



## World-Changing Glasgow Transformation

### 5 Questions for Professor Chris Pearce

**At this stage, what do you think is the most significant achievement or milestone in our transformation?**

The very fact that we have embarked on a transformation programme in the first place is significant. A large and complex institution like Glasgow, with its rich history, does not transform easily. It's also encouraging that, despite the success of the University over recent years, we've recognised that there is still room to improve, particularly in areas like the staff and student experience. At a point in time when we are making a significant and exciting investment in our physical estate, recognising that we need to balance this with investment in the digital environment is critical. This is the focus of the WCGT Smart Campus project.

**Large scale transformation is challenging- what lessons have you learned on the journey so far?**

In leading the Smart Campus project, I've learnt that the right team makes the world of difference. Since March this year we have made tremendous progress, and this has only been possible by having a relatively small project board whose members are committed to making it a success and are genuinely excited by the possibilities of a Smart Campus. As a transformation project, we have benefitted enormously from the WCGT team in terms of ideas, leadership and project management. The SRC are represented on the board and Scott Kirby (SRC President) has brought a valuable perspective – after all, one of our major objectives is to enhance our students' university experience. Finally, we know that we don't have all the answers. So we've engaged with experts, both externally and internally, visited smart buildings and engaged the Smart Infrastructure team from the engineering consultant Mott MacDonald to support the project.

**Many universities are transforming- what do you feel makes our transformation unique?**

The word "transformation" can illicit many reactions, not all positive. However, I feel that the approach taken by the University to assemble its own transformation team, rather than outsource it, and then build a network across the University, distinguishes us from other places. Furthermore, all the projects are framed in a positive way to move the University forward and support its staff and students.

**As Deputy Head of College, how do you champion transformation across the University?**

As Project Sponsor for the Smart Campus project, I'm focused on developing and communicating focussing on developing and communicating a compelling vision, without being preoccupied with the latest gadgets, devices and technology. This vision is essential to explaining where we are trying to get to and why. We believe that the Smart Campus vision and ambition is far reaching and extensive - a once in a generation opportunity to change how the University engages with students, staff and the wider community.

**We have been asking staff to tell us one thing that would improve their daily working life. What would yours be?**

A single mobile app for the University of Glasgow.