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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 **Thursday 16th February 2017 at 2pm in the Fleming & Watt Suite, Doubletree by Hilton, Strathclyde**, Phoenix Crescent, Bellshill, ML4 3JQ. Lunch will be available from 1pm.

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Welcome to new Members Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
1.	Minutes		Document Attached
1.1	Minutes of Meeting held on 14 th November 2016	Approval	
2.	Matters Arising		
2.1	Min Ref 4 – Effectiveness of Court – Development since June 2016	Information	Paper 2.1
2.2	Min Ref 5.2 – SAUWS Constitution	Information	Oral Report
2.3	Min Ref 8.1 - Corporate Strategy Refresh	Information	Oral Report
3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
4.	Chair’s Statement	Information	Oral Report
5.	Students’ Association		
5.1	SAUWS Highlight Report	Discussion	Paper 5.1
6.	Lanarkshire Campus Project	Discussion	Paper 6
7.	Corporate Strategy 2014/2020		
7.1	KPI Performance Report	Discussion	Paper 7.1
8.	Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016	Information	Paper 8
9.	Report from Sub Committees		
9.1	Report from Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 24 th January 2017	Discussion	Paper 9.1
9.2	Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 31 st January 2017 • Appointment of External Auditors	Approval	Paper 9.2
10.	Senate		
10.1	Report from Meeting of Senate held on 8 th December 2016	Information	Paper 10.1

11.	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Paper 11
12.	Dates of Meetings – 2017/2018	Information	Paper 12
13.	Any Other Business		

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 25th April 2017, 4pm, Board Room, Hamilton Campus

This meeting will be preceded by a Showcase Event at the Hamilton Campus

Bellshill, 16th February 2017 being the 46th 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
Mr C Devlin
Mr F Dinning
Ms M Gibson
Mr A Gordon
Mr H Henry
Mr D Johnston
Professor C MacDonald
Professor C Mahoney
Professor P Martin
Ms A McKechin
Ms T O'Donnell
Mr W Smith

In attendance: Ms D McMillan
Mr A Disbury
Professor M Foley
Mr T Gabriele
Professor E Mesbahi
Ms S Mitchell
Mr M Ross
Ms K Wittneben
Ms S Cosh

Apologies for absence were received from Ms M Curran and Ms A Gifford and for late arrival from Mr F Dinning.

Welcome

The Chair formally welcomed Mr H Henry and Ms T O'Donnell to their first meeting of Court following their appointment to membership of Court. The Chair also welcomed Mr A Disbury, Vice-Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) and Ms K Wittneben Vice-Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Advancement) to their first meeting following their appointment to the University

Members were advised that, due to business commitments, Mr A Muir had tendered his resignation from Court. The Chair and Secretary to Court had written to thank him for his contribution to Court and Court recorded its appreciation of the engagement of Mr Muir on Court over the last 2 years.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were notified.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2016 were approved as a correct record, proposed by Mr J Black and seconded by Ms M Gibson.

2. **Matters Arising**

2.1 **Min Ref 4 – Review of Effectiveness of Court**

The Secretary to Court spoke to the report which provided an update on activities in response to the action plan arising from the ongoing review of the effectiveness of Court. She highlighted in particular the changes to the Policy and Resources Committee agenda which had been well received, the improvements in communication with Court members and the revised induction for new Court members which was currently being rolled out. These enhancements were welcomed by members.

2.2 **Min Ref 5.2 – SAUWS Constitution**

The Senior Student Representative of SAUWS confirmed that the amendments to the SAUWS constitution, which had been approved in principle by Court at the meeting on the 14th November 2016, had subsequently been approved by the Association's Board of Trustees and the constitution was now published on the SAUWS website.

2.3 **Min Ref 8.1 – Corporate Strategy Refresh**

The Director of Strategic Planning informed Court that the refreshed Corporate Strategy, which would provide greater focus on the University's key priorities, had been amended in light of discussion at the last meeting of Court and had now been published.

3. **Determination of Any Other Business**

No additional items of business were notified.

4. **Chair's Statement**

Court was updated by the Chair on the University events which she had attended since the last meeting including, the launch of the University's Annual Review and the Ministerial visit at Ayr Campus to mark the launch of the UWS initiative, the 'Wee University'. She also highlighted a number of the external events at which she had promoted and represented the University, including a Skills Development Scotland event, an Ayrshire College graduation ceremony and the opening of the Ayrshire College, Kilmarnock Campus, respectively.

The Chair provided an update from the Committee of Scottish Chairs, informing Court that a letter had been sent to the Home Secretary, on behalf of the Committee of Scottish Chairs, to highlight its concerns around the proposed changes to the UK immigration system and the adverse impact this could have on international student numbers. The Committee of Scottish Chairs had also been invited to comment on the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill.

The Chair of Court advised that she had been approached with a view to the Court providing a shadowing/mentoring opportunity through a Scottish Government sponsored initiative: 'Developing Board Experience' designed for individuals, particularly women to develop board experience. A confidentiality agreement would be signed by both parties.

Court noted that the proposal had been drawn to the attention of the Principal, the Secretary to Court, the Vice Chair and the Chairs of PRC and Audit & Risk and detailed consideration had been given to a range of issues about the proposal. It had been suggested that while supportive of the principle, a number of parameters would be appropriate in terms of the length of engagement, that the observer status would be non-contributing to meetings and that the scheme would be viewed as quite separate from recruitment of future Court members and not a form of 'fast-tracking' to Court membership.

Members were content for the Chair's mentee to observe appropriate meetings of Court with the caveats agreed and agreed that no more than one observer from outwith the UWS community could be accommodated at any one time.

5. **Students' Association**

5.1 **SAUWS Highlight Report**

The Senior Student Representative of SAUWS drew members' attention to the report which provided a summary of SAUWS activity since the last meeting of Court. She highlighted the development of the new SAUWS strategic plan and thanked the UWS Executive and Student Life Team for their support during this process. The good level of student engagement in this process was also noted.

Court noted the election period for the 2017-18 sabbatical and other SAUWS officers had opened and was pleased to observe the participation of London Campus students. The steps taken to improve the electronic voting process and encourage students to engage in the election were welcomed.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6. **Lanarkshire Campus Project**

The Depute Principal provided Court with an update on the Lanarkshire Campus Project, noting that the design for the main academic spaces would be signed off at the end of February 2017 to allow works to begin. An informal fringe session would be held as part of the residential event later.

Members were pleased to hear that there had been good engagement at sessions on the Hamilton Campus regarding the Lanarkshire Campus project, allowing for open discussion with staff and students regarding the designs. It was reported that the project zone, set up to allow staff and students the chance to experience working in a flexible space with technology similar to what would be on offer at the new campus, had been well used.

In response to a question, the Depute Director of Information Technology and Digital Services explained that workstream 4 – IT Vision, was currently being

developed in collaboration with the Academic Lead to capture the vision for how learning and teaching would be delivered on the new campus.

Court was assured that there would be student representation on each workstream related to the new Campus.

Parallel to this the Vice Principal Advancement had established a small group comprising Court members and others to support fundraising associated with the new campus.

It was agreed that the terms of reference for all workstreams would be provided to Court for information.

7. **Corporate Strategy 2014/2020**

7.1 **KPI Performance Report**

The Director of Strategic Planning and Development spoke to the KPI Performance Report, which provided an overview of progress against the 9 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which had been agreed as the key priority areas during the Corporate Strategy refresh.

Court was informed that all Schools and Professional Support Departments were currently developing their Operational Plans to align with the refreshed Corporate Strategy and would shortly be meeting with the Executive to discuss these.

Members discussed the report and where necessary, clarification was provided by members of the University Executive on the KPIs and related data. This included the need for standardised format in reporting and development of ways to capture data for new KPIs.

8. **Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016**

The Secretary to Court spoke to the report on the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act, highlighting that revisions to the University's Constitution would be required to ensure compliance with the Act. These changes would be progressed following the completion of the review of the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance to ensure that any amendments arising from this would also be incorporated.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9. **Report from Sub Committees**

9.1 **Report from meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 24th January**

The Chair of Policy and Resources Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 24th January, highlighting in particular the robust discussion around international student recruitment and the related financial scenario planning.

It was agreed that the paper relating to the development of the Estates Enabling Plan would be provided to all Court members.

In response to a question, the Principal confirmed that follow up action in response to feedback from the staff bHeard survey and details of ongoing staff engagement activities would be reported to PRC.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9.2 Report from Meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 31st January and 16th February

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting of the Committee held on 31st January. She highlighted the steps being taken to recruit to the Audit and Risk Committee membership, which had been reduced due to the recent retirement and resignation of Court members.

Court was informed of the robust discussion at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting in relation to the structural change in the Executive, which now has the Internal Audit Service reporting to the Chief Finance Officer. The Committee noted the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee would liaise with the Chair of Court and other sub-committee Chairs, to ensure management continues its effective oversight of compliance and assurance systems.

Members discussed the postponement of the internal audit reviews of International Student Recruitment and International Student Admissions, which the Audit and Risk Committee had acknowledged was reasonable given the Vice-Chancellor's overhaul of Recruitment, Marketing and Admissions, and the associated changes which were ongoing. It was agreed that a timeframe for completion of these internal audits would be submitted to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Court members were asked to submit their suggestions for future 'deep dive' analyses, to be conducted by the Audit and Risk Committee, to the Secretary to Court.

It was highlighted that a new Performance and Development Review process for staff was being introduced as part of the continuous improvement underpinning the bHeard findings. It was agreed that feedback on bHeard would be made at the April Court meeting.

Court welcomed the effective procurement process, which had been followed to appoint the University's new External Auditors. Court approved the recommendation by the Audit and Risk Committee for the appointment of Scott Moncrieff as the University's External Auditors for a period of 3 years, commencing on the 1st April 2017.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

10. Senate

10.1 Report from Meeting of Senate held on 8th December 2016

The report was noted for information.

11. **Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report**

The Principal spoke to the Highlight Report noting that since circulation of the report the University had improved their standing in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) League from 102nd to 100th.

Court members discussed the University's decision not to take part in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2 trial year. It was noted that the Executive Group would continue to monitor developments and, if appropriate, would consider the University's future involvement in the framework. The SAUWS Vice-President commended the University's decision not to take part in the trial year.

Court members commended the Principal and his team for securing the hosting of the 2021 European Sports Science Conference by UWS in Glasgow.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

12. **Dates of Meetings – 2017/2018**

The dates were noted for information.

13. **Any Other Business**

On behalf of Court the Chair, congratulated Ms M Gibson on receiving an OBE for her services to business and entrepreneurship in the New Year's Honours, and Depute Principal, Professor P Martin on his CBE for services to healthcare and education.

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