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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 **Thursday 23rd April 2020 at 4pm via Microsoft Teams.**

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Welcome Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest		
1.	Minutes		Documents Attached
1.1	Minutes of meeting held on 10 th February 2020	Approval	
1.2	Minutes of reserved business held on 10 th February 2020	Approval	
2.	Matters Arising		
3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
CORE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES			
4.	Chair's Business	Information	Oral Report
5.	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Paper 5
6.	Achieving significant medium and long term improvement across UWS whilst resuming full operational capacity following pandemic: UWS – Creating strength out of adversity		
6.1	Does the project plan to manage UWS operations during and beyond the current pandemic situation give Court confidence that UWS is taking appropriate action to manage the current situation and prepare for a stronger future?	Discussion	Paper 6.1
6.2	Funding and financial planning 2020-21	Discussion	Paper 6.2
6.3	IT Assurance	Discussion	Paper 6.3
7.	Students' Association		
7.1	SAUWS Report	Information	Paper 7.1
8.	Senate		
8.1	Report from meeting of Senate held on 24 th March 2020	Information	Paper 8.1
9.	Committee Reports		
9.1	Report from meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 9 th March 2020	Approval	Paper 9.1
9.2	Report from meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 16 th March 2020	Information	Paper 9.2
9.3	Report from meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 31 st March 2020	Information	Paper 9.3

	• Corporate Risk Register		
10.	Dates of Meeting - 2020/2021	Information	Paper 10
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			
11.	UWS Strategy 2025		
11.1	How can the Strategy 2025 launch in a time of lockdown? • Strategy 2025	Information	Paper 11.1
12.	Any Other Business		

Date of Next Meeting: 18th June 2020 - Venue TBC

Microsoft Teams, 23rd April 2020 being the 59th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

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

In attendance: J Durham
Professor S Hagen
A Loudon
J Maguire
D McMillan
Dr L Meredith
A Milloy
M Ross

There were no apologies for absence.

No declarations of interest were notified.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting which was being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. The focus of the meeting would be on the University's' response to the current Coronavirus pandemic with other papers noted for information unless specific questions had been received or the specific approval of Court was required.

Members had been invited to submit questions in advance and these would be addressed during the meeting. The Chair advised that, should any further questions arise from members of Court in the light of discussion, these should be submitted to the Chair and Principal for response.

Members were reminded of the need to respect the confidential nature of the information submitted to Court.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting and reserved meeting held on 10th February 2020 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 drew members' attention to the ongoing campaign to recruit new lay members. Noting that the deadline for receipt of applications had been extended to 1st May 2020, the Chair encouraged members to promote the opportunity through their own networks.

The Chair reassured Court of the significant amount of work being undertaken by colleagues across the University in response to the current Coronavirus pandemic. A number of questions received by members of Court had related to the potential financial implications of the current situation on the University. In this connection, Court noted that a detailed paper setting out various costing and financial modelling scenarios was being developed for consideration by PRC at its meeting on 2nd June. The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee had been invited to attend the meeting of PRC and a report would be provided to Court at its June meeting.

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

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report which provided a summary of University developments and an overview of activities since the last meeting of Court.

He drew members' attention in particular to the University's response and approach to the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Face to face teaching had ceased prior to the last two weeks of Trimester 2 and in line with national guidance, University buildings, other than student residential accommodation, had closed on 23rd March 2020. With the exception of key support staff in residential accommodation, cleaning and security, all staff were working remotely.

Staff had responded and adapted well to remote working. Students were also coping well and arrangements had been put in place to ensure that students were not adversely affected by the change in circumstances, with staff working closely with Professional Bodies around their requirements for completion of awards. Colleagues were also working closely with other relevant external bodies and the Students' Association and support had been provided to the NHS through provision of hospital beds and other equipment.

An email was sent daily to staff providing an update on University activities, on-line training and other support initiatives and social media channels were being regularly updated.

Regretfully it would not be possible for summer 2020 Graduation ceremonies to take place as normal although students would graduate in absentia. A celebration event to recognise student achievement would be held later in the year.

Key senior appointments were noted for information.

The focus of the meeting then centred around responses from relevant Executive leads to specific questions received in advance from members of Court with a view to providing assurance to Court on the robustness of the University's response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Themes covered included identification of positive and negative outcomes and lessons learned, student support, recruitment and admissions, student hardship, staffing/furloughing, learning and teaching, finance and income generation.

The Chair acknowledged the uncertainty faced by the University, in line with all other organisations, in these unprecedented times. The University's approach was an ongoing and iterative process designed to ensure a flexible response. Court would be kept apprised as matters evolved.

6. **UWS - Creating Strength from Adversity**

6.1 Project Plan

The Provost & Deputy Principal spoke to the report which set out the background and methodology of a project being established to ensure that the University continued to effectively deliver core business, whilst planning for strengthening operations in the longer term, drawing on the experience of the current situation.

The Project, which had been broken down into 8 independent but related Workstreams led by an identified Executive lead, would be overseen by the Provost & Deputy Principal and report to the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group. Each Workstream would be supported by colleagues from the Project Management Office using standardised project management methodologies and tools.

The Provost acknowledged the significant amount of work undertaken to date by colleagues in consultation with Trade Unions, staff and students to implement changes to assessment practices, whilst maintaining the value of the degree and academic standards in line with national guidance.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6.2 Funding and Financial Planning 2020-2021

Court noted for information the report which set out the detail of the confirmed SFC funding for the 2020-2021 academic year.

6.3 Stability and Security of IT Systems

Court noted for information the report which provided an initial statement of assurance on the stability and security of the University's IT system in the period

immediately following the introduction of remote teaching and working arrangements in response to the Coronavirus.

7. **Students' Association**

7.1 **SAUWS Report**

Court noted for information the report which detailed the activities of the Students' Association since the last meeting of Court.

8. **Senate**

8.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 24th March 2020**

The report from the meeting of Senate held on 24th March 2020 was noted for information.

9. **Committee Reports**

9.1 **Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 9th March 2020**

Court approved the recommendation that Dr C O'Donnell be appointed to the membership of Policy & Resources Committee.

Court noted that the period of appointment of Professor K Sloman as member of Court elected by the academic staff was due to conclude at the end of April and an election was due to be held. However, in the light of the current pandemic, Court approved the recommendation that Professor Sloman's appointment to Court be extended until the end of July 2020.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9.2 **Report from Meeting of PRC held on 17th March 2020**

The report from the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 17th March 2020 was noted for information.

9.3 **Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 31st March 2020**

The report from the meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 31st March 2020, which included the University's Corporate Risk Register updated to reflect the current circumstances, was noted for information.

10. **Schedule of Meetings - 2020/2021**

The 2020/2021 Schedule of Meetings was noted for information.

11. **UWS Strategy 2025**

Court noted for information the report which set out the detail of the launch events held for staff of the UWS Strategy 2025 together with the launch of two supporting initiatives - the Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Fund and the Employee Development

Programme. The planned public launch of the Strategy had been postponed. An underpinning Performance Framework and supporting thematic plans were being developed and would be submitted to the next meeting of Court.

Members noted that the Strategy was dynamic and would react to any change in circumstances, whilst not diverting from the longer term strategic vision of the University.

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