

General Council Half Yearly Meeting 24th January 2019

Minute of General Council Half Yearly Meeting held 24 January 2019, Senate Room, Gilbert Scott Building, Main Campus, Glasgow

Item

1 Introduction and Welcome

The Chancellor Professor Sir Kenneth Calman welcomed everyone and thanked those present for attending the meeting. He introduced the panel – Principal Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, Amber Higgins, Clerk to the General Council (GC), and John Marsh, Convenor of the General Council Business Committee (GCBC).

2 Minutes of meeting of 18th June 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2018 were approved.

3 Election of Members to serve on General Council Business Committee

It was reported that three members of the GCBC who's first term of office was due to expire, had intimated that they wished to stand again for another four year term of office until January 2023. They were as follows:

Douglas Cusine	LLB 1969
Gerry Friell	MA 1982
Rev Stuart MacQuarrie	MBA 2002

Following the nominations and election process the Chancellor announced that the following Members of the General Council had been elected to serve on the General Council Business Committee for four years until January 2023:

David Armstrong	LLB 1986
Mary Galbraith	MA 1984
Ian Henderson	MA 1982
Sheriff Seith Ireland	LLB 1979
Daniel Traynor	LLB 2017
Professor Christine Watson	BSc 1975

4 Appointment of the Convenor for the General Council Business Committee

The Chancellor reported that John Marsh was due to step down as the Convenor of the GCBC after 4 years on 31 January 2019 and the GCBC wished to put forward Rev Stuart MacQuarrie as Convenor for a four year term of office. The General Council agreed the proposal put forward and Rev Stuart MacQuarrie was approved as the new Convenor of the GCBC. The Chancellor thanked John Marsh for all his hard work and leadership during the last 4 years.

5 Report of Convenor of the General Council Business Committee

Convenor, John Marsh, thanked the Chancellor for his introduction and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Convenor noted that a number of members were stepping down from the GCBC as their term of office had come to an end. The Convenor thanked the following for their hard work for the General Council during their time in the role:-

Iain Brown
Jim Ewing

Item

Fred Hay

Dr Gordon Hamilton

Sheriff Des Leslie

Graham Paterson

The Convenor welcomed the 6 new members to the GCBC and thanked all those that had put themselves forward for the election.

The Convener reported that Professor John Briggs had now retired from his role as Clerk of Senate and he wished to express his thanks to Professor Briggs for all his support during his time in this role. There had been 2 meeting of the GCBC since the last Half Yearly Meeting and it was noted that Dr David Duncan's updates on the University SMG and business were extremely useful and informative. One particular area of update had been on staff student ratios following concerns raised by a GCBC member.

The Convener reported that the GCBC continued to work on ways to engage more fully with GC members and the University which included membership of the Avenue Editorial Board. It was noted that Avenue magazine would be revamped and issues once a year from September 2019. It was also noted that the relaunched World Changing Alumni Award had been very successful and encouraged all members to take part in the nomination process and online voting.

The GCBC had received presentations from the SRC President and also the Careers Service, who would also present at the end of the meeting. It was noted that the Privy Council had approved the changes to the Ordinance for the Chancellors and GC Assessors elections and that the Standing Orders would now be updated to reflect these changes.

The Convenor thanked all the members for their support over the last 4 years during his time as Convenor. It was reported that the relationship with the University was more co-operative and he was sure that this would continue under the next Convenor.

The Chancellor thanked the Convenor for his report and thanked all the GCBC members for all their hard work on behalf of the General Council. It was noted that no questions were raised and thanked John for his presentation.

6 Principal's Address and Questions

The Principal thanked John Marsh for his dedication to his role as Convenor of the GCBC over the last 4 years. The Principal reported that the University continued to work towards the KPI's and the majority continued to progress well. Assessment and Feedback continued to be a concern for the University and it had been agreed that as this was not progressing fast enough steps would be taken by the transformation project to look at this.

It was noted that the University was moving towards the next strategy beyond 2020 and that this would involve an inclusive and bottom up approach with work underway to already look at this.

The Principal reported that the campus development was progressing well with the Learning and Teaching Hub named as the James McCune Smith Learning Hub which would help improve the student experience. The Institute of Health and Wellbeing had been named the Clarice Pears Building following a donation from the Pears Foundation. The Research Hub was also now under construction with piling commenced.

The University has identified Glasgow research beacons. They have played a crucial role in crystallising our thinking about how the University tackles the great challenges of the day and in facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration which the University believes is critical to making progress. These cross-disciplinary areas of research excellence have attracted major financial and intellectual investment and aside from drawing researchers from across the University, they work across other institutions, funders, practitioners, policy makers and charities to address grand challenges that have impact on both a national and international scale.

- Precision Medicine & Chronic Diseases

Item

- Cultural & Creative Economies
- Future Life
- One Health
- Addressing Inequalities
- Nano & Quantum World

The Principal outlined the Educational Vision for the University and it was noted that the Learning and Teaching Strategy said "...a learning culture that places teaching at the centre of what we do. Our learning and teaching shapes and is shaped by our research rich environment. Our motivated, vibrant, diverse community of learners and teachers to work in partnership to develop independent, skilled and highly valued graduates with the confidence to make positive change in society..". It was reported that the changing student cohorts meant that students were more globally and socially aware, more diverse with more varied support needs, with work or family commitments, and how students were more technology users than having an in-depth knowledge of technology. The Learning and Teaching Strategy in partnership with the student body is driving forward significant change in a number of areas from assessment and Feedback, wider student involvement in projects and local reviews within Schools and Subjects, engaging with new technologies in online learning and developing VR in teaching.

A more collaborative approach to learning and teaching practices is taking place with a key focus on engaging more and learning more effectively, performing better in assessment, engaging more deeply with the course material in the discipline, developing more fully as critical thinkers. This involved a change in the physical environment also with a number of teaching rooms being transformed into more innovative teaching spaces and a rethinking of study space. This involves

- James McCune Smith Learning Hub: £90M investment
- Annual teaching space refurbishment budget: £2M
- Changing the way we support teaching, and student support for learning and the student experience – transformation project
- New teaching spaces in other new buildings over the coming years
- Investment in Learning Technology and support for 'blended' approach (more online teaching in campus-based courses)

The Chancellor drew this section to a close and thanked the Principal for his informative update and commented that it was great to see the University making remarkable progress. No comments or questions were raised by GC members.

7 Draft Ordinances 210 – Composition and Powers of the Senatus Academicus

The Clerk to the General Council reported that a new draft ordinance was received by the University Court on the 12 December 2018 and Court will be requested to provide in-principle approval of the document. The next step would involve informal consultation with the Scottish Government prior to the formal consultation stages taking place. It was noted that the GC would be formally consulted later in the year.

8 AOCB

The Chancellor thanked all those present and informed the meeting that the next meeting would take place on 17 June 2019 in the Senate Room at 6pm for 6.30pm.

The Chancellor closed the meeting by thanking all present for their attendance and invited Linda Murdoch, Director of Careers to address the members.