

University of Glasgow

University Court – Wednesday 20 June 2018

Communications to Court from the meeting of Council of Senate held on 7 June 2018

(All matters are for noting)

1. Estates Strategy update – Presentation Director of Estates and Buildings

Mrs Ann Allen (Director of Estates and Buildings) provided Council of Senate with a summary of the current plan for the new campus development and the location of the expansion site. Mrs Allen reported that construction of the Learning and Teaching Hub was progressing well, with an expected completion date of summer 2019 and classes timetabled for January 2020. In regard to the Research Hub, it was noted that building work would start in July and that the building was scheduled for completion by the end of 2020. Furthermore, it was reported that the Institute of Health and Wellbeing building was at the developed design stage and that a Full Business Case would be submitted to Court at the end of 2019. Progress on the Adam Smith Business School was at the Stage 2 design stage with an anticipated Full Business Case in June 2019, and an expected completion date in 2021. The College of Arts was expected to reach the Stage 2 design phase in October 2018, with completion scheduled for 2022. It was also reported that the School of Engineering building had received expressions of interest from 29 different design teams. It was further noted that the Joseph Black Building was in the process of being refurbished and that the first wing was close to completion. External windows were also being replaced in the Building with fire improvement works commencing over the summer.

In regard to infrastructure and landscaping of the Western Infirmary site, it was reported that the Western Infirmary demolition would be completed by July 2018 and that infrastructural improvements were being proposed for University Avenue, including a traffic management scheme involving the establishment of a 'super crossing' and the removal of car parking to maximise visibility for cyclists and pedestrians. It was also noted that efforts would be made to enhance the sense of place and visual appeal of the new campus by maximising the amount of green space between buildings.

Mrs Allen informed Council of Senate that £15M per annum had been invested in improving the existing University estate. Part of this investment had been spent on a programme of teaching space refurbishment during the 2017/18 academic year, in addition to a £2.3M investment to support short term space requirements. Work had also commenced on improvements to the Kelvin Building and Pearce Lodge.

It was reported that investment during the 2018/19 academic session would focus, in the short term, on anticipating and meeting space requirements for the large student cohort entering the University in September 2019. It was also noted that resources would be allocated to meeting maintenance challenges and helping to clear the £90 million maintenance backlog. In the longer term, Estates and Buildings would identify new opportunities for supporting leading research themes, maximising the capacity of new plots on the Western Infirmary site, and exploring new ways of delivering teaching to minimise space pressures. Estates and Building would also identify opportunities for enhancing services on campus. In the short term, this would involve the introduction of mobile facilities for students, with a longer term aim of reviewing service provision across the University.

Mrs Allen reported that significant progress had been made over the previous six months in developing ideas for an innovation district in the area surrounding the University which would include the Kelvingrove Museum, Kelvin Hall, SSE Hydro, Scottish Exhibition Centre, Science Centre, Riverside Museum, and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. It was further reported that the University was working with central government to develop a strategic vision for the innovation district and that a memorandum of understanding had recently been signed with Glasgow City Council and Scottish Enterprise. It was also envisaged that the innovation district would act as a catalyst for research and innovation and would attract inward investment.

Following Mrs Allen's presentation, it was asked whether there would be a review of the work currently being undertaken on the Joseph Black Building. Mrs Allen noted that this would be conducted in the summer and that Estates and Buildings would provide further information about this in due course. Concerns were raised about some essential repairs not being carried out on parts of the campus. Mrs Allen highlighted that the £15M annual budget for improving the University had always been protected but that it was important to prioritise where the money was spent. She also noted that some replacement work had not been carried out due to the disruption that this would cause and that Estates and Buildings were in the process of developing an asset plan to prioritise and target investment more effectively. Concerns were highlighted about the proposed reduction of car parking spaces on University Avenue and the inconvenience that this might cause some members of University staff. Mrs Allen noted that reducing parking spaces on University Avenue would help to improve visibility and space for cyclists and maximise the width of pavements on either side of the road. She also noted that the bus stop currently located outside the John McIntyre Building would be moved to the other side of the pedestrian crossing to further enhance visibility for pedestrians and cyclists. It was queried whether there were any similarities between the innovation district surrounding the University of Strathclyde, and Glasgow University's proposed innovation district. Mrs Allen clarified that the two innovation districts would focus on different parts of the City.

2. Draft Budget

Professor Neal Juster (Senior Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice Chancellor) provided Council of Senate with a summary of the 2018-19 Draft Budget and four-year financial forecast. The final Budget would be received by Court for approval on 20 June 2018. It was reported that the University was generally in a good financial position and that the key focus was on how much cash was available to be invested in the capital base of the University.

The following investments for 2018-22 were identified:

Academic

- Star researcher fund (£2M/year)
- Lord Kelvin/Adam Smith (LKAS) Fellowships (£1.8M/year)
- Targeted reductions in Student:Staff Ratios
- Targeted investment in academic excellence
- Investment for new course growth
- Investment in on-line learning

Services

- Student experience, including:
 - Mental health provision
 - Additional funding for the Students' Representative Council, Glasgow University Sports Association, Queen Margaret Union and Glasgow University Union
 - Extended opening hours in the University Library
 - Additional staffing in the Disability Services team
- Targeted enhancement of support services:
 - IT, Human Resources recruitment, student recruitment, and industrial engagement
- Protection of Library consumables
- Effectiveness and improvement programmes

Financial pressures identified were:

- Overseas student demand
- Pressure on public expenditure
- Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) pension deficit
- Salary budget
- Construction inflation

The following actions were identified to mitigate against the financial pressures:

- Increasing fees for high demand courses
- Introducing new full fee paying courses
- Distance learning
- Supporting teams making major bids
- Efficient use of the estate

Following Professor Juster's presentation, Council of Senate enquired about the potential impact of Brexit on EU research grants and future student numbers from EU countries. Professor Juster reported that Brexit would likely reduce the University's EU research grant income and impact upon the University's research networks. He also noted that the decrease in European Union students due to Brexit could free up additional spaces for Scottish students. However, it was not yet clear if the Scottish Government would allow Scottish universities to keep these funded places. Professor Juster also noted that increasing international student fees for high demand courses could also help to mitigate against the risks of reduced EU funding and that increasing fees would not reduce the level of demand for these courses.

It was asked whether increases in student numbers following the campus expansion would result in further space pressures in the future. Professor Juster noted that investing in the campus redevelopment would create more space for teaching but that it was also important to use existing space more efficiently to accommodate future increases in student numbers.

3. Student Experience Committee: Report of meeting held on 16 April 2018

Council of Senate received a report from the Student Experience Committee (SEC) meeting held on 16 April 2018. Council of Senate approved the Constitution, Membership and Remit for the Student Experience Committee.

Council of Senate particularly noted the following items from the Committee's report:

- Arrivals issues
- Space and facilities for clubs and societies
- Integration of international students
- Gender-based violence and sexual harassment
- Communications with students
- Student number issues
- Employability and enterprise
- Student mental health
- Development of Student Experience Committee Strategy
- Proposed Student Parents Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

The Council of Senate approved the report from 16 April 2018 meeting of SEC.

4. Research Planning and Strategy Committee: Report from the meeting held on 19 April 2018

Council of Senate received a report from the Research Planning and Strategy Committee (RPSC) meeting held on 19 April 2018.

Council of Senate particularly noted the following items from the Committee's report:

- European Joint Doctorate in Molecular Animal Nutrition
- Researcher development
- Research reporting
- Report on the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Open Access Fund
- University process for research use of Online Surveys tool
- Update on Research Centres

The Council of Senate approved the report from 19 April 2018 meeting of RPSC.

5. Education Policy and Strategy Committee: Report from meeting held on 2 May 2018

Council of Senate received a report from the Education Policy and Strategy Committee (EdPSC) meeting held on 2 May 2018 from Frank Coton (Vice-Principal, Academic and Educational Innovation).

Professor Coton highlighted three items from the EdPSC report:

5.1 Group Work Policy

Professor Coton reported that a Group Work Policy had been developed by the Assessment and Feedback Working Group in response to the increasingly common use of group work in courses across the University. It was noted that the Policy was developed to provide clarity and guidance to staff and students around the use of group work in learning, and to improve fairness and consistency.

The Policy had been approved by EdPSC subject to the changes proposed by the University's Learning and Teaching at their meeting on 23 May 2018. Council of Senate was asked to approve the Policy to ensure implementation at the start of the 2018-19 academic session.

Council of Senate approved the Group Work Policy.

5.2 Examination Accommodation

Professor Coton reported that the winter 2018 examination diet would be particularly pressurised due to increasing student numbers, demand for special adjustments, and the short duration of the examination diet. Following discussion, EdPSC agreed that additional examination accommodation should be sought for the December

2018 diet and that the Kelvin Hall had been identified as a possible venue. It was also noted that the new Learning and Teaching Hub would help to alleviate some of the pressures on examination space from December 2019 onwards.

5.3 Transformation Project on Assessment and Feedback

Professor Coton reported that EdPSC had now received the Stage 1 Business Case for the Assessment and Feedback Transformation Project. He also noted that the full extent of the involvement of staff across the University would become clearer as the Project developed.

Council of Senate also noted the following items from the Committee's report:

- Academic Standards Committee: Report of meeting held on 23 March 2018
- Assessment during Ramadan
- Learning and Teaching Committee: Report of meeting held on 21 March 2018
- Consultation on the UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Teaching Excellence Framework
- Universities Scotland Working Group on Sectoral Support for the Development of Learning and Teaching

The Council of Senate approved the report from 2 May 2018 meeting of EdPSC.

6. Convener's Business

6.1 USS Pension Reform

Professor Juster reported that a Joint Expert Panel had now been established to review the Universities Superannuation Scheme deficit and that members of this Panel had recently been announced. This Panel would consist of three members chosen by the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU), three members chosen by Universities UK, and a jointly agreed chair. The following Panel members were noted:

- Ms Joanne Segars (Chair)
- Professor Saul Jacka (Panel member Chosen by UCU)
- Professor Deborah Mabbett (Panel member chosen by UCU)
- Associate Professor Catherine Donnelly (Panel member chosen by UCU)
- Mr Ronnie Bowie (Panel member chosen by Universities UK)
- Ms Sally Bridgeland (Panel member chosen by Universities UK)
- Mr Chris Curry (Panel member chosen by Universities UK)

Professor Juster reported that the Panel's work would need to be concluded in advance of 1 April 2019 (the end-date of the current pension benefits guarantee),

and that support would be required from the Pensions Regulator to ensure that statutory responsibilities were met. Professor Juster also noted that KPMG were in the process of consulting Universities to ascertain the extent to which universities would be willing to increase their contributions into the USS pension scheme.

One member of Council of Senate enquired about the precise amount that that the University would be willing to raise their employer contributions by. Professor Juster informed Council of Senate that the University would be willing to raise its contributions by around 2%. It was also queried whether any of the University of Oxford or University of Cambridge Colleges had been consulted by KPMG. Professor Juster noted that he was unsure which universities had been consulted by KPMG.

6.2 Brexit

Professor Juster noted that this item had already been covered in the discussion of the Draft Budget.

6.3 Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Outcome Agreements

Professor Juster reported that the University had recently submitted its Outcome Agreement to SFC.

6.4 Retiral of Professor John Briggs (Clerk of Senate and Vice-Principal)

Professor Juster noted that Professor John Briggs (Clerk of Senate and Vice-Principal) was due to demit office on 31 July 2018. Senate joined with Professor Juster in offering warm thanks to Professor Briggs for his services to Senate and the University. Professor Briggs' dedication to the academic life of the University, his support for colleagues and students and his commitment to establishing the new Council of Senate as a modern and inclusive body, set a very high benchmark for his successor to emulate. Senate would mark its appreciation with a reception at the conclusion of the meeting and there would be a further event to mark his full retirement from the University later in the year.

Professor Briggs gave thanks to Dr Jack Aitken (Director of the Senate Office), Senate Office staff, and Council of Senate colleagues for their advice and support over the previous six years. Professor Briggs also wished the new Clerk of Senate (Professor Jill Morrison) the best of luck in her new role.

7. Clerk of Senate's Business

7.1 Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 - update

The Clerk of Senate requested guidance from Council of Senate on the following items in relation to the number and election of Senate Assessors on Court:

1. There should be at least one non-Professorial staff member and at least one Professorial staff member (currently, the requirement is for at least two non-Professorial and two Professorial members).
2. There should be at least two women and two men among the five elected academic staff members and one of any gender (currently the requirement is for at least two women, two men and two of any gender).
3. The term of office should remain at four years, but can be extended to two terms of office, but no more, to bring the elected academic staff into line for the terms and conditions of all other members of Court.
4. The current title for these posts is Senate Assessor on Court, and Council of Senate may wish to retain this title. However, there is an opportunity to modernise the nomenclature, as suggested at the Council of Senate meeting on 1 June 2017, with these posts being called Elected Academic Staff Members on Court.

The Clerk of Senate clarified that, as well as contributing to the business of Court, Senate Assessors also carried out other significant roles such as membership of promotions committees, involvement in Periodic Subject Reviews and membership of panels for senior appointments in the University. He also noted that, with the reduction in the number of Senate Assessors from the current complement of six to five, there would be further discussions in how to distribute the associated workloads in a manageable way.

Council of Senate approved the first three items. Following a discussion regarding item 4, it was agreed that the title *Senate Assessor on Court* should be amended to *Elected Academic Staff Member on Court*.

7.2 Management of examination misconduct cases and consequent amendment of Code of Student Conduct

The Clerk of Senate requested that Council of Senate consider a proposed alternative process for managing cases of examination misconduct where the Senior Senate Assessor deems it appropriate. The proposed process suggests that a triage system could be implemented whereby the Senior Senate Assessor for Student Conduct and the Senate Office manager responsible for conduct work could review all cases initially before separating them into the following categories for handling:

1. Warning letters (e.g. for first, minor offences such as possession of a calculator not on the approved list)
2. Consideration by the Senate Assessors for Student Conduct (SASCs) without the student present (e.g. where the alleged offence is straightforward, such as

possession of a mobile phone). This would allow more cases to be dealt with in a shorter period of time

3. Referral to a SASCs interview (or Conduct Committee, if very serious) (e.g. where the likely impact of a typical penalty would be very severe, or where there is a repeat offence, or where the circumstances of the case are unclear)

Council of Senate was asked to consider the introduction of the proposed process, to be trialled during the 2018-19 academic year. A further report would then be submitted to the June 2019 meeting of Council of Senate, indicating how the process had operated.

Council of Senate approved the introduction of the proposed alternative process for managing cases of examination misconduct.

8. Events and Appointments

8.1 Senate Assessors for Academic Appeals

Council of Senate approved the reappointment of Dr Maureen Farrell (Senior Senate Assessor for Academic Appeals) and Professor Scott Roy (Deputy Senate Assessor for Academic Appeals) for a period of four years from 1 October 2018.

8.2 Senate Assessors for Student Conduct

Council of Senate approved the reappointment of Dr Simon Kennedy (Senior Senate Assessor for Student Conduct) for a further year, until 1 August 2019. Council of Senate also approved the reappointment of Professor Marc Alexander (Senate Assessor for Student Conduct) for a further four-year term from 1 August 2018.

One vacancy remains for an Assessor from the College of Science and Engineering. Enquiries should be directed to Ms Helen Clegg in the Senate Office (Helen.Clegg@glasgow.ac.uk).

8.3 Senate Assessors on Court

The Clerk of Senate reported that there was a vacancy for a member of Senate to act as a Senate Assessor on Court for a four year period from August 2018. Nominations should be sent to Senate Support (senate-support@glasgow.ac.uk).

8.4 Senate Representative on Education Policy and Strategy Committee

The Education Policy and Strategy Committee seeks two members of Senate to act as Senate representatives on the Committee for a four year period. Interested parties should contact Dr Richard Lowdon in the Senate Office (Richard.Lowdon@glasgow.ac.uk).