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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 **Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 2pm in Academy 1, Holiday Inn Glasgow Airport, Abbotsinch, Paisley PA3 2TE.**

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Welcome Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
1.	Minutes		
1.1	Minutes of Meeting held on 10 th November 2015	Approval	Attached
1.2	Minutes of Meeting held on 17 th December 2015	Approval	Attached
2.	Matters Arising		
3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
4.	Chair's Statement	Information	Oral Report
5.	Report from the Principal & Vice Chancellor	Information	Paper 5
6.	SAUWS Update Report	Information	Paper 6
7.	HE Governance Bill – Update	Information	Paper 7
8.	Report from Sub Committees		
8.1	Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 9 th November 2015	Information	Paper 8.1
8.2	Report from Meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 7 th December 2015	Information	Paper 8.2
8.3	Report from Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 19 th January 2016	Information	Paper 8.3
8.4	Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 26 th January 2016	Information	Paper 8.4
9.	Senate		
9.1	Report from Meeting of Senate held on 9 th December 2015	Information	Paper 9.1

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 4pm – Browne House, Dumfries Campus

Paisley, 9th February 2016 being the 42nd meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Dr W Hatton (Chair)
Ms L Barjonas
Mr J Black
Ms L Connolly
Ms M Curran
Mr C Devlin
Mr R J Dinning
Mr J Douglas
Ms M Gibson
Ms A Gifford
Mr A Gordon
Mr A Haseeb
Mr D Johnston
Professor C Mahoney
Professor P Martin
Professor C MacDonald
Professor A McGillivray
Mr J McDougall
Mr W Smith

In attendance Ms D McMillan
Professor J Keay
Professor M Foley
Professor E Mesbahi
Ms S Mitchell
Mr T Gabriele
Mr M Ross
Mrs A Loudon
Mr G Cooke

Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Duff, Mr A Muir and Mr A McIntyre

Welcome

The Chair welcomed Professor E Mesbahi, Vice Principal & Pro Vice Chancellor, Research & Enterprise and Ms S Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer to their first meeting of Court following their appointment to the University.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were noted.

1. **Minutes**

1.1 **Minutes of Meeting held on 10th November 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2015 were approved as a correct record, proposed by Ms L Connolly and Mr J Douglas.

1.2 **Minutes of Meeting held on 17th December 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2015 were approved as a correct record, proposed by Mr J Black and seconded by Mr A Haseeb.

2. **Matters Arising**

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

3. **Determination of Any Other Business**

No additional items of business had been notified.

4. **Chair's Statement**

The Chair reminded Court of the ongoing 1-1 meetings she was holding with all members of Court, with a number of useful suggestions being put forward. More detailed feedback on these sessions would be provided once the meetings had been completed.

5. **Report from Principal & Vice Chancellor**

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

Members welcomed in particular the introduction of a new Discovery Tool which would make it easier for staff and students to access the electronic books and journals purchased by the library.

6. **SAUWS Update Report**

The President of the Students' Association spoke to the report which provided an update on current SAUWS activities.

In response to a question, the President of SUAWS outlined the process adopted to appoint external trustees to support the new governance model within the Association. Shortlisted candidates had been interviewed by a panel from the Association and the appointments had been ratified by the student body.

The recent appointment of a new Chief Executive for the Association was noted. Initial priorities for this role included the implementation of the NUS diagnostic report recommendations and the development and implementation of the Association's Strategic Plan.

Court was interested to note the development of a Student Partnership Agreement which outlined the principles and values which underpinned the partnership between the University and the Association, together with priorities and actions to focus shared activity.

Members were pleased to note the recent international sporting success of some UWS students.

Finally, the Chair drew members' attention to the invitation to Court to attend future SAUWS events, highlighting the importance of improving Court visibility with the student body. Further details of individual events would be notified in due course.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

7. **HE Governance (Scotland) Bill**

The Secretary to Court spoke to the report which provided a summary of parliamentary progress with the HE Governance (Scotland) Bill. She drew members' attention in particular to the key highlights of the recent debate in the Scottish Parliament on the draft Bill, noting that the Bill was being considered at Stage 2 of the process on Tuesday 9th February.

The Chair advised that she was one of the signatories of a letter from the members of the Committee of Scottish Chairs to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning expressing continued concern at the provisions of the draft Bill, particularly in relation to the proposed arrangements for the election of Chairs of Court.

It was noted that UWS already engage with staff and students in the appointment process as they are represented on the Governance & Nominations Committee.

Concern over the potential cost and logistics of future Chair election campaigns provided for in the Bill was expressed, in particular where the university has multi and international campuses.

In summary, members agreed that the main principles of the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance provided sufficient direction, guidance and clarity to the Scottish Higher Education sector whilst still reflecting the wide range of diverse institutions with differing governing instruments, traditions and strategic mission without the need for legislation.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Report from Sub Committees**

8.1 **Report from Governance & Nominations Committee held on 9th November 2015**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 9th November 2015.

8.2 **Report from Meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 7th December 2015**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 7th December 2015.

8.3 **Report from Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 19th January 2016**

The Chair of Policy & Resources Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 19th January 2016.

In response to a question the Secretary to Court provided members with some further insight into the purpose of the UWS Charitable Foundation. Court noted that the Foundation, which was currently being registered with OSCR, would provide a vehicle to enable the collection of funds for charitable philanthropic donations from the University. Five Trustees had been identified. However, the Constitution allowed for up to a further three Trustees and these may include student or further independent

representation. Donations to the University would continue to be considered in line with the University's Donations Policy & Procedure

The various policies and procedures approved at PRC were noted. Noting the range of activities covered by University wide policies and procedures, Court noted that responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the provisions of policies lay with the policy owners.

8.4 Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 26th January 2016

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 26th January 2016. She drew members' attention in particular to the insight session provided by the University's External Auditors on fraud detection and prevention which would be used to inform revisions to the University's Fraud Policy & Procedure.

With regard to progress in meeting the 2015/2016 Internal Audit Plan, Court noted that the Head of Internal Audit Service remained comfortable that the audit plan would be delivered, although this would be kept under review by the Audit & Risk Committee. The Chair of the Committee highlighted that the broad scope of the University's Internal Audit Service enabled a more holistic oversight of processes, including compliance issues, as well as detailed insight into more risk focussed areas.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the Procurement Review was being taken forward.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9. Report from Meeting of Senate held on 9th December 2015

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of Senate held on 9th December 2015.

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