

# **University of Glasgow**

**University Court – Wednesday 14 February 2018**

## **Communications to Court from the meeting of Council of Senate held on 01 February 2018**

**(All matters are for noting)**

### **1. Library Annual Report**

The Director of the Library and Information Services, Susan Ashworth presented the Library Annual report for 2016-17. A number of key projects and achievements were highlighted:

- The Wellcome Trust had supported a project to transcribe the early manuscript catalogues of William Hunter's Library in order to determine which books belonged to him, as well as offering a resource for researchers exploring the interests and contributions of Hunter as a foremost member of the 18th century medical community. The outcome of this project will inform the celebrations relating to Hunter's Tercentenary in 2018.
- The Library had introduced a number of new services during 2017 and had worked closely with other University Services and the Student Representative Council in developing these services.
- The Library had worked in partnership with the Student Representative Council and Equality and Diversity Unit responding directly to feedback from students asking for a space that enabled Parents/Carers to use Library facilities with their children. The Lounge was opened in summer 2017, and had proved very popular.
- There was also a pilot of 24 hour opening of the Library, which had been well received and would be continued.
- Postgraduate researchers would have a permanent Enlighten record, like staff.
- Redevelopment of levels 1 and 2 of the library had enabled a number of successful events including, the Library's first Researchers' Fair in partnership with RSIO, the Hunterian and publishers. The fair was held on Library Level 2, which featured stalls, surgeries, subject support, lightning talks, serious play events and distance learners' welcome event. The new spaces had also been used for public engagement, when the Library contributed to Glasgow Doors Open Day festival, welcoming 141 people over three days.

Ms Ashworth also highlighted that, following the restructure of University Services in August 2017, the Library had come together with IT Services to form Information Services. This would enable development of the excellent relationships that already

exist between the Services. Ms Ashworth would be working with the new director of IT Services, who had been appointed, Mr Mark Johnston, on new strategies and the new structure.

Ms Ashworth congratulated Ms Martina McChrystal (Deputy Director of Library Services (Head of Academic Engagement)), who had been appointed by the Scottish Government to advise on a National Strategy for School libraries, which was a great honour.

The Principal thanked Ms Ashworth and her colleagues for all their hard work and noted that very few services has as high a reputation as the Library.

## **2. Report from Finding Committee – Clerk of Senate**

The Principal thanked the members of the Finding Committee in the appointment of the Clerk of Senate for their involvement. The Finding Committee had invited nominations for appointment as Clerk of Senate in succession to Professor Briggs. Two nominations had been received and considered by the Committee. The nominations were on behalf of two distinguished members of the University and the Committee had been pleased to be able to invite both nominees for interview. The outcome of the interviews was that the Committee felt both nominees were worthy of appointment and the Committee was grateful to both colleagues for their applications. However, it was the unanimous view of the Committee that the written submission to the Committee, breadth and depth of relevant experience and discussion at interview with one of the nominees was such that it wished to submit that nominee's name alone to the Council for approval.

Accordingly, the Finding Committee was pleased to recommend to the Council of Senate that it endorsed the appointment of Jill Morrison, Professor of General Practice, as Clerk of Senate for the period 1 August 2018 - 31 July 2022. Council of Senate approved the appointment of Professor Morrison and the Principal reported that approval would be sought from Court for approval of appointment as Vice Principal also.

Members joined with the Principal in congratulating Professor Morrison on her appointment as Clerk of Senate.

## **3. Student Support and Development Committee: Report from meeting held on 17 December 2017**

The report from the meeting of Student Support and Development Committee was received by Council of Senate. The Clerk of Senate reported that the next meeting of Council of Senate would receive presentations on the results of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey.

## **4. Research Planning and Strategy Committee: Report from the Meeting held on 14 December 2017**

Dr Tanita Casci provided a report from the Research Planning and Strategy Committee on 14 December 2017.

Regarding the details regarding REF, it was reported that there were still some areas where details had not been finalised. Meetings had taken place earlier in month around impact and public engagement to discuss what would constitute eligibility for continuous case studies and how to assess additionality of impact. There had been a general consensus to make it as simple as possible, it was most likely that case studies would be considered in their own right. More guidance on sort of factors that will be considered would be made available, so that everyone would know how impact was being reported. An audit process would check comparability regarding additionality requirements. More detail on impact reporting would follow.

With regard to underpinning research, there was possibly a loosening of the link between output and impact, but discussion was ongoing. In terms of Public Engagement, greater clarity as to how might use to demonstrate impact would also follow.

## **5. Education Policy & Strategy Committee: Report from the meeting held on 12 December 2017**

### *5.1 Working Group/Sub Group on Teaching Space Refurbishment Programme*

Professor Coton, Vice Principal for Academic & Educational Innovation, highlighted that EdPSC had approved a proposal for a new sub-group to provide oversight of, and give direction to, the refurbishment of teaching spaces. The Group would develop a plan for refurbishment that acknowledged evolving pedagogies, consistent design principles, and the development of spaces across campus.

The proposal indicated that support for the Group would be provided by a short term Project Management post, funded by consolidation of resources currently used for adhoc PM consultancy. This post would provide continuity and bring a co-ordinated approach to allow consistent design principles to be applied in a planned way. The University had a £2M per annum rolling programme of continued investment in existing teaching space. A process had been in place to target the money being spent in last 5-10 years but there was recognition that it was time to take stock, given level of refurbishment to be undertaken.

### *5.2 ELIR 4: Establishment of ELIR Steering Committee*

EdPSC received and approved a proposed remit and membership for an ELIR4 Steering Committee. This followed the remit and membership adopted in preparation for the previous, successful, ELIR preparation. The Panel visit for ELIR 4 was due to take place in the first quarter of 2019.

## **6. Establishment of Student Experience Committee**

Council of Senate approved the establishment of a new Student Experience Committee as approved by Court at its meeting on the 13 December 2017. The new Committee would be a joint committee of Court and the Council of Senate. As a consequence of this recommendation, it was also agreed that the current Student

Support and Development Committee (SSDC), which was a committee of the Council of Senate, would be dissolved.

A key consideration was the advising system and, to ensure advising was accounted for, it was intended that the current Chief Advisers' Sub-committee of SSDC would in future report to the new Student Experience Committee.

## **7. Convener's Business**

### *7.1 Scottish Government Draft Budget*

The Principal reported that there had been concerns about the budget for Higher Education, but that the Draft Budget was relatively positive for sector, particularly when other budgets were being curtailed. The Draft Budget was an overall 1.1% cash increase in revenue for the Funding Council for Teaching and Research. There was a reduction in revenue for Funding Council capital spend project, although not a major reduction.

There had been a substantial increase in financial transactions providing the opportunity to borrow at low rates, which, while not of benefit to University of Glasgow, would be beneficial to smaller institutions.

Regarding the Research and Teaching Grant, the University of Glasgow grants, would not be known for circa two months, but it was expected that there would be a 1.8% uplift to the Teaching grant. It was anticipated that there would likely be less scope for increase to the grant for Research. It was also expected that there would be an uplift for Knowledge Transfer. An update would be provided at the next meeting, when the outcome would be known.

The Ministerial statement on 1 February 2018 had provided assurance that EU students would continue to be funded in 2019-20, which was good news. It was anticipated that the funding would be provided for the full period of study, but clarification was needed.

### *7.2 Review of university funding and student finance in England*

The Principal reported that it was expected that there would be a review of funding and student finance in England, now that new Government Ministers were in place. However, it was likely not to be an external review such as the Brown Review. The review would be driven by Department for Education, with input from Treasury and other departments. Although this would only indirectly impact on Scottish institutions. The Russell Group was concerned that any consequent reduction in fees, if not replaced by public resources, would put institutions under significant financial pressure.

It was noted that the Treasury was interested in differential tuition fees for different subjects and it was expected there would be intense debate for next few months. This would be of particular concern to some universities and could affect their income by approx. £40M. The impact for University of Glasgow would likely be £3M-£4M.

### *7.3 USS Pension Reform*

The Principal reported that on USS Pension reform and associated industrial strike action.

The latest USS valuation was carried out on 31 March 2017. The challenging economic climate and, in particular, the very low interest rates on government bonds had continued to impact on the scheme and it was anticipated that the potential funding deficit would have increased. Discussions involving the USS trustees, individual universities, Universities UK and the Pensions Regulator had been taking place since the March 2017 and would continue until the valuation outcome submission to the Pensions Regulator in June 2018.

The valuation of the USS pension scheme had been challenged. There had been good dialogue on campus with UCU, and the University of Glasgow was clear it was favourable to a negotiated settlement, however this was not the view taken by overall. When the proposals were considered by the Joint Negotiating Committee of the UCU and UUK the Chair of UUK, had a deciding vote. The UCU had insisted that the sector could take a greater risk with regards to the defined benefit element of the pension scheme being retained, however, UUK had considered the risks too great to continue with the scheme in its current arrangement. Industrial action had been called for and approved by UCU members at a number of Universities. The dialogue was expected to continue and the University of Glasgow was willing to engage in that dialogue.

The Principal reported that, as a trustee board member, he could not take a position publically and he had therefore recused himself from the University of Glasgow decision made by SMG.

At the Council of Senate meeting, UCU representatives reported that there was lots of informed criticism of the USS valuation, including regarding the model risk, which it was argued was theoretical rather than the real risk. The valuation measure applied by UUK had been challenged by a number of pension experts.

It was noted that the UCU would prefer continued negotiations rather than industrial action, which had been strongly voted for, and would certainly consider other options if they were presented.

The Principal highlighted that different snapshots of the same information had been used for the different arguments being made.

The Principal emphasised that there should be efforts to ensure the student experience during industrial action was maintained.

## **7. Student Experience – Mental Health Support**

The Chief Operating Officer provided an update with regards to Mental Health Support.

The first meeting of the Mental Health Action Group took place on 23 January 2018. A range of actions, largely relating to training for staff and students, and general awareness raising, were being taken forward. Further information about the various initiatives would be released shortly.

There had been an increase in resource for CAPS over the last few years 2011/12: £283k; 2016/17: £513k; 2017/18: £765k. A Mental Health Action Plan had also been published.

The Student's Representative Council reported that they were very happy with their involvement in the increased support and highlighted the Peer Support Programme, which had been piloted in four Schools with a view to further roll out and a reduction in referrals to CAPS had already been reported. It was noted that the students involved in the Peer Support Programme had received training delivered by CAPS. It was reported that the Adam Smith Business School has benefited greatly and would welcome expansion of this programme to other Schools. It was noted that additional resource has been made available for wider roll out.

It was clarified that the support and initiatives, covered both staff and students. It was recognised that training for staff members, particularly for example Advisers of Studies would be very helpful. It was reported that training options including mental health first aid training and a shorter, more general awareness raising training session were being explored with a view to being made available as soon as possible. Mental health awareness and suicide – 'Mind your mate' sessions had also been offered and had received good feedback, it was reported that further sessions would be made available. It was also reported that the redesign of the PGCAP was looking at an element regarding students in distress.

## **8. Dean of Faculties Appointment**

At its meeting on 7 December 2017, the Council of Senate had agreed the reappointment as Dean of Faculties of Emeritus Professor Jan McDonald for a further year, until 31 December 2018. The Principal thanked Professor McDonald for her dedication to the role, noting that she had served as Dean of Faculties for 11 years.

Council of Senate approved the appointment of Emeritus Professor Graham Caie as Dean of Faculties in succession to Professor McDonald from 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2021.

The office of the Dean of Faculties has existed since before the Reformation and is entirely honorary. The official duties extend to attending graduation ceremonies, helping to welcome guests and substituting for the Vice-Chancellor at graduations in the event that the Vice-Chancellor is unexpectedly indisposed.

Professor Caie's association with the University dates from 1990, when he was appointed Professor of English Language. He subsequently served as Head of the former Department of English Language and was Clerk of Senate and Vice-Principal of the University 2008-12.

## **9. Clerk of Senate's Business**

### *9.1 Honorary Degrees Committee Report*

The Clerk of Senate reported that following acceptances had been received from nominees to receive Honorary Degrees in 2017:

Members are advised that the following persons have accepted the invitations issued by the Principal, on behalf of the Senate, to receive the award of an Honorary Degree in 2018:

#### **DOCTOR OF LETTERS (DLitt) - GSA**

Sam AINSLEY  
Formerly of GSA

Juliet KINCHIN  
Curator, Museum of Modern Art

Sandy Moffat  
Formerly of GSA

#### **DOCTOR OF DIVINITY (DD)**

Reverend Dr Angus MORRISON  
Minister of the Church of Scotland

#### **DOCTOR OF LETTERS (DLitt)**

Dave ANDERSON  
Theatre Director

#### **DOCTOR OF MUSIC (DLitt)**

Karine POLWART  
Songwriter and Composer

#### **DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (DSc)**

Professor David GALLOWAY  
President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons

Sir Harpal S KUMAR  
Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Research UK

Professor Marc PFEFFER  
Victor J. Dzau Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Professor Dame Sally Davies  
Chief Medical Officer for England  
**DOCTOR OF ENGINEERING (DEng)**

Professor Robert MCMEEKING  
Tony Evans Professor of Structural Materials, University of California

**DOCTOR OF LAWS (LID)**

Professor Paola SEVERINO  
Rector of LUISS University, Rome

**DOCTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY (DUniv)**

Fiona ARMSTRONG, Lady MacGregor  
Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries

Mark BEAUMONT  
Adventurer

Susan CALMAN  
Comedian and broadcaster

Andrew NEIL  
Broadcaster

Pat CASSIDY  
Govan Workspace Ltd

Sandy BRINDLEY  
Chief Executive, Rape Crisis Scotland

The names noted above of those who had accepted the offer of an Honorary Degree were now in the public domain.

Further replies were awaited and would be reported to the next meeting of Council of Senate.

*9.2 Senate Guest Night 8 March 2018*

The Clerk of Senate reminded members that the next Senate Guest Night dinner would be held on 9 March and the guest speaker would be Brian Taylor, political editor for BBC Scotland.

**10. Intimations**

The Council of Senate stood in silence to mark its respect for former members of Senate whose deaths had been announced during the session:

### **Professor Adam Curtis**

Professor Emeritus Adam Curtis died on 8 August 2017 aged 83. At the University of Glasgow, Adam started as the first Professor for Cell Biology in the UK, he retired in 2004 after 37 years, having served as Head of Department, Head of Division, and Director of the Centre for Cell Engineering. He was particularly active on the Library Committee.

### **Professor Archie Duncan**

Professor Archie Duncan, who died on 20 December 2017 at the age of 91, was one of the foremost Scottish historians in the modern era.

He retired in 1993, having played a leading role in the life of the University of Glasgow. He was elected Dean of the Faculty of Arts and, in 1978, Clerk of Senate. During his spell as a university administrator he established a new department (Scottish Literature) and a new faculty (Social Science).

### **Professor David Flint**

Professor David Flint died on 14 May 2017 aged 98. David Flint was a graduate of the University and was Johnstone Smith Professor of Accountancy from 1964 and was appointed to a new Chair of Accountancy in 1975, which he held for ten years. He was Dean of the Faculty of Law, 1971 to 1973, and Vice-Principal from 1981 to 1985. David was awarded the honorary degree DUniv in 2001.

### **Professor Tessa Holyoake**

Professor Tessa Holyoake, one of the most exceptional scientists and clinicians of her generation died peacefully on 30 August 2017. Tessa was Professor of Experimental Haematology at the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre within the MVLS Institute of Cancer Sciences. Tessa joined the University in 1992, achieving her personal professorship in October 2004. She is remembered for her world-leading contributions to Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) and as an inspiration and friend by colleagues and patients alike.

### **Professor Donald MacAulay**

Professor Emeritus Donald MacAulay died on 28 February 2017 aged 86. Donald was Professor of Celtic from 1991– 1996. Prior to joining Glasgow University, he was a lecturer in Applied Linguistics at Edinburgh and Senior Lecturer in Celtic and Head of the Celtic Department at Aberdeen University.

### **Professor William (Bill) Mulligan**

Professor William Mulligan died on 27 May 2017. Bill was the University's first Professor of Veterinary Physiology when he was appointed in 1963. He was Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, 1977 to 1980 and Vice-Principal, 1980 to 1983.

## **Professor Peter Wilkinson**

Professor Peter Charles Wilkinson died on 29 August 2017. Peter was born in July, 1932. He joined University of Glasgow in 1964 and was Professor of Cellular Immunology and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He retired in 1997.