

This document is available electronically or in alternative formats on request.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 1:30 pm in Classroom1, Import Building, London Campus.**

**Donna McMillan**  
**Secretary to Court**

**AGENDA**

	<b>Welcome to New Member Apologies for Absence Declaration of Interest</b>		
1.	<b>Minutes</b>	Approval	Document Attached
1.1	Minutes of meeting held on 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2022		
2.	<b>Matters Arising</b>		
3.	<b>Determination of Any Other Business</b>		
4.	<b>Chair's Business</b>	Information	Oral Report
5.	<b>Students' Association</b>		
5.1	Students' Union Report to Court	Information	Paper 5.1
5.2	Constitutional Name Change	Approval	Paper 5.2
6.	<b>Senate</b>		
6.1	Report from meeting of Senate held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022	Information	Paper 6.1
7.	<b>Committee Reports</b>		
7.1	Report from meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Information	Paper 7.1
7.2	Report from meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 • Strategic Risk Register	Information	Paper 7.2
8.	<b>UWS Performance Report - April 2022</b>	Discussion	Paper 8
9.	<b>SFC Indicative Grant</b>	Discussion	Paper 9
10.	<b>Principal &amp; Vice-Chancellor's Highlight Report</b>	Information	Paper 10
11.	<b>Dates of Meeting - 2022/2023</b>	Information	Paper 11
12.	<b>Any Other Business</b>		

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Venue to be confirmed**

**Microsoft Teams, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 being the 67<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland**

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair)  
Ms A Buchanan  
Ms E Gomersall  
Mr A Gubbay  
Mr L Humberstone  
Professor C MacDonald  
Ms A McKechin  
Dr I McLellan  
Dr L Meredith  
Mr A Miller  
Mr C Morgan  
Mr J Mone  
Ms L Muazu  
Mr A Munro  
Mr K Murdoch  
Dr C O'Donnell  
Ms T O'Donnell  
Mr K Quinlan  
Mr H Stolkin

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Burns, Mr A Mallick and Ms R Paterson

No declaration of interest were notified.

**Welcome to New Member**

The Chair welcomed Ms L Muazu to her first meeting following her appointment to membership of Court.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 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**

Court noted that a dinner to allow members to mark the departure from the University of the former Principal & Vice-Chancellor and recent retirees from membership of Court would be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

#### 5. **Students' Association**

##### 5.1 **Students' Union Report to Court**

The Chair highlighted that a link to the Association's audited accounts for year ended 31st July 2021 had been included within the report for the information of the Court.

The UWS Union President spoke to the report which highlighted activity at the Union and progress in meeting key priorities in its Strategic Plan since the last meeting of Court.

She highlighted in particular the continued strong partnership working with the University and regular meetings held with the Interim Principal & Vice-Chancellor. Court welcomed the increased Students' Union activity at the London Campus and student attendance at in person events as restrictions started to ease.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

#### 6. **Senate Report**

##### 6.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The report from the meeting of Senate held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 was noted for information.

#### 7. **Student Experience Programme**

The Vice Principal, Learning, Teaching & Students made a presentation to Court on progress in meeting the key objectives of the Student Experience Programme - curriculum renewal, learning environments, student journey and learning analysis - which were designed to review the nature and quality of the UWS student experience and to reflect the University's diverse student body.

Court noted that all academic programmes would be reviewed against the new UWS Curriculum Framework over the next 3 years. In response to a question, the Vice Principal, Learning, Teaching & Students outlined proposals being developed to build and leverage more sustainable design and delivery around the post-graduate teaching programmes. It was agreed that it would be useful for Court to have sight of the final agreed list of programmes once approved.

Members were reminded that the 2020 NSS survey had been adversely affected by a range of issues, some of which, for example issues with student placement impacted by COVID-19, had been outwith the University's control. The University was confident that the Student Experience Programme would, over time, impact positively on NSS results.

In terms of data gathering for learning analysis, Court noted that this was currently driven by student online activity and digital engagement. Further discussions would be held on the most appropriate method to track and capture physical on campus activity, taking account of GDPR and data protection requirements.

Court noted that ownership of Aula Platform, the UWS learning platform, had transferred to the University of Coventry. In this connection, the Vice Principal, Learning, Teaching & Students updated Court on the positive working relationship and ongoing discussions with the University of Coventry on future collaboration.

The proposals for the one stop shop for students and the creation of Student Experience & Advisory Teams were noted. This would ensure a more consistent and empathetic approach to student support than that currently in place.

Members were reminded of discussion at the recent meeting of the Resources & People Committee in relation to estates master planning at the Paisley Campus. In this connection, the Interim Principal & Vice-Chancellor advised that all programmes would have hybrid options and this will have potential impact on use of space and this would require to be assessed in detail before any master planning activity could take place.

The Chair thanked the Vice Principal, Learning, Teaching & Students for his informative and interesting presentation and the discussion it had stimulated.

## 8. **Committee Reports**

### 8.1 Report from Meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The Chair spoke to the report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Court noted that, to support the recruitment of the new Principal & Vice-Chancellor, by Chair's action the period of appointment to membership of Court of Professor C Macdonald had been extended until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Arrangements were being put in place for the recruitment and selection of people to fill vacancies in the lay membership.

With regard to vacancies in subcommittee membership, Court approved the recommendation that Mr K Quinlan be appointed to membership of the Audit & Risk Committee and that Ms L Muazu be appointed to membership of the Resources & People Committee and the Health & Safety Committee.

Court approved the leave of absence protocol for a member of Court, noting that separate arrangements would be required in the event of a leave of absence by the Chair.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

## 8.2 Report from Meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The Chair of the Resources & People Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Court noted discussion at the Resources & People Committee in relation to the proposed new development of student accommodation in the former TA Building in Paisley. In response to a question, the Vice Principal, Planning and Recruitment advised that he had had a positive discussion with the developer who had accepted that the University was not in a position at this time to consider any arrangements around additional student residential accommodation at the Paisley Campus. In addition, the University worked in partnership with and was involved in civic discussions with Renfrewshire Council on the future developments in the town centre. As noted in discussion on the Student Experience Programme, detailed estates planning and modelling across all Campuses would be required to review space usage as the University transitioned both staff and students out of COVID-19 restrictions and adapted to new ways of working. This uncertainty, which was recognised across the whole HE sector, was further complicated by the multi campus nature of UWS.

The ongoing health and safety issue with some glazing units at the Lanarkshire Campus was noted. In this connection, the Vice Principal, Planning and Recruitment reminded members that the Lanarkshire Campus comprised 3 separate existing buildings which had been augmented by the University with a street atrium. The risk of defects occurring is age related and diminishes over time within a finite time scale. As a precaution, however, exclusion zones had been established where required and the installation of netting would further mitigate any risk. Following professional advice, legal action was being pursued for recovery of the potential cost exposure of the defect.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

## 8.3 Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee drew members' attention to the report from the meeting on held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Court was pleased to note the positive outcome of a recent peer-review of the Internal Audit Service which had concluded leading practice across all areas assessed.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

## 9. Performance Report - February 2022

The Vice Principal, Planning & Recruitment spoke to the performance management report which provided an update on 11 measures, outlining performance against trend (year on year), target for 2021-2022 milestones in the performance framework table and analysis of action and activity underway to drive improvements.

Court was pleased to note that financial performance remained strong, noting that this was driven by successful unregulated student recruitment. This success was,

however, out of pace with the appointment of staff resulting in an increase to the staff to student ratio. In response to a question, the Interim Principal & Vice-Chancellor confirmed that staff investment had been approved and the University was actively seeking to recruit to fill vacant posts. The recruitment of academic staff was, however, proving challenging in the current market and with various options, including offering secondment opportunities, would be explored as appropriate.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

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

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

She drew members' attention to the forthcoming operational planning round where Deans and Directors were invited to take stock on their activities and plans for development in line with Strategy 2025 and meet with the Executive to discuss these. Supported jointly by Strategic Planning and Finance this forum ensured a join up between the ambitions colleagues were setting and the resources to deliver it.

A member again highlighted the need for vacant posts to be filled as a matter of urgency. In this connection, the Chair reassured Court that she had regular discussions with the Interim Principal & Vice-Chancellor on the risks presented by the current recruitment challenges and the steps being taken to fill vacant posts.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

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