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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 2015 will be held on **Monday 11th February 2019 at 10 am in the Kelvin Suite, Crutherland House Hotel, East Kilbride**. Tea and Coffee will be available from 9:30 am.

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
1.	Minutes	Approval	Document Attached
1.1	Minutes of meeting held on 12 th November 2018		
2.	Matters Arising		
3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
4.	Chair's Business	Information	Oral Report
5.	Students' Association		
5.1	SAUWS Highlight Report	Information	Paper 5.1
6.	Senate		
6.1	Report from Meeting of Senate held on 6 th December 2018	Information	Paper 6.1
7.	Corporate Strategy 2017/2020		
7.1	KPI Performance Report	Discussion	Paper 7.1
8.	Implementation of HE Governance Act and Scottish Code of Good HE Governance		
8.1	Status Report	Information	Paper 8.1
8.2	Trade Union Representation on Court	Approval	Paper 8.2
9.	Modern Slavery Statement	Approval	Paper 9
10.	UWS Charitable Purposes	Approval	Paper 10
11.	Report from Sub Committees		
11.1	Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 22 nd January 2019	Information	Paper 11.1
11.2	Report from meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 28 th January 2019	Information	Paper 11.2
12.	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Paper 12

13.	Appraisal of Chair of Court	Information	Oral Report
14.	Any Other Business		

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 25th April 2019, 4pm at the Lanarkshire Campus

East Kilbride, 11th February 2019 being the 54th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Dr W Hatton (Chair – except for item 13)
Ms L Barjonas
Ms M Curran
Mr C Devlin
Ms M Gibson OBE
Mr H Henry
Ms M Hill
Professor C MacDonald (Chair item 13)
Professor C Mahoney
Ms M McCusker
Ms A McKechin
Mr A Munro
Ms T O'Donnell
Professor S Olivier
Ms E Shotter
Professor K Sloman
Mr W Smith
Dr J Thompson

In attendance: Ms D McMillan
Mrs A Loudon

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Quinlan

No declarations of interest were notified.

1. **Minutes**

1.1 **Minutes of Meeting held on 12th November 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2018 were approved as a correct record, proposed by Mr C Devlin and seconded by Ms M Gibson OBE.

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 Business**

The Chair updated Court on various internal and external events she had attended since the last meeting.

Members were interested to note feedback from the recent 1-1 meetings with the Chair of Court, noting that many of the key outcomes had been incorporated into

the Strategic Dialogue Event being held following the meeting of Court. This included student recruitment, particularly international, finance/rebalancing and in identification of ways in which members of Court may promote the University, whilst remaining mindful of their governance role.

The Chair appraised members of a recent Chair's meeting where discussion had included suggestions for improvements to better focus sub Committee business at Court and the development of a protocol for communication between members of Court and the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group outwith Court meetings.

5. **Students Association**

5.1 **SAUWS Highlight Report**

The President of the Students' Association spoke to the report which provided a summary of recent activities at the Association. She drew members' attention in particular to the various activities of the sabbatical officers and recent discussions with external parties in relation to student issues.

Court was pleased to note that the new Chief Executive of the Association had now taken up her appointment.

A member highlighted the evolving debate across the HE sector on transgender recognition issues. In this connection, the President of SAUWS outlined the work being undertaken by the Association in relation to this issue. The Principal & Vice-Chancellor highlighted that discrimination against any of the protected characteristic would not be tolerated at the University and this was closely monitored. No issues or concerns had been identified.

In response to a question, the President of SAUWS advised that success at the Association could be evidenced by the increased engagement of students in its key activities. This would continue to be developed in 2019. Priorities for the coming year included embedding the new CEO in the organisation along with the new structure and positions.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting Court had approved the Association's Articles of Association subject to clarification over the levels and mechanisms for SAUWS to borrow money. Noting that it had subsequently been agreed that for borrowing over £50k the Board would meet with the Chief Finance Office for support and to ensure due diligence, Court agreed that this should be further clarified to include a limitation on the frequency of any borrowing by the Students' Association.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6. **Senate**

6.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 6th December 2018**

The Chair of Senate spoke to the report from the meeting held on 6th December 2018.

The appointment of Emeritus Professor M Foley and Emeritus Professor P Martin CBE was noted.

The attention of Court was drawn to the forthcoming institutional submission to review the University's Athena Swan Bronze Award. A new Athena Swan institutional lead had been appointed and work was ongoing to acquire the relevant datasets to enable submission in September 2019. Noting that the requirements for Athena Swan had broadened beyond STEM, Court agreed that this was a familiar and well known kitemark and evidence of best practice in diversity at the University.

Court noted that following a change in portfolio, the Chief Finance Officer had been appointed Chair of the Global Engagement Advisory Committee with responsibility for overseeing overseas activities.

The revised School Structures, which would provide additional clarity and consistency across Schools, were noted.

The Chair of Court again encouraged members to attend meetings of Senate as observers as part of their ongoing CPD activity and to increase Court's awareness of the academic activities of the University.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

7. **Corporate Strategy 2017/2020**

7.1 **KPI Performance Report**

The Provost spoke to the report which set out progress towards delivery of the KPIs published since the last meeting of Court.

With regard to KPI4 (Improved performance in the 2020/21 Research Excellence Framework) Court noted that total research income was lower than the half year target, noting that success in securing research funding was a complicated process and therefore difficult to predict. Deans were, however, fully aware of the impact of the shortfall in income and the actions required to increase income generation.

Court welcomed the progress being made in relation to enterprise and commercialisation activities (KPI5) and in developing the research environment through research student recruitment (KPI6).

The challenges to non-EU recruitment presented by the external environment were acknowledged. Although positive progress had been made, the interim target of this KPI (KPI7) had not been met, and growth had predominantly been driven by recruitment to the London Campus. The actions being put in place to drive Non-EU recruitment were noted. It was agreed that a report on progress on non-EU recruitment to Scottish Campuses should be a standing item at meetings of Court. It was also agreed to provide Court with a greater understanding of the long-term benefits of partnerships.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Implementation of HE Governance Act and Scottish Code of Good HE Governance**

8.1 **Status Report**

Members noted for information the report which provided assurance to Court on the range of activities ongoing to progress outstanding actions required under the the Higher Education Governance Act and the revised Scottish Code of Good HE Governance.

8.2 **Rules for Nominations to Court from Trade Unions**

The Secretary to Court reminded members that the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act) provided for two members of Court from the nominated Trade Unions of the University.

Court noted and approved the Rules for Nominations to Court from Trade Unions, noting that these had been endorsed by the Governance & Nominations Committee and the Partnership Forum. In response to question, the Secretary to Court confirmed that the provision for Trade Union membership on Court would come into effect once the new Order of Council was in place.

It was highlighted that, as a consequence of the changes to the composition of the Court, the Scottish Government's requirements on gender balance on governing bodies would need to be met from the lay membership.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9. **Modern Slavery Statement**

The Secretary to Court reminded members that under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the University was required to revised and publish annually a statement setting out the steps being taken to combat modern slavery and human trafficking.

Court welcomed the enhanced approach and approved the revised Modern Slavery Statement. Observations and suggestions made for future enhancements to the Statement would be passed to the Legal Services Team for consideration.

10. **UWS Charitable Purposes**

The Secretary to Court reminded members that the University currently had one charitable purpose registered with OSCR in relation to the advancement of education.

Court approved the recommendation that the University's charitable purposes be expanded to also include:

- The advancement of health
- The advancement of arts, heritage, culture or science
- The advance of citizenship or community development

- Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

An application would now be made to OSCR to register these additional charitable purposes.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11. **Report from Sub Committees**

11.1 **Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 22nd January 2019**

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 22nd January 2019.

Court noted that a recommendation would be made to the Governance & Nominations Committee that the vacancy in the membership of the Audit & Risk Committee should be filled as soon as possible.

The recent fraud event addressed under the University's Accountability Code of Practice was noted. The event had reinforced the need for constant vigilance and staff awareness and training on the issue of cyber security and this would continue to be addressed through ITDS.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11.2 **Report from Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 28th January 2019**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 28th January 2019.

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

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

13. **Appraisal of Chair of Court**

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

The Intermediary Member of Court confirmed that the annual appraisal process had been concluded satisfactorily and feedback had been provided to the Chair.

14. **Any Other Business**

The Secretary to Court Chair advised members of the death of Dr Helen S Dunsmore OBE.

Dr Dunsmore served on the Board of Paisley College from December 1984 and retired from the University of Paisley Court in December 1996. She also served

on the University's Library Trust from May 2001 until it was wound up in January 2006.

Dr Dunsmore was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University in 1997.

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