

# Court

Mon 27 November 2023, 12:00 - 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 27th November 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Board Room, Lanarkshire Campus**. Lunch will be available from 12 noon.

**Donna McMillan**


Secretary to Court

## Agenda

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**12:00 - 13:02** **1. Welcome/Apologies for Absence/Declaration of Interest**  
62 min

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**13:02 - 13:05** **2. Minutes of the Meeting held 28th June 2023**  
3 min  
*Decision*  
 Courtmins280623 (1).pdf (7 pages)

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**13:05 - 13:06** **3. Matters Arising**  
1 min

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**13:06 - 13:10** **4. Determination of Any Other Business**  
4 min

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**13:10 - 13:15** **5. Chair's Statement**  
5 min  
*Information*  
Oral Report

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**13:15 - 13:25** **6. Principal & Vice-Chancellor Report to Court**  
10 min  
*Discussion*  
 6 - PVC Report.pdf (12 pages)

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**13:25 - 13:40** **7. Students' Union**  
15 min

**7.1. Students' Union Report**

 7.1 - Students Union Report.pdf (8 pages)

**7.2. Students' Union - Budget 2023/2024**

Decision

 7.2 - Students Union Budget - 23-24.pdf (4 pages)

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## 13:40 - 13:50 **8. Senate**

10 min

### **8.1. Report from Meeting of Senate held on 4th October 2023**

Information

 8.1 - Senate Report.pdf (6 pages)

#### **8.1.1. Standing Orders of Senate**

Decision

 8.1.1 - Senate Standing Orders.pdf (20 pages)

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## 13:50 - 14:10 **9. Committee Reports**

20 min

### **9.1. Report from Meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 19th September 2023**

Information

 9.1 - ARC Report.pdf (4 pages)

### **9.2. Report from Meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 18th October 2023 (part 1)**

Decision

 9.2 - GNC report.pdf (4 pages)

#### **9.2.1. Standing Orders of Court**

Decision

 Standing Orders of Court - 2023 - draft.pdf (33 pages)

### **9.3. Report from Meeting of the Resources & People Committee held on 18th October 2023**

Information

 9.3 - RPC Report.pdf (6 pages)

### **9.4. Report from Meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 24th October 2023**

Information

 9.4 - RemCo Report.pdf (2 pages)

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## 14:10 - 14:50 **10. UWS Strategy & Performance**

40 min


### **10.1. UWS Performance Report**

Discussion

 10.1 - Performance Report.pdf (9 pages)

### **10.2. UWS Strategy 2030**

*Decision*

 10.2 - UWS Strategy 2030 - size and shape.pdf (7 pages)

### **10.3. Outcome Agreement Reporting Update**

*Decision*

 10.3 - SER OA.pdf (36 pages)

### **10.4. UWS & Tertiary Education Development Update Report**

*Discussion*

 10.4 - UWS and Tertiary Education Development Update.pdf (3 pages)

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## **14:50 - 15:00 11. SFC Annual Report on Institution-Led Review of Quality in AY 2022/2023**

10 min

*Decision*

 11 - SFC Annual Report on Institution led Review of Quality - 22-23.pdf (2 pages)

 11 - SFC Letter.pdf (14 pages)

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## **15:00 - 15:10 12. Annual Statement of Research Integrity**

10 min

*Decision*

 12 - Annual Statement of Research Integrity.pdf (8 pages)


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## **15:10 - 15:20 13. Modern Slavery Statement 2023**

10 min

*Decision*

 13 - Modern Slavery Cover.pdf (7 pages)

 13 - Modern Slavery Tracked.pdf (5 pages)

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## **15:20 - 15:25 14. Any Other Business**

5 min

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## **15:25 - 15:35 15. Reserved Business**

10 min

### **15.1. Minutes of Reserved Meeting held on 28th June 2023**

*Decision*

 CourtMinsReserved280623.pdf (2 pages)

### **15.2. Report from Meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 18th October 2023 (part)**

*Decision*

 15.2 - GNC part 2.pdf (3 pages)

**Lanarkshire, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 being the 74th meeting of the Court of the University of the West of Scotland**

Present: Mrs K Allum (Chair)  
Ms U Agbaraji  
Professor S Carnicelli  
Ms L Carroll  
Mr R Doherty  
Ms S Elufioye (via MS Teams)  
Mr R Jefferies  
Mr A Gubbay (via MS Teams)  
Ms K Hedge  
Ms M Kennedy  
Dr D MacLean  
Dr L Meredith  
Mr A Miller  
Professor J Miller  
Mr J Mone  
Mr C Morgan  
Mr A Munro  
Ms L Muazu (via MS Teams)  
Mr K Murdoch (via MS Teams)  
Ms R Paterson  
Mr H Stolkin (via MS Teams)

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

Observers: Ms S Martin  
Ms D Winwood

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Mallick, Dr I McLellan and Ms A Mitchell.

No Declarations of Interest were notified.

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 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 Statement**

The Vice Chair of Court updated members on discussion at a recent meeting of the Committee of Scottish Chairs he had attended on behalf of the Chair. The financial challenges currently facing Universities across the sector and opportunities to diversify income streams particularly through international student recruitment were highlighted.

The Chair paid tribute to Mr A Burns who had sadly passed away at the beginning of November. Mr Burns had served as the academic staff Trade Union Representative on Court from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 until July 2022 and was also a member of the Governance & Nominations Committee and the Selection Committee for the appointment of the Principal & Vice-Chancellor.

## 5. **Principal & Vice-Chancellor Report to Court**

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report which provided an external environment scan, covering strategic and environmental issues related to HE in Scotland, the UK and internationally together with key information for Court on university-wide updates, research and innovation, the focus programme, events and reputation and esteem.

Members noted that the University had recently completed a scheduled audit by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). The final outcome of the audit was awaited and would be advised to Court once confirmed.

The Principal & Vice-Chancellor reminded members that the outcome of the Scottish Government budget was expected shortly. Although a reduction of £102M in the allocation to the Scottish Funding Council had been announced, assurance had been provided that this would be met from current uncommitted funds and did not refer to any potential clawback. This included additional funding promised in the last financial year which had subsequently been withdrawn. The University would continue to advocate for increased funding across the sector whilst recognising the tight fiscal position.

The attention of members was drawn to the overview of the July 2023 cyber incident and subsequent actions. Court acknowledged the significant impact of the incident both directly and indirectly on individuals' workloads, noting that in recognition, an additional 3 days holiday had been given to staff over the Christmas & New Year period. Further reports on progress would routinely be submitted to meetings of both the Audit & Risk and Resources & People Committees.

Court discussed the outcome of the University's performance in recent League Table rankings and information on graduate outcomes and the National Student Survey. In this connection, the Principal & Vice-Chancellor reminded members of the restrictions and limitations in and differences between the weightings used in the various League Tables. The University's strategy remained to focus on key actions and investment to improve the student experience and outcomes which would ultimately flow into student satisfaction, progression and retention rates as well as graduate outcomes.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

## 6. **Students' Union**

### 6.1 **Students' Union Report**

The UWS Union President spoke to the report which provided an update on Students' Union activity this academic session.

Court was delighted to note that the UWS Union had won the SPARQs Engagement Award for an existing initiative in partnership for the work of the Student Partnership Forum.

The impact of the July 2023 cyber attack on UWS Union commercial activity and increased requests from students for advice services noted. Court was encouraged to note that discussions would be held with the University to identify a clear set off actions and focus which would ensure a balance between commercial viability and the student experience.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

## 6.2 UWS Students' Union Budget for Academic Year 2023/2024

Members were reminded that at the last meeting, it was noted that the Students' Union budget was not yet finalised and delegated authority was granted to the Chair to approve the funding subject to reporting to Court at its next meeting. Work on finalising the budget had, however, been impacted by the cyber incident.

Court noted and approved the Students' Union budget for AY 2023/2024.

## 7. **Senate**

### 7.1 Report from Meeting of Senate held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Court was interested to note the range of issues discussed at the meeting of the Senate held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 reflecting the start of the 2023/2024 academic year and approved the revised Standing Orders of Senate.

## 8. **Committee Reports**

### 8.1 Report from Meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The implications of the July 2023 cyber incident on the year end audit and development of the Financial Statement was noted. Discussions were ongoing with the University's External Auditors to reschedule the audit work and it was anticipated that draft unaudited Financial Statements would be submitted to the January 2024 meeting of the Committee.

In response to a question, the Vice Principal (Finance & Infrastructure) confirmed that the Funding Council were understanding of the current situation. However, ongoing challenges with manual processes were causing issues with some suppliers. Court agreed that maintenance of robust financial controls and record keeping was imperative.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

### 8.2 Report from Meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Chair drew members' attention to the paper which formed part of report from the meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Court noted that recommendation on re-appointment of lay members and the appointment of the Intermediary Member would be taken under reserved business.

Court noted and approved the revised Standing Orders of Court which had been refreshed to align with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016, the revised Scottish Code of Good HE Governance, sector best practice and the Standing Orders of Senate. Court also endorsed the recommendation that the vacancy in the membership of the Audit & risk Committee be left unfilled meantime.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

### 8.3 Report from Meeting of the Resources & People Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Chair of the Resources & People Committee spoke to the report from the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October. He drew members' attention to discussion at the meeting on the objectives

of the Communities & Society Thematic Plan with a focus on net zero initiatives; student population targets and the impact of the cyber incident.

Court noted that, by Chair's action, the Chair of the Resources & People Committee in discussion with the Chair of Court had approved revised terms of an updated missive for the disposal of the former Hamilton Campus. It was anticipated that the disposal would conclude by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

The remainder on the report was noted for information.

#### 8.4 Report from Meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Court noted for information the report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, noting that an additional meeting of the Committee would be held in January to enable further discussion on the remuneration framework and policy and to consider the potential value of appointing an external remuneration consultant to advise the committee from time to time.

The Chair of Court reminded members that the processes for determining the remuneration of the senior team were very different in the HE sector than the commercial sector. Although members confirmed understanding of the arrangements in place, it was agreed that a briefing on the Remuneration Framework could usefully form the basis of the strategic presentation and discussion item at the next meeting of Court.

In response to a question, the Vice Principal (People & Student Wellbeing) clarified that the Salaries Committee had delegated authority for approving all terms of appointment, including remuneration, performance and the application of annual pay awards all senior managers and the Professoriate. The Salaries Committee also provided contextual and benchmarking data which informed discussion at the Remuneration Committee. The remit to approve awards for the Vice-Chancellor's Executive remained with the Remuneration Committee.

### 9. **UWS Strategy & Performance**

#### 9.1 Performance Report

The Vice Principal (Planning & Recruitment) spoke to the report which provided Court with an update of data published or available post 2022-2023 year end. Court noted that the data was primarily focused on external data sources and publication given the current challenges in presenting comparative internal data.

The improved overall student satisfaction position evidenced by responses to module evaluation questionnaires was noted. In response to a question on response rates, the Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Student Success) highlighted that the current approach formed part of a review of student feedback mechanisms to capture, and respond to, student feedback.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

#### 9.2 UWS Strategy 2030

The Vice Principal (Planning & Recruitment) spoke to the paper which provided an update on progress with Strategy 2030 and with the key underpinning work assessing "size and shape of the student population".

He reminded members that as part of discussion at the April 2023 strategic residential event, Court had endorsed a timeline for the development of Strategy 2030 with engagement with staff and students from September 2023 to final approval in February 2025. However, in the context of the cyber incident, it was not considered effective to commence these activities in September 2023 and therefore a revised timeline was now proposed.

Court endorsed the revised timeline, noting that the process included multiple opportunities for staff, student and external stakeholder engagement. Final approval by Court remained at February 2025 and updates on progress would be provided at each meeting. Members agreed that it was important that the new Strategy provided flexibility, agility and preparedness to self challenge and adapt as required. Revised KPIs and metrics to illustrate critical success factors for UWS would be developed as part of the new Strategy.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

### 9.3 Outcome Agreement Reporting Update

Court approved the Self Evaluation of delivery of the outcomes from the 2022-2023 Outcome Agreement, a forward looking Outcome Agreement outlining the commitment UWS is making in the SFC/Scottish Government identified priority areas, a national measures table and case studies evidence to demonstrate ways in which funding has been used to deliver outcomes for onward submission to the Funding Council.

### 9.4 UWS & Tertiary Education Development

Court noted for information the report which provided an update on progress and approach being put in place to take forward discussions with some of the University's college partners. Further updates would be provided as matters evolved.

## 10. **SFC Annual Report on Institution-Led Review of Quality in AY 2022-2023**

Court noted and endorsed the SFC Annual Report on Institution-Led Review of Quality in academic year 2022-2023.

## 11. **Annual Statement on Research Integrity**

Court noted and endorsed the annual Statement on Research Integrity.

## 12. **Modern Slavery Statement for Financial Year Ended 2023**

The Vice Principal (Governance) & University Secretary drew members attention to the report which set out a proposed refreshed Modern Slavery Statement for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

In response to a question, the Vice Principal (Governance) & University Secretary confirmed that the University's Procurement Team worked with new suppliers to ensure that they complied with the UK legislation on Modern Slavery. It was suggested that the term "zero tolerance" was too rigid and carried potential risk to the University. After discussion, Court agreed that "zero tolerance" was widely used across a range of areas. The UWS Modern Slavery Statement reflected legal compliance and the University's policy in this regard.

Noting that the University was not aware of any particular high risk issues, Court approved the Modern Slavery Statement for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

The remainder of the report was noted for information.

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