

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

EXTERNALLY FACILITATED REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COURT

In line with the requirements of the Scottish Code of Governance, the University engaged Minerva to conduct an externally facilitated review of the effectiveness of the University Court and its sub Committees including the Senate.

In undertaking the review, the following methodology was adopted by the consultants:

- A review of governance documentation from Court and Senate
- Interviews with all members of Court, several Senators and other key stakeholders
- Attendance at meetings of Court and Senate
- Senate only - all Senators were invited to respond to an online survey

The review focussed on the following key themes:

- Overall strategic responsibility
- The connection between governance and the institution
- Agenda of the Court and the balance between strategic discussion and reviewing papers/matters for information
- Court and Sub-Committee Papers
- Sub-Committees (including the Senate)
- Membership and Diversity of Court; recruitment/induction and professional development

The report concluded that “whilst improvements can always be made - governance works really well at University of the West of Scotland”.

The report highlighted a number of areas where the University enjoys a high standard of performance. Some examples include:

- Fostering a positive, inclusive culture that means complex strategy discussion can be carried out effectively;
- Revising the agenda for Court to ensure that meetings are not overwhelmed with reporting from sub-Committees and that there is real opportunity for strategic discussion;
- Bringing the student report to the front of the agenda;
- Taking seriously performance and review of Court members, with one-to-one meetings with the Chair.

The Consultant attended a meeting of the University Court on 10th February 2020 to present his initial findings. An action plan was developed in response to the recommendations and areas for enhancement highlighted within the Final Report. This was endorsed by the Governance & Nominations Committee and reported to the Court at its June 2020 meeting. Progress in implementing the enhancements for the University Court agreed will be monitored by the Governance & Nominations Committee.

A separate action plan in relation to Senate specific recommendations was endorsed by the Senate at its June meeting.