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TO: ALL MEMBERS OF COURT

A meeting of the University Court constituted under the University of the West of Scotland (Scotland) Order of Council 2009 will be held on **Monday 14th November 2016 at 2pm in the Court Room, Paisley Campus. Please allow 3 hours for this meeting.**

Refreshments will be available from 1:30 pm.

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Welcome Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
1.	Minutes		Document Attached
1.1	Minutes of Meeting held on 27 th June 2016	Approval	
2.	Matters Arising		
3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
4.	Chair's Statement • Effectiveness Review of Court	Information	Oral Report
5.	Students' Association		
5.1	SAUWS Highlight Report	Information	Paper 5.1
5.2	SAUWS Revised Constitution	Approval	Paper 5.2
6.	Financial Report <i>Presentation by Mr T Gabriele, Director of Finance on Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2016</i>	Discussion & Approval	
6.1	Financial Statements for year ended 31 st July 2016		Paper 6.1
7.	Lanarkshire Campus Project	Discussion & Approval	Paper 7
8.	Corporate Strategy 2014/2020		
8.1	Corporate Strategy Refresh	Approval	Paper 8.1
8.2	KPI Performance Report	Discussion	Paper 8.2
9.	Outcome Agreement Self Evaluation Report	Approval	Paper 9
10.	Annual Institutional Statement of Internal Review Activity	Approval	Paper 10

11.	Report from Sub Committees		
11.1	Report from meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 27 th September 2016	Information	Paper 11.1
11.2	Report from Meeting of Health, Safety & Sustainability Committee held on 4 th October	Approval	Paper 11.2
11.3	Report from Meetings of Audit & Risk Committee held on 10 th October and 25 th October	Approval	Paper 11.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Health & Safety Report to Court • Appendix 1 – Annual Internal Audit Report • Appendix 2 - Annual Audit & Risk Report to Court • Appendix 3 – Corporate Risk Register 		
11.4	Report from Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 11 th October 2016	Information	Paper 11.4
11.5	Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 2 nd November 2016	Approval	Paper 11.5
11.6	Appraisal of Chair of Court	Information	Paper 11.6
12.	Senate		
12.1	Report from Meeting of Senate held on 13 th October 2016	Information	Paper 12.1
13.	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Paper 13
14.	Any Other Business		

Date of Next Meeting – 16th/17th February 2016 – Residential Event – Doubletree by Hilton, Strathclyde

Annual Review Dinner – Monday 14th November 2016 – Paisley Campus

Court Dinner – Tuesday 13th December 2016 – Paisley Campus

Graduation Arrangements – Winter 2016

Campus	Date	Honorary Awards
Ayr	8th November 2016	Ian Welsh OBE, Chief Executive, Healthcare & Social Care Alliance Scotland and former Chair of Court
Hamilton	10 th November 2016	
Paisley	16 th November 2016	
Paisley	17 th November 2016	Corinne Hutton, founder, Finding Your Feet (charity)
Dumfries	22 nd November 2016	

Paisley, 14th November 2016 being the 45th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Dr W Hatton (Chair)
Ms H Armstrong
Ms L Barjonas
Mr J Black
Ms L Connolly
Ms M Curran
Mr C Devlin
Mr T Duff
Ms M Gibson
Mr A Haseeb
Mr D Johnston
Professor C MacDonald (Chair – Item 11.6 only)
Professor C Mahoney
Professor P Martin
Ms A McKechin

In attendance: Ms D McMillan
Professor E Mesbahi
Ms S Mitchell
Mr T Gabriele
Mr M Ross
Mrs A Loudon

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R J Dinning, Ms A Gifford, Mr A Gordon, Mr W Smith, Dr J Thompson and for late arrival from Mr A Haseeb.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed Ms A McKechin and Ms H Armstrong to their first meeting following their appointment to membership of Court.

Members were advised that, following the retiral of Professor A McGillivray, Dr J Thompson had been elected Senate Representative on Court for a 3 year period with effect from November 2016.

The following members of staff were welcomed as Observers:

Ms J Durham Executive Adviser to Principal
Ms E Marshall Assistant Secretary to Senate
Ms D Taylor QuEST
Ms Y Hussain Marketing Co-ordinator

Declaration of Interest

The Chair declared an interest in Paper 11.6 Appraisal of Chair of Court. It was agreed that the Vice Chair of Court would assume the Chair for discussion of this item.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June were approved as a correct record, proposed by Mr T Duff and seconded by Ms L Barjonas.

2. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising other than those contained elsewhere in the agenda.

3. **Determination of Any Other Business**

The Chair advised that approval of the reserved minutes of the last meeting of Court would be taken as a reserved item. In addition discussion of items 1, 2 and 8 from the report of the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee would be taken under reserved business.

4. **Chair's Statement**

The Chair updated Court on meetings of the Committee of Scottish Chairs and Committee of University Chairs which she had recently attended, highlighting in particular discussion across the HE Sector in relation to new immigration system being proposed by the UK Government. Court agreed that it was vital that the impact to the UK economy of the proposed reduction in international numbers was fully understood, particularly by business communities. Members of Court were encouraged to utilise personal and professional networks to spread this message. A copy of a letter sent to UWS stakeholders would be circulated to Court for information and to inform this discussion.

Court noted for information various events that the Chair had attended on behalf of the University and the consultative visit as part of the review of the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance.

It was agreed that an update of progress on the outcomes from the review of the effectiveness of Court would be submitted to the next meeting.

5. **Students' Association**

5.1 **SAUWS Highlight Report**

The Senior Student Representative drew members' attention to the report which set out an overview of recent activities within the Students' Association. She highlighted in particular the ongoing work on the development of the SAUWS Strategic Plan, noting the Focus Groups being established to ensure student engagement with the process.

The Principal commended the work of the Association and the effective working relationship between the University and SAUWS.

5.1 SAUWS Revised Constitution

The Chair reminded members that Court, at its meeting in June 2016, had approved amendments to the SAUWS Constitution subject to review by the SAUWS Board in December 2016.

The Senior Student Representative spoke to the report which set out proposals to further amend the SAUWS Constitution. Court noted that, following an internal review, it was proposed to return SAUWS to a Present and Vice-President Sabbatical Officer structure. In addition amendments to the financial powers of the Association were also being proposed.

Noting that approval by the Association's Board of Trustees had still to be confirmed, Court approved in principle the revised SAUWS Constitution.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6 Financial Report

The Director of Finance made a presentation to Court on the financial statements for year ended 31st July 2016. This built on presentations made at recent meetings of Policy & Resource Committee and Audit & Risk Committee with a focus on the key changes and impact of the implementation of the new accounting standards FRS102.

Noting that an unqualified opinion was anticipated from the External Auditors, Court approved the Financial Statements to 31st July 2016.

The impact of the increased pensions liability was noted. In response to a question, the Director of Finance confirmed that the provision was made within the management accounts for the pensions liability. It was important to note, however, that although this impacted on the I&E, pensions liability was a non-cash item. It was agreed that a briefing on the impact to the employer's contribution as a result of the increased liability would be circulated to members of Court for information.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

7 Lanarkshire Campus Project

Members were reminded that Court, at its meeting in June 2016, approved the Full Business Case for the UWS Lanarkshire Campus subject to three conditions. Court noted that these conditions had been met over the summer period

The Depute Principal spoke to the report which provided detail of progress made since the last meeting of Court, highlighting that the complexity of the tripartite arrangements resulted in this being a far more complex and challenging process than had been anticipated. As a result, the timeline for relocation had been amended to September 2018.

In response to a question, the Depute Principal confirmed that a Woodland Management Plan would be progressed as part of the development of residences

and sports facilities. Discussions on improved transport networks would be taken forward as part of the Site Ownership Group.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8 **Corporate Strategy – 2014/2020**

8.1 **Corporate Strategy Refresh**

Members were reminded that Court had earlier re-affirmed the overall strategic direction of the university but had requested that the Corporate Strategy be refreshed to provide a greater focus on the University's key priorities. A series of workshops had been held across the institution to discuss the proposed refresh. These included meetings with Court, Leadership Forum, colleagues at each Scottish Campus and SAUWS.

After discussion, Court endorsed the draft refresh of the Corporate Strategy 2014/2020 subject to amendment made in the light of discussion. Court agreed to grant delegated authority to the Principal & Vice Chancellor to approve the implementation of revisions prior to publication in December 2016.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8.2 **KPI Performance Report**

Court noted for information the report which provided details of performance in a range of KPIs

9 **Outcome Agreement Self Evaluation Report**

Court endorsed the Outcome Agreement Self Evaluation Report for onward submission to the Funding Council, subject to amendment to highlight the improvements made and in progress on estates and buildings and to make more explicit the systematic approach to continuous improvement.

10 **Annual Institutional Statement of Internal Review Activity**

Court endorsed the Annual Institutional Statement of Internal Review Activity, noting that to meet SFC timescales the Statement had been submitted, but that a statement of assurance from the Chair of Court would now be submitted to the Funding Council.

Court was interested to note the raft of initiatives being taken forward, particularly in learning and teaching, as part of the University's commitment to continuous improvement and business excellence.

11 **Report from Sub Committees**

11.1 **Report from meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 27th September 2016**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 27th September 2016.

11.2 Report from meeting of the Health, Safety & Sustainability Committee held on 4th October 2016

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Health, Safety & Sustainability Committee held on 14th October 2016.

The Chair of the Health, Safety & Sustainability drew members' attention to the Health, Safety & Sustainability Annual Report which provided Court with an overview of the range of activities considered by the Committee in the 2015/2016 academic year. Court endorsed the Health, Safety & Sustainability Annual Report.

11.3 Report from meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 10th and 25th October

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from meetings held on 10th and 25th October. Court welcomed the progress made in concluding the 2015/2016 Internal Audit Plan.

The Chair of the Committee updated Court on discussion around the annual effectiveness review of the Audit & Risk Committee. Refinements to current practice identified would be progressed during this academic year.

The Annual Internal Audit Report which summarised the work of the Internal Audit Service during the 2016/2016 financial year was noted.

Subject to minor amendment, Court approved the Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report.

Court noted and endorsed the Corporate Risk Register.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11.4 Report from Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 11th October

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 11th October. The introduction of a report from People & Organisational Development activities as a standing item at meetings of the Committee was welcomed.

11.5 Report from Meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 2nd November 2016

Noting that discussion of items 1, 2 and 8 from the report would be taken under reserved business, the remainder of the report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 2nd November 2016 was noted for information.

11.6 Appraisal of Chair of Court

The Vice Chair of Court assumed the Chair for discussion of this item.

Court endorsed the process for the Appraisal of the Chair of Court.

12 **Senate**

12.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 13th October 2016**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of Senate held on 13th October 2016.

13 **Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report**

Court noted for information the Highlight Report which provided a summary of general information on University developments and an overview of activities since the last meeting of Court.

14 **Any Other Business**

This being their last meeting prior to retiral from membership, the Chair thanked Mr A Haseeb and Mr T Duff for their contribution to Court during their appointment and wish them well for the future.

Noting that Professor A McGillivray had retired from the University in the summer, the Chair also wished to put on record her thanks to Professor McGillivray for her contribution to the work of Court as Senate representative.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed.