



University Court
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls
Monday, 25 April 2022

AGENDA

OPENING ITEMS

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 1 | Minute
To <u>approve</u> the minute of the meeting held on 21 February 2022 | A1 |
| 2 | Matters Arising & Review of Action Log
To <u>raise</u> any other matters arising and <u>review</u> the Action Log | A2 |
| 3 | Principal's Report
To <u>note</u> a report from Peter Mathieson, Principal | B |
| 4 | Committee Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Lay Member's Overview• Exception Committee• Policy & Resources Committee• Audit & Risk Committee• Knowledge Strategy Committee• Senate | Verbal
C1
C2
C3
C4
C5 |

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

- | | | |
|----------|--|------------------------|
| 5 | Student Experience Framework
To <u>comment</u> on a paper presented by Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students | D |
| 6 | Students' Association and Sports Union Reports
To <u>comment</u> on the reports presented by Ellen MacRae, EUSA President <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students' Association Report• Sports Union Report | E1
E2 |
| 7 | Director of Finance's Report
To <u>comment</u> on the report presented by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance | F |
| 8 | Investment Opportunity: Project Dolly Proceeds
To <u>approve</u> a paper presented by Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services | G |
| 9 | Communications & Marketing Update Report
To <u>comment</u> on a paper presented by Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing | H |

10 International Partnerships

To *comment* on papers presented by Alan Mackay, Deputy Vice-Principal International:

- **Security and Risks in International Partnerships Annual Update** I1
- **Partnerships with Russia** I2

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

11 Usher Institute – Reallocation of City Deal Funding J

To *approve*

12 Staff Benefits Scheme Trustee Structure K

To *approve*

13 Awards of University Benefactor L

To *approve*

14 Cross & Salmon Trust – Re-appointment of Continuing Trustee M

To *approve*

15 Donations, Legacies, Alumni Events N

To *note*

16 Resolutions O

To *approve*

17 Meeting Date Change – November/December 2022 P

To *approve*

18 Any Other Business

To *consider* any other matters.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 13 June 2022



UNIVERSITY COURT

21 February 2022 (Videoconference)

[DRAFT] Minute

- Members Present:** Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member (in Chair)
Douglas Alexander, General Council Assessor
Sarah Cooper, Senatus Assessor
Alastair Dunlop, Chancellor's Assessor
Perdita Fraser, Co-opted Member
Ruth Girardet, Co-opted Member
David Law, Co-opted Member
Ellen MacRae, Students' Association President
Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor
Sarah McAllister, Professional Services Staff Member
Jock Millican, General Council Assessor
Hugh Mitchell, Co-opted Member
Kathryn Nash, Trade Union Academic Staff Member
Claire Phillips, Senatus Assessor
Frank Ross, City of Edinburgh Council Assessor
Réka Siró, Students' Association Vice-President Activities & Services
Alistair Smith, Co-opted Member
Sarah Wolffe, General Council Assessor
- Member Apologies:** Joyce Anderson, Trade Union Professional Services Staff Member
Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member
Debora Kayembe, Rector
- In Attendance:** Sabira Akram, Governance Apprentice Programme 2021/22
Sophia Lycouris, Rector's Assessor
Sarah Smith, Vice-Principal Strategic Change and Governance; and
University Secretary
- Presenters & Observers:** Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
David Argyle, Interim Head of College of Medicine & Veterinary
Medicine
Lisa Dawson, Interim Deputy Secretary Students
Lee Hamill, Director of Finance
Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students
Gary Jebb, Director of Place
Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services
Gavin McLachlan, Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to
the University
Dorothy Miell, Vice-Principal & Head of College
Dave Robertson, Vice-Principal & Head of College
James Saville, Director of Human Resources
Jonathan Seckl, Senior Vice-Principal
Rona Smith, Director of Strategic Planning & Insight
Jarmo Eskelinen, Director, Data-Driven Innovation (for Item 10)

OPENING ITEMS

1 Minute

Paper A1

Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member, welcomed members and attendees. It was noted that as the Rector is not able to attend the meeting, Sophia Lycouris, the Rector's Assessor, can vote on any items, as per the Standing Orders.

The minute of the previous meeting was approved subject to a minor amendment.

2 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log

Paper A2

There were no matters arising and the action log was reviewed. It was noted that the Action Log will have a more thorough review before the next meeting with a view to closing off outdated actions.

3 Principal's Report

Paper B

Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, commented on the report's recommendation to extend the term of office for Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students, noting the benefit of continuity of leadership for the Curriculum Transformation Programme that this will provide and the proposal's support from the Nominations Committee. A five year extension of the term from the current end date, to 31 July 2029, was approved.

Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students, was then invited to join the meeting having absented himself prior to this point.

The Principal provided an update on ongoing industrial action with regard to planned changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and on pay and conditions. A contingency group is meeting regularly and, as was done previously, pay foregone by those taking strike action will be earmarked for a Learning Opportunity fund for students affected by the action. An alternative proposal for changes to USS has been submitted by the University & College Union (UCU), with the Joint Negotiating Committee expected to reach a decision on the changes proposed by Universities UK before the end of the month. While the University has not supported the UCU proposal, it has welcomed the engagement and supports further dialogue to seek collective agreement to a sustainable and affordable scheme for members.

A summary of slides initially delivered as a part of the annual report to the General Council were then presented, including information on: staff and student numbers; student entry numbers by College and domicile and other admissions statistics; level of study by College; top 20 non-UK domicile on entry from students; financial, research and data-driven innovation statistics; and, reflections on the positive elements from the year past and ongoing challenges.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Responding to a message submitted from the UCU branch regarding the industrial action – Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member, will respond on behalf

of Court. This will refer to the University response to the UCU's proposals regarding USS and the response will be circulated to Court members;

- Progress with the People & Money System and, more generally, staff resourcing given the workload impact on many staff of major strategic change projects in addition to 'business as usual' activities – recent progress on the People & Money System has been encouraging and all involved are working to mitigate additional impacts on workloads and maintain cost control as key objectives. More widely, it is recognised that with a number of strategic change projects ongoing there are additional workload impacts in the transition periods and this needs to be carefully considered, while aiming to deliver projects that will improve the University and the working environment in the longer term;
- A more detailed discussion on international student recruitment was suggested as a future topic for a Court seminar or meeting;
- The approaching end February 2022 deadline for a decision on any changes to the USS pension scheme – it was noted that the deadline relates to the completion of the March 2020 valuation and wider discussions will likely continue beyond this. If no changes are agreed by the end February deadline greatly increased contribution rates for both members and employees will be activated; and,
- The extent to which the University engages with a broad range of secondary schools and applications and admissions statistics for state and independent school applicants from Scotland and the Rest of the UK – the University engages with a wide diversity of secondary schools and works to encourage applications from students from less privileged backgrounds. The statistics will be collated and circulated to Court members after the meeting.

4 Committee Business

- **Senior Lay Member's Overview**

The Senior Lay Member provided an update on activity since the last meeting, noting the University responses to Universities UK and UCU proposals for the USS pension scheme discussed earlier in the agenda.

- **Exception Committee**

Paper C1

The following matters approved by Exception Committee on behalf of Court were noted:

- Senior Leadership Team appointments, all for an initial five year term alongside open-ended professorial appointments:
 - Provost: Professor Kim Graham;
 - Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise: Professor Christina Boswell;
 - Vice-Principal and Head of College of Science & Engineering: Professor Iain Gordon;
 - Vice-Principal and Head of College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences: Professor: Professor Sarah Prescott;
- The United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (US GAAP) Management Commentary and Financial Statements to 31 July 2021;

- Finalisation of Heads of Terms, Agreement to Lease documentation for entering into a 20 year Full Repairing and Insuring lease for a 230 bed accommodation development at 41-45 Gilmore Place; and,
- Finalisation of Heads of Terms, Agreement to Lease Documentation for entering into a 20 year Full Repairing and Insuring lease for a 612 bed accommodation development at Baltic Street.

- **Policy & Resources Committee**

Paper C2

The report was noted, with key items considered featuring later in the agenda. Catherine Martin, Chair of the People & Money Enactment Group, was invited to give a verbal update on the People & Money System and commented on protections added for the implementation of the new payroll and pensions elements in April, including additional training and resources for Payroll and Human Resources teams and the establishment of a dedicated staff helpline.

- **Nominations Committee**

Paper C3

The report was noted and the following reappointments and extensions of terms were approved on the recommendation of Nominations Committee:

- Audit & Risk Committee – external member Grant Macrae reappointed for a second three year term to 31 May 2025;
- Policy & Resources Committee – Jock Millican’s first term extended to 31 July 2023;
- Knowledge Strategy Committee – external member Sue Currie reappointed for a second three year term to 31 July 2025;
- Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme – Julia Miller reappointed as the independent professional chair of the Scheme for a second two year term to 31 July 2024; and,
- Curators of Patronage – the terms of the three current Heads of College as Curators of Patronage extended to match their existing terms as Heads of College.

The Committee’s approval of the reappointment of Richard Davidson as Convener of the Investment Committee for a two year term to 31 July 2024 was noted.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper C4

The report was noted, including the Committee’s discussion of recognising the staff workload impacts of major change projects and considering this within the resource implications for relevant projects, which will be taken forward.

- **Senate**

Paper C5

The report was noted, with the outcome of the election for two Senate Assessors to join Court from 1 August 2022 to be reported to the next meeting.

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

5 Student Experience Update

Paper D

An update on student experience initiatives was reviewed, noting that curriculum transformation will feature within the seminar scheduled on the morning of the next meeting, 25 April 2022. Members discussed the following points:

- The work of consultancy firm Nous in helping refresh student experience priorities and the extent of student involvement and engagement in the work;
- Communicating the work the University is undertaking on tackling gender-based violence with students and other stakeholders and to avoid any misperceptions of the process followed for cases reported;
- Recruitment for new professional services student support roles ahead of the next academic year – the intention is to recruit for the new roles as quickly as possible ahead of the new academic year, acknowledging that the labour market may prove challenging;
- The extent to which the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review’s follow-up action plan is being recognised as key priority by all concerned – there is a clear focus on delivery in the implementation groups and it is being emphasised with both current and incoming Heads of School;
- Create a feeling of belonging and community across the varied University estate – this has been a theme of capital plan prioritisation work, including considering new student-centred spaces for informal and formal learning; and,
- The use of pulse surveys and whether there is capacity to respond immediately to findings – making learning environment changes mid-year is often difficult but the surveys provide a useful opportunity to engage with the cohort in-year and are used to communicate that the University is aware of emerging issues. They are also used to generate an evidence base for planning for the new academic year.

6 Students’ Association and Sports Union Reports

Papers E1-E2

The regular reports from the Students’ Association and Sports Union were reviewed and noted.

7 Finance

• Director of Finance’s Report

Paper F1

Updates on the Quarter One forecast for the current year, five-year scenario modelling, a summary of the financial performance of subsidiary companies in 2020-21 and a financial benchmarking exercise with Russell Group peer institutions for the previous year were reviewed. Including an additional metric on student numbers in the scenario modelling was suggested and this can be included in future iterations. The impact of the larger intake of domestic undergraduate students on the EBITA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) figure was discussed. Whether the positive in-year financial performance can enable further investment was raised, with additional in-year investment being actively considered.

- **Long-Term Debt Review Proposal**

Paper F2

An update on the University's long-term debt arrangements and a proposal for a detailed review of the arrangements with oversight from a specialist Court Sub-Group was considered. The proposal to undertake a more detailed review with the objective to produce options and recommendations for optimising long-term debt arrangements was agreed, with the membership of a Court External Debt Review Sub-Group to be approved by Exception Committee when finalised.

8 Development of a New Capital Plan

Paper G

Following development by the Capital Plan Working Group and initial review by Estates Committee and Policy & Resources Committee, a proposed capital plan for the period to 2027 was considered. It was noted that the Working Group was established to identify priority projects for a revised and affordable Capital Plan in the changed circumstances following the deferral of previously approved but not started projects at the outset of the pandemic. The intention is to create a balanced portfolio of projects that meet strategic needs but with each project remaining subject to business case approval and funding approval before proceeding. It was noted that challenges remain with the provision of student accommodation and study spaces, which will continue to be worked on, and that the plan will be adapted as new priorities or opportunities emerge. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Maintaining flexibility in the plan to adapt to new circumstances was encouraged;
- Proposals for the Main Library and a new postgraduate study centre have not been prioritised but these would be welcomed by students – it was acknowledged that a number of difficult decisions on prioritisation had to be made but improving the provision of study spaces is recognised as a priority and will be undertaken using other approaches, e.g. through adapting existing spaces; and,
- The contribution that high quality spaces on campus can make towards establishing thriving academic communities that attract staff and students was highlighted and should be considered within any future space usage planning.

The proposed Capital Plan was approved, noting that approval for individual projects will be sought subject to the development of full business cases in due course.

9 Performance Measures to Support Strategy 2030 – Mid-Year Report

Paper H

A mid-year update on the Strategy 2030 performance measures was reviewed. It was noted that the measures have incorporated feedback from Policy & Resources Committee and will be embedded into the planning round process.

10 Data-Driven Innovation Initiative Progress Report, year 2021

Paper I

A progress report on key results and new developments in the Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) initiative in calendar year 2021 was considered. The initiative has been enabled by the largest innovation grant ever received by a UK university and is now in year 4 of a 15 year programme. The key performance indicators are either matching targets or are ahead of target, with a detailed Government review

scheduled for the end of year 5. An updated vision looks to the intended legacy of the programme – to upgrade the data knowledge of University, to deliver inclusive growth regionally, to establish the City Region as the leading data research centre in the UK and to be global location of choice for organisations using data science. The success of the initiative to date was welcomed and promoting the initiative more widely was encouraged, including to Government departments outside of the sponsoring areas with similar policy objectives.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

11 Academic Staff Member Election Regulations 2022 Paper J

Regulations for an Academic Staff Member Election were approved, with a four year term of office for the post agreed.

12 Donations and Legacies; Alumni Activities Paper K

Court noted legacies and donations received since the last meeting and an update on current alumni relations activities.

13 Resolutions Paper L

The following Resolutions were approved:

- No. 1/2022: Foundation of a Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics
- No. 2/2022: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Medicine
- No. 3/2022: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Aging, Health and Methods
- No. 4/2022: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Geometry and Physics

14 Court Meeting Dates 2022-23 Paper M

The following meeting dates for the 2022-23 academic year were approved:

- Tuesday 4 October 2022 (Seminar and Meeting)
- Monday 21 November 2022 (Meeting) *Secretary's Note: it is proposed to amend this to Monday 5 December 2022, to be submitted to the 25 April 2022 meeting*
- Monday 27 February 2023 (Seminar and Meeting)
- Monday 17 April 2023 (Meet the Court event and Meeting)
- Monday 19 June 2023 (Meeting)

15 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 25 April 2022



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Principal's Report

Description of paper

1. The paper provides a summary of the Principal's main activities since the last meeting of the University Court.

2. The activity noted supports our commitment to deliver on our vision and ambitions including all four key areas of focus highlighted in Strategy 2030: People, Research, Learning and Teaching and Social and Civic Responsibility.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To note the information presented. No other specific action is required of Court, although members' observations, or comment, on any of the items would be welcome.

Background and context

4. The report summarises key issues for the University and the Principal's engagement with regard to local, national, international and sector-wide developments and activity.

Discussion

5. Since Court last met, the University has continued to gradually increase its on-campus activity and has begun to feel once again like the vibrant University community of people meeting face to face that we want to be. Of course there have also been and will continue to be challenges, many of them shared across the Sector.

6. Uppermost here are issues of staff morale, workload and sectoral attractiveness including the recent industrial action on pay and pensions. These matters were very prominent at the All Staff Town Hall meeting which I led, assisted by various senior staff, on Monday 4th April. Around 800 staff took part in the virtual session and questions around the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and pay and pensions dispute and other employment terms and conditions were raised in advance and also during the session. Colleagues are understandably very concerned about changes to their pensions and we took the opportunity to discuss various aspects including the often-explained fact that many of the issues are negotiated at a national (UK) sector-wide level and no individual employer or vice-chancellor can dictate or decide. We do seek to influence discussions and as a large respected employer we are listened to. However we do not have the power to enact any changes unilaterally. We continue to seek a solution that is sustainable for individual members of staff and for the sector; the recent USS monthly report that indicates an improved picture since the new contributions came into force is only a snapshot; the 2020 valuation is now closed and the next valuation is scheduled for March 2023. The senior leadership are aware of low morale with some groups of staff at Edinburgh which was evident at the Town Hall, although the general spirit and tone of the meeting was constructive overall.

7. The question of working from home and hybrid working was another common subject. We continue to believe that it is important for a university to have a vibrant campus and that business needs must be taken into account, with the norm being that the vast majority of staff should spend some time on campus. “Most of the staff, most of the time” is the general approach. The Senior Leadership Team also discussed this recently: our recent meetings have been hybrid with an increasing move back to face to face meetings being the default plan. We will continue with our current direction while monitoring activity and discuss again in the summer.

8. Other matters raised included: concern over the number of change projects currently running, including their impacts on workload; career progression; staff retention; staff wellbeing; Ukraine; asbestos in buildings at Kings Buildings; and freedom of expression.

9. We are fully aware of how difficult the pandemic period has been for our staff and how hard they have worked over the last two years. Following discussion with the Senior Leadership team, we decided to offer all staff an exceptional payment of £500, (pro rata for part time staff) in recognition of all that the people of the University have achieved during this very challenging period. This news was communicated to staff just before the Easter break period.

10. The Contribution Reward process is now well under way where managers recommend either increment or lump sum awards to staff who have made notable and sustained contributions, with double the planned amounts available for increments this year. We are encouraging budget holders to use some of the extra budget allocation for contribution reward increments to close pay gaps.

11. Since Court last met Ukraine has been subject to a brutal invasion by Russia and the war continues. Our initial response was to make sure that our students and staff who were directly impacted were safe. We have also agreed a scholarship fund for displaced undergraduate students who wish to come to Edinburgh and are working with the Council for At Risk Academics (Cara) to support at risk scholars. We have also recently joined forces with Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv to work more closely together on opportunities ranging across teaching, learning and research. All of our supporting activity is drawn together and can be seen at the following link <https://www.ed.ac.uk/university-of-sanctuary/ukraine>

12. Following the recent period of industrial action, the last day of which was 25th March, declarations have now been made and we have a good picture of the impact of the action across campus. This has allowed us to progress with the launch of the Learning Opportunity Fund, using funds foregone as salaries by striking staff. Those Programmes and Schools most impacted are now known: this will help to inform how the student opportunities fund will be deployed, as those most impacted will be in the strongest position to have funding awarded.

13. The University & College (UCU) have recently re-balloted all institutions to seek a continuing mandate for strike and action short of strike (ASOS) beyond the end of the current mandate on 3 May 2022. Ballots on both pay and pensions have reached the threshold for further action at Edinburgh, amongst just over 30 institutions in that position, a considerable reduction on the number in the previous ballots. We await

further information from UCU on their responses to these outcomes with a decision expected at their Higher Education Conference on 20th April.

14. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) released their indicative funding allocations for 2022-23 on 25 March. The headlines are: 1% uplift to the core main teaching grant for the sector; the unit of resource is increased by 1.5%; Ring-fenced funding for Graduate Apprenticeships is no longer available to the sector – ongoing provision has been enabled through redistribution of existing non-controlled funded places. The impact on us for 2022-23 is of a manageable scale and is in fact a relatively small counter-balance to the large number of additional places we've received over the past two cycles; finally, an unwelcome decrease of capital budget by 8.2%.

15. Court should note that this was an incomplete announcement: institutional allocations for Research and Innovation grants will follow by the end of May. An uplift of 1.6% to total Research and Innovation budgets was announced but with no institutional allocations confirmed until after the results of Research Excellence Framework (REF), which will be published on 12th May. It is indicated that the REF results will be reflected in 2022-23 allocations, but any negative impacts will be mitigated: "To avoid significant disruption, we will limit the level of any university's reduction in REG [Research Excellence Grant] for AY [Academic Year] 2022-23".

16. The 4th of April was also the date for Phase 2 of the People and Money system to go live. I am pleased to report that the launch has been successful so far. Many people across the University helped to achieve this and are now fully immersed in supporting the first payroll using the new system in April. My sincere thanks to all who contributed. Work also continues at pace on Phase 3, the full Finance system, with target implementation at the end of July/August.

17. In-person international activity has also restarted for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic with delegations including the Fulbright Commission, Rice University and Nanyang Technological University Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Singapore being received in Edinburgh. I also undertook, supported by Development and Alumni, a very worthwhile trip to the United States, more on this noted below.

18. Closer to home, Head of School recruitment continues with interviews for Economics; the Business School; History, Classics and Archaeology; and Literatures, Languages and Cultures all taking place. We have also now closed applications for the Vice-Principal and University Secretary post and have longlisted from an exceptionally strong field.

Selected meetings and events from mid-February to end April

19. University

- Participated in the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of our former Chancellor HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey.
- Met with the incoming Provost Kim Graham several times in the run-up to her starting in June, and hosted a dinner for new and current members of my Senior Leadership Team.
- Academic Strategy Group (core membership: the Heads of School) continues to meet regularly and is a very useful forum for consultation and discussion on a wide range of matters including delivering hybrid teaching in semester two

and to hear regularly about the University's financial situation and contribute to other aspects of our local, regional and international strategies and policies.

- Senior Leadership Team weekly meetings continue, now in hybrid format. We also held an all-day meeting to enable more in depth discussion on the planning round and our investment priorities.
- Participated in a meeting of the Leaders Forum (membership: 150 senior leaders from across the Colleges, Schools and Professional Services Groups) which discussed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the University.
- Held regular meetings with the Students Association sabbatical officers.
- Participated in a Chaplaincy organised vigil for Ukraine.
- Welcomed Sir Jackie Stewart and Sir James Dyson to view the newly funded Dyson RAD Dementia Research Acceleration Project.
- Participated in a meeting of the Steering Board for the Global Data Institute for Child Safety.
- Senior Vice-Principal Jonathan Seckl and I hosted a visit from the Wellcome Trust to discuss strategy, interactions and to view the BioQuarter.
- Hosted a reception to celebrate the new partnership between Global Healthcare Opportunities Capital and Roslin Cell Therapies.
- Participated in several events as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council visit to the University to discuss strategy and support.
- Participated in a Partnership Forum meeting with the University and College Union.
- Hosted a dinner for Edinburgh Innovation's newly appointed Industrial Advisors during their visit to Edinburgh.

20. *Edinburgh and Scotland*

- The Principals of Edinburgh's four universities and Edinburgh College continue to meet monthly to share progress on various activities.
- Participated in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Leaders Group meeting and Joint Committee meetings.
- Participated the China-Britain Business Council Burns Supper.
- Participated the launch of a new IntoUniversity learning centre in Maryhill, Glasgow.

21. *Sector and Public Affairs*

- Participated in various Russell Group meetings; Board meeting and away day; a pensions discussion, a meeting with Sir Mark Welland, Chair of the newly established Export Control Group (reports to the Universities UK's Security in Higher Education working group) and Sir Anthony Finkelstein, President of City, University of London and previously Chief Scientific Adviser for National Security, to discuss what the upcoming themes, risks and opportunities are likely to be in the security/geopolitics area over the next 12 months.
- Participated in various Universities UK Members' meetings including: Vice-Chancellor discussions on the USS valuation; a meeting with Minister of State for Higher and Further Education to hear more about the UK Government's higher education policy announcements.
- Participated in various Scottish Funding Council meetings including a meeting on the SFC implementation of the Scottish Budget outcome.

- Participated in a Universities Scotland meeting on the SFC review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability.
- Participated in various meetings on Security as part of my role as Lead for security issues in higher education for the Russell Group and Universities UK.
- Participated in Scottish Health and Industry Partnership Oversight Group meetings.
- Continue to co-chair with Dame Julia Goodfellow a working group for the Academy of Medical Sciences which will produce a report on the Sustainability of the UK Health Research ecosystem.
- Participated in an Innovation Board meeting of the Life Sciences Scotland Industry Leadership Group.
- Welcomed the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery, John Swinney MSP, to the BioQuarter to hear more about the proposed creation of an Edinburgh's Health Innovation District.
- Participated in a meeting involving the Heads of the Scottish Funding Council and Edinburgh and Fife Colleges about our current collaborations and future plans.
- Welcomed the Secretary of State for Levelling up, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, on a visit to the National Robotarium – a collaborative project between the University and Heriot Watt University as one of the Data Driven Innovation projects of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.
- Participated in the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2022 dinner.
- Participated in public launch of the Taskforce for Green and Sustainable Financial Services meeting.
- Participated in several Scottish Government National Leadership Development Programme Steering Group meetings.
- Participated in a Confederation of British Industry roundtable on Levelling up and skills.
- Hosted a lunch for the Minister for Levelling Up, The Union and Constitution, Neil O'Brien MP, the Minister for Scotland, Iain Stewart MP, Lauren Bruce, Deputy Director Cities and Local Growth Unit Scotland, and Saba Tahzib, Deputy Director UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as part of their visit to Edinburgh.
- Welcomed Neil Gray MSP, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, on a visit to St Cecilia's Hall to learn more about the museum and university museums in general.
- Had a 'catch-up' call with Minister for Higher/Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, Jamie Hepburn MSP.

22. *International*

- Participated in the Una Europa General Assembly (virtual).
- Travelled to Washington DC to participate in my final Board meeting (after about 8 years on the Board) for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. I also met with a number of senior North American donors/alumni in Washington, New York and Oklahoma and participated in a USA Development Trust Board and a dinner with the Trust, Edinburgh Innovations and North American Board members.

- Hosted a dinner in Edinburgh for visitors to the University from Nanyang Technological University Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine: Professor Joseph Sung, Dean, and Professor Lim Kah Leong, Vice Dean Research.
- Welcomed attendees of the Fulbright Commission event to the University.
- Participated in several events as part of a visit by the Rice University which included the signing of a collaboration agreement and launch of a co-fund. Participating from Rice University were: Professor David Leebron, President, Professor Reggie DesRoches, Provost, Professor Caroline Levander, Vice President for Global and Digital Strategy, and Professor David Alexander OBE, Rice Space Institute Director.

Resource implications

23. There are no specific resource implications associated with the paper.

Risk Management

24. There are no specific risk implications associated with the paper although some reputational risk may be relevant to certain items.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

25. As the paper represents a summary of recent news and general activity, it does not directly relate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Equality & Diversity

26. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

Next steps/implications

27. Any action required on the items noted will be taken forward by the appropriate member(s) of University staff.

Consultation

28. As the content is a summary of recent news no consultation is required.

Further information

29. Peter will take questions on any item at Court or further information can be obtained from Ms Fiona Boyd, Principal's Office.

30. Author & Presenter

Professor Peter Mathieson
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
April 2022

Freedom of Information

31. Open paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Exception Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Exception Committee

Date of Meeting

2. The Committee considered two items of business by correspondence since the last Court meeting, as set out below.

Action Required

3. To note the matters approved on behalf of Court by Exception Committee.

Key points

7-9 March 2022

Endowment Fund: Russian Divestments

4. Exception Committee reviewed and approved recommendations to divest from all Russian investment holdings at the earliest opportunity.

19-20 April 2022

Court External Debt Review Sub-Group Membership

5. Exception Committee approved the membership of a short-life Court External Debt Review Sub-Group as follows:

- David Law, Convener of Audit & Risk Committee;
- Frank Armstrong, Member of Policy & Resources Committee and Intermediary Court Member (similar to Senior Independent Director in a corporate board);
- Carolyn Aitchison, External Member of Investment Committee;
- Lee Hamill, Director of Finance;
- Sarah Smith, Vice-Principal Strategic Change & Governance; and University Secretary; and,
- Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services.

Further information

6. Author

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand
Convener, Exception Committee

Freedom of Information

7. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Policy & Resources Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Policy & Resources Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 4 April 2022 (by videoconference).

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

Key points

Director of Finance's Report

4. The Director of Finance's Report was reviewed, including an update on additional in-year investment, the second quarter forecast, an update on the Universities Superannuation Scheme and the results of a Russell Group financial benchmarking exercise. The strong financial performance in the context of staff and student experience was discussed and the importance of communicating the benefits for the whole university community of a financially resilient university. On the Russell Group financial benchmarking exercise, the potential for more detailed benchmarking on costs was discussed, with comparable data not available at present but other approaches could be taken to illuminate this. The positive reception by staff to the additional respite days offered last year in recognition of the impacts of the pandemic on staff workloads was noted and the impact of industrial action on those staff not participating in the industrial action.

Investment Opportunity: Project Dolly Proceeds

5. A proposal for reinvestment in early stage commercialisation projects utilising a portion of the proceeds from a Roslin Institute spinout company, was reviewed. It was noted that the transaction provides a unique opportunity to improve the University's activities in this area with the ambition to match the leading institutions in the UK in generating impact from the expertise of staff and students for the benefit of all. The success of the transaction was welcomed and the proposal to create an investment fund that would grow from reinvestment was supported. Members commented on the high quality of the proposals, which could be used as an exemplar. Those involved in the transaction were thanked, as well as the Court members involved in the Commercialisation Sub-Group for their input to the proposals. The broader subject of commercialisation was suggested as a topic for a future Court Seminar.

Usher Institute – Reallocation of City Deal Funding

6. It was agreed to recommend to Court for approval the reallocation of City Deal funding from the Edinburgh BioQuarter Enabling Infrastructure project to the Usher Institute project budget in order to enable the fit out of the five shelled neighbourhoods within the Usher Institute currently under construction at the BioQuarter site.

EUSA Budget 2022/23

7. A narrative summary of the Students' Association budget for financial year 2022/23 (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 in the case of the Association) was reviewed. It was noted that the budget had been reviewed and approved by the Association's separate Board of Trustees, the body responsible for the finances of the Association and was being presented to the Committee given a legislative responsibility for UK university governing bodies to have financial oversight of student unions, with oversight of the annual budget having been delegated by Court to Policy & Resources Committee. It was noted that the financial priority of the Association is to return to the pre-pandemic levels of financial strength with a seven year recovery plan in place for this, which the Trustee Board may opt to shorten. Noting the prior approval by the Trustee Board, the Association's budget was approved by the Committee.

Staff Benefits Scheme Trustee Structure

8. A proposal to change the trusteeship structure of the University of Edinburgh Staff Benefits Scheme (SBS) (the University's in-house pension scheme for professional services staff in Grades 1-5) was considered. It was noted that the trustees have requested a structure change from an individual trustee model to a single corporate trustee model, with the current individual trustees to act as trustee-directors in the new model, with no change in the number or method of appointment for these. Subject to incorporating a point on member communications, the proposal was supported for approval by Court.

People Report

9. The report was reviewed, noting that the University & College Union are currently re-balloting institutions to seek a mandate for strike action and action short of strike beyond the end of the current mandate on 3 May 2022. Two ballots are being held: one relating to the 'four fights' (pay, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, precarious contracts, and workload); and, one relating to pensions. The impact of the continued industrial action on staff morale and the potential to implement beneficial initiatives locally separate from the national negotiations on pay and pensions was discussed and encouraged where possible.

People & Money System Update

10. It was noted that the Phase 2 element of the system had been activated on schedule earlier that day, with additional helpline support in place should any problems with the April payroll be encountered by individual staff. External advisor Professor Anthony Finkelstein will visit the University in late May to consider any additional actions for the Phase 3 implementation scheduled for August and to consider learning points for any future programmes of a similar nature.

Other items

11. Regular reports from the Estates Committee, Investment Committee and the Committee's Commercialisation Sub-Group were noted.

Further information

12. Author

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand
Convener, Policy & Resources Committee

Freedom of Information

14. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Audit & Risk Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Audit & Risk Committee.

Date of Meeting

2. 17 March 2022.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

Key points

Paragraphs 4-15: Closed section

Equality & Diversity

16. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

Further information

17. Author
Kirstie Graham
Court Services

Freedom of Information

18. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Knowledge Strategy Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 22 March 2022 (by videoconference).

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

Key points

Chief Information Officer Update

4. Key activities and updates since the last meeting were reported, including:
 - Academic staff and Information Services Group staff are contributing to the protection of Ukrainian cultural heritage by digital preservation. Likely interest from students in contributing to the preservation work was raised and was welcomed;
 - The labour market for IT staff and for certain specialist IT skills in particular is buoyant. In response, increased training for existing staff to learn high-demand specialist skills is taking place, with contractors assisting both with shortages in some areas and by cross-training existing staff; and,
 - A consultation on a draft Digital Strategy is underway and the Committee will receive a revised version for review following the consultation.

Sustainable IT Update

5. A progress update on Sustainable IT initiatives was presented, including sustainable printing, green data centres and future governance options for the area. It was noted that the sustainable printing initiative had begun prior to the pandemic and the increased confidence with wholly electronic working by many staff during this period has provided an opportunity to make greater progress in reducing printing, although it was acknowledged that the scale of home printing is unknown.

6. For the green data centres initiative, it was noted that data centres account for the significant majority of IT energy usage at the University, albeit this is influenced by the hosting of major UK-wide research facilities at the University (which is efficient from a UK energy perspective given lower temperatures than in other likely UK locations and the expertise in cooling at the University). The focus of the initiative has been on moving equipment to more energy efficient areas, improving the efficiency of these areas still further and retiring or upgrading unnecessary or less efficient equipment.

7. On governance, it was proposed that a Sustainable IT Sub-Group be positioned in the governance structure to report to either Knowledge Strategy Committee or to IT Committee (and reporting to Knowledge Strategy Committee via IT Committee), with the latter option supported.

8. Members and attendees commented on: ensuring that sustainability-related items with wider impacts are presented to the appropriate committees to consider these wider impacts; supporting the emphasis on sustainability as part of the procurement process as a mechanism to make significant improvements; and, refreshing the University's climate strategy, which will consider biodiversity as well as climate, of relevance in this context given the biodiversity impacts of printing and IT supply chains.

Information Security Update

9. A regular update on Information Security matters was reviewed. Alistair Fenemore, Chief Information Security Officer, thanked members for comments at the previous meeting on the proposal to introduce Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). This is being further developed before progressing for funding approval. It was noted that there will not be a requirement to use mobile telephones for MFA, with other options available, although many users will find mobile telephones to be an efficient and secure means of MFA. The workload impact on local IT teams of the MFA proposal was queried and it was confirmed that this is expected to be limited but the second phase of the project, updating the Identity & Access Management suite, will likely have a more significant impact and will be considered in the development of the second phase.

10. The support of the Committee for a refreshed mandatory Information Security Essentials training course was emphasised. It was noted that staff with guaranteed hours contracts are entitled to additional pay for the time taken to complete mandatory training.

Digital Estate Presentation

11. An overview of the current assessment of the digital estate was presented, with potential priority areas for future investment highlighted as being:

- Multi Factor Authentication and Identity & Access Management;
- Data resilience;
- Proactive cyber protection;
- A new timetabling system;
- A new estates facilities management system;
- Improving carbon efficiency and fire protection for data centres;
- An online examinations and assessment system;
- A platform for continuing professional development short courses;
- Replacement degree finder/programme course information system; and,
- An upgraded Virtual Learning Environment.

Library Response to Curriculum Transformation

12. A paper reporting on how Library staff have engaged with the curriculum transformation programme to date and exploring opportunities for the Library to contribute further was considered. It was noted that the Library can contribute as a naturally interdisciplinary space, by developing student information literacy skills and by helping academic staff through more efficient service provision. The Library also holds the institutional record, which can help in understanding the distinctiveness of an Edinburgh graduate. The input from Library staff was welcomed and seeking a

student perspective on the contribution the Library can make to curriculum transformation was also encouraged. Submitting a paper to the Curriculum Transformation Board was proposed as a next step, noting that this would time well with a second phase of consultation for the programme.

Information Services Group Planning 2022/23 to 2027/28

13. An overview of the planning round submission from the Information Services Group was reviewed. Areas highlighted from the submission included: enabling the University to host hybrid conferences and other complex hybrid events; creating a computational notebook platform to train data scientists; follow-through on the People & Money System including creating a technical and operations team and a business intelligence reporting function; and, improving the accuracy of automated captioning of recorded lectures. Considering the impact of projects at a School level and any local resourcing impacts for University-wide projects was raised, noting that wider impacts will be considered as proposals are developed, with School level impacts for the Learn Ultra project being considered presently as it is recognised that these will vary by School in this case. There was support for the reintroduction of an Information Services Group Innovation Fund mentioned in the paper. An update on outcomes was requested for a future meeting.

People & Money Implementation Update

14. An update on the implementation of the People & Money System was reviewed. Key priorities were identified as working towards a successful launch of Phase 2 on 4 April, training staff to use the new functionalities and resolving any potential issues with the payroll component prior to the first payroll run. More generally, given the number of ongoing and planned strategic change projects, work is underway to create a single pipeline of all projects over the five year planning horizon to help identify any timing concerns, likely pinch points, staff impacts and to improve visibility of the projects. The planned submission of a short paper on the topic to a future meeting was welcomed.

Other items

15. A summary of the proposed content for a new Collections Strategy was reviewed; a move to the Early Adopter Programme to support the upgrade of the Learn Virtual Learning Environment to Learn Ultra was supported; minor amendments to the Library Committee's Terms of Reference to harmonise members' terms of office with other thematic committees were approved. Regular update reports on the Network Replacement Programme, Enterprise Infrastructure Programme and capital expenditure forecasts were considered and noted, as were regular committee reports from IT Committee, Library Committee, University Collections Advisory Committee and the Digital Research Services Steering Group.

Further information

16. <u>Author</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Lewis Allan	Colm Harmon
Head of Court Services	Interim Convener, Knowledge Strategy Committee

Freedom of Information

17. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Senatus Academicus Report

Committee Name

1. Senatus Academicus ('Senate').

Dates of Meetings

2. Meeting of Senate by videoconference on 9 February 2022.

Action Required

3. To note the outcome of the election for two Senate Assessors to join Court from 1 August 2022 and to note key points from the main presentation and discussion item at Senate on 9 February, 'The Edinburgh Graduate Vision.' This was not included in the previous report provided to Court on 21 February 2022 due to the short turnaround between the Senate and Court meetings.

Key points

Senate Assessor Election

4. An election was held from 23 March to 30 March to elect two Senate Assessors to join the Court with effect from 1 August as the terms of the current Senate Assessors Professor Sarah Cooper and Dr Claire Phillips conclude on 31 July. The results are:

- Role reserved for a professorial elected staff member of Senate: Professor Richard Blythe, School of Physics and Astronomy; and,
- Role reserved for a non-professorial elected staff member of Senate: Dr Shereen Benjamin, Moray House School of Education and Sport.

Senate meeting – 9 February 2022

Senate Presentation and Discussion: The Edinburgh Graduate Vision

Introduction

- Colm Harmon, Vice Principal (Students)

Establishing foundations

- Amanda Percy, Programme and Portfolio Manager Curriculum Transformation Programme

Building engagement

- Jon Turner, Director Institute for Academic Development

Insights from our Workstreams and Groups

- Professor Conchúr Ó Brádaigh, Head of School Engineering, Chair Future Skills Workstream
- Professor Tim Drysdale, School of Engineering, Digital Education Workstream

Specific focus on student engagement

- Ellen MacRae, Edinburgh University Students' Association President
- Tara Gold, Edinburgh University Students' Association VP Education

Looking ahead and concluding comments

- Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students

5. Key points:

- Work on the 'Edinburgh Graduate Vision' is being undertaken within the Curriculum Transformation (CT) project. This project has been live for 12 months, and builds on discussions and experience within the University, and experiences of curriculum review in universities internationally. The project is fully committed to engaging internally and externally. The 'Edinburgh Graduate Vision' will inform the CT project and is intended as a basis for further dialogue.
- Feedback from students suggests that they feel they are getting training from the best people in their chosen discipline, but that they are less confident in the support they get to navigate the University, and to manage their path through higher education and into what comes next.
- Feedback from students challenges us to consider, in the broadest terms, the possibilities of the four-year Scottish undergraduate degree, the infrastructure of postgraduate taught programmes, and the introduction of micro credentials, short courses and standalone courses. There is a sense that the nature of the university learner is changing. This may create opportunities to introduce greater flexibility, and to encourage students to embrace challenge and creativity in their learning.
- Work in 2021 has focused on considering what values, attributes, skills and competencies we would expect and hope our future students and graduates will achieve. Work in 2022 will focus on how these aspirations will shape the curriculum in terms of design and structure, but also in relation to approaches to teaching and learning, as well as the systems, processes and infrastructure that support the curriculum.
- Extensive consultation within the University has been undertaken, through the online CT Hub, dedicated events for staff and students, through the Teaching Network, Colleges and Specialist Services, and the Teaching and Learning Conference. The project is now at a point where consultation and communications must broaden to engage as many members of the University community as possible. Staff interested in joining the Curriculum Transformation Forum or in exploring secondment opportunities were encouraged to contact Jon Turner, the Director of the Institute for Academic Development, at j.d.turner@ed.ac.uk
- Consultation on the Edinburgh student vision is ongoing and will run through to late April 2022. This will feed into work on curriculum design principles and architecture.
- Work on 'Future Skills' is ongoing, and is considering discipline related skills, transferable skills, employability and entrepreneurial skills. This workstream will produce a final report in the next month or two.
- Work on 'Digital Education' is ongoing, and is addressing issues of transparency and data governance, the desire to break down divisions between 'on campus' and 'online' students, the environmental impact of online and offline resources and infrastructure, and ensuring online platforms align with University values and aspirations. A key insight is that digital education is not just about delivery mechanisms, and digital education must be built into curriculum design and development.
- The Student Engagement Strategy Group within the CT project have highlighted the importance of student-staff co-creation of the curriculum and of the CT project. Such collaboration and co-creation is vital to students' sense

of belonging and engagement, and as such impacts on the student experience and in particular has the potential to positively impact on equality, diversity and inclusion.

- The first cohort of students following the revised curriculum will enter the University in September 2025. This would require the changes to be communicated to external stakeholders by January 2024, and therefore a substantial part of the project must be undertaken and completed in 2023. It is recognised that this will require significant resource.

6. *The presentation was followed by a Q&A session and the following points were made:*

- The Edinburgh Futures Institute provides valuable examples of the kind of thinking that should inform the CT project.
- Examples of the kind of change that may emerge from the project include major / minor degree models, and further possible models will be developed for discussion. The early years of undergraduate programmes, and the final year of undergraduate programmes, may provide particular opportunities for innovation.
- While it is recognised that students may have some 'change fatigue,' the Student Support review is in its final stages and this is intended to improve how students interact with the University and, it is hoped, will support students in engaging with and benefiting from curriculum change. Furthermore, an intended outcome of the CT project is to simplify and clarify students' experiences of University systems and processes.
- The introduction of University-level courses for all students was raised in early iterations of the project and this remains a possibility but no decision has been made. But more generally it was noted that changes to current Degree Programme Tables cannot be ruled out.
- In relation to how the CT project relates to and is building on existing curriculum review mechanisms and outcomes, consultation with Schools has provided opportunities to feed in their current plans for curriculum development. The project is capturing examples of practises and approaches that have worked across the University, and is engaging with Schools who have recently gone through curriculum reviews locally. The CT project is an opportunity to identify institutional barriers to change and innovation, and an opportunity to begin with 'blue sky' thinking rather than optimisation of current provision as a first step.
- As well as a student vision, there is a need for a 'teacher vision' and a review of the skills and resources teachers will need to deliver a revised curriculum.
- The student vision is intended to encompass postgraduate as well as undergraduate students.
- The need to continue to meet the requirements of external Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies is recognised.
- Members of the CT programme would be very happy to visit Schools to discuss the project.

7. Senate members were invited to make any further comments on the presentation and discussion topic. The following points were discussed:

- Costs associated with the Curriculum Transformation (CT) project are approved through the standard University process. The Vice-Principal Students would be happy to provide a paper to Senate at a later date.
- A query was raised as to how the aims of the CT project build on or are linked to what is unique to Edinburgh: in particular, what evidence on current practices within Schools is being gathered and used to inform the project. This question has been raised and discussed by the CT board. Steven Morley made himself available to be contacted for further information about experiences in Edinburgh Medical School.
- It was recognised that some academic staff may not engage with events such as Senate presentations, and the CT team are keen to engage directly with individual Schools to share information about the project. The 'roadshow' approach that was used for the recent Student Support Project was cited as an example of successful engagement.
- There is anxiety in some areas that the CT project may lead to a cull in disciplines. It was affirmed that the project is not about cutting subject areas; the University's breadth of provision is a key positive feature, and there may be substantial benefits from the project for subject areas with fewer enrolments. The Vice-Principal Students noted this as a key priority for future communications.
- There was concern about the feasibility of developing, designing and approving significant changes to large numbers of courses and programmes within the timeframe indicated by the project timeline. There was also concern about whether and how the University would provide the level of resource that Schools would require to engage successfully with these changes. The Vice-Principal Students noted that the need for sufficient resource is recognised and that the project must be successful in giving staff confidence that the required resources will be provided.

Full Agenda and Papers

8. <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/committees/senate/agendas-papers>

Equality & Diversity

9. No key implications for equality and diversity were raised by Senate. All paper authors are asked to consider and identify equality and diversity implications.

Further information

10. Author

Olivia Hayes
Academic Policy Officer
Academic Services

Presenter

Peter Mathieson
Principal & Vice-Chancellor

Freedom of Information

11. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Student Experience Framework

Description of paper

1. This paper provides Court with an update on the work that has been undertaken to develop a framework to help structure, prioritise and support the implementation of the work we undertake to enhance the student experience; and the next set of actions we have planned.

2. This work aligns with the focus we have set in Strategy 2030 for Learning & Teaching, namely:

- Our teaching will match the excellence of our research; and
- We will improve and sustain student satisfaction and wellbeing.

Paragraphs 3-22: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Goals

23. N/A

Equality & Diversity

24. We are working to develop and adopt a strategic approach to equality, diversity and inclusion across the student experience portfolio and the initiatives within it.

Paragraphs 25-27: Closed section

Further information

28. Authors

Barry Neilson
Director of Strategic Change

Lisa Dawson
Interim Deputy Secretary Students

Presenter

Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students

Freedom of Information

29. Closed paper – commercial confidentiality



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Edinburgh University Students' Association President's Report

Description of paper

1. This paper is to note developments at Edinburgh University Students' Association since the last Court meeting, and to provide an update on current work and initiatives. The Students' Association's activities contribute to the following aspects of Strategy 2030:

'We will be a destination of choice, based on our clear "Edinburgh Offer". All of our staff and students will develop here, whether they are from Leith, Lisbon, Lahore or Lilongwe'

2. The paper is accompanied by an appendix detailing the Students' Association's newly-elected sabbatical officers and student representatives.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To note the report, and consider its contents as supporting other initiatives and projects designed to improve student satisfaction and enhance the student experience.

Background and context

4. This paper outlines current activity, notes current issues for students being worked on by our student representatives, and also outlines the organisation's financial and strategic developments. It is a regular standing item on the Court agenda.

Discussion

Sabbatical Officer Updates

Ellen MacRae, President

5. Alongside Beth, Vice President Community, I've continued to work on matters surrounding the housing crisis within Edinburgh. This includes organising the University of Edinburgh's participation in the National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland's [Student Housing Rally](#) (23rd March) which aimed to draw attention to their [recent survey results](#):

- Average annual rent in Purpose-Built Student Accommodation has increased 34% in just three years across Scotland.
- 12% of surveyed students have experienced homelessness.
- Evidence of students being priced out of University due to the cost of living.

Housing continues to be one of our biggest concerns looking forward to the new semester as there seem to be minimal signs of the accommodation environment getting any easier.

6. Since our last Court meeting, we've also had our 2022 Student Elections. I'm excited for my successor to be Niamh Roberts, a third year Sustainable Development student and Campaigns Director for CERT (Contraception: Education and Reform Team) Scotland. I wish her, and the rest of the 22/23 Sabbatical Officer Team every success for their term in Office which starts Monday 13th June. We've

also been able to enjoy our Student Awards being in person, which was an enormous success, a student even commented that this “was the first time they’d felt like a proper student”.

7. Aisha and I have been part of University discussions around [providing support](#) for prospective and current Russian and Ukrainian students as the invasion of Ukraine continues. We have ensured sufficient financial and accommodation support is available and the team is encouraging the University to ensure this is extended to student from other countries experiencing conflict. I also continue to work with students (MeToo Edinburgh University) who have raised awareness of desired changes to the Student Code of Conduct and conduct investigation procedures. I wanted to note my appreciation for all the work Lisa Dawson and her team have actioned around this so far.

8. As Court will know, we’ve recently started the recruitment process for a Co-opted member of Court and our new Vice-Principal & University Secretary. These will constitute my third appointment panel for Court and my sixth Senior Leadership appointment since my term started in June 2020!

Réka Siró, Vice President Activities and Services

9. Since the last Court meeting, Réka has been continuing her work around student group support and around reviewing the Students’ Association’s trading operations and offering, and also started to finalise some key projects ahead of the handover to the new Sabbatical team in June.

10. On student group support, a large amount of work has been done to reinstate the Participation Grant, following a student petition to the University on the topic and Réka’s own work in trying rally support for the grant. During March, Réka oversaw the distribution of the grant to eligible students as swiftly and smoothly as possible, but she is continuing work on the topic to ensure that this grant will be available closer to the start of term for students that need it to support them. She is now leading conversations between the Students’ Association, the Sports Union and the University to explore how the grant could be best distributed in the future to maximise the positive impact of the fund.

11. Additional to this work, Réka has also been working with Students’ Association staff to support the student groups hardest hit by Covid, through pushing for the reopening of spaces these groups can use, supporting them through administrative processes and through starting work on reworking the current framework around how groups can form or cease to exist to ensure that all groups’ existence is sustainable in the long term and that the resources of groups that cease to exist are not lost.

12. Lastly, Réka has also been working with students from Kings’ Buildings to try and raise the issue of the lack of provision at that campus. Work around this topic includes raising the issue of the uncertainty around the Kings’ Buildings shuttle bus to relevant members of University staff, and supporting students in pushing for better hot food and shopping provision at King’s Buildings, as well as exploring the possibility of returning other services to the campus, such as gym facilities and expanded social space.

Beth Simpson, Vice President Community

13. Housing issues faced by students have been a focus of Beth's time as Vice President Community. On the 23rd of March she brought a cohort of students to the Student Housing Rally outside Scottish Parliament, which she had helped organise with the National Union of Students. This was attended by MSPs and Ministers, as well as local community organisations like Living Rent. There was a great turnout, with many students sharing their experiences of expensive and poor-quality housing. Beth plans to follow up with a response to the current Scottish Government consultation, [A New Deal for Tenants](#). She has been helping to host student consultations to get insight on how tenants' rights could be improved in Scotland. Beth plans to send a follow-up report to senior leadership in the University to highlight the issues identified.

14. Beth greatly enjoyed the Sustainability Action week organised by the Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability and the deep student engagement at the series of events held during this time. She has also been in conversations with Accommodation, Catering and Events about end-of-term collections at halls of residence, and how these can be redistributed through the usual Welcome Week 'Freeshop' event, as well as through other charity organisations.

15. Finally, Beth has been working with student groups and campaigns who have brought forward issues at Student Council that they are concerned about in the University and wider community. A brilliant group of students from the Amnesty Society has been working on a campaign surrounding child labour in chocolate, raising awareness amongst students and lobbying for better Fairtrade options within the University. The People and Planet society gained support at Student Council for their Fossil Free Careers campaign, aiming to ban fossil fuel industries from career events. Finally, many students have raised concerns at Council surrounding the provisions for students studying at non-central campuses (Edinburgh College of Art, King's Buildings, New College, etc.), especially around the long-term provision of the King's Buildings Shuttle Bus. Beth and the team hope to continue to raise the concerns of students from all campuses with the relevant University departments.

Tara Gold, Vice President Education

16. Since her last Court report, Tara has continued to provide support for academic student representatives across the University. Chairing the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences and the College of Science & Engineering Student-Staff Liaison Committees, along with regular School Representative Forums, she has facilitated discussions on student experiences, often highlighting areas of student life that continue to be impacted by the pandemic, such as access to study spaces.

17. Tara has also remained engaged in conversations surrounding the continuation of Industrial Action across this Semester, meeting regularly with members of University & College Union Edinburgh and the Staff-Student Solidarity Network (SSSN). During the Semester's first weeks of strike action, she co-ordinated the University community's attendance at the NUS Scotland Rally for Education, where the precarity students and staff increasingly face across Scotland was emphasised.

Students have voiced strong support for the Industrial Action, including passing a motion in support of the strike action at the March meeting of Student Council.

18. The implementation of the University's new Student Support Model has remained a key area of engagement for the Students' Association. Tara, along with Aisha, Vice President Welfare, sit on the University-wide Group focusing on the project's rollout, where they have continued to provide insight into student perspectives. Recent discussions have also led to closer collaboration in delivering the peer support pillar of the new model between the University and the Students' Association's Peer Learning and Support team. Tara has met regularly with members of the project team to support student membership of recruitment panels for new student-facing staff members, and has continued to advocate for the importance of a consistent and navigable model for students, within a cohesive ecosystem of broader University Support services.

19. As the academic year has come to a close, Tara has also greatly enjoyed seeing next year's Student Representatives elected. The new incoming Vice President Education's, Sam Maccallum, term in office will begin on the 10th June, and Tara is looking forward to working with them over the handover period.

Aisha Janki Akinola, Vice President Welfare

20. Since her last Court Report, Aisha has been engaging with some of the ongoing campaigns and activism on campus. Following the petition from students against sexual harassment redressal which garnered almost 60,000 signatures, Aisha has been working on reviewing the reporting process and the support offered to survivors, advocating for a fairer and transparent system. Aisha, Reka and I attended the student protest in Bristo Square to hear directly from the students. Alongside the other sabbatical officers, a statement was released to stress our solidarity with survivors and highlight the work we are embarking on behind the scenes to ensure their requests are acted upon. A revision of the student code of conduct is now being undertaken and the students from the MeToo Edinburgh University Group have been involved in this work too.

21. Aisha and I have successfully created the first ever Widening Participation (WP) Steering Group within the Association which will provide a much-needed space for WP students to feedback and feed into the WP Strategy Group of the University. So far there have been 100 students signed up to the Teams channel and there are plans to have in-person networking sessions. She was involved in the recruitment process of the Deputy Secretary Student Experience role where she ensured the successful candidate understood the need to and had experience with embedding Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) in the student experience.

22. In other news, the Cultural Festival was an enormous success and Aisha is currently working on reporting the positive feedback received to the University in a bid to secure support to run the festival every year. She will be presenting a paper at the upcoming EDI Committee meeting requesting funding to enable the project to continue to run as part of the student experience offerings. Lastly, she met with University Catering, alongside Beth, Vice President Community, to ensure adequate catering provisions are made for Muslim students fasting in the ongoing Ramadan.

Elections

23. 4,224 students voted in the Student Elections this year, and we held our first in-person election results event since March 2020 on Friday 11th March. We were unable to declare a result for President on that date due to an investigation into a breach of election regulations. Our independent external Returning Officer ruled to disqualify a candidate and our Governance Subcommittee was asked to convene to hear an appeal from the candidate, and this was not upheld. This was the first instance of an election appeal at the Association for circa 15 years although this is a regular occurrence within student unions and is part of effective governance to ensure fair elections in line with the requirements of the Education Act. Following the conclusion of that process we were able to declare a result in the Presidential election, and announced this in person and online on Friday 18th March.

24. Whilst this was a challenging situation for all involved, it's also worth noting that overall the elections were generally positive this year with the majority of candidates choosing to engage in online and in person campaigning across campuses. Alongside the sabbatical officer positions, we elected new undergraduate reps for every School, Liberation officers, Activities reps to represent societies and Section reps to represent specific student cohorts such as carers, commuter students, student parents etc.

25. We are now looking ahead to welcoming the new sabbatical team when they join us full time on 30th May. The new sabbatical team for 2022-23 are:

Niamh Roberts: President-elect

Sam Maccallum: VP Education-elect

Isi Williams: VP Community-elect

Lauren Byrne: VP Welfare-elect

Natalia Ellingham: VP Activities and Services-elect

26. The new team have had an initial welcome meeting to provide key information regarding induction, handover with the current team, and training. They will now focus on completing the academic year and will join us from Monday 30th May for handover, taking up their roles formally from Friday 10th June. You can read more about the new sabbatical team and all our student reps for 2022-23 in appendix 1.

Student Awards

27. Last month we held our first in-person Student Awards evening since 2019, focussing on an in-house student-led event. Over 430 individuals and student groups were nominated, with student-led panels reviewing every nomination and agreeing a shortlist of 5 worthy recipients for 13 categories. These recognised students or groups who had, amongst other things built community, championed social change, collaborated with others, and had a lasting impact on those around them. Often through society activity, representing students within the University, or peer support activity, the awards spotlighted the huge contribution made on a voluntary basis by so many of our members, many of whom had faced their own personal challenges along the way. We announced the winners at our fabulous Awards Evening in Potterrow which saw students celebrating together with dancing, candy floss, cocktails, face painting, circus performers and a ceilidh. This followed a formal ceremony showcasing the achievements of those nominated which saw awards

presented by student volunteers from a wide range of activities alongside our Sabbatical Officers, and a Special Award presented by our Rector. You can see the shortlist and winners here:

<https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/whatson/awards/studentawards> and watch a short video capturing the essence of the evening here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUbktnF-CCM>



Student development, reward and recognition

28. This time of year sees us preparing to welcome and induct a huge number of new student volunteers taking on roles such as peer support group leaders and buddies, society leaders, and student representatives. The Association is providing core induction for all of these roles over the coming weeks, with a return to more in-person training and support from our staff in line with student demand, and complementing some core online e-learning options. This transition and focus on induction and training is key to ensuring continuity of these activities with the new cohort feeling confident in their roles, and able to plan their next steps prior to the start of the next academic year. Further training and development will follow in September, including for the c2000 programme reps who will take up their roles in the new academic year. We are also getting ready to recognise and reward the achievements of this year's cohort of volunteers, with students achieving formal recognition via the HEAR (Higher Education Achievement Record), the Edinburgh Award where they have opted to work towards this, and for the first time this year, access to Saltire Award recognition for volunteering – a Scotland-wide scheme of recognising the effort of volunteers in all walks of life. We are pleased to be able to also in future be able to report on the actual time spent on community building, group organising, and delivery of support and activities for both students and the community as a result of new digital tools to support our interactions with our volunteers.

University Challenge

29. We are also celebrating our students reaching the semi-finals of this year's University Challenge. The Students' Association's Quiz Society undertook the search/auditions for this year's team, who did Edinburgh proud.

Teaching Awards

30. Our successful annual teaching awards provide students with an opportunity to thank staff for their hard work and celebrate the very best of teaching and support at the University. Staff clearly play a pivotal role in the student experience at Edinburgh, from lecturers and tutors, to supervisors and Personal Tutors, and professional services staff. This year students could nominate staff across 8 different categories, and we've received around 2500 nominations. All nominated staff are contacted personally with some of the feedback that has been provided, and added to our Roll of Honour <https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/whats-on/roll-of-honour-2022>. We're once again partnering with the Institute for Academic Development to give nominated staff the opportunity to be showcased in the Teaching Matters Blog. The shortlist will be published in May, and we'll be announcing the winners online throughout the day on 25th May and providing an opportunity to celebrate with our shortlisted colleagues in person at a special garden party on 1 June.

Financial Report

Period 11 (February) Summary

31. Financial performance returned to a surplus in the month after January's deficit, a significant improvement against the budget and reducing the year to date deficit. This partly reflects a return to in-person operations and events after the December/January restrictions, although of course campus footfall remains low.

High Level Summary

£ 000's

	YTD			Current Month		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Commercial net income	(294)	(967)	673	28	(10)	38
Block Grant	2,790	2,790	0	254	254	-
Total net income	2,497	1,824	673	282	244	38
Membership Engagement & People Development	(891)	(1,137)	246	(77)	(110)	33
Corporate Services	(1,175)	(1,132)	(43)	(121)	(107)	(15)
Marketing & Communications	(286)	(356)	70	(35)	(38)	3
Central Overheads	(373)	(338)	(35)	(29)	(45)	15
Total non-commercial expenditure	(2,725)	(2,963)	238	(263)	(299)	36
Surplus / (deficit)	(228)	(1,139)	911	19	(55)	74

Numbers shown in red & brackets denote a net expense or an adverse variance

Central overheads includes income from CJRS government scheme

32. The overall year to date deficit has fallen as a result of the surplus made in Period 11 and this is now over £900k better than budget: furlough income, the more favourable trading position this year and the earlier return of our club nights are all reasons for this improved position. This has been further assisted by savings in staff costs through some salaried vacancies, and lower overhead spend to date as a result of the pandemic.

33. Adverse results in Corporate Services are almost entirely the result of higher utilities than budgeted, though repair & maintenance costs by the Estates team have also been high as we prepared areas for re-opening, and undertake essential work to ensure spaces can remain fit for purpose given the poor quality of the buildings we occupy.

34. Central overheads are adverse to the budget year to date and this is predominantly due to the benefits from the (planned, but not implemented) additional compulsory redundancy scheme not being realised and irrecoverable VAT being higher than budgeted, though countered by lower Senior Management Team costs. This second round of redundancies was not progressed as operations restarted and the staff were required, but the original cost savings were budgeted centrally.

Full Year Forecast

35. The improved financial position continues to have a beneficial impact on the full year forecast. While our last 'formal' reforecast indicated a deficit of £300-350k in the year, we now anticipate that it will be c£250k prior to any year end adjustments. The uncertainty in the forecast reflects both the continuing fluctuations in activity that we are seeing, and March traditionally being a tricky month to forecast due to fluctuations in exam timings, vacations, sporting and cultural events and even weather; this year we also have the less predictable impact of industrial action at the University. Year-end adjustments will include the annual leave accrual and pension provision adjustments.

36. However, as our financial year finishes, the Students' Association remains in a highly vulnerable position and it's crucial that we turn the deficit into a surplus position in 2022/23 and subsequently in order to rebuild the balance sheet.

Looking to the future: budget and strategic plans for 2022-23

37. The Association began a new financial and planning year on 1 April. We are targeting a surplus of £156k for the coming year, underpinned by challenging trading targets whilst trying to minimise the inevitable cuts to student facing services. This surplus represents a significant positive shift from the 2020/21 results (£1.1m deficit) and 2021/22 forecast results (c. £250k deficit) and is achieved despite the covid impacts in the first half of the year, and ongoing. Campus footfall is still much below 'normal' levels as we go into our budget year in April, and we expect a top line impact through until September 2022 which is almost half way through this budget year. The budget proposes increases to our lowest paid wage rates of around 6.5% from April as part of the Association's strategy of becoming a Real Living Wage employer and includes a 2% general increase for salaried staff payable in October subject to our financial performance and likely to be well below the cost of living metrics.

38. Opportunities to make further savings are currently being reviewed, and the budget requires more savings to be made. With the organisation having reduced staff costs substantially through our organisational effectiveness review in 2019 and further redundancy programme in 2020 it is increasingly apparent that this would now have to be at the expense of services to members. We have committed to

identifying a further £50k of strategic savings this coming year, with this target increasing depending on the outcome of our planning round discussions. As part of our reshaping plan which takes into account the impact of the pandemic, our Trustee Board have agreed a set of robust metrics for us to achieve, so there are some challenging inbuilt assumptions, including seeing an increase in our grant from the University of £235k, in line with additional activity costs. We have ambitious plans to continue initiatives such as the Welcome Week Gem as part of growth in on campus activity that brings students together, and a longer term commitment to funding previously given on an ad hoc basis would provide more certainty in the ability to plan these activities well as part of a shift by the University to longer term planning. A Strategic Review Group, made up of board members and senior management will be established to consider the Association's financial recovery targets and whether these should be accelerated further.

Commercial Strategy

39. In line with our Strategic Plan, to deliver for our members and to support our financial recovery, our Trustee Board have recently agreed a commercial strategy for the organisation, which has 6 key strands:

- The development of an engaged, skilled, and enthusiastic workforce and management team
- Incrementally developing and introducing modern food and beverage offers/brands, including by partnership working
- Refurbishing and modernising facilities in line with high street designs and trends for both trading and student spaces
- The development of events and retail offers which engage and build loyalty with our student members throughout their University journey
- The development of a wider non-Edinburgh University student customer base building on the success of our Edinburgh Festival operation through specifically created events or the ongoing development of external partner relationships
- Engaging with our student customer base on multiple levels to build loyalty and add commercial value

40. This commercial strategy now provides focus for the organisation, and will support the delivery of both member-focused and financial objectives. As well as student/customer facing changes, we are also spending time on developments in people, systems, and processes to ensure we can move forward effectively and against the backdrop of two years of trading, customer footfall and behaviors which have been anything but normal.

41. This includes reviewing and developing service models across our outlets – noting that in some cases we have had some areas in 'hibernation' as a result of reduced campus footfall, and/or ventilation and capacity challenges created by the pandemic. There is now some pressure beginning to come for us to re-open previously unprofitable spaces and services which immediately presents challenges to our financial sustainability and future security. Most of these hibernated services, particularly at King's Buildings, will not re-open this year. Obviously this provides a challenge where visibility may have been obscured during the pandemic, but will be clearer come September 2022. As an example, the Wee Red Bar at Edinburgh College of Art had been closed since the beginning of the pandemic and students

have been campaigning for it to be open again. We are pleased to have gained a short term commitment from the Edinburgh College of Art Principal to support some costs of the space, enabling us to provide this valued on-site service without the Association taking the loss. Hopefully we will be able to extend this, or an alternative arrangement for the next semester.

Return to campus and moving out of 'Covid-response' mode.

42. As restrictions have lifted we have increasingly transitioned to on-campus activity, and all of our staff are now working on site to some degree in line with business need. This has been a transitional activity and we have asked all staff to agree a regular pattern for their onsite working for now to support planning both in-person collaboration and effective hybrid working. As we move towards the summer we will then ask all staff to agree a pattern for the new academic year. At the same time we are exploring options for flexibility although this is multi-faceted and will not be available to all staff in the same way depending on their role.

43. Whilst the pandemic impacts still remain to some degree, creating some limitations on activity (ventilation remains an ongoing issue), the organisation has been able to turn attention to strategic matters and forward planning rather than being focussed on 'covid response'. We are now progressing two strategic people-focussed projects for the organisation to support our strategic priority to support and empower our staff, which had effectively been on hold as result of key internal resource necessarily focussed on pandemic impacts. We are working with an external consultancy to deliver a pay policy and framework to build on a pre-pandemic evaluation and benchmarking exercise and also on a values and behaviours foundation piece to underpin recruitment, induction, staff development and performance management. Further examples include a renewed focus on our sustainability plans the commercial strategy noted above and the consolidation of our Digital transformation work which has been progressing over the last two years.

Resource implications

44. As this is a regular update report, there are no resource implications outlined.

Risk Management

45. Financial risks are highlighted in the report.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

46. Several of the activities outlined do support a wide variety of the SDGs.

Equality & Diversity

47. Equality and Diversity considerations are implicitly included in this paper. EUSA represents the interests of a diversity of student groups and exists to maintain the equal representation of students and student groups.

Next steps/implications

48. There are no next steps to be taken as a result of this paper.

Consultation

49. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

50. Author & Presenter

Ellen MacRae

President 21-22

April 2022

Freedom of Information

51. Open paper.

Sabbatical Officers

PRESIDENT



NIAMH ROBERTS

SHE/THEY

- Responsible for the student leadership of the organisation through the role as chair of Association Executive and the Students' Association Trustee Board
- Leads on overall representation and liaison with the University
- Leads on representation and liaison with the University on Finance, HE Funding, and Estates
- Ex Officio attendee at NUS Conference and NUS Events
- Lead spokesperson for the Officer team with the Media
- Represents the Association at NUS events
- Coordinates the Sabbatical Officer team
- Provides oversight on the financial, legal, HR and strategic activity of the organisation through the Trustee Board and Sub Committees
- Member of, and attendee at, University committees and Association committees as per Schedule

VICE PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES & SERVICES



NATALIA ELLINGHAM

SHE/HER

- Leads on representation and liaison with the University and beyond on matters relating to Student opportunities, societies and volunteering and social enterprises
- Lead representative in relation to the Association's commercial services, space and facilities
- Co-ordinates and leads campaigns and projects in relation to student development, student opportunities, societies and volunteering and social enterprises
- Leads on relationships with relevant University teams focussed on student development and opportunities, including Careers, Employability, and Edinburgh Innovations
- Leads on relationships with other activities providers including the Sports Union and Edinburgh Students' Charities Appeal (ESCA)
- Represents the Association at NUS events
- Supports Activities Reps
- Represents the interests of Societies and other student groups
- Association spokesperson on the Association's commercial services, space and facilities
- Member of, and attendee at, University committees and Association committees as per Schedule
- Chairs Strategic Development Subcommittee
- Chairs Activities Executive

VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY



ISI WILLIAMS

SHE/HER

- Leads on representation and liaison with the University and beyond on matters relating to students as local residents, including housing, the environment, sustainability, transport, local council and citizenship
- Co-ordinates and leads campaigns and projects in relation to housing, environment, sustainability, transport, citizenship
- Lead on the relationship with the University Social Responsibility and Sustainability department
- Contributes to and inform University strategy on local community issues, and on sustainability issues
- Lead on University Accommodation issues
- Contributes to wider University estates issues
- Leads on relationships with the City Council, local residents and local community group including to facilitate student representation on Community Councils, Neighbourhood partnerships and other local stakeholder groups
- Represents the Association at NUS events
- Liaises with and represents the interests of student community and volunteering groups
- Leads on sustainability aspects of Association services
- Association spokesperson on community issues
- Member of, and attendee at, University committees and Association committees as per Schedule
- Chairs Finance, Risk & Audit Subcommittee

VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION



SAM MACCALLUM

THEY/THEM

- Key role in supporting effective academic experience
- Leads on representation and liaison with the University, centrally and at College and School level, on matters relating to academic provision
- Co-ordinates and leads campaigns and projects in relation to all elements of the academic experience, including learning and teaching, academic facilities, quality assurance and enhancement, university academic policy and processes
- Association spokesperson on academic and education issues
- Leads on relationships with Academic Services, University Schools and Colleges, Institute for Academic Development
- Represents the Association at SPARQS events
- Participates in relevant NUS events
- Supports Programme and School representatives
- Lead student officer in relation to our Peer Learning provision
- Association spokesperson on academic and education issues
- Member of, and attendee at, University committees and Association committees as per Schedule
- Chairs Governance Subcommittee

VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE



LAUREN BYRNE

SHE/HER

- Leads on representation and liaison with the University on matters relating to student wellbeing and student support provision, and on equality and diversity
- Co-ordinates and leads campaigns and projects in relation to welfare, and equality and diversity issues, including student safety, mental and physical health and wellbeing, and inclusion
- Leads on the relationship with student support services, including Counselling, Student Disability, Chaplaincy or others
- Lead representative on Equality and Diversity development and initiatives within the university
- Contributes to and informs the development and implementation of relevant university strategies (e.g Mental Health Strategy, support for Disabled students)
- Leads on campus cohesion, faith groups, liaison with chaplaincy
- Represents the Association at NUS events
- Supports Liberation officers and Section representatives
- Association spokesperson on welfare, and equality and diversity issues
- Sabbatical Officer liaison with the Advice Place
- Ensures accessibility to Students Association services
- Leads on student safety issues
- Member of, and attendee at, University committees and Association committees as per Schedule
- Chairs People & Culture Subcommittee

2022/23

Liberation Officers

BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC (BME) OFFICER

Maryam Yusuf

DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

Lucy Caswell

LGBT+ OFFICER

Jaime Prada

TRANS AND NON-BINARY OFFICER

Robyn Woof

WOMEN'S OFFICER

Hope Conway-Gebbie

Section Representatives

COMMUTER STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

VACANT

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

UN IENG (ANNIE) CHAN

MATURE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Francis La Poll

PART-TIME STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

David Renton

STUDENT CARERS' REPRESENTATIVE

VACANT

STUDENT PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Steve Anderson

School Representatives

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Tobias Hansen

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Aditi Jain

BUSINESS SCHOOL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Annie Liu

CHEMISTRY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Izabela Skowrońska

DIVINITY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Lucy Swale

ECONOMICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Yong Guo

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Anna Avery

EDUCATION AND SPORT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Eve Lawson-Statham

ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Lavany Mohit Pant

GEOSCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Alexandra Knoblauch

HEALTH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

VACANT

HISTORY, CLASSICS & ARCHAEOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Coleman

INFORMATICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Amy Yin

LAW UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Meera Mahram

LITERATURES, LANGUAGES & CULTURES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Alexander Morzeria-Davis

MATHEMATICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Yashh Kotecha

MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Ben Harrison

PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & LANGUAGE SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Amrit Gill

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Emily McIntyre

SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Zohra O'Doherty

VETERINARY STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Tamari Yu

Activities Representatives

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (ACADEMIC)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (ADVICE & COMMUNITY)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (APPRECIATION)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE)

Jingyu Sun

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (CAMPAIGNING & AWARENESS)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (DANCE, MUSIC & THEATRE)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (EMPLOYMENT, TRANSFERABLE SKILLS & FINANCE)

Vedh Nanda

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (FAITH, BELIEF SYSTEMS & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (GAMING & ROLEPLAYING)

Chenchen Zha

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (INTERNATIONAL & MULTICULTURAL)

Jiayu Qin

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (MEDIA & BROADCASTING)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (PHYSICAL & OUTDOORS)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (POLITICAL)

VACANT

ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES (VOLUNTEERING)

Yashasvi Raj





UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Edinburgh University Sports Union Report

Description of paper

1. This paper is to note developments at Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) since the last Court meeting, providing updates on current work and strategic progress.

2. The Sports Union's activity and direction clearly contributes to the following aspects of Strategy 2030:

- i) The undergraduate curriculum will support breadth and choice, preparing students, graduates and alumni to make a difference in whatever they do, wherever they do it.
- ii) We will be leading Scotland's commitment to widening participation.
- iii) We will be a destination of choice, based on our clear "Edinburgh Offer". All of our staff and students will develop here, whether they are from Leith, Lisbon, Lahore or Lilongwe.
- iv) We will have created opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts.
- v) We will be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To note the report, recognising the wider benefit of sport and physical activity to the University community, and consider its contents as supporting other initiatives and projects designed to improve student satisfaction and enhancing the student experience.

Background and context

4. This paper outlines current activity and achievements of EUSU, alongside strategic developments for the future. It is a recent standalone item on the Court agenda, previously an appendix of the Edinburgh University Students' Association President's report.

Discussion

Memberships

5. We have well surpassed our previous record number of EUSU memberships purchased during semester one. Over 10,800 club memberships have been purchased from Badminton to Boxing and Weightlifting to Wakeboarding; making over 8,500 unique student members of EUSU. The number of memberships purchased in semester one alone reached levels often achieved in full pre-pandemic years, never mind single semesters. This shows how successful and pivotal the return to activity and sport has been for many students.

6. Our intramural programme has over 1500 students involved from all Colleges, this shows the appetite for recreational sporting offerings as well as competitive club sport. The intramural season culminated with the Intramural All-stars Event, where the strongest players from across the programme came together to take on Club

level players. The programme continues to develop, more than 175 teams across nine sports engaged in Semester 1. Funding has been secured to include Table Tennis and Touch Rugby, with the hope to add Volleyball to the programme dependent on facilities.

7. Some clubs have had to freeze membership sales as they are unable to accommodate larger numbers of students in facilities. These have forced clubs to turn away potential new members much to their dismay and highlights capacity issues within our current facilities (see point 17 below).

BUCS Update

8. The British University and College Sport (BUCS) season is almost at a close. Fixtures continued throughout Semester Two and Edinburgh has seen great success across the length of the country. BUCS Nationals in Sheffield (17th – 20th February) was a great success for Edinburgh teams with a total of 20 medals, including five golds, travelling back across the border from swimming, fencing, athletics and climbing. We then had four teams travel to the coveted BUCS Big Wednesday Finals in Nottingham (23rd March) to compete in National championship finals. We had national championship victories for our Women's Fencing team and Men's Waterpolo (for the first time in their history), along with a National vase win for Men's Hockey. Women's table tennis came up against tough opponents from Nottingham and came home with National silver medals.

9. Ladies Rugby made their own National final (13th April) against a strong Hartpury and narrowly lost out. Men's Hockey, after the high of their Vase win, continued their good form to gain promotion to the BUCS National Premier League – the first ever Scottish team to reach the top tier of University hockey.

10. Hare and Hounds club member Megan Keith, off the back of a strong result at BUCS Cross Country, got selected to represent GB Students at the World Universities Cross Country Championships in Portugal – she went on to finish in 5th place and a team gold. These results put us in good stead for the remains of the season and a push to secure 4th in the BUCS Overall league. Full leader boards, results and fixtures can be found at <https://www.bucs.org.uk/>.

Sports Union Ball

11. Thursday 7 April saw our first Sports Union Ball since January 2020, bringing together nearly 2,000 students at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre for a night of celebrating our fantastic athletes, volunteers and sports clubs. Our winners truly exemplified everything that is great about the University of Edinburgh and Sport at Edinburgh. The award winners on the evening were, as follows.

- The Captain S.T. Garner award for Outstanding First Year Contribution to University Sport went to Charlie Aldridge of the Cycling Club.
- The Ian Stevens Alumni Award, which celebrates outstanding connections and commitment to engaging with Club Alumni, was won by the Boat Club.
- The Vice President's Trophy celebrate our Intramural Team of the Year it was awarded to the Medics Netball team.
- Executive Committee Awards were presented to those individuals who absolutely go above and beyond for their club and the Sports Union in every aspect of their activity. The winners were:

- Matthew Dailey of Hare and Hounds,
 - Patrick Ferry from the Tennis Club,
 - Heather Gault of the Gymnastics Club,
 - Iona Grant from Women's Hockey Club,
 - Angus MacLeod from Badminton Club,
 - Elisabeth Martin of the Ladies Rugby Club and,
 - Meg Wallace of the Netball Club
- The Neil Campbell Shield was awarded to the most outstanding volunteer of the year, which was Chris Bateman.
 - Male athlete of the year, the Vancouver Quaich was won by Peter Hodgkinson of the Orienteering Club.
 - The President's trophy for Team of the year was won by the Boat Club Novice Programme.
 - Most improved club of the year, the Colonel R.B. Campbell Award, was won by the Netball Club.
 - The Pavilion Association Cup for the club with the best publicity content and record, went to the Snowsports Club.
 - The Eva Bailey Cup for Female Athlete of the Year went to Olympic Swimmer, Lucy Hope.
 - The Lillywhite Shield for Club of the year, went to the Badminton Club!

Community Partnership

12. Over the past month, with assistance from our Boat club and rowing coaches, we have delivered a programme in partnership with Broughton High School to enable younger students from widening participation backgrounds to experience university life as well as a wide range of sports and engaging with our club members. The past four weeks they have been learning how to row, first in the Dame Katherine Grainger Rowing Gym and cumulating in a session on the Union Canal. After the Easter holidays, Broughton High School will be back and this time taking on the climbing wall within Pleasance.

Mental Health

13. We have continued to offer Mental Health First Aid courses and have had extremely positive feedback across the board. Having noticed the impact on leaders in both clubs and intramural teams, we will be looking to offer courses on an annual basis. We are also looking into ways we are better able to support injured athletes who may be experiencing mental health issues throughout their recovery process. It is hoped that this opportunity will be able to continue and tie into the University wide student mental health strategy which we have been involved with throughout.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

14. With the Sport & Exercise Department, we have secured University funding to carry out a Consent/GBV audit on all our practises within sport at Edinburgh. Hopefully this will allow us to be University leaders in this area and make sport as inclusive and safe an environment as possible. Alongside this, we have continued to work with Andy Shanks, Director of Student Wellbeing, to ensure Active Bystander Training opportunities are available to our committee members. We are running a number of sessions this semester, and are looking into Train the Trainer

programmes to upskill student leaders to be able to facilitate sessions within the wider student community.

Resource implications

15. This is a regular update report from the Sports Union; therefore, no resource implications are outlined.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

By the very nature of the Sports Union, we work to promote healthy living and ensure our members are well. Through our collaborative work with Sport and Exercise, we work to ensure as many students and staff as possible have the opportunity to get active.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Our Coaching and Volunteering Academy (CVA) offers two version of the Edinburgh Award, with the opportunity to complete a Leadership version following the completion of the first year. This programme is central to our wider CVA, which works to achieve people development through learning and volunteering. We work closely with Scottish Student Sport (SSS) and British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) to offer our student volunteers the best opportunities to further their learning through educational seminars and workshops.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Our two elected Women in Sport Officers on our Inclusion Committee will continue to work this year to ensure females (and anyone who identifies as female) are empowered across our Sports Union, through various initiatives and fundraisers. Similarly, our Volunteer Zambia programme has restarted this year after a two year hiatus due to COVID-19. This sees our volunteers work with female coaches in Lusaka to upskill these individuals and empower them to become better leaders. We have six students and a staff member on the programme this year, which is our full capacity.

SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

EUSU strives to provide a good working environment for all staff, promoting a flexible schedule for each individual. Through our CVA, we support internal staff development to ensure all CPD opportunities are utilised. EUSU aims to keep costs low for students across all activity.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Our Inclusion Committee contains representatives from a variety of previous underrepresented groups, including LGBT+ Officer; Trans and Non-Binary Officer; International Students Officer; Disabled Students Officer; Postgraduate Students Officer; Ethnic Minorities Officer; Women in Sport Officer and Widening Access Officer. From their work last year in consulting with these groups more widely, we are now pulling together the first ever EUSU Inclusion Survey which we hope to promote widely throughout this year to all clubs and members.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

We have a huge drive for all our club's playing kit to be environmentally friendly in collaboration with our partner PlayerLayer. We are working with the Department of Social Responsibility & Sustainability on a clubs and societies programme to celebrate and promote achievable sustainability for students; along with reviewing our transport to attempt to offset our carbon emissions through various projects.

Equality & Diversity

16. Equality and Diversity considerations are implicitly included in this paper. EUSU are committed to offering opportunities to students regardless of their background, working alongside our Inclusion Committee to break down barriers to sport and physical activity for underrepresented groups. EUSU represents the interests of a diversity of student groups and must ensure we maintain the equal representation of students and student groups.

Next steps/implications

17. An implication of this paper which Court are asked to consider is the consideration of the future plans for sports facilities in the grander scale of the University masterplan. Our clubs are having to turn away potential members due to capacity issues with the current facilities. It is hoped the Peffermill re-development plan with help to combat this but complications have caused serious delay in the works. This is causing a negative experience for student club members and it is hoped that sport having the opportunity to grow on its own terms will help to contribute to an increased sense of belonging and student experience.

18. If any Court members would be interested in hearing more about the work of the Sports Union, visit our facilities and meet some of our incredible volunteers, please do not hesitate to get in touch on sports.president@ed.ac.uk.

Consultation

19. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

20. Author
Gregor Malcolm
Sports Union President
April 2022

Freedom of Information

21. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Director of Finance's Report

Description of paper

Paragraph 1: Closed section

2. This paper supports all of the outcomes set out in Strategy 2030 by supporting the University's continued drive towards financial sustainability.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To review and comment on the latest update.

Background and context

4. The paper provides a regular update on finance related issues for Court.

Paragraphs 5-29: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

30. This Director of Finance and the Finance Team fully supports the outcomes of Strategy 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by working to secure the ongoing financial sustainability of the University.

Equality & Diversity

31. Specific issues of equality and diversity are not relevant to this paper as the content focusses primarily on financial strategy and/or financial project considerations.

Next steps/implications

32. We would welcome feedback as outlined in the discussion above.

Consultation

33. The paper has been reviewed by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance.

Further information

34. Authors

Rachael Robertson
Deputy Director of Finance

Presenter

Lee Hamill
Director of Finance

Stuart Graham
Head of FIRST (Financial Information,
Reporting & Strategy Team)

Freedom of Information

35. Closed paper – commercially confidential



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Investment Opportunity: Project Dolly Proceeds

Description of paper

1. This paper presents an ambitious proposal regarding the transformational impact reinvesting a portion of the proceeds from Project Dolly could have on the University's staff, students and technology commercialisation. This is a unique opportunity to advance Edinburgh's early-stage deep-tech ecosystem and accelerate the University's wider agenda to drive impact via commercialisation of our world-leading research base.

Paragraphs 2-60: Closed section

Equality & Diversity

61. The proposed investment funds would be available to all, irrespective of background, with diversity encouraged. The programme is specifically designed to improve discoverability of projects, helping founders overcome traditional barriers faced when seeking investment. In addition, investments would be made (as with all UoE investment funds) in line with the University's commitments under the UN's principles of responsible investment, including considering ESG and SDG matters.

Next steps/implications

62. Endorsement from the University Court is sought in relation to the proposed plan. Next steps will then be implementation of the proposed activities.

Consultation

63. Internal and external stakeholders were consulted, including across EI, Corporate Services Group, the Committee's Commercialisation Sub-Group and University Executive. This was in addition to members of the OCC Investment Committee, local angel investors and venture capital investors. Further feedback and consultation suggestions are actively welcomed. Feedback from 4 April meeting of Policy & Resources Committee, which recommended this proposal to Court, has been incorporated.

Further information

64. Authors

Dr Catherine Martin
Vice-Principal Corporate Services

Presenter

Dr Catherine Martin
Vice-Principal Corporate Services

Andrea Young, CFA
Head of Investment, EI

Simon Durrant, CA
Investment Manager, EI

Freedom of Information

65. Closed paper – commercially sensitive



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Communications and Marketing Update Report

Description of paper

1. This report provides some detail and highlights of the work of the three divisions within the Department of Communications and Marketing (CAM) – stakeholder relations, marketing and communications. It builds on the first report which came to Court last year and details progress on the three CAM development goals of: Deploying and enhancing the brand; making CAM fit for purpose; and building capacity in the University. It outlines the strategic direction for the department, provides a progress update including some data, and sets out some next steps for future development.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To note the report and comment on the approach and focus of CAM in support of Strategy 2030.

Background and context

3. In the last year, CAM has continued its development to provide a more modern mix of professional PR and Marketing services, and continues to work more collaboratively with the broader University community. Its mission and goals have the clear purpose of contributing to the achievement of Strategy 2030, with the work of the department falling into the three categories of leading, collaborating and advising.

4. The activities of the department in the last year continued to be dominated by the global pandemic and the implementation of a number of strategic change programmes for the University. CAM has played a leading role in supporting the University community during this challenging period, ensuring that our internal and external stakeholders have access to timely and accurate information and supporting University business.

5. The impact of Communications, Marketing and Stakeholder Relations requires to be monitored, measured and reported regularly if it is to support our reputation management effectively. For this reason, some sets of data and commentary are presented to inform Court of the scope and scale of our operation, and to illustrate the publicity and engagement that are generated.

Paragraphs 6-8: Closed section

Resource implications

9. Resources will be met from within existing University budgets.

Risk Management

10. The progress and steps outlined in this paper serve to mitigate against the risks of a highly competitive sector.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

11. This is a regular report covering a range of communications, marketing and stakeholder relations activity. In itself it is not designed to contribute to UN SDGs though it all reflects agreed activity.

Equality & Diversity

12. Equality issues are considered on a case by case basis for each individual project/piece of work. In addition, Equality and Diversity is incorporated into each area of reputation management. Furthermore, our brand management recognises the requirement to build assets and practical resources which are compliant with equality and diversity standards. This refers both to language and imagery as well as recognised accessibility standards.

Next steps/implications

13. Future reports can presented to Court on an annual basis.

Consultation

14. While no formal consultation was carried out in the preparation of this paper, it reflects a great deal of collaborative working with colleagues from across the University.

Further information

15. Authors

Niall Bradley, Deputy Director –
Marketing, CAM

Jen Middleton, Deputy Director –
Communications, CAM

Lynn McMath, Deputy Director –
Stakeholder Relations, CAM

Theresa Merrick, Director of
Communications and Marketing

Presenter

Theresa Merrick, Director of
Communications and Marketing

Freedom of Information

16. Closed – commercial confidentiality.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Security and Risks in International Partnerships Annual Update

Description of paper

1. Annual update report focused on management and mitigation of security and risk aspects across international activity, partnerships and collaboration for key University governance committees.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To:

- Review and comment on the paper; and,
- Note the changing UK government and legislative context on security and risk in international higher education partnerships.

Background and context

3. In October 2020 Universities UK (UUK) published detailed guidance for universities on measures they should take to guard against hostile interference and promote academic freedom¹. The guidance noted governing bodies and executive leadership of universities are responsible and accountable for protecting the institution against the threats and risks set out in the guidelines and that to support them in this role they should receive an annual report describing the risks the institution faces and how the risks are being mitigated.

4. Universities UK uses '**security-related risk**' as an umbrella term to describe a broad range of issues and risks that are associated with internationalisation. The security-related risks referred to in the guidance are broadly grouped into two categories:

- Attempts by overseas/hostile/external actors or those acting on their behalf to illegitimately acquire academic research and expertise;
- And/or interfere with academic discourse.

5. Whilst the nature of many of these security related risks are not new to the sector the scale, reach and complexity being encountered is new and set within a dynamic geopolitical landscape. Given the University's large-scale international profile and global ambition, this area is of increased risk to us.

6. Our aim is to be measured and proportionate in how we mitigate these risks, ensuring our policies, processes and actions are robust but focused around enabling colleagues to grow international research and partnerships in a safe and secure way that protects them and the University.

7. Across the last two years, the UK legislative and regulatory environment has changed significantly in response to the increased level of risk being posed to national security. In June 2020, the Centre for the Protection of National

¹ <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/publications/managing-risks-internationalisation>

Infrastructure (CPNI) published new national guidance for academia on **'Trusted Research'** aimed at supporting the integrity and resilience of the UK research sector relating to risks faced within international collaboration.

8. In late 2020, **Universities UK published detailed guidance** for universities as to measures they should take to mitigate against hostile overseas interference and promotion of academic freedom. In May 2021, the **Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)** was expanded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. This Scheme was extended from developed vetting for international students from specified nations following certain disciplines to also include international researchers and visiting academic staff undertaking sensitive research in the UK.

9. In May 2021, the UK government launched a **consultation on government proposals to counter the threat of hostile state activities** to the UK. It is anticipated that these proposals will be taken forward in legislation this year with a range of impacts for the higher education sector. The consultation sets out legislative proposals to reform the Official Secrets Acts, to ensure that UK legislation is fit for purpose; further strengthen export controls on dual use and sensitive technologies; introduce a Foreign Influence Registration (FIR) scheme, which would see the creation of a government-managed register of declared activities that are undertaken for, or on behalf of, a foreign state and create new Civil Orders, to mitigate the risk posed by individuals engaged in hostile activity.

10. During 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) announced the **launch of a Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT)** who will advise UK universities international collaboration and partnerships and provide a single connection point and voice for UK government with regard to issues across UK higher education. The Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has increased sharing of best practice across the sector.

11. In late 2021, the UK Government introduced the **National Security and Investment Act (NSIA)**. The Act came into force in January 2022 with acquirers of qualifying entities in one or more of 17 sensitive sectors of the UK economy being required to notify the government to get their approval before the deal can be completed. Certain Intellectual Property licensing arrangements involving research connected with the 17 sensitive sectors will also be subject to possible call-in by the government for national security assessment.

Discussion

12. Colleagues across key areas of the University have been working together over the last two years to address the implications of the current and changing landscape for the University and importantly to develop and further strengthen policies, procedures and processes across all areas and at all levels. This is to ensure oversight of activity, consistency in approach to due diligence and risk and thereby enabling appropriate governance and reporting to be in place.

13. A key aspect of this has been the creation of the University's **Security and Risks in International Partnerships Group (SRIPG)** a new group convened to coordinate and lead the University's response. The Group is chaired by the Vice-Principal International, and includes key stakeholders from Edinburgh Global,

Edinburgh Research Office, Edinburgh Innovations, Legal Services, Information Security, Corporate Services and senior leads from academic disciplines. The Group coordinates effective implementation of the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure 'Trusted Research' and Universities UK guidance within the University.

14. A number of key actions have been taken across the University to address security related risks in international partnerships and the SRIP Group has collated action from across the University into the '**Security-Related Risks and Mitigations Summary**'. This table tracks and measures our actions to mitigate and manage security related risks, based on the frameworks and guidance outlined by Universities UK and CPNI, and provides an annual overview to senior leadership at the University and key governance committees.

Resource implications

15. It is anticipated that there will be resource implications and additional work required for different departments across the University to implement and embed the risk mitigations outlined in the Summary table (Annex 1). It is expected that this will become embedded in standard practice over time and will not require any additional staff resource to deliver.

Risk Management

16. The paper updates key University governance groups and leadership about the security related risk mitigations that are in place and under development. Good governance and effective risk management processes help protect the University and individual colleagues from the legal, financial and reputational consequences of security-related risks.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

17. This paper does not contribute to specific SDGs; however, it enables the enhancement of the underpinning support for the development of international projects that may affect SDGs. Similarly, it contributes to Strategy 2030 vision to build innovative global partnerships for research, teaching and impact.

Equality & Diversity

18. There are no known equality and diversity impacts at present however there are a range of potential Equality, Diversity & Inclusion issues that may arise relating to some of the legislation proposed at present, particularly in relation to the proposed Foreign Influence Registration Scheme.

Next steps/implications

19. There will be a regular annual update on these risks to Risk Management Committee, Audit & Risk Committee and Court.

Consultation

20. Views have been sought from Vice-Principal International, Edinburgh Global and members of the University's Security and Risks in International Partnerships Group (SRIPG). The paper was considered by Audit & Risk Committee at its most recent meeting.

Further information

21. *Author and Presenter*

Alan Mackay

Deputy Vice-Principal International

Freedom of Information

22. Open version



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Partnerships with Russia

Description of paper

1. The paper provides an overview of the University's current partnerships and collaborative activities with Russia.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To note and comment on the paper.

Background and context

3. Following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February, Universities UK advised all universities to review current and planned activities involving partners in Russia using the Universities UK guidance on 'Managing Risks in Internationalisation'. In early March, the UK government announced a rapid review of all government funding for research collaborations involving Russia led by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

4. On 4 March, the European Commission announced the suspension of cooperation across research, science and innovation with all Russian entities. Following a statement by the Russian Rectors Union in support of President Putin and the war in Ukraine, some universities have suspended or terminated all cooperation with Russian entities or more specifically direct collaboration or partnership with the Russian government.

5. Following the invasion of Ukraine the EU, UK, US, and other allies, have responded with significant coordinated sanctions, targeting Russia's financial sector, export control and dual use technologies, strategic sectors of the economy such as defence and aerospace, and individuals close to the Putin regime. Further sanctions are expected to be introduced on a rolling basis and the UK government has said, *"nothing is off the table".^[1]*

Discussion

6. The University supports the Universities UK statement on Ukraine^[2] and commitment to the free exchange of ideas between universities and academics, regardless of nationality or location, whilst recognising the importance of managing risks associated with international collaboration. Universities UK does not support the application of blanket academic boycotts that prevent academics collaborating as a means of protest against the actions of their governments.

7. In line with Universities UK and government advice we have reviewed all current partnerships and exchanges with Russia and these are highlighted in this paper. We will ensure that future partnerships are considered on a case-by-case basis and all

^[1] <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9481/CBP-9481.pdf>

^[2] <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/latest/news/universities-uk-statement-ukraine-3>

existing and new partnerships are fully compliant with relevant legislation, sanctions and government policy. The legislative and regulatory landscape will be closely monitored by Legal Services ensuring that advice, guidance is available in terms of any existing and future collaboration with Russia, and that relevant policies and procedures are updated.

8. In terms of partnerships at the institutional level, the University does not have any institutional level memoranda of understanding with Russian universities.

9. There are **student exchange agreements** in place for undergraduate students within Russian Studies (School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures) with St Petersburg State University, Novosibirsk State University and the Higher School of Economics (Moscow). Russian Studies have active subject specific study exchanges with Liden & Denz (St Petersburg and Moscow); Derzhavin Institut Russian Language School (St Petersburg); Herzen State Pedagogical University (St Petersburg) and St Petersburg State University. There is an active **generic memorandum of understanding** in marine research coordinated by the Research Support Office with the Lomonosov Moscow State University – Marine Research Centre.

10. Our **current research collaboration** with Russian partners involve four current projects, noting that **none of these projects is funded by Russian entities**.

- Politics (School of Social & Political Science) multi-partner project - funded by the Norwegian Research Council - which includes Higher School of Economics, National Research University (Moscow).
- Psychology collaboration (School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences) – funded by The Royal Society – and includes exchange with the Smolenski State University
- Mathematics collaboration (School of Mathematics) – funded by The Royal Society – and includes exchange with Steklov Mathematics Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

11. There is one large-scale research project that the School of Chemistry leads on funded by EU Horizon 2020 that involves one partner from Russia, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, as part of a European multi-partner consortium on tuberculosis. The Russian Academy of Sciences is no longer a participant in this project following the European Commission's decision on 4th March to halt all cooperation with Russian entities in research, science and innovation and their access to Horizon Europe. Funding received by the Royal Society and Norwegian Research Council may be removed or suspended although nothing has been confirmed at the time of writing.

12. Our **commercial and consultancy partnerships** with Russia are small scale. There are three small award projects with companies that include **N2 Pharma** (contract research) within veterinary medicine and an MRS studentship with **N2 Pharma** on myocardial therapies and **Advanced Innovation Voucher** for

consultancy in veterinary medicine. We have three active patents granted in Russia during 2014, 2015 and 2016.

13. In terms of broader cultural and academic engagement, the **Princess Dashkova Centre** (School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures) advances knowledge in Russian language studies and to foster a broader understanding of Russia through research, academic training and knowledge exchange. The Centre has no active partnerships or collaboration with Russia. The Centre has not received any funding from the Russkiy Mir Foundation since 2016 and does not have an agreement with the Foundation.

14. Regarding **investments in Russian entities** the Exception Committee has approved a recommendation that the University's Endowment Fund divest from indirect holdings of Russian stocks and instruments as soon as practicable and that we accept any loss of value arising from this. These indirect holdings comprised 0.44% of the Endowment Fund's value on 31 December 2021. Some of these holdings were reduced by the relevant fund manager at the start of the invasion of Ukraine when markets were still open. With the subsequent closure of Russian markets there has not been an opportunity for the fund manager to continue this but, following Exception Committee's agreement, complete divestment will be sought as soon as possible.

15. For **philanthropic and grant income** from Russia the new Income Due Diligence Group (previously Ethical Fundraising Advisory Group) has received an update on income received from Russia in recent years, confirming that nothing of significance has been received.

16. In terms of **international tuition fee income** from Russia, we currently have 88 students from Russia attending the University. We have 50 undergraduate students and 38 following postgraduate taught and research programmes.

17. We do not have any students funded through any Russian government scholarship programmes or financial assistance.

18. There is the potential for impact on tuition fee income due to financial and economic sanctions and future enrolment of students from Russia and reduced demand due to geopolitical tensions between the UK and Russia. We are not aware of any UK government intention to restrict visas for Russian students or staff although we note the government's statement around "rolling sanctions" and will monitor the situation and continue to welcome scholars and students from Russia who wish to study with us. We have communicated with all current applicants to the University from Russia for the next academic year welcoming their application and interest in the University of Edinburgh, this has been very well received.

Resource implications

19. Financial impacts expected relating to divestment of indirect holdings of stocks and instruments; cessation/suspension of international and/or national research funding relating to collaboration with entities in Russia and impact of economic and financial sanctions on current and future student demand and international student tuition fee income.

Risk Management

20. The University has existing governance, policies and processes relating to risk management and mitigation for international collaboration. The **Strategic International Partnerships Group** (formerly International Ventures Group) reviews and advises on all partnerships that require formal governance approval and reports to the University Executive.

21. The **Security and Risks in International Partnerships Group**, coordinates and advances engagement with national guidance and measures to guard against hostile interference and reports to Audit and Risk Committee. The **Income Due Diligence Group**, sub-group of University Executive, reviews international income and considers and advises on whether the sources and purposes of income relating to philanthropic and contractual business, industrial and international government sources are ethically acceptable.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

22. The invasion of Ukraine will have negative impacts on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and response to the climate emergency. The General Assembly of the United Nations voted on 2 March 2022 to adopt a resolution demanding that Russia immediately cease its military operations in Ukraine.

Equality & Diversity

23. Potential impact on involvement of Russian partners and collaboration owing to removal or suspension of international and/or national research funding relating to collaboration with entities in Russia.

Next steps/implications

24. We will continue to closely monitor and review the situation with regard to national and international funding and any changes to UK Research and Innovation and government legislation, sanctions and policy.

Consultation

25.

- Audit & Risk Committee
- Vice-Principal International
- Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement
- Deputy Secretary, Governance and Legal
- Director of Finance
- Edinburgh Research Office
- Edinburgh Innovation
- Edinburgh Global
- Legal Services
- Development and Alumni
- Princess Dashkova Centre

Further information

26. Author and Presenter

Alan Mackay

Deputy Vice-Principal International

Director, Edinburgh Global

Freedom of Information

27. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Usher Institute – Reallocation of City Deal Funding



Description of paper

1. This paper presents a proposal to reallocate City Deal funding from the Edinburgh BioQuarter Enabling Infrastructure project to the Usher Institute project budget.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To:

- Approve the proposal to reallocate City Deal funding from the Edinburgh BioQuarter Enabling Infrastructure project to the Usher Institute project budget in order to enable the fit out of the five shelled neighbourhoods within the Usher Institute currently being constructed at the Edinburgh BioQuarter.
- Note that this follows review and recommendation for approval by Estates Committee on 16 March 2022 and Policy & Resources Committee on 4 April 2022.

Background and context

3. The University appointed a Main Contractor in September 2021 to build the new Usher Institute building at the Edinburgh BioQuarter. Facilities at the new building will include: large flexible teaching/events space, seminar rooms, meeting rooms, informal meeting areas, an outreach room, an innovation room, a café, changing & shower facilities, open plan research neighbourhoods (with adjacent cellular support spaces), a range of breakout areas and adjacent external public realm.

4. This project is a key component of the Data Driven Innovation programme and is co-funded by the City Region Deal and the University to deliver a world class research facility where academics and commercial partners work collaboratively to drive innovation within the health science sector.

Paragraphs 5-28: Closed section

Equality & Diversity

29. All suppliers that the University appoints fully comply with and understand the University's legal obligations.

Next steps/implications

30. Following approval, there will be an issue of instruction to the construction contractor to fit out shelled neighbourhoods.

Consultation

31. The Enabling Infrastructure and Usher Institute Project Boards have been consulted and have approved the proposal, as has Estates Committee and Policy & Resources Committee.

32. The City Deal funding partners have confirmed that they are content with the proposed budget transfer.

Further information

33. Authors

Katharine Isherwood
Estates Development Manager

Iain Logan
Head of Construction
April 2022

Presenter

Jonathan Seckl
Senior Vice-Principal and Convener of
Estates Committee

Freedom of Information

34. Closed paper – commercially confidential.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

University of Edinburgh Staff Benefits Scheme (SBS) Trustee Structure

Description of paper

1. This paper outlines a proposal to switch the trusteeship structure of the University of Edinburgh Staff Benefits Scheme (SBS) from individuals to a single corporate trustee. The proposal is to establish a subsidiary company limited by shares, with the University as the sole shareholder.

2. The Trustees believe this change will lead to more user friendly process and efficient systems to support their work, which directly relates to this element of Strategy 2030.

Paragraphs 3-22: Closed section

Further information

23. <u>Author</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Ann Fraser	Lee Hamill
Secretary of Scheme on behalf of the Trustees of SBS	Director of Finance
April 2022	

Freedom of Information

24. Closed paper – commercially confidential.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Awards of University Benefactor

Description of paper

1. The paper proposes candidates for the award of University Benefactor status.
2. By bestowing Benefactor status to our high level philanthropists we are creating a culture of philanthropy which supports a range of the outcomes set out in Strategy 2030.
 - i) We will see our research having a greater impact as a result of partnership, international reach and investment in emergent disciplines.
 - ii) We will be leading Scotland's commitment to widening participation.
 - iii) We will have created opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts.
 - iv) Multidisciplinary postgraduate education pathways will support flexible whole-life learning.
 - v) Our estate will be fit for purpose, sustainable and accessible. We will support learning, research and collaboration with our neighbours, businesses and partners.

Paragraphs 3-7: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

8. Donors support a range of the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals through their donations. By recognising donors with the University Benefactor award, the University is seeking to strengthen relationships and ensure future support for these activities.

Equality & Diversity

9. Court previously approved the widening of scope for University Benefactor status to include posthumous awards, noting that this would be very likely to improve the gender balance among individuals within the group of Benefactors.

Next steps/implications

10. Those awarded are invited to participate in a ceremony where they will be presented with a Benefactor gown and certificate on behalf of the University. This is usually within a University graduation ceremony but can be a separate event, for example, the official opening of a building funded by the donor.

Consultation

11. All nominees have been reviewed and recommended for approval to the Principal by Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement.

Further information

12. Author

Katie Littlefair

Donor Relations Manager

Presenter

Peter Mathieson

Principal & Vice-Chancellor

Freedom of Information

13. Closed paper until all awards have been made and accepted by the recipients.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

The University of Edinburgh Cross & Salmon Trust – Re-appointment of Continuing Trustee

Description of paper

1. The paper requests approval for the re-appointment of a continuing Trustee to the University of Edinburgh Cross & Salmon Trust (the “Trust”) as required by the terms of the Trust Deed.

Paragraphs 2-13: Closed section

Next steps/implications

14. The deed of reappointment will be signed by all the trustees and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator will be notified of the reappointment.

Consultation

15. This paper follows previous reappointments and requirements which have been approved by Court.

Further information

16. Author
Morag Murison
Head of Legacies & Planned Gifts
March 2022

Freedom of Information

17. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Donations and Legacies; Alumni Activities

Description of paper

1. A report on legacies and donations received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust or directly by the University from 29 January to 31 March 2022.
2. The paper also includes an update on current alumni relations activities.
3. All gifts contribute to different aspects of the University's goals under Strategy 2030 and due diligence procedures ensure there is no conflict with the values summarised in the strategy.

Action requested/Recommendation

4. To note the legacies and donations received and the update on current alumni relations activities.

Paragraphs 5-7: Closed section

8. Summary of current alumni relations activities.

Being Edinburgh 2022 Award

9. The Being Edinburgh 2022 Award winner was announced at the Students' Association Student Awards Ceremony at the beginning of April. Winner, Laura Young, is a 2019 MSc Environmental Protection and Management graduate and climate activist, environmental scientist, sustainability educator and ethical influencer. Read more about our winner [here](#). Over 100 nominations were received and you can meet our three other finalists [here](#).

Alumni Events

10. We are pleased to see a cautious return to in-person engagement as the effects of the latest pandemic wave recede across the globe.
11. In March, alumni in Dubai were invited to take part in three events as part of Scotland's Race to Net Zero activities during Expo 2020 Dubai, including an evening reception hosted by Mr Ivan McKee, Scottish Government Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise.
12. Alumni joined members of the Alumni Clubs of New York and Washington DC, and colleagues from Edinburgh Global and Student Recruitment & Admissions, to march in the New York Tartan Day Parade on 9 April. An annual feature of our international alumni events pre-pandemic, this is a return to an in-person parade after two years online. An alumni event followed post-parade enabling guests to network over informal drinks.

13. Alumni and current students in Nairobi have been invited to an informal event hosted by Professor Geoff Simm, Assistant Principal and Director of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, and Chloe Kippen, Director of College Advancement and Health Philanthropy, in mid-April. The event will take place during a visit to Kenya for workshops with partners in the Jameel Observatory for Food Security Early Action at the International Livestock Research Institute campus.

14. An alumni reception will take place in Johannesburg in May as part of a delegation visit to the University of Witwatersrand.

Alumni support for student recruitment

15. Alumni took part in three panel sessions as part of Postgraduate Virtual Open Days in March. The first of four alumni focussed College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Offer-holder Events took place at the start of April, where prospective students learn about how they can connect with the alumni network during their studies and beyond.

16. At the start of April, Alumni Ambassadors supported a series of undergraduate offer-holder events in the US hosted by the International Recruitment Team. Events took place in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington DC and New York. In February, a dozen recent graduates responded to a request to support a social media campaign focussed on student recruitment in Japan.

Student Engagement

17. Thirty-four MasterCard Scholars have been successfully matched with a graduate as part of this year's Career Mentoring Programme. The programme itself has more than doubled in size this year, and the alumni taking part are from across all three Colleges and from across the globe with mentors from Europe, Africa, Singapore, USA, and Uruguay.

18. The last event in this semester's series of alumni supported School career events took place in early April, with an event for postgraduate students in the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. Seven alumni volunteers shared their advice with 70 current students. Earlier events included two "Managing the move: from degree to the workplace" events, where students in the School of Informatics and the School of Physics and Astronomy heard from four alumni during these bite sized lunch time sessions, and a Life after LLC (School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures) evening saw four graduates from the School talk to students about their experiences of life after graduation. Alumni joined us from Scotland, England, Germany, and - in an event first - a boat moored in the Beagle Channel in Tierra del Fuego.

19. We hosted a Career Kickstarter session at the start of April on how to "Make the most of your alumni community" for final year students. The session was part of a package of career related events created to help graduating students plan for life after University.

Insights Programme

20. The Insights Online Week returned in February for a fifth edition of the programme since its rapid pivot to online delivery in June 2020. Since the

introduction of the Insights online offering, 400+ students have taken part in the programme, with the support of 99 alumni volunteers. The support of new and continuing alumni volunteers from the USA, Europe, Asia-Pacific and the UK remains central to the success of the programme, with alumni representing a diverse range of career stages and sectors. As we consider a post-pandemic landscape, initial planning discussions are underway to grow and strengthen Insights in academic year 2022/23 and beyond. Current aspirations include a partial reopening of in-person visits in 2022/23 and we hope that key online activities may continue to provide a beneficial element of the Insights package.

Enlightened newsletter

21. A revamped alumni e-newsletter will launch this spring. Redesigned and signalling a move to a more magazine style publication, Enlightened will share several in-depth features including an interview with the graduates behind Strut Safe, a free, volunteer-run service in Edinburgh dedicated to walking people home safely. Further features will profile a law graduate who has decided to relocate to her home of Shetland, a look at Edinburgh as the birthplace of hypnotherapy, and an interview with the Being Edinburgh 2022 Award winner.

Podcasts

22. We continue to develop both the Multi Story Edinburgh and Sharing things podcasts. To tie in with the Shetland law graduate feature in the redesigned Enlightened, a themed series of [Multi Story Edinburgh](#) has completed production featuring alumni who have chosen to go home or move back to Edinburgh at some point after their studies, whether straight after graduating or after a career away.

23. Planning for season six of [Sharing things](#) has commenced, with recruitment completed for our fourth student intern host. Twenty-three intern applications of an exceptional quality were received for the role, with our students showing a real understanding of the podcast and the role it plays in our efforts to build a shared sense of community.

Edinburgh Futures Conversations

24. The next event in the Edinburgh Futures Conversations event series will take place this autumn, followed by a fourth event in early 2023. The themes, not yet allocated, will be Climate Justice, and Data and Artificial Intelligence Ethics. To register for updates visit the [Edinburgh Futures Conversations website](#), which also hosts details of the past two events, the Future of Health and the Future Economy, including their declaration of principles and videos of the sessions.

Resource implications

25. There are no specific resource implications associated with this paper. The funds received will be appropriately managed in line with the donors' wishes.

Risk Management

26. There are policies and procedures in place to mitigate risks associated with funding activities including the procedure for the ethical screening of donations.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

27. The preference of many donors to make a difference in the world through their support of our teaching and research ensures that a number of specific gifts tie in directly with the University's work across climate mitigation and the SDGs.'

Equality & Diversity

28. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the paper. Cognisance is however taken of the wishes of donors' to ensure these reflect the University's approach to equality and diversity and that these comply with legal requirements.

Next steps/implications

29. The University is grateful for the support provided to enable it to continue to provide high quality learning and research.

Consultation

30. This paper has been reviewed and approved by Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement and Executive Director of Development & Alumni.

Further information

31. Authors

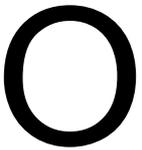
Gregor Hall, Finance Manager

Natalie Fergusson, Global Alumni Clubs and Groups Manager

Development & Alumni

Freedom of Information

32. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Resolutions

Description of paper

1. This paper invites Court to:
 - approve two Resolutions, one to establish a Chair (i.e. a professorial position) and one to alter the title of an established Chair; and,
 - consider two draft Resolutions containing annual updates for the degree programme regulations and to refer them to the General Council, Senate and any other interested party for comment before they return to Court for approval.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To approve the following Resolutions presented in final format:
 - No. 5/2022: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Translational Cognitive Neuroscience
 - No. 6/2022: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Accounting
3. To refer the following draft Resolutions to Senate and the General Council for observations:
 - Draft Resolution No. 13/2022: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
 - Draft Resolution No. 14/2022: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

Background and context

Chairs

4. The Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation and alteration of the title of Chairs. The Act sets out the procedure for making Resolutions. This includes a period of consultation with the Senate, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest.
5. The circumstances leading to the creation of a Chair are typically either:
 - i. the creation of a Personal Chair as a result of an individual's promotion, which has been approved by the Central Academic Promotions Committee; or,
 - ii. the creation of a Personal Chair as a result of an approved recruitment exercise at a professorial level, where the new appointment will have input into their appropriate Chair title;
 - iii. the creation of a substantive Chair, where the Chair title is not linked to an individual. This requires support from the relevant Head of College and the University Executive before the draft Resolution is circulated for formal consultation and approval.

Degree Regulations

6. The Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enables the Court to exercise by Resolution approval for 'any additions or amendment to regulations for existing degrees' on the recommendation of the Senate, with Senate having delegated responsibility for detailed work on the academic regulatory framework to its Academic Policy &

Regulations Committee (APRC). APRC has undertaken its annual review of the undergraduate and postgraduate regulations and has recommended some changes. Draft Resolutions have been formulated to incorporate the recommended changes and attached to these draft Resolutions are a list of degrees to which these regulations apply.

Discussion

Chairs

7. With no observations having been received from Senate, the General Council or any other body or person having an interest, Court is invited to approve the two Resolutions in final form, attached as an Appendix.

Degree Regulations

8. The key changes proposed to the Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2022/23 are as follows:

9. Links within the regulations to other information have been updated as necessary.

Regulation Updated	What has changed
Various	Added “Director of Teaching” and “Student Adviser” to list of named contact roles for students, reflecting changes to student support arrangements for taught students.
5 Disclosure of criminal offences	Amended to “Student Conduct Team” to named contacts and remove “Student Support Team” and “Graduate School” from named contacts.
24 Attendance and Participation	Amended to add clarification that students are expected to attend and participate in person, unless they are on a designated online or distance learning programme, or remote participation has been specifically stated as permissible for an activity.
26 Leave of absence	Amended to add clarification that leave of absence can affect the visa conditions of some students.
93 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) Distinction at graduation	Amended to reflect planned changes to criteria for Distinction at graduation, which will affect students entering the BVM&S from 2022/23. The new criteria will be published in the relevant programme handbook. Any equality and diversity implications of revised criteria

	will be subject to consideration by the School and College, as necessary.
122-126 Professional requirements: School of Engineering	Amendment and clarification regarding the use of resits for professional purposes on accredited degree programmes in the School of Engineering. These amendments reflect requirements stipulated by accrediting bodies.

10. The key changes proposed to the Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2022/23 are as follows:

11. Links within the regulations to other information have been updated as necessary.

Regulation Updated	What has changed
Throughout	Added “Director of Teaching,” “Cohort Lead” and “Student Adviser” to list of named contact roles for students, reflecting changes to student support arrangements for taught students.
7 Disclosure of criminal offences	Amended to “Student Conduct Team” to named contacts and remove “Student Support Team” and “Graduate School” from named contacts.
24 Attendance and Participation	Amended to add clarification that students are expected to attend and participate in person, unless they are on a designated online or distance learning programme, or remote participation has been specifically stated as permissible for an activity.
30 Leave of absence	Amended to add clarification that leave of absence can affect the visa conditions of some students.
31 Withdrawal and Exclusion	Amended to remove “permanently” from the regulation
60 Application for Associated Postgraduate Diploma or Masters (also 16 Recognition of Prior Learning)	Amended to add clarification that credit for courses completed previously, which form part of the Degree Programme Table for the new programme, does not

	count against the credit allowance for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
85a Diploma in Professional Legal Practice: Grounds for Award	Amended to reflect practice which requires students to achieve a mark of 60% for pass and exemption to be offered. Relevant courses are named in the regulation.
110 – 114 MSc Engineering degrees: profession requirements	New College specific regulations setting out requirements where MSc courses are required for reasons associated with breadth of professional knowledge and/or the stipulation(s) of one or more of the Professional Accreditation bodies. Includes requirements for resits for professional purposes and options for award of unaccredited degree.

12. As the draft degree regulations are very lengthy and are mainly unchanged, with the key changes summarised above, these are not appended to this paper but are instead included in full under the ‘Additional Information’ section of the Court secure [site](#) should members wish to review these.

Resource implications

13. Chairs – part of the approval process for any new Chairs involves confirmation of the funding in place to support the posts.

14. Degree Regulations – APRC has given due consideration to any potential resource implications and there are none to be raised to Court.

Risk Management

15. Chairs – any reputational considerations are considered as part of the internal approval processes.

16. Degree Regulations – APRC has considered any risks presented by the proposed amendments, and regards these as minimal.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

17. Degree Regulations – relevant to SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Equality & Diversity

18. Chairs – equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to Chairs.

19. Degree Regulations – there are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the proposed amendments.

Next steps/implications

20. Chairs – Senate and the General Council will be informed of the approval of the final Resolutions. The list of approved Resolutions is annually reviewed and published on the University’s website.

21. Degree regulations – Senate and the General Council will be invited to comment on these draft Resolutions and notice will be published on the website. Final Resolutions will be referred to Court on 13 June 2022 for consideration and approval.

Consultation

22. Chairs – Senate and the General Council have been asked for observations on the draft Resolutions and a notice was published online to enable any other body or person having an interest to express observations.

23. Degree Regulations – Academic Services have consulted widely on the revisions to the degree regulations and these have been reviewed and recommended for approval by Senate’s Academic Policy & Regulations Committee. Senate and the General Council will then be asked for observations and they will also be published online to enable any other body or person having an interest to express observations before returning to Court for approval.

Further information

24. Authors

Dr Adam Bunni, Ms Susan Hunter, Ms Ailsa Taylor, and Ms Olivia Hayes
Academic Services

Ms Kirstie Graham, Court Services
April 2022

Freedom of Information

25. Open paper.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 5/2022

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Translational Cognitive Neuroscience

At Edinburgh, the Twenty fifth day of April, Two thousand and twenty two.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Translational Cognitive Neuroscience:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Personal Chair of Translational Cognitive Neuroscience in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. Notwithstanding the personal nature of this Chair, the terms and conditions of appointment and tenure which by Statute, Ordinance and otherwise apply to other Chairs in the University shall be deemed to apply in like manner to the Personal Chair of Translational Cognitive Neuroscience together with all other rights, privileges and duties attaching to the office of Professor.
4. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 June Two thousand and twenty two.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 6/2022

Alteration of the title of the Chair of Accounting

At Edinburgh, the Twenty fifth day of April, Two thousand and twenty two.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Chair of Accounting founded by Resolution No. 53/2016;

AND WHEREAS paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, provides that the University Court may, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and with the consent of the incumbent and patrons, if any, alter the title of existing professorships;

AND WHEREAS the Chair dealt with in this Resolution is in the patronage of the University Court itself:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. The Chair of Accounting shall hereafter be designated the Chair of Accounting, Sustainability and Governance.
2. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 30 August Two thousand and twenty one.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary



UNIVERSITY COURT

25 April 2022

Meeting Date Change – November/December 2022

Description of paper

1. This paper proposes a change in date for the 21 November 2022 Court meeting to 5 December 2022.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To approve a meeting date change from 21 November 2022 to 5 December 2022.

Discussion

3. Court approved the meeting dates for the next academic year at the previous meeting. This included a meeting scheduled for 21 November 2022, which was proposed on the understanding that the Scottish Funding Council would require the submission of the University's Annual Report and Accounts by 1 December 2022. However, the Scottish Funding Council has since confirmed that an initial submission date of 31 December 2022 will be set instead, with some flexibility beyond this if required. It is therefore proposed to amend the Court meeting date so that it meets two weeks later, on 5 December 2022, as this date would have been preferred had it not been for the expected external requirement. The reasons for the preference for 5 December 2022 are:

- This will allow both the Audit & Risk Committee and Court to receive a much closer to near final version of the Annual Report and Accounts for review. In particular, this will give more opportunity for feedback from Audit & Risk Committee to be incorporated into the version submitted to Court as otherwise the meetings would be spaced closely together given the time required to prepare a version of the Annual Report and Accounts suitable for Audit & Risk Committee. The change of date has the support of the Convener of Audit & Risk Committee and the Director of Finance for this reason; and,
- The first Court meeting of the next academic year is scheduled for 4 October 2022 and we space Court meetings so that they do not meet in consecutive months for a better flow of Court business wherever possible, which the Scottish Funding Council submission deadline now allows for. This would then give a preferable meeting pattern for next year of: October, December, February, April and June.

Resource implications

4. None anticipated.

Risk Management

5. Regular scheduling of Court meetings contributes to the good governance of the University. This change will improve the spacing of Court meetings and benefit the production of, and scrutiny of, the Annual Report and Accounts.

Equality & Diversity

6. No equality and diversity issues are anticipated.

Next steps/implications

7. If agreed, invitations will be issued to Court members and attendees.

Consultation

8. The Senior Lay Member, the Convener of Audit & Risk Committee, the University Secretary and the Director of Finance have been consulted and are supportive.

Further information

9. Author

Lewis Allan

Head of Court Services

Freedom of Information

10. Open paper.