

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF COURT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

The Scottish Code of Good HE Governance (2023) requires the Court to review its effectiveness regularly and to report publicly on the results of effectiveness reviews and associated actions.

The University Court keeps its own effectiveness under review in a variety of ways. A review of the effectiveness of the Court is a standing item at meetings of the Governance & Nominations Committee.

Members of Court are invited to complete a self evaluation questionnaire which is used to inform their 1-1 discussion with the Chair. This questionnaire seeks feedback from members on their personal experience as a member of Court and identifies any additional training needs.

As part of ongoing CPD activity, a Court Development Day was held in September 2023. The programme for the event started with a session from the University's Associate Dean, EDI exploring "Towards an Inclusive University – Applying an Intersectional Lens to good governance in HE". This was followed by a session focusing on Early Intervention & Transitional Support – a model for student retention, progression and success and a snapshot into the Life of a Dean of School. The event also included a roundtable discussion with 3 UWS students all of whom had an exciting story to tell about life at UWS. A similar event is being planned for September 2024.

Along with core induction modules for new members, CPD activity also included a presentation on Internationalisation at UWS and a further deep dive into the University's pension arrangements. In addition, the Resources & People Committee received a detailed presentation into the University's Estate across all 5 Campuses. Members of Court regularly attend meetings of Senate as observers and are encouraged to attend graduation ceremonies and other events to increase their knowledge and understanding of UWS.

A new Board Portal for the distribution of Court papers and dissemination of other information to Court was introduced in October 2023. This has been welcomed by members and opportunities to develop and increase usage of the portal will be taken forward.

A discussion on the overall effectiveness of the Court was held as part of the April 2024 Strategic Residential Event. This session built on discussion at the Court Development Day and concluded overall assurance in the effectiveness of the Court and that the Statement of Primary Responsibilities was being met. Opportunities for further enhancement being explored include:

- Enhancements to sub Committee reporting to Court
- More tailored use of the new Board Portal Software in terms of information for Court
- Suggestions for additions to the skills gaps in the current membership
- Additional suggestions for topics for CPD/Topics