

Court

Mon 22 April 2024, 12:30 - 14:30

Class Room 1, Import Building, London 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 22nd April 2024 at 12:30 pm in Class Room 1, Import Building at the London Campus. Lunch will be available from 12 noon.

Agenda

12:30 - 12:32 1. Welcome/Apologies for Absence/Declarations of Interest

2 min

Information

12:32 - 12:35 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 13th February 2024

3 min

Decision

 Court Mins 130224.pdf (5 pages)

12:35 - 12:36 3. Matters Arising

1 min

Information

12:36 - 12:36 4. Determination of Any Other Business

0 min

Information

12:36 - 12:40 5. Chair's Statement

4 min

Information

Oral Report

12:40 - 12:50 6. Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Report

10 min

Discussion


 6 PVC Report.pdf (12 pages)

12:50 - 13:10 7. Cyber Incident - July 2023 - Lessons Learned Report

20 min

Discussion

 7- Cyber Lessons Learned Report.pdf (39 pages)

 7 - Cyber Lessons Learned - App 4.pdf (15 pages)

13:10 - 13:20 8. Students' Union

10 min

8.1: Students' Union Report

*7: Alison
4/2024 08:57:44*

Information

📄 8.1 - Students Union Report.pdf (7 pages)

13:20 - 13:25 9. Senate

5 min

9.1. Report from Meeting of Senate held on 21st March 2024

Information

📄 9.1 - Senate Report.pdf (3 pages)

13:25 - 13:35 10. Committee Reports

10 min

10.1. Report from Meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 12th March 2024

Information

📄 10.1 - RPC Report.pdf (6 pages)

📄 10.1 - Appendix - H&S Dashboard.pdf (2 pages)

10.2. Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 9th April 2024

Information

📄 10.2 - ARC Report.pdf (4 pages)

13:35 - 13:50 11. Financial Update

15 min

Information

Presentation from Vice Principal (Finance & Infrastructure)

13:50 - 13:55 12. Dates of Meetings for Academic Years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026

5 min

Information

📄 12 - Schedule of Meeting Dates - 24.25; 25.26.pdf (3 pages)

13:55 - 13:55 13. Any Other Business

0 min

13:55 - 14:00 14. Reserved Business

5 min

14.1. Minutes of Reserved Business held on 13th February 2024

Decision

📄 Court Reserved Mins - 130224.pdf (2 pages)

London, 22nd April 2024 being the 76th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair)
Professor S Carnicelli
Dr A Craig
Mr R Doherty (via MS Teams)
Mr A Gubbay (via MS Teams)
Ms K Hedge
Mr R Jefferies
Dr D MacLean
Dr L Meredith
Mr A Miller
Professor J Miller
Ms A Mitchell
Mr J Mone
Mr C Morgan
Mr A Munro
Ms L Muazu
Mr K Murdoch (via MS Teams)
Ms R Paterson

In attendance: Mr A MacIver
Ms D McMillan
Ms F Morton
Ms S Pitticas
Professor M Radosavljevic
Mr M Ross
Mrs A Loudon

Observer: Mr G Lee

Apologies for absence were received from Ms U Agbaraji, Ms S Elufioye , Ms M Kennedy and Professor R Cragg and for late arrival from Ms A Mitchell and Ms R Paterson

No Declarations of Interest were notified.

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Dr A Craig to her first meeting following her appointment as member of Court elected by the academic staff.

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th February 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February 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**

Court noted that the Senior Governor of the Court of the University of Aberdeen had been appointed Chair of the Committee of Scottish Chairs.

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

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor updated Court on the facts and impact of the SFC's recent announcement of indicative funding allocations for academic year 2024/2025.

Members were reminded that a loss of funded places across the sector in line with an agreed formula had been expected. Court was, however, extremely concerned to note that it appeared that the burden of the lost places had been disproportionately allocated to UWS resulting in a loss of 734 non controlled places (57% of the total places lost). Of those removed from UWS, 220 places had been allocated to a competitor institution. Taking into account other changes to the funding allocations, the net impact to UWS amounted to a loss of an estimated £4.8m. The level of clawback for 22/23 was still unknown and would add to this financial challenge.

Members of Court also expressed their concern at the timing of announcement coming so far into the recruitment cycle and the resultant impact to UWS applicants, some of whom may be displaced through being offered places as the competitor institution who now had to fill the additional funded places. While urgent discussions had been held with the Funding Council, no clear understanding of the rationale for the decision had as yet been forthcoming.

Court agreed that it was imperative that the University continued to engage extensively with the Funding Council and MPs/MSPs across all political parties at the highest level pending confirmation of the final funding allocation. The unintended consequences of the impact of this settlement particularly in relation to the correlation between the loss of funded places and the University's leading position in meeting Scottish Government priorities on widening participation should also be highlighted.

Noting that the outcome of the indicative funding allocation had been shared with staff at an All Staff Meeting held earlier in the day, the Principal & Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the revised financial assumptions would be built into the current budgeting and planning process with mitigations put in place. While every effort would be made to increase income from other sources, cost savings would be necessary and targeted severance schemes could not be ruled out. Dialogue with the Trade Unions would continue.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

7. **Cyber Incident – July 2023 – Lessons Learned Report**

The Vice Principal (Finance & Infrastructure) drew members' attention to the report which provided a detailed review of the impact, recovery and lessons learned from the July 2023 cyber incident.

Court welcomed the helpful and comprehensive report which had also been discussed in detail at the meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee on 9th April. A condensed version of elements of the report would be developed to share with stakeholders and external partners.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

8. **Students' Union**

8.1 **Union Report**

The Students' Union Report was noted for information.

9. **Senate**

9.1 **Report from Meeting of Senate held on 21st March 2024**

The report from the meeting of Senate held on 21st March 2024 was noted for information.

10. **Committee Reports**

10.1 **Report from Meeting of Resources & People Committee held on 12th March 2024**

The Chair of the Resources & People Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 12th March 2024. He drew members' attention in particular to a deep dive presentation into the UWS Estate across all 5 Campus locations and approval of Tuition Fees and Scholarships and Residence Fees for AY 2025/2026.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

10.2 **Report from Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee held on 9th April 2024**

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 9th April 2024.

He drew members' attention to discussion at the meeting on the financial reforecast and management accounts to 31st January 2024 and ongoing challenges with completion of the Financial Statements for year ended 31st July 2023 highlighting that he had emphasised to the University's External Auditors the requirement that the audit be substantially complete prior to the Committees May 2024 meeting to enable formal approval at the June 2024 Court.

Court noted that an update on the recommendations arising from the Cyber Lessons Learned Report would be a standing item at future meetings of the Committee.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

11. **Financial Update**

The Vice Principal (Finance & Infrastructure) to make a presentation to Court on the current financial position including key movements from the approved budget.

The revised timescale for conclusion of the year end audit process was noted. In response to a question, the Vice Principal (Finance & Infrastructure) advised that to date there was nothing from the audit process that would indicate a modified opinion, although this could not be confirmed until the process was concluded. Stakeholders had been understanding of the delay and unaudited Financial Statements had been accepted where required pending confirmation on conclusion of the year end process.

12. **Dates of Meetings for AY 24/25 and 25/26**

Dates of Meetings of Court and its sub Committees for academic years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 were noted for information.

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