

# University of Glasgow

## University Court – Wednesday 12 December 2018

Communications to Court from the meeting of Senate held on 06 December 2018

Dr Jack Aitken, Director, Senate Office

(All matters are for noting)

### 1. Matters Arising

#### *1.1 Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016*

Dr Jack Aitken (Director, Senate Office) Provided the Council of Senate with an update on progress in bringing Senate into line with the HE Governance (Scotland) Act 2016. Dr Aitken reminded the Council of Senate that the composition of Senate was a matter that required to be expressed in an ordinance of the Privy Council. This draft had now been produced and was circulated to Members of Senate on 4 December 2018.

The draft of the new ordinance would be received by the University Court at its meeting on 12 December and Court would be requested to provide in-principle approval of the document. Following this, the Scottish Government would be consulted informally. If the Government had significant reservations, the matter would be referred back to Senate and Court. If there were no substantial concerns, a formal consultation period of eight weeks would take place before the proposed ordinance was submitted to the Privy Council for final approval. It was hoped that the new Senate would come into being on 1 August 2019.

### 2. Estates Strategy – Presentation by Senior Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice Chancellor

Professor Neal Juster provided the Council of Senate with an update on the new campus development. Professor Juster reported that construction of the James McCune Smith Learning and Teaching Hub was progressing well, with an expected completion date of May 2020. It was noted that some delays had taken place due to the installation of a fire suppression system. Regarding the Research Hub, it was noted that building work had commenced in October 2018 and that the building was scheduled for completion during the first quarter of 2021. Furthermore, it was reported that the Claris Pears Institute of Health and Wellbeing Building was at the Stage 3 design phase and that a Full Business Case would be submitted to Court in February 2019. The College of Arts Building was at the Stage 1 design phase, with completion scheduled for 2022. The Building would contain a concert hall and cinema space. Completion of the Adam Smith Business School Building and postgraduate space was expected in 2022. It was also reported that the School of Engineering Building was at the Stage 1 design phase, with scheduled completion in 2023.

Professor Juster reported that Glasgow City Council had approved the University's infrastructure plans for the new campus and that the University's contractor had been granted full possession of the site. The plans included a traffic management scheme involving the establishment of a 'super crossing' outside the James McCune Smith Building. The University was also investing in an arts strategy and plans were in place to create a 5G 'smart' campus. In addition to this, the University was liaising with Glasgow City Council to explore the options for utilising the vacant spaces between buildings, including the development of a 'rain garden' where rainwater could be stored on campus before being released slowly into the River Kelvin.

Professor Juster informed the Council of Senate that £15M per annum had been invested in improving the existing University estate. Part of this investment had been spent on the redevelopment of Pearce Lodge and the development of quantum research laboratories. Work had also commenced on a data centre and teaching room upgrades.

It was reported that investment during the 2018/19 academic session would focus, in the short term, on meeting and anticipating space requirements in advance of the 2019/20 academic year, and meeting maintenance challenges. In the longer term, Estates and Buildings would identify new opportunities for supporting leading research themes, supporting new teaching themes, and exploring new ways of utilising existing space on campus.

Professor Juster reported that significant progress had been made 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 also envisaged that the innovation district would act as a catalyst for research and innovation and would attract inward investment. On the Church Street site, ideas and plans were being developed for the Outpatient and Tennant Buildings, with interest from a number of business incubators and startup companies. It was noted that Mrs Bonnie Dean (Vice-Principal, Corporate Engagement and Innovation) had been involved with these plans and that she would provide an update to the Council of Senate at some point in the future. In Govan, plans were underway to develop a Clyde Waterfront Innovation Campus. A proposal was also being developed to conduct a health technology assessment of precision medicine and to develop a Quantum Technology Innovation Centre. Scottish Enterprise and Glasgow City Council were being consulted on both proposals.

Following Professor Juster's presentation, it was asked whether any plans had been made for the section of the Main Building currently occupied by the Adam Smith Business School and for the Hunterian Museum, when the Business School moved in 2022. Professor Juster noted that there were no firm plans for the Main Building but confirmed that the Adam Smith Building would be demolished. He also noted that the Hunterian Museum would remain in its current location. It was queried how the University's plans for a new data centre were progressing. Professor Juster confirmed that two data halls were currently being constructed. He also informed the Council of Senate that the University was exploring the possibility of storing data off-campus via cloud storage – these discussions were being led by Mr Mark Johnston (Director, IT Services).

### **3. Enhancement-Led Institutional Review – Reflective Analysis**

Dr Aitken informed the Council of Senate that the draft Reflective Analysis had been circulated to Members of Senate for comment on 20 November 2018. The final version had been submitted by the due date, 26 November 2018.

#### **4. Student Experience Committee: Report from Away Day held on 15 November 2018**

The Council of Senate received a report from the Student Experience Committee (SEC) Away Day held on 15 November 2018. The Council of Senate noted the following items from the Committee's report:

- Student Wellbeing
- Communications
- Physical Environment
- Student Residences

#### **5. Principles of revisions to academic promotions criteria (professorial zones) – Presentation by Vice-Principal for Research**

The Vice-Principal for Research gave an overview of the general principles underpinning the revisions to academic promotions criteria. It was noted that this matter lay outside of the Council of Senate's remit, but Members were invited to give their views on issues of principle.