

Court

Mon 25 November 2024, 13:00 - 16:00

Board Room, Lanarkshire Campus

A meeting of the University Court constituted under the University of the West of Scotland Order of Council 2019 will be held on Monday 25th November 2024 at 1pm in the Board Room, Lanarkshire Campus. Lunch will be available from 12 noon in the Executive Lounge Area adjacent to the Board Room.

Agenda

13:00 - 13:000 min

1. Welcome/Apologies for Absence/Declaration of Interest

13:00 - 13:000 min

2. Minutes

2.1. Minutes of Meeting held on 25th June 2024

Decision

☐ CourtMins250624.pdf (7 pages)

13:00 - 13:033 min

3. Matters Arising

13:03 - 13:030 min

4. Determination of Any Other Business

13:03 - 13:052 min

5. Chair's Statement

13:05 - 13:1510 min

6. Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Report

Discussion

☐ 6 - PVC Report.pdf (14 pages)

13:15 - 13:205 min

7. UWS Students' Union

7.1. Students' Union Report

Decision

☐ 7.1 - Student Union Report.pdf (8 pages)

13:20 - 13:3010 min

8. Senate

Discussion

Louisa Alison
20/11/2024 15:33:53

8.1. Report from Meeting of Senate held on 2nd October 2024

Discussion

- ☐ 8.1 - Senate Report.pdf (4 pages)

13:30 - 13:45 9. Report from Sub-Committees

15 min

9.1. Report from Meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 1st October 2024 (part)

Information

- ☐ 9.1 - RemCo Report.pdf (2 pages)

9.2. Report from Meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 1st October 2024

Information

- ☐ 9.2 - RPC report.pdf (4 pages)
- ☐ 9.2 - App1 - KPI Dashboard.pdf (1 pages)

9.3. Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 5th November 2024

Decision

- ☐ 9.3 - ARC Report.pdf (5 pages)
- ☐ 9.3 - App 1 - SRR.pdf (3 pages)

9.4. Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 6th November 2024 (part)

Information

- ☐ 9.4 - GNC Report.pdf (4 pages)
- ☐ 9.4 - CPD Activity etc.pdf (1 pages)

13:45 - 14:10 10. Finance

25 min

10.1. Integrated Report including Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2024

Discussion

Presentation from Archie MacIver, Vice-Principal (Finance & Infrastructure)

- ☐ 10.1 - Integrated Report and FS Cover.pdf (2 pages)
- ☐ 10.1 - Integrated Report and FS.pdf (72 pages)

10.2. Finance Report and Forecast Outturn - 2024/2025

Information

- ☐ 10.2 - Finance Report and Forecast Outturn.pdf (12 pages)

14:10 - 14:25 11. Strategy & Performance

15 min

11.1. Strategy 2030 - Progress Update

Discussion

- ☐ 11.1 - Strategy 2030 - Cover.pdf (3 pages)
- ☐ 11.1 - Strategy 2030 - Rationale.pdf (7 pages)

London Alison
20/11/2024 13:03:54

11.2. UWS Performance Framework

Discussion

- ☐ 11.2 - Performance Framework.pdf (9 pages)

14:25 - 14:40 12. Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework (TQEF)

15 min

Information

Presentation from Professor Rachel Cragg, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching & Student Success

12.1. TQEF Self Evaluation and Action Plan

Information

- ☐ 12.1 - TQEF SEAP.pdf (6 pages)

14:40 - 14:45 13. Annual Statement on Research Integrity

5 min

Decision

- ☐ 13 - Annual Statement on Research Integrity.pdf (9 pages)

14:45 - 14:50 14. Complaints Reporting - Annual Report 223/2024

5 min

- ☐ 14 - Complaints Reporting - Annual Report - 23.24.pdf (2 pages)
- ☐ 14 - Complaints - Annual Report 23.24.pdf (10 pages)

14:50 - 14:55 15. Modern Slavery Statement 2024

5 min

Decision

- ☐ 15 - Modern Slavery Report.pdf (6 pages)
- ☐ 15 - Modern Slavery Statement - Tracked.pdf (6 pages)
- ☐ 15 - Modern Slavery Statement - Clean.pdf (5 pages)

14:55 - 15:35 16. Strategic Presentation & Discussion Item: UWS Colleague Engagement Survey 2024

40 min

Discussion

- ☐ 16 - Strategic Presentation & Discussion Item.pdf (22 pages)

15:35 - 15:35 17. Any Other Business

0 min

Loudon Alison
20/11/2024 13:33:54

17.1. Report from Meeting of Remuneration Committee held on 1st October 2024 (part)

Information

- ☐ 18.1 - RemCo Reserved.pdf (2 pages)

17.2. Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 6th November 2024 (part)

Decision

- ☐ 18.3 - GNC Report - part 2.pdf (3 pages)

Lanarkshire, 25th November 2024 being the 78th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair)
Ms O Adebayo
Professor S Carnicelli (via MS Teams)
Mr R Doherty
Mr A Gubbay (via MS Teams)
Ms M Kennedy
Dr D MacLean (via MS Teams)
Professor L Meredith
Mr A Miller
Professor J Miller
Ms A Mitchell
Mr C Morgan
Mrs L Muazu (via MS Teams)
Mr A Munro
Mr K Murdoch (via MS Teams)
Mr T Oyinpere
Ms R Simpson

In attendance: Professor R Cragg
Professor R MacIntosh
Mr A MacIver
Ms D McMillan
Ms F Morton
Mr M Ross
Mrs A Loudon
Mr G Lee (item 11.1 only)
Ms N Flynn (item 11.1 only)

Observer: Ms R Macrae

Apologies for absence were received from Ms L Carroll, Dr A M Craig, Ms K Hedge, Mr R Jefferies and Mr H Stolkin and for early departure from Mr A Munro

No Declarations of Interest were notified.

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Ms O Adebayo and Mr T Oyinpere, Student Representatives on Court, and Ms R Simpson, who had been elected to membership of Court by “all other staff” to their first meeting. In addition, the Chair welcomed Professor R MacIntosh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) to his first meeting of Court.

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 25th June 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th June 2024 were approved as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising other than those contained elsewhere in the agenda.

4. **Determination of Any Other Business**

No additional items of business had been notified.

5. **Chair's Statement**

The Chair updated Court on a meeting she and the Principal & Vice-Chancellor had had with the Chair and Interim CEO of the Scottish Funding Council where the University's funding settlement for 2024/2025 and the issue of clawback had been discussed. Court was disappointed to note that, despite agreement that the Chair and Interim CEO of SFC would attend a meeting of the UWS Court to discuss the issue in detail, the various dates that had been offered had not been acceptable to the SFC.

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor reminded Court that towards the end of the 2023/2024 academic year, a bid had been submitted to SFC for additional funding to support further collaboration with Dumfries & Galloway College aligned with the Scottish Government's Education Reform Agenda. Confirmation had now been received from SFC of funding support, but to an adjusted timeline. Court agreed that the HE landscape had changed since the request had been made and endorsed the view that it was imperative that University resources were focussed on financial recovery and therefore the University should seek to defer this project meantime.

6. **Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report which provided an external environment scan, covering strategic environmental issues related to HE in Scotland, the UK and internationally.

Court was pleased to note that the University had been shortlisted for 2 THE Awards and 4 Innovate UK Awards.

The recent launch of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) project, with a focus on enhancing the University's approach to an effective digitally enhanced learning experience for the success of all UWS students was noted. In response to a question on timescales, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Student Success) confirmed that the Project Team would keep abreast of sector practice during the lifetime of the project and amend/update where appropriate as matters evolved. Varied and multiple opportunities would be put in place for staff and students to engage with the project across the 3 phases.

The continuing requirement to deliver significant efficiency savings through income generation activity and careful management of vacancies and some highly targeted structural changes was noted. In response to a question, the Principal & Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the impact to students would be kept to a minimum, highlighting that the current financial challenges arose largely from a reduction in SFC funding and fewer international students.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

7. **Students' Union Report**

The President of the Students' Union spoke to the report which provided an overview of activities and progress towards the 5 strategic priorities in the Union's operational plan.

Court was interested to note the success of the Freshers' Fairs and Welcome Events and the continued engagement by students in societies and student groups. The ongoing Democracy Review and the work of the Advice Service was also noted.

Court noted and endorsed the proposed Students' Union Budget for 2024/25. Members were reminded that the block grant to the Students' Union from the University had been approved as part of discussion and approval of the UWS Budget for 2024/2025. Although a small year-end deficit position was projected, this would be closely monitored and the Union would continue to work in partnership with the University as the year progressed.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Senate**

8.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 2nd October 2024**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of Senate held on 2nd October 2024.

9. **Reports from Sub-Committees**

9.1 **Report from Meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 1st October 2024**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 1st October 2024.

9.2 **Report from Meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 1st October 2024**

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Resources & People Committee held on 1st October 2024.

9.3 **Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 5th November 2024**

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee drew Court's attention to the report from the meeting held on 5th November 2024. Court shared the concern and disappointment of the Audit & Risk Committee that the external audit had not been concluded in time to enable final approval of the Financial Statements to the agreed timeline. As a consequence, and to ensure that the SFC deadline for submission was met, Extra-Ordinary meetings of both the Audit & Risk Committee and Court would be held on 5th December 2024.

Court noted and endorsed the updated Strategic Risk Register.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

9.4 **Report from Meeting of Governance & Nominations Committee held on 6th November 2024**

The Chair spoke to the report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations committee held on 6th November 2024.

Court noted that the process for the appointment of a new Chair of Court remained on track and that arrangements were being put in place for an externally facilitated review of Court.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

10. **Finance**

10.1 **Integrated Report including Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2024**

Court noted for information the draft Integrated Report including Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2024.

The Vice-Principal (Finance & Infrastructure) made a presentation to Court on the key movements in the Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2024. As noted above, these were still subject to conclusion of year end processes prior to final approval by Court.

In response to a question, the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee reminded members that the University's External Auditors attended all meetings of the Committee and no concerns or issues had been raised that would impact on the year end audit.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

10.2 **Finance Report and Forecasted Outturn – 2024/2025**

The Vice-Principal (Finance & Infrastructure) spoke to the report which set out the management accounts for 3 months to 31st October 2024 along with a summary forecast outturn for the year based on performance to date.

The Committee noted that the projected outturn was lower than the budget for the same period. This was due largely to income year to date being lower than budget and the impact of the increased national insurance contributions. Staff costs continued to be managed tightly.

In response to a question, the Vice-Principal (People & Wellbeing) outlined the various ways in which staff costs were being managed and controlled. This was based on detailed analysis of a number of factors including portfolio review, staff/student ratios and vacancy management.

After discussion, Court agreed that the position remained challenging, but commended management for their approach to dealing with the volatile and changing financial environment.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11. **Strategy & Performance**

11.1 **Strategy 2030 – Progress Update**

The Vice-Principal (Recruitment & Planning) spoke to the report which set out an initial draft of UWS Strategy 2030. He drew members' attention to the detail on the rationale followed by the project group during the development of the initial draft of the strategy. Court noted that consultation and discussions were ongoing on the development of a set of institutional values which would underpin the Strategy.

In response to a question, the Director of Strategic Planning outlined the various opportunities available for staff and students to engage in the process and to ensure continuing support and consensus on the key messages contained within the Strategy.

After discussion, Court endorsed the direction of travel, noting that it was anticipated that the final UWS Strategy 2030 would be brought forward to the February 2025 meeting of Court for approval. In the meantime, to maximise Court engagement, individual meetings would be arranged for any member who wished to input further to the development of the UWS Strategy.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11.2 Performance Framework

Court noted for information the report which provided an update on key performance indicators and associated actions. Reflections on the Strategy 2025 performance indicators would inform the development of a more effective suite of measures to support Strategy 2030.

12. Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework (TQEF)

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Student Success) made a presentation to Court introducing the new Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework for Scotland's Universities and Colleges (TQEF). The new Framework included the commitment to producing an annual report for submission to the Funding Council on the quality of learning and teaching and approaches to student success by each institution, focused on reflecting on themes arising from internal and external quality processes to inform an institution wide improvement plan.

Court noted for information the outline of the University's Self Evaluation Action Plan (SEAP) which was being developed for submission to the SFC. The finalised SEAP would be submitted to Court for information.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

13. Annual Statement on Research Integrity

Court approved the Annual Statement on Research Integrity for publication on the UWS website.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

14. Complaints Reporting Annual Report – 2023/2024

Court noted for information the report which provided an overview of the operation of the complaints handling procedure during the 2023/2024 academic year.

15. Modern Slavery Statement 2024

Court noted the amendments made to the UWS Modern Slavery Statement and approved the updated Modern Slavery Statement for the financial year ending 31st July 2024. Suggested enhancements for the next review would be taken forward.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

16. **Strategic Presentation & Discussion Item : Colleague Engagement Survey 2024**

Court noted for information the copy of the presentation circulated which set out the results of the 2024 Colleague Engagement Survey.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer discussion on the detail of the survey. Further data would be provided to the Resources & People Committee on the actions being taken to address the comments made.

17. **Any Other Business**

The Chair reminded members that this would be the last meeting for Professor L Meredith who would retire from the University at the end of December 2024. Members thanked Professor Meredith for her commitment to the work of the Court and wished her well.

The Chair also wished to put in record her thanks to Mr J Mone for his commitment to the work of Court during his period of appointment as member of Court elected by “all other staff” which had concluded at the end of October 2024.

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