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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 2019 will be held on **Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 1:00pm in Room GT25, Ayr Campus**. A buffet lunch will be available in Room GT14 from 12:15 pm.

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

1:00 pm		Welcome Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
	1.	Minutes		Document Attached
	1.1	Minutes of meeting held on 29 th June 2022	Approval	
	2.	Matters Arising		
	3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
1:05 pm	4.	Chair's Business	Information	Oral Report
1:10 pm	5.	Principal's Business		
	5.1	Introduction from Professor J Miller, Principal & Vice-Chancellor	Information	Oral Report
	5.2	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Paper 5.2
1:20 pm	6.	Financial Statements <i>Presentation on the UWS Financial Statements to 31st July 2022</i>	Discussion and Approval	
	6.1	Financial Statements to 31 st July 2022		Paper 6.1
	6.2	External Auditor Letter of Representation		Paper 6.2
1:50 pm	7.	UWS Union		
	7.1	UWS Union Report to Court	Information	Paper 7.1
2:00 pm	8.	Senate		
	8.1	Report from meeting of Senate held on 3 rd October 2022	Information	Paper 8.1
2:10 pm	9.	Committee Reports		
	9.1	Report from meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 30 th August 2022	Information	Paper 9.1
	9.2	Report from meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held 19 th October 2022 (part)	Approval	Paper 9.2
	9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Effectiveness Report Report from meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 19 th October 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Committee Annual Report 	Discussion	Appendix Paper 9.3 Appendix

	9.4	Report from meetings of Audit & Risk Committee held on 3 rd October and 8 th November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Service Annual Report • Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report • Strategic Risk Register 	Discussion and Approval	Paper 9.4 Appendix 1 Appendix 2 Appendix 3
2:40 pm	10.	UWS Performance Report - November 2022	Discussion & Approval	Paper 10
2:55 pm	11.	Outcome Agreement with SFC	Discussion & approval	Paper 11
3:05 pm	12.	Annual Report on Institution-led Review of Quality in AY 2021/2022 - Governing Body Statement of Assurance - 2021/2022	Approval	Paper 12
3:20 pm	13.	Annual Statement of Research Integrity	Approval	Paper 13
3:25 pm	14.	Modern Slavery Statement	Approval	Paper 14
	15.	Any Other Business		
RESERVED BUSINESS				
3:30 pm	R1.	Minutes Minutes of Reserved Meeting held on 26 th June 2022 Minutes of Reserved Meeting held on 25 th July 2022	Approval	Documents Attached
	R2.	Report from meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 19th October (part)	Approval	Paper 18

Date of Next Meeting: 8th February 2023 – Paisley Campus

London Campus Graduation – 28th March 2023

Court Residential Event : 27th and 28th April 2023 - Dumfries Campus

Ayr, 29th November 2022 being the 70th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair)
Mr O Adams Adamatie
Ms A Buchanan (via MS Teams)
Professor S Carnicelli
Ms S Elufioye
Mr R Jefferies
Mr A Gubbay (via MS Teams)
Mr A Mallick
Dr I McLellan
Dr L Meredith
Mr A Miller (via MS Teams)
Professor J Miller
Ms A Mitchell
Mr C Morgan
Mr J Mone
Mrs L Muazu
Mr A Munro
Mr K Murdoch (via MS Teams)
Mr H Stolkin

In attendance: Mrs A Loudon
Mr A MacIver
Ms D McMillan
Ms F Morton
Professor J Powles
Professor M Radosavljevic (via MS Teams)
Mr M Ross

Observer: Mrs L Maclean – Court & Senate Office

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Quinlan and for late arrival from Dr I McLellan.

No declarations of interest were notified.

Welcome

The Chair advised Court that Ms R Grant had stood down as Students' Union President at the end of September. Following discussion between the University and the Students' Union it had been agreed that the position of Union President would remain vacant for the rest of the academic year. The Student Council had nominated Mr O Adams Adamatie as the second representative on Court.

The Chair welcomed Ms A Mitchell, Professor J Miller, Ms S Elufioye, Mr O Adams Adamatie, Professor S Carnicelli, Mr R Jefferies and Ms F Morton to their first meeting of Court.

Declaration of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were notified.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

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 thanked those members of Court who had attended the winter 2022 graduation ceremonies and reminded everyone of the expectations on them as members to support UWS graduation ceremonies and other events.

The Vice Chair of Court updated Court of discussion at a recent meeting of the Committee of Scottish Chairs which had focussed on sector-wide funding challenges.

5. **Principal's Business**

5.1 **Introduction from Professor James Miller, Principal & Vice-Chancellor**

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor expressed his thanks to the UWS community for their kind welcome on his appointment. He highlighted the recent graduation ceremonies which had been a great celebration of student success and a tremendous start to his appointment at UWS. "Meet the Principal" events had been arranged for staff at all Campuses.

5.2 **Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report**

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor spoke to his Highlight Report which led on three levels of an external environment scan covering issues related to HE in Scotland, the UK and internationally and provided Court with a summary of key actions relating to learning, teaching and research.

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor drew members' attention in particular to the ongoing funding challenges, highlighting the impact of the deepening economic downturn on forecast funding formula for future years. Discussions were ongoing with both SFC and the Scottish Government to seek to secure the best financial settlement possible for the HE sector.

Court noted that an action plan was in development in response to the recent colleague survey. As part of the annual planning and budgeting process, a conference with senior colleagues would be held in the next week.

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor updated Court on the implementation of changes to the Executive structures which had been discussed at a meeting of the Remuneration Committee held earlier in the day. Two posts which were currently

being filled on an interim basis would now be filled on a permanent basis and a new post of Vice Principal (International) would be added. Recruitment was ongoing. To ensure clarity and consistency on titles, all Executive roles would be renamed with one Deputy Vice Chancellor; Pro-Vice Chancellor for academic roles; and Vice Principal for professional services roles.

Court noted that to recognise the achievement of UWS colleagues during a very challenging time an additional goodwill payment of £750 would be paid to all staff (except the Executive) and an additional rest day had been allocated in December 2022.

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor invited members to reflect and to feedback via the Court Office on any changes they would like to see in the structure and content of future Highlight Reports.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6. **Financial Statements**

6.1 Financial Statements to 31st July 2022

6.2 External Auditor Letter of Representation

The Interim Executive Director of Finance & Infrastructure made a presentation to Court on the key points from the UWS Financial Statements to 31st July 2022 which included financial performance against budget, financial highlights, key accounting judgements made by management and going concern review. Court noted that the draft Financial Statements had been discussed in detail by the Audit & Risk Committee which had agreed to recommend them to Court for approval.

In response to a question, the Interim Executive Director of Finance & Infrastructure reminded members of the commitments made for investment in 3 key focus project areas : Student Experience; Digital Transformation; and Organisational Effectiveness. The budget for these focus projects had been approved and there were no plans to amend these in the light of current economic challenges.

Ongoing challenges with recruitment of staff, both academic and professional services were noted. In this connection, the Interim Director of People outlined the revised talent acquisition approach being adopted together with new and innovative ways to position UWS as employer of choice. Members agreed that it was important that the balance between recruitment, retention, organisational effectiveness and salaries in a cost-of-living crisis be closely monitored and all opportunities to identify additional income streams explored.

After discussion, Court welcomed the positive results and commended the University on a pleasing financial outcome in a challenging climate.

Court approved the Financial Statements to 31st July 2022 and noted and endorsed the Letter of Representation for onward submission to the External Auditors.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

7. **UWS Union**

The UWS Union Vice President Education spoke to the report which provided an overview of Union activities this academic year. She drew members' attention in particular to the success of the Union's Societies and other events and activities.

The challenges of recruiting new student representatives was noted. It was agreed that Deans of Schools would be asked to encourage students to become student representatives. Support would be provided by the University to develop online training for student representatives which may help with recruitment.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Senate**

8.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 3rd October 2022**

The Deputy Principal spoke to the report from the meeting of Senate held on 3rd October 2022.

She drew members' attention to discussion at Senate on student numbers (recruitment and retention) in the light of current sector wide challenges and the flexible modes of delivery aimed at ensuring students could better manage work, financial and caring responsibilities.

In response to a question, the Principal & Vice-Chancellor confirmed that UUK and all Universities across the sector were engaging with the Governments nationally and locally to ensure that the UK remained an open and welcoming country for international students.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9. **Committee Reports**

9.1 **Report from Meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 30th August 2022**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 30th August 2022.

9.2 **Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 19th October**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 19th October 2022 and endorsed the summary report of effectiveness of Court activity for publication on the UWS website.

9.3 **Report from Meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 19th October**

The Chair of the Resources & People Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 19th October.

The proposals in relation to the disposal of the UWS tenement residences were noted. In response to a question, the Interim Executive Director of Finance &

Infrastructure highlighted the significant investment required to bring the properties in George Street and Lady Lane to an adequate standard for continued use as student accommodation. The disposal of the properties would provide time to undertake analysis and to ensure provision of appropriate and affordable student accommodation in the Paisley area.

The Health & Safety Annual Report was noted for information.

9.4 Report from Meetings of Audit & Risk Committee held on 3rd October and 8th November

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee drew Court's attention to the report from meetings held on 3rd October and 8th November. He commended all those involved for ensuring a smooth year end audit process.

Court approved the Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report and endorsed the Internal Audit Service Annual Report for onward submission to the funding Council.

The updated Strategic Risk Register was noted for information.

10. UWS Performance Report – November 2022

The Vice Principal, Planning & Recruitment spoke to the report which provided an update on 9 KPIs in line with the scheduled review of performance approved by Court in June 2022.

He drew members' attention to the actions being taken by schools and services in response to areas where performance has not met expectations and to continue to build on areas of strength.

Challenges around the targets for research awards on the basis of dramatic changes in the external research funding landscape were noted. In this connection, the Vice Principal Research, Innovation & Engagement outlined the various actions being taken to mitigate the risk and navigate through a very fluid environment. After discussion, Court approved the recommendation that the milestones and targets be revised to reflect the considerable uncertainty and risk in the research funding environment, noting that the impact would continue to be monitored closely.

Members were reminded that a key metric on valuing our people was a colleague experience survey. As this was the first colleague experience survey for some time, no milestones or targets had been set without a confirmed baseline performance. Noting the survey had a 71% completion rate, Court approved the recommendation of a target for 2024/2025 of 74%, noting that this proposed target would place UWS 5% above the current sector average.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11. SFC Outcome Agreement and Self Evaluation Review

Court approved the 2022-23 Outcome Agreement and 2021-2022 Self Evaluation Report for onward submission to the Funding Council.

12. **Annual Report on Institution-Led Review of Quality in QY 2021-222 – Governing Body Statement of Assurance**

Court noted and endorsed the Annual Report on Institution-Led Review of Quality in Academic Year 2021-2022 and approved the statement of assurance for onward submission to the Funding Council.

13. **Annual Statement of Research Integrity**

Court approved the Annual Statement of Research Integrity noting that this would be published on the UWS website.

14. **Modern Slavery Statement**

Court approved the refreshed UWS Modern Slavery Statement which set out the steps UWS had taken in the financial year ended 31st July 2022 to combat modern slavery and human trafficking, noting that this would be published on the UWS website.

15. **Any Other Business**

The Chair thanked the following retiring members for their contribution to the work of the Court:

- Professor J Brewer
- Mr A Burns
- Dr C O'Donnell
- Ms T O'Donnell
- Mr K Quinlan

The Chair also thanked all UWS colleagues involved in the management and organisation of the graduation ceremonies, particularly the Bedelluses and the marshalling staff in purple robes.

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