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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 **Monday 26th April 2021 at 4pm via Microsoft Teams.**

Donna McMillan
Secretary to Court

AGENDA

	Welcome		
	Apologies for Absence		
	Declaration of Interest		
1.	Minutes	Approval	Document Attached
1.1	Minutes of meeting held on 8 th February 2021		
2.	Matters Arising		
3.	Determination of Any Other Business		
CORE BUSINESS			
4.	Chair's Business	Information	Oral Report
5.	Operational Resilience - UWS Response to Pandemic	Discussion	Paper 5
6.	Students' Association		
6.1	Students' Union Report to Court	Information	Paper 6.1
7.	Senate		
7.1	Report from Meeting of Senate held on 24 th March 2021	Discussion	Paper 7.1
	• ELIR One Year Follow On Report	Approval	
8.	Committee Reports		
8.1	Report from meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 16 th March 2021	Discussion	Paper 8.1
8.2	Report from meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 30 th March 2021	Discussion	Paper 8.2
8.3	• Corporate Risk Register Report from meeting of Health, Safety & Sustainability Committee held on 12 th April 2021	Discussion	Paper 8.3
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			
9.	REF 2021		
9.1	Ref 2021 - Environment Statement Presentation from Professor Milan Radosavljevic, Vice Principal, Research, Innovation & Engagement	Discussion	Paper 9.1
10.	UWS Performance Report - April 2021	Discussion	Paper 10
11.	Student Population Report - April 2021	Discussion	Paper 11

12.	Funding & Financial Planning - 2021-2022	Discussion	Paper 12
13.	Public Sector Equality Duty and Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes Report 2021	Discussion	Paper 13
RELEVANCE AND IMPACT			
14.	Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report	Information	Paper 14
15.	Schedule of Meetings - 2021/2022	Information	Paper 15
16.	Any Other Business		
17.	Report of Conclusion of Appraisal of Chair of Court	Information	Oral Report

Date of Next Meeting: 21st June 2021 - 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams, 26th April 2021 being the 63rd meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair - except for item 16)
Ms A Buchanan
Mr A Gordon
Mr A Gubbay
Ms C Hunter
Professor C Mahoney
Mr A Mallick
Professor C MacDonald (Chair - item 16)
Ms M McCusker
Ms A McKechin
Dr I McLellan
Dr L Meredith
Mr C Morgan
Mr A Munro
Mr K Murdoch
Mr I Nizami
Dr C O'Donnell
Ms T O'Donnell
Mr K Quinlan

In attendance: Ms J Maguire
Ms D McMillan
Professor J Powles
Professor M Radosavljevic
Mr M Ross
Mrs A Loudon

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Burns and Mr A Miller

No Declarations of Interest were notified.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2021 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 updated Court on topics discussed at a recent meeting of the Committee of Scottish Chairs, including staff and student wellbeing and arrangements for the return to Campus.

Court noted that a short life working group had been established to review the Court Sub Committee structures, with recommendations being made to the next meeting of Court.

5. **Operational Resilience - UWS Response to Pandemic**

The Principal & Vice Chancellor spoke to the report which set out a summary of the ways the University had managed arrangements for the maintenance of operational activities during the period of pandemic and the ongoing resilience of systems, processes and governance.

He drew members' attention in particular to the success of the Creating Strength from Adversity Project which had delivered a co-ordinated approach to enable the University to effectively operate remotely, to continue strong recruitment and to rapidly pivot to hybrid learning whilst still reducing costs and improving income. All of these activities were underpinned by a strong focus on student and staff wellbeing.

Court commended the Principal & Vice-Chancellor and his Executive Team for their commitment to ensuring that the University adapted to the uncertainty associated with operating in the rapidly changing circumstances of the pandemic.

The Chair highlighted that, despite the better than anticipated financial outcome, the continued uncertainty across the University, the HE sector and the UK economy as a whole required that a prudent and cautious approach must be maintained in the short-medium term.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

6. **Students' Association**

6.1 **Students Union Report to Court**

Court noted with interest the report which summarised activities at the Students' Association since the last meeting of Court.

7. **Senate**

7.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 24th March 2021**

The Chair of the Senate spoke to the report from the meeting held on 24th March.

He drew members' attention in particular to the development of a draft UWS Curriculum Framework which set out a number of curriculum design principles aimed to meet the ambition of UWS Strategy 2025 and approval at Senate of proposals for a new degree algorithm for the calculation of Honours award.

Court endorsed the Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) One Year Follow On report which set out the actions taken (or in progress) to address the outcomes of the ELIR, noting that this would be published on the QAA website.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Sub Committee Reports**

8.1 **Report from Meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 16th March 2021**

The Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 16th March 2021.

Court noted that, since the meeting of the Committee, the Chair of PRC had taken Chair's action had been taken to approve the procurement of a new social learning platform.

In response to a question, the Vice Principal, Resources updated members on the various proposals submitted by staff for the "Do, Ditch, Delay" Project to identify and share opportunities to better manage workloads. Initiatives submitted included the streamlining of processes for Examination Boards, and hints and tips to better manage email traffic, diary management and digital wellbeing

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8.2 **Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 30th March 2021**

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 30th March 2021.

Court noted and endorsed the Corporate Risk Register and enhancements made to the Internal Audit Service Terms of Reference as part of an annual review.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8.3 **Report from Meeting of Health, Safety & Sustainability Committee held on 12th April 2021**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Health, Safety & Sustainability Committee held on 12th April 2021.

9. **REF 2021**

The Vice Principal, Research, Innovation and Engagement made a presentation to Court on the UWS REF 2021 submission informed by the REF 2021 Environment Statement.

Members thanked the Vice Principal for his interesting and informative presentation and commended those involved in the significant amount of work undertaken to effectively demonstrate the breadth and quality of the research and innovation activity at the University.

10. **UWS Performance Report - April 2021**

The Vice Principal, Planning and Recruitment spoke to the report which provided an update of monitoring performance on nine measures at March/April 2021 which had quarterly in year updates or annual updates since the last meeting of Court.

Members welcomed the stronger than anticipated performance, particularly in relation to student recruitment and growth in non-government income with appropriate cost controls to enable investment in the University's future.

Court noted that aligned reports on annual planning, budget and forecast and a proposed update to the performance framework would be submitted to the June meeting.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11. **Student Population Report - April 2021**

Court noted for information the report which provided an overview of currently enrolled student population following the intake of new students in Term 2.

12. **Funding and Financial Planning - 2021-2022**

Court noted for information the report which provided a partial look at SFC funding for the 2021-2022 academic year, noting that final confirmation would be received later in the cycle which would inform the development of the UWS 2021-2022 budget.

13. **Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes Report 2021**

The Vice Principal, Resources spoke to the report which provided an overview of the Public Sector Equality Duty and Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes (PSED) Report 2021, highlighting the comprehensive consultation process undertaken to develop refreshed Equality Outcomes (2021- 2025).

A copy of the full report, which would be published on the UWS Website, had been made available for the information of members of Court within the Airwatch Secure Content Locker.

14. **Principal & Vice-Chancellor Report**

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report which provided a summary of general information and overview of activities undertaken since the last meeting of Court highlighting in particular the ongoing work to ensure the wellbeing of the UWS community and its sustained commitment to delivering sector-leading, high quality hybrid learning and teaching for students.

Although additional funding had been provided to the HE sector from the SFC and Scottish Government, the additional costs to support high-quality learning and teaching remotely and to adjust Campuses for COVID-safe spaces, together with other unavoidable consequences of the pandemic required robust management of continued budget pressures and the continued need to grow non-governmental income.

Members joined in the Principal in thanking all UWS colleagues for their collective efforts to ensure that UWS students continued to benefit from a unique, world-class and transformational educational experience despite the most challenging of circumstances and against a backdrop of change, competing demands, and many other complex issues.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

15. **Schedule of Meetings- 2021/2022**

The Schedule of Meetings of Court and its sub Committees for the 2021/2022 academic year was noted for information.

16. **Appraisal of Chair of Court**

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

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

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