academic staff member, the voting constituency would be exactly the same as that for the election of members of the new Senate - that is those staff on R&T, T-only and R-only contracts. This person could, therefore, be essentially elected as a fifth Senate Assessor. The opportunity to modernise the nomenclature might be considered. One suggestion might be that these members are called Elected Academic Members on Court, but on the understanding that they continue to fulfil current Senate Assessor duties.

The legislation required that there must be one person nominated by a trade union from among the academic staff of the University. This person, although representing additional interests from those of the five Senate Assessors/Elected Academic Members, would nonetheless also bring an academic perspective to discussions on Court, although not necessarily from a traditional Senate Assessor perspective.

The consequence of this possible arrangement was that there would remain on Court six academic staff members, as now, to ensure that the academic voice of the University, from across all four Colleges, continued to be heard, but recognising that only five, rather than six, would be fulfilling the tasks of current Senate Assessors, as currently understood.

Members queried who the electing body would be as the new Senate would be a smaller constituency than currently. It was clarified that the election would be open to all R&T, T-only and R-only contracts.

One member of Council of Senate proposed that constraining the size of Court to 25 was not in the spirit of the of the HE Governance (Scotland) 2016 Bill and it was suggested that a more inclusive approach might be favourable. It was recognised that that the Code of Good Governance made a clear recommendation regarding the size of Court not exceeding 25. It was highlighted that this was a matter for Court although Council of Senate could express its views.

There was discussion around the suggestion that each College should have a representative Senate Assessor on Court and one additional from any College, in order to ensure that a spread from across the Institution was maintained.

Council of Senate were generally supportive of broadening of Academic expertise being represented by Senate Assessors on Court.