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TO: ALL MEMBERS OF COURT

A meeting of the University Court constituted under the University of the West of Scotland Order of Council 2015 will be held on **Monday 10th February 2020 at 10 am in Room GT25, Ayr Campus.**

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Welcome Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
1.	Appointment of Chair of Court	Information	Oral Report
2.	Minutes	Approval	Document Attached
2.1	Minutes of meeting held on 20 th November 2019		
3.	Matters Arising		
4.	Determination of Any Other Business		
CORE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES			
5.	Chair's Business	Information	Oral Report
6.	Students' Association Presentation from Franklin Jacob, SAUWS President		
6.1	SAUWS Report	Discussion	Paper 6.1
6.2	Financial Statements for year ended 31 st July 2019	Information	Paper 6.2
7.	Senate		
7.1	Report from meeting of Senate held on 3 rd December 2019	Discussion	Paper 7.1
8.	Committee Reports		
8.1	Report from meetings of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 27 th November 2019	Discussion	Paper 8.1
8.2	Report from meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 16 th January 2020	Discussion and Approval	Paper 8.2
8.3	• Appointment of External Auditors Report from meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 20 th January 2020	Information	Paper 8.3
8.4	Report from meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 28 th January 2020	Discussion	Paper 8.4
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			
9.	Finance Presentation from Trevor Gabriele, Chief Finance Officer	Discussion	Oral Report
9.1	Financial Results and Forecast Outturn to January 2020	Discussion	Paper 9.1
10.	Student Population Report - Term 2 - 2019/2020	Discussion	Paper 10

RELEVANCE AND EXTERNAL IMPACT			
11.	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Oral Report
12.	Any Other Business		

Date of Next Meeting: 23rd April 2020 - Lanarkshire Campus

Ayr, 10th February 2020 being the 58th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair)
Ms L Barjonas
Ms M Curran
Mr F Jacob
Mrs M Gibson OBE
Mr A Gordon
Ms C Hunter
Professor C MacDonald
Professor C Mahoney
Mrs M McCusker
Ms A McKechin
Mr A Miller
Dr C O'Donnell
Ms T O'Donnell
Professor S Olivier
Mr K Quinlan
Professor K Sloman
Mr W Smith

In attendance: Ms D McMillan
Mr T Gabriele
Mrs A Loudon

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Munro and for late arrival from Ms C Hunter.

No declarations of interest were notified.

1. Welcome / Appointment of Chair of Court

The Vice Chair of Court reminded members that in line with the requirements of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016, all members of Court, staff and students had been entitled to vote in the election of a new Chair of Court.

Mrs K Allum had received the highest number of votes in the election and was therefore duly elected Chair of Court for a 3 year period, with effect from 1st February 2020. On behalf of Court, the Vice Chair formally welcomed Mrs Allum to her first meeting of Court.

The Vice Chair of Court also formally welcomed Mr A Miller to his first meeting following his appointment to membership of Court.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 20th November 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2019 were approved as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

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

4. **Determination of Any Other Business**

The Chair advised that discussion of correspondence received by some members of Court would be taken at the conclusion of Reserved Business.

5. **Chair's Business**

The Chair welcomed the opportunity offered by her election as Chair of Court and looked forward to working with the University and members of Court. Arrangements would be made for 1-1 meetings with the Chair and all members of Court over the coming months. It was noted that there may be some diary clashes with scheduled Court and Committees for the remainder of this academic session. These were being worked through and any changes would be advised to members as soon as practicable.

6. **Students' Association**

6.1 **SAUWS Report**

The President of SAUWS spoke to the report which highlighted some key activities at the Students' Association since the last meeting of Court. On behalf of the Association he formally thanked the former Chair of Court for her support to the Association and the sabbatical officers and looked forward to developing a close working relationship with the new Chair.

Court was interested to note the initiatives introduced by the Association to support the welfare and wellbeing of students which included the relaunch of the free shop and provision of free winter jackets donated by a local company, noting that this was particularly welcomed by international students.

The forthcoming elections for Sabbatical and School Officer Elections were noted. All positions were being contested by 72 candidates overall which included more candidates from the London Campus than previous elections.

Court noted for information the proposals being developed for the organisational restructure of the Students' Association.

In response to a question, the Provost & Deputy Principal confirmed that discussions were being held with the Students' Association in relation to the design of the new London Campus.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6.2 **SAUWS Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2019**

Court noted for information the SAUWS Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2019.

7. **Senate**

7.1 **Report from meeting of Senate held on 3rd December 2019**

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report from the meeting of Senate held on 3rd December 2019.

Court was interested to note progress with the preparations for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, noting the positive trajectory in the number and quality of submissions being made.

The Principal drew members' attention to the positive outcome of the recent Enhancement-Led Institutional Review, which was the national, external review of all Scottish HE institutions' quality and enhancement activities, highlighting the areas of commendation received. Areas for development identified would be progressed in line with agreed timescales.

In response to a question, the Principal acknowledged the concern of staff across the institution during the Rebalancing Project and outlined the next phase of the project to refocus the culture of the organisation with particular emphasis on income generation and progress in addressing the imbalance between the number of academic and professional services staff.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Committee Reports**

8.1 **Report from Meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 27th November 2019**

The report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 27th November 2019 was noted for information.

8.2 **Report from Meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 16th January 2020**

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 16th January.

She drew Court's attention to the proposed induction session on risk management for members of the Audit & Risk Committee and extended an invitation to any member of Court to attend if they so wished.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting it was agreed that the University should proceed with the appointment of new External Auditors. Court noted that from seven firms available through the APUC Framework, only one had confirmed interest in participating and therefore it had been agreed to progress to "direct award" with that provider. Court agreed that it was content that the proposed provider was a recognised brand with significant sector experience. Subject to satisfactory conclusion of the Engagement Letter, Court approved the appointment of KPMG as External Auditors for a 3 year period with options to extend.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8.3 Report from Meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 20th January 2020

The Chair of the Remuneration Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 20th January 2020.

The Secretary to Court confirmed that business continuity arrangements had been put in place in response to the proposed industrial action by the EIS Trade Union on various dates in February and March 2020. Court agreed that it was important that the impact of this on the student experience be minimised. It was agreed that Court would be kept up to date with developments as appropriate.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8.4 Report from Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 28th January 2020

The Chair of PRC spoke to the report from the meeting held on 28th January 2020.

Court noted that the Rebalancing Project was on track to deliver the projected savings and generate additional income identified. Workstreams would now be mainstreamed and monitored through normal business processes.

Progress with the disposal of the Thornly Park, Paisley site was noted. Members were interested to note the proposals being developed for the possible relocation of the Dumfries Campus. Further updates would be provided as matters evolved.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9. **Finance**

The Chief Finance Officer made a presentation to Court covering an overview of the HE Sector, UWS financial projections to the end of the 2020 financial year and the UWS financial forecast to 2024.

Court was reassured to note the improved income position and continue close monitoring of costs. Opportunities to diversify income streams would continue to be explored.

The financial results and forecast outturn report were noted for information.

10 **Student Population - Term 2 - 2019/2020**

The Provost spoke to the report which provided an overview of the 2019/2020 Term 2 student population.

Court was pleased to note that recruitment targets for Scottish/EU undergraduate programmes in non controlled subject areas had been exceeded and that intake targets for controlled programmes had been met.

The considerable progress with growing non-EU recruitment to Scottish Campuses was welcomed. Court commended those involved in this pleasing outcome, noting in particular the improvements made to offer processes to convert applications to enrolments.

The proposals to implement a more sophisticated and targeted approach to RUK recruitment were noted.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

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

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor updated Court on University developments and recent activity since the last meeting of Court.

Court was interested to note the range of events and activities at the University including the continuation of the Inspiring Women series, the annual Brough Lecture, a combined Burns/Chinese New Year lunch and an event to mark the opening of a new state of the art laboratory within the Institute of Thin Films, Sensoring & Imaging.

Court was delighted to note that Dr L Hutchison had donated a further £79,500 to support capital equipment and bursaries in the Schools of Health & Life Sciences and Computing, Engineering & Physical Sciences.

Finally Court welcomed the recent positive news stories which demonstrated success in delivery of the Corporate Strategy and world-leading research.

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