



University Court
Room G.01, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Easter Bush Campus
Monday, 19 June 2023

AGENDA

PRESENTATION

Artificial Intelligence **Verbal**
Shannon Vallor, Baillie Gifford Chair of the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence

OPENING ITEMS

- 1 Minute** **A1**
To approve the minute of the meeting held on 17 April 2023
- 2 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log** **A2**
To raise any matters arising and review the Action Log
- 3 Principal's Report** **B**
To note a report from Peter Mathieson, Principal
- 4 Committee Business**
 - Senior Lay Member's Overview **Verbal**
 - Policy & Resources Committee **C1**
 - Nominations Committee **C2**
 - Audit & Risk Committee **C3**
 - Knowledge Strategy Committee **C4**
 - Senate **C5**

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

- 5 Student Experience Reviews with Schools/Deaneries 2022-23** **D**
To consider a paper presented by Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students
- 6 UCU Marking and Assessment Boycott**
To consider the papers presented by Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students and Lucy Evans, Deputy Secretary Students:
 - **Report on the UCU Marking and Assessment Boycott** **E1**
 - **Representation Regarding Approval of Academic Exceptions** **E2**
- 7 Students' Association and Sports Union Reports**
To consider the reports presented by Sharan Atwal, EUSA President
 - **Students' Association Report** **F1**
 - **Sports Union Report** **F2**
- 8 Director of Finance's Report** **G**
To approve a report presented by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance

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| 9 | Planning and Budgeting: 2023-24 Proposals
To <u>approve</u> a paper presented by Rona Smith, Deputy Secretary
Governance & Strategic Planning | H |
| 10 | Student Accommodation
To <u>approve</u> a paper presented by Gary Jebb, Director of Place | I |
| 11 | Edinburgh BioQuarter – Update on Procurement of a Private Sector Partner
To <u>consider</u> a paper presented by Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal
Corporate Services | J |
| 12 | Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Initiative Progress Report 2022/23
To <u>note</u> the update presented by Kim Graham, Provost and Jarmo
Eskelinen, Director of DDI | K |
| 13 | People & Money System Update
To <u>consider</u> a paper presented by Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal
Corporate Services and Co-Chair, Enactment Group | L |

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

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|-----------|--|------------------------|
| 14 | People & Money – External Review
To <u>note</u> | M |
| 15 | Prevent Duty Annual Compliance
To <u>note</u> | N |
| 16 | Education Act 1994 requirements in relation to the Students’ Association
To <u>note</u> | O |
| 17 | Donations and Legacies; Alumni Relations Activities
To <u>note</u> | P |
| 18 | Annual Recognition of Alumni Clubs
To <u>approve</u> | Q |
| 19 | Resolutions
To <u>approve</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolutions: Degree Programme Regulations • Resolutions: Chairs | R1
R2 |
| 20 | Any Other Business
To <u>consider</u> any other matters | |
| 21 | Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 9 October 2023, 2-5pm | |



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023, John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls

[DRAFT] Minute

- Members Present:** Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member
Robert Aldridge, City of Edinburgh Council Assessor
Douglas Alexander, General Council Assessor
Joyce Anderson, Trade Union Professional Services Staff Member
Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member
Shereen Benjamin, Senatus Assessor
Richard Blythe, Senatus Assessor
Alastair Dunlop, Chancellor's Assessor
Perdita Fraser, Co-opted Member
Ruth Girardet, Co-opted Member
Tobias Kelly, Academic Staff Member
Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor
Sarah McAllister, Professional Services Staff Member
Douglas Millican, Co-opted Member
Jock Millican, General Council Assessor
Hugh Mitchell, Co-opted Member
Kathryn Nash, Trade Union Academic Staff Member
Niamh Roberts, Students' Association President
Isi Williams, Students' Association Vice-President Community
Sarah Wolffe, General Council Assessor
- Member Apologies:** Debora Kayembe, Rector
Alistair Smith, Co-opted Member
- In Attendance:** Leigh Chalmers, Vice-Principal & University Secretary
Kate Huang, Governance Apprentice
Sophia Lycouris, Rector's Assessor
- Presenters & Observers:** Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
David Argyle, Interim Head of College
Christina Boswell, Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise
Lucy Evans, Deputy Secretary Students
Iain Gordon, Vice-Principal & Head of College
Kim Graham, Provost
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
Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing
James Saville, Director of Human Resources
Rona Smith, Deputy Secretary Governance & Strategic Planning
Paul McGinty, Head of Internal Audit (for Paper D2)
Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement (for Paper I)

1 Minute

Paper A1

Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member, welcomed members and attendees to the meeting and recorded Court's congratulations to all staff and visiting staff members recognised in the 2023 New Year Honours:

- Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, Knighthood, for services to higher education;
- Ewen Harrison, Professor of Surgery and Data Science, OBE for services to the Covid-19 response; and,
- Gillian Wright, Visiting Professor at the Institute for Astronomy, CBE for services to Astronomy through International Missions.

The minute of the meeting held on 5 December 2022 was approved.

2 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log

Paper A2

There were no matters arising and the action log was noted.

3 Principal's Report

Paper B

A summary of the Principal's main activities since the last meeting was noted, with the Principal commenting on the following:

- People & Money System – the appointment of a Special Advisor to the Principal on People & Money, who will provide an initial assessment of the new system to the Principal in the next month. It was confirmed that this is separate to the external review of the People & Money System's implementation to be commissioned by Court (see Agenda item 5, Paper D2);
- The recommendation that Professor Tina Harrison be appointed as Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement), in a change of title from Professor Harrison's current appointment as Assistant Principal for Academic Standards and Quality Assurance;
- The UK Government's appointment of George Freeman MP as Minister of State in the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has been welcomed by the sector. It is hoped that the recent Windsor Framework regarding trade in Northern Ireland can help enable the UK to re-join the EU's Horizon Europe research funding scheme and that the return of £1.6bn to HM Treasury from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of unspent funds earmarked for EU collaborations can be reversed; and,
- A reception held earlier this month to celebrate and recognise staff members with 25 or 40 years or more of service. Those invited had achieved a cumulative 1,920 years of service to date, including a staff member with 60 years of service and two partners each with 40 years of service.

Members raised the following points:

- The recent announcement that a pay award would be made and whether this is a breach of sector-wide negotiations – the Director of Human Resources clarified that sector-wide talks held with Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) had concluded, with an impasse reached. The Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA) subsequently advised that

institutions implement the pay award for 2023-24, which includes a partial uplift for the remainder of the current year, which the University will do in March, ahead of the new financial year; and,

- The cancellation of the planned screening of the film 'Adult Human Female', plans for a future screening, the Code of Student Conduct in relation to behaviours displayed by attendees/protestors at the event and more widely, the University's commitment to freedom of expression, the views of the Students' Association, comparison with other events and the experiences of some of those present. The University Secretary confirmed the intention to reschedule the screening, reiterated the University's commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression and noted the establishment of a working group on this topic, which Court will be updated upon, and that a Resolution containing an updated version of the Code of Student Conduct was approved by Court at its last meeting but as with all similar documents can be reviewed and further updated as appropriate.

The appointment of Professor Tina Harrison as Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement) was approved.

4 Committee Business

- **Senior Lay Member's Overview**

Given the meeting timings, the Senior Lay Member moved discussion to the committee reports below.

- **Policy & Resources Committee**

Paper C1

It was noted that key topics considered by the Committee which feature later in the Court agenda include People & Money, the Director of Finance's Report and the Engineering Hub funding request.

- **Nominations Committee**

Paper C2

The report was noted and the recommended appointment of Professor David Argyle as a Curator of Patronage from 1 April 2023 for an initial term of three years was approved. Congratulations were recorded on the appointment of Professor David Argyle as Vice-Principal and Head of College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine and the Chancellor's reappointment of Alastair Dunlop KC as Chancellor's Assessor for a second term of four years from 1 August 2023. It was noted that executive search agency Korn Ferry has been appointed to assist with upcoming recruitment exercise for new Court members.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper C3

The report was noted and recent developments in artificial intelligence and potential implications for the University arising from these were discussed, including in student assessments and use by software developers. It was agreed to make available emerging guidance for student use of generative artificial intelligence (such as ChatGPT) when finalised.

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

5 People and Money

• People and Money Systems Update

Paper D1

An update on the implementation of the People and Money systems and processes was reviewed. Work since the previous meeting has concentrated on operational improvements, including reducing the volume of outstanding payments and bolstering resources in central Finance and Information Services areas to allow College finance leads to resume usual duties. Meetings have been held with College leadership teams to help inform areas of future focus, with comments on: improving the visibility of information in the system; a sense from regular users of a dilution of autonomy and difficulty in being able to complete tasks; and, a need to support resourcing at a local level. Near term priorities for further improvement work include research finance elements and reviewing purchase to pay processes, to be informed by the work of the Special Advisor to the Principal on People & Money.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- School-level experience of the new system continuing to impact on time and resources available for other activities – it was acknowledged that some staff continue to be diverted from their usual roles and will return to these as soon as possible but timing will vary. There has been a budgetary impact in many local areas and this can be considered within the Planning Round process;
- Training on the new system for relevant staff – this was a key issue raised in feedback as an area to improve and has been challenging given the need to follow system and process improvements that continue to be made, as well as difficulties in recruiting staff who can lead training on the system;
- The role of the Special Advisor to the Principal on People & Money and the Special Advisor's interaction with stakeholders – the Special Advisor has been encouraged to meet any individuals or groups that may assist in providing an initial assessment of the new system. Findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Principal, who will share these as appropriate with the Senior Leadership Team and Enactment Group;
- Resourcing any permanent changes made and assessing workload implications of the new system before other strategic change projects are progressed – changes will continue to be made over the coming months so it is not yet possible to finalise the number of permanent changes and any workload implications but this will be considered and will inform other projects, as shown in the 'Recommendations for Future Provision of Strategic Change and Continuous Improvement Support' University Executive paper shared at the previous meeting. Resourcing needs will continue to be monitored and can be considered within the Planning Round;
- Process changes should be in order to optimise the working and benefits of the new system rather than a return to previous processes that will not realise benefits from the new system;
- What an improved position would look like – a successful system will be one that is not regularly raised as an issue of concern and provides staff with the agency and capacity to complete necessary system tasks; and,
- Colleagues involved in progressing work in this area were recognised and thanked.

A proposal for an external review of the implementation of the People & Money System was considered. It was noted that this has been developed by the Head of Internal Audit following agreement at the previous meeting that a proposal covering the commissioning, scope and timescale of an external review should be submitted for approval to this meeting. The outcomes of the external review should help inform future decision-making and oversight for major change projects and system procurement and implementation.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Scope and coverage: the scope as drafted is broad and could be tightened to focus predominantly on the implementation of the finance aspects; the review could compare examples of the implementation of similar systems in other organisations to identify issues that are generic and those that are specific to this implementation; considering the escalation of any concerns raised during the implementation, responses to these and stakeholder engagement was suggested – noting that these can be encompassed within the existing text included within the aims and objectives section; consultation with Senate – it was noted that the Head of Internal Audit will update Senate and seek input at the next meeting; how lessons learned can be applied to ongoing strategic change projects – the Provost and Vice-Principal Corporate Services are presently considering the approach to strategic change projects and lessons from the external review can be incorporated within this, while continuing to progress change projects and other continuous improvement work to help achieve the University's ambitions;
- Selection panel: options for the Court membership of the selection panel involved in final interviews/presentations from bidders along with procurement and Internal Audit staff and the University Secretary or delegate – noting that this is to conduct a technical review of bids and not a review of the scope or other aspects, which is being agreed at this juncture;
- Timing: the timeframe for the review will influence the costs given that costs will accrue on a daily rate basis; the timing should be balanced against the current priority of completing stabilisation work on the system; a deadline of producing a report to the December 2023 Court meeting was proposed;
- Reporting: it was noted that most advisory/consultancy firms work on the premise that their reports are for internal management and organisational purposes and not for broader dissemination and any alternative approach should be reflected in the procurement process from the outset;

It was agreed that:

- The review's scope and coverage is with the intention of learning lessons to inform future projects of this ilk and should focus predominantly on the implementation of the finance aspects;
- The selection panel should include the Senior Lay Member and the Convener of Audit & Risk Committee given relevant experience, with the option of a Senate Assessor;
- The review should produce a final report for the December 2023 Court meeting; and,

- It should be specified within the procurement process that the report is for the use of the Court and management in the first instance but that Court will likely wish to share the key findings, recommendations or actions arising (or a summary of these) more widely as it considers appropriate.

The proposal was approved with the incorporation of the four points agreed above.

6 Students' Association and Sports Union Reports

Papers E1-E2

Regular reports from the Students' Association and Sports Union were presented. The extension of the student participation fund into the second semester was welcomed, noting the continuing difficulties faced by many students given increased costs of living and that this remains a key campaigning priority for the Association, particularly accommodation costs. Engagement levels in student elections was discussed, noting that the upcoming elections will be well contested, with the current sabbatical officers focused on communications to improve turnout. It was commented that being able to demonstrate ways in which the Association has helped deliver improvements for students would be beneficial in building engagement. It was noted that, unlike some other institutions, the Association continues to have an active Student Council, demonstrating a continued level of student engagement.

7 Director of Finance's Report

Paper F

The Director of Finance's Report was reviewed, including updates on the full year financial forecast and the external audit tender process. The forecast information was welcomed and a request made for future iterations to also include in-year income and expenditure figures to date. It was confirmed that summary University-only monthly management accounts can be provided in future reports, with financial information on subsidiaries recorded quarterly.

8 Engineering Hub

Paper G

A revised funding request for the Engineering Hub project was considered. It was noted that the project's funding had been previously approved by Court in September 2019 but had been deferred in 2020 along with other non-contractually committed capital projects as part of the initial response to the pandemic. The project has now been updated to reflect recent cost increases in the construction sector and seeks funding approval. Construction sector inflation was discussed and its likely impact on the capital plan more widely and whether the contingency allocated in the project budget is sufficient – noting that this will be more accurately forecasted when the tender is finalised shortly. It was noted that the building design remains unchanged and that the urgency and importance of the project has led to its prioritisation. The Hub's focus on interdisciplinary research in climate and sustainability, particularly in energy, was highlighted.

Court:

- Noted the revised Full Business Case, approved by Estates Committee;
- Approved funding to progress the project to completion; and,
- Noted that this is in addition to previously approved funding for Design Team fees and enabling works.

9 Update on Research Excellence Framework (REF) Planning

Paper H

An update on planning for the next Research Excellence Framework exercise was presented. More information on the shape and timing of the next exercise should be known from June 2023, when the Future Research Assessment Programme is expected to report. Research output quality was discussed, including ensuring consistent messaging on its importance, including in appointment and promotion assessments – acknowledging variances by discipline, seniority and in different research cultures in different countries in the weighting of quality and volume of research. Other peer institutions with strong performances in the previous exercise were discussed, with work to analyse these in greater depth to identify points of comparison and learning.

10 Development & Alumni Annual Report; Donations and Legacies; Alumni Activities

Paper I

An overview of work led by the Development & Alumni Office in the 2021/22 academic year was presented along with a regular update on donations and legacies and alumni activities. It was noted that philanthropic giving continued during the pandemic period owing to strong relationships with existing donors who made repeat donations. As restrictions have receded new donor relationships have been able to be established in addition to existing relationships. Donors have been attracted by areas within the University's Strategy 2030 relating to inclusive excellence and the research themes of climate, health and data/Artificial Intelligence and it was noted that these are expected to be growth areas for future philanthropic giving.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

11 Student Pulse Survey Update

Paper J

A report on the recent Student Pulse Survey undertaken in December 2022 was considered. Improving the response rate was discussed and difficulties in making year on year comparisons. It was noted that the survey has moved from a classroom-based evaluation to an online survey, which has reduced the response rate. A response to the survey has now been circulated to students and may aid future engagement. An alternative approach of following a selected cohort over time was also suggested.

12 Update on arrangements for Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections, and proposed amendment to Senate Election Regulations

Paper K

Arrangements for forthcoming Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections were noted and a proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations relating to the treatment of Senate Assessor positions within the overall count of elected Senate staff members considered. Advice from the University's Legal Services department and from external solicitors that the proposed amendment would be in breach of University Ordinance 212 (Composition of the Senatus Academicus) was reviewed. It was noted that further commentary from the author of the proposed amendment had been circulated and that the legal advice had been reviewed in light

of this and remained unchanged. Recording the abstention of the Senate Assessors from voting on this item, Court resolved that the proposed amendment should not be approved and agreed that the treatment of the Senate Assessor positions within the Senate Election Regulations should be considered further to identify any alternative approaches to improve upon the current drafting.

13 Laigh Year Regulations

Paper L

It was noted that the Laigh Year Regulations (which allow student sabbatical officers to matriculate as students of the University without, during the academic year concerned, having to fulfil the normal academic requirement of their programme of study in order to undertake their full-time sabbatical officer duties) are reviewed on a quinquennial basis, with no changes proposed following the current review, then submitted to Senate and Court for dual approval. Recording the abstention of the Students' Association President and Students' Association Vice-President Community on this item, Court approved the Laigh Year Regulations as presented.

14 Resolutions

Paper M

The following Resolutions were approved:

- No. 1/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Hepatobiliary Cancer
- No. 2/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Digital Health and Data Science
- No. 3/2023: Foundation of a Chair of Robot Systems
- No. 4/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Engineering Biology
- No. 5/2023: Alteration of the Title of the Chair of Health in Social Science
- No. 6/2023: Foundation of a Chair of Statistical Learning
- No. 7/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Plant Engineering Biology

15 Court Meeting Dates 2023/24

Paper N

Meeting dates for the 2023/24 academic year were approved as follows:

- Monday 9 October 2023 (Seminar and Meeting)
- Monday 4 December 2023 (Meeting)
- Monday 26 February 2024 (Seminar and Meeting)
- Monday 22 April 2024 (Meeting)
- Monday 17 June 2024 (Meeting)

16 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

17 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 17 April 2023, 2-5pm



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

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. In general Court is asked to note the information presented, 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. Industrial action has dominated much of the recent weeks as the University and College Union's (UCU) Marking and Assessment Boycott (MAB) has been in place since April 20th and continues under the current mandate until 30th September. Those participating in the MAB across the United Kingdom are not marking work or undertaking any assessment activities, including exams and dissertations, submitted by students for the duration of the action. This includes final year students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.
6. This action is taking place across the UK for those c.150 Institutions who are involved in the collective bargaining via the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA). There is some variation being taken to the withholding of pay of those participating in the MAB with circa 30 institutions withholding 100%. Edinburgh's position on this is to withhold 50%.
7. Participation and impact is not insignificant with a separate paper conveying the detail. It is clear that the impact in those Schools with a higher concentration of participants will prevent some students from knowing their final degree classifications in time for the graduation ceremonies in July.
8. Close monitoring of the situation is underway and the picture is becoming clearer as we move towards, and beyond, the exam boards. Vice-Principal Harmon is convening regular meetings to monitor and agree the necessary actions. The Heads of School are also in close contact and communications have been issued to staff. Communications around graduation ceremonies have been issued to students with the approach being that the ceremonies will proceed, although some participants will have to wait to know their final degree classification.

9. In terms of actions in an attempt to help move the negotiations on, I have spoken to both UCU Scotland and UCU national and outlined two proposals which are documented in detail elsewhere on the agenda. With minimising the impact on our students uppermost in my mind, I also wrote to all staff to put the offer that no salary deductions will be made if the boycott is not applied to final year students direct to them. We have also been in contact with UCEA who remain firmly of the opinion that a further increase in the offer would place some institutions in very difficult circumstances and could result in redundancies.

10. We are clear that once colleagues return to full duties, they are asked to prioritise all marking to enable those impacted students to have their final marks for full graduation as early as possible, while recognising that for some this could be as late as October.

11. To remind Court that in parallel with the national negotiations, and in partnership with our local trade union branches, we have made real progress in addressing those aspects of pay and conditions which are under our direct local control. For example, we have no zero-hours contracts at the University of Edinburgh; we have a review underway to look at our use of fixed term contracts to address concerns about casualisation; our pay gaps are due to gender and race representation at different pay grades so our focus continues to be on ensuring our diverse workforce have equal opportunities to progress their careers; last year we launched a project to review the pay grades at an organisational level in Edinburgh and have a joint position on this agreed between the University and our three recognised trade unions.

12. [The joint statement](#) details the commitment of the University to review its grade and pay scales structure.

13. Unison have also confirmed their intention to ballot members from 31 May to 31 July 2023 on strike action for dispute on the UCEA 2023/24 pay offer.

14. Together with colleagues from the Senior Leadership Team, I chaired an online all staff Town Hall in early May with over 1600 staff registered. Pre-submitted questions, numbering around 60, helped to shape the agenda with pay and pensions, freedom of expression, People and Money, and Hybrid working being the most popular subjects.

15. Regarding People and Money, separate papers convey the detail of the current situation and longer term approach, where end of year arrangements remain the immediate focus. The Senior Leadership Team continue to discuss regularly, including at a recent away day, where the Planning Round was the other main agenda item.

16. I was pleased to welcome the First Minister of Scotland to the University in late May where we spoke privately and then undertook a short tour of the Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI). The EFI building, the Old Royal Infirmary, is nearing the completion of its major refurbishment programme with a soft opening planned for September ahead of a full opening in Spring 2024. EFI will be open to the public with teaching, research projects, staff, partners and tenants all working within the building. Opportunities for philanthropic funding to support the work of the EFI are being fully explored.

17. The University's Development Trust has received a significant legacy from the late Joyce Blow Darlington, a former trustee of the Development Trust with a distinguished civil service career, who obtained an MA in History from the University of Edinburgh in 1950. Joyce maintained a strong connection with her alma mater throughout her life and her commitment to making a lasting impact on the lives of students led her to pledge a legacy to the University of Edinburgh in 1999. Her generous contribution for students who would otherwise struggle to meet tuition costs, will have a profound and far-reaching effect. We are currently considering how to leverage this commitment to the benefit of the maximum number of students. Also, I am pleased to advise Court members that we will be awarding a posthumous Benefactor Award in recognition of Joyce's support at the Graduation Ceremony on 13 July.

18. Court will be aware that protesters again prevented the screening and discussion of the film "Adult Human Female" on campus. We are extremely disappointed that this was the case, and condemn the actions which prevented freedom of expression and freedom of assembly on our campus. Discussions with the key groups in our community are taking place, and we will continue to work with organisers to facilitate a screening of the film as soon as it is practicable to do so.

19. In parallel, the Provost continues to Chair the Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Working Group which has agreed terms of reference, priorities and short-term actions driven by four work streams. A key outcome is the development of an action plan for consideration and agreement by the University Executive.

20. Court may have seen coverage in the media following an article I wrote for The Herald which sought to explore how Higher Education is funded in Scotland and what that means for the admissions system, widening participation and, in turn, our universities and wider society. Despite some of the coverage, which incorrectly suggested that I was calling for an end to "free" tuition (which is of course not free at all, it is taxpayer-funded, albeit inadequately), I remain of the opinion that "calm consideration" of the issues would be welcome in order to address the significant inconsistencies and challenges the sector is facing.

21. It is worth highlighting a little of what widening participation can mean on the ground at the University, noting one particular example - the Insights Programme which is a multi-functional partnership project, majority funded by donations, and now in its sixth year. Thanks to the support of 175 alumni volunteers, over 500 selected widening participation students have benefited since the programme's inception, gaining personal and professional confidence via in person and online engagement with alumni worldwide, to prepare for their career journey. The programme has a profound impact on student participants and alumni hosts report it to be a highly rewarding experience. Academic year 2022/2023 has been a transitional year for Insights with integrated online alumni supported activities and a reopening of in-person visits. I am personally delighted to see the post-pandemic return of international student travel for the programme. Alongside student groups travelling to London, Boston, New York or Washington D.C., a new micro-internship model has been trialled in the Edinburgh area. The team will now look at developing the programme in the coming years to support further students and grow and strengthen alumni engagement.

Selected meetings and events from the mid-April to mid-June

22. University

- Welcomed First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf MSP, to the University for a private meeting followed by a tour of the Edinburgh Futures Institute.
- Participated in regular meetings with the Edinburgh University Student Association sabbatical officers, and recently welcomed the incoming officers.
- Participated in the launch reception of Bowel Cancer UKRCSEd Colorectal Cancer surgical research chair.
- Welcomed attendees of the Gifford Lecture given by Professor John Dupré on “Humans and their Fellow Travellers”.
- Participated in a webinar on “The Nurse Review of the Research, Development & Innovation Landscape”.
- Participated in two Leaders’ Forum meetings.
- Welcomed Herman van Rompuy, former Belgian Prime Minister and first President of the European Council (2009-2014), and attendees of his lecture on “Europe beyond the watershed: how to turn fear into hope”, hosted by the Europa Institute.
- Welcomed attendees to events celebrating the Cervantes Institute.
- Welcomed attendees to the launch event for the new Institute of Regeneration and Repair.
- Participated in EUSA’s Teaching Awards reception.
- Welcomed Foreign Office Devolution Minister David Rutley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Americas and Caribbean) on a visit to Edinburgh Law School.

23. Edinburgh and Scotland

- Met with lead scientists and participated in a tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.
- Met with Richard Smith and Darren Ellis from Unite Students for a general discussion on the higher education sector and accommodation issues in Edinburgh.
- Participated in a meeting of the Newbattle Abbey Trustees.
- Participated in a meeting at my request with Chief Superintendent Sean Scott, Edinburgh City Division Commander Police Scotland.
- Participated in a dinner hosted by Stephen Bampfylde, Partner and Consultant at Saxton Bampfylde.
- Chaired a meeting of Higher Education - Further Education Strategy Group, which feeds into the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal meetings, and participated in the City Region Deal Joint Committee.
- Participated in the Book Festival programme launch.

24. Sector and Public Affairs

- Participated in a Universities Scotland Main Committee meeting; a University Scotland–Scottish Funding Council Liaison meeting; a Corporate Governance meeting.
- Participated in a Scottish Funding Council Board meeting.
- Participated in Universities UK meetings and events including: the regular Vice-Chancellor’s Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) pension discussions; chaired the opening plenaries at UUK’s Security and risk management in higher education 2023.

- Participated in a USS employers meeting.
- Participated in Scottish Health and Industry Partnership Oversight Group meetings.
- Participated in several Russell Group Board meetings, and chaired a Russell Group dinner discussion with Professor John Bew, Prime Minister's Special Advisor on Foreign Affairs.
- 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 the Converge Parliamentary Awards, at the Scottish Parliament.

25. *International*

- Participated in the Universitas 21 Annual General meetings. Brisbane, Australia.
- Participated in League of European Research Universities (LERU) meetings hosted by the University of Zurich, and the LERU-CE7 Rectors' meetings hosted by Charles University, Prague (elected to the Board of Directors of LERU with immediate effect).
- Participated in a Talloires Network Steering Committee meeting.
- Conducted courtesy calls with several consulates: the new Consul General of China, Mr. Zhang Biao; celebrated Norwegian National Day at the Norwegian Consulate Edinburgh; the Ambassador of Italy to the UK, H.E. Inigo Lambertini and the Consul General of Italy in Edinburgh, Mrs Veronica Ferrucci;
- Participated in meetings at the Association of Commonwealth Universities Regional Committee and Annual Conference, hosted by the University of Nicosia, Cyprus.
- Met with George David, Regent of the University of Edinburgh, Benefactor of the University of Edinburgh, and Trustee of the A.G. Leventis Foundation, in Cyprus.

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

27. 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

28. 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

29. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

Next steps/implications

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

Consultation

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

Further information

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

33. Author & Presenter

Professor Sir Peter Mathieson
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
June 2023

Freedom of Information

34. Open version



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Policy & Resources Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Policy & Resources Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 5 June 2023.

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.

Planning and Budgeting: 2023-24 Proposals

5. A proposed University Group-level budget for 2023-24 developed within a 5-year context to enable delivery of plans and priorities aligned with Strategy 2030 was considered.

6. It was agreed to recommend the University Group level budget and its submission to Court for approval.

Edinburgh University Students' Association Budget 2023/24

7. A narrative summary of the Students' Association budget for financial year 2023/24 (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 for 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 given a legislative responsibility for university governing bodies to do so, with Court having delegated this responsibility to Policy & Resources Committee.

8. Noting the prior approval by the Trustee Board, the Association's budget was approved.

Student Accommodation Acquisition

9. An opportunity to acquire a student accommodation development was reviewed. It was noted the Residential Accommodation Strategy considered at the previous meeting identified a need for additional student accommodation and the student accommodation market within Edinburgh has changed rapidly since the development of the Capital Plan in 2021.

10. The Committee:

- Noted the ongoing legal discussions and due diligence required;
- Noted that approval is being sought from Estates Committee by electronic correspondence to approve the Full Business Case;

- Recommended to Court that funding is approved for the acquisition subject to approval of the Full Business Case from Estates Committee; and,
- Recommended to Court that authority is delegated to the Vice-Principal Corporate Services, in consultation with the University Secretary, to conclude the transaction following conclusion of due diligence, subject to the final acquisition price being in the approved range.

Data-Driven Innovation Initiative Progress Report, 2022/23

11. An annual progress report for the fifth year and mid-point of the Data-Driven Innovation initiative was presented prior to submission to Court. Progress to date in exceeding the programme's key performance indicators and in strengthening civic relationships was welcomed and the following points discussed:

- The extent to which data-related jobs have been created in the City Region as a direct or indirect result of the initiative – reviews by Scottish Enterprise of some of the specific projects connected to the initiative have shown encouraging levels of job creation, as well as considerable growth in the 'fintech' ecosystem in the City Region, with the University hosting umbrella body FinTech Scotland. Notable social and health benefits from influential projects such as the Usher Institute's EAVE II project to track Covid-19 and vaccine effectiveness have also been recognised; and,
- Raising the profile at a UK level of the success of the initiative was encouraged.

People & Money Systems Update

12. An update on the implementation of the People and Money system and processes was reviewed.

People Report

13. The regular update on people-related matters was considered.

Other items

14. A regular verbal update from the Principal was received, along with regular reports from Estates Committee and Investment Committee.

Further information

15. Author

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand
Convener, Policy & Resources Committee

Freedom of Information

16. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Nominations Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Nominations Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 22 May 2023

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting and to approve the recommended appointments set out below.

Key points

Court Member Recruitment

4. A report on the outcome of the Court member recruitment process was reviewed. Members reflected on the positive experience of working with the search agency appointed and agreed to recommend to Court that Rushad Abadan and Kavi Thakrar are appointed as co-opted members of the University Court for four year terms of office from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027.

Court and Committee Memberships

Note: Members of Nominations Committee whose potential committee memberships and other responsibilities were the subject of discussion recused themselves from the meeting at the appropriate points.

5. Current and expected vacancies for Court and committee memberships and other positions were considered. It was agreed to recommend to Court the following appointments and reappointments, with effect from 1 August 2023 unless otherwise stated, and for terms of office of either four years for a General Council Assessor position on Court or for three years or the member's current term on Court if less than three years for committee positions and other appointments.

Court

- The reappointments of Sarah Wolffe and Jock Millican for second terms of four years, following support from all General Council and Court members of the joint Court-General Council Selection Panel, which considers potential General Council Assessor appointments

Court's Standing Committees

Audit & Risk Committee

- Alastair Dunlop to be reappointed for a three year term; and,
- Rushad Abadan to be appointed for a three year term

Policy & Resources Committee

- Janet Legrand to be reappointed for a three year term as Convener;
- Jock Millican to be reappointed for a three year term;
- Frank Armstrong to be reappointed for a two year term; and,

- Hugh Mitchell to be reappointed for a one year term

Exception Committee

- Jock Millican to be reappointed for a three year term

Nominations Committee

- Janet Legrand to be reappointed for a three year term as Convener;
- Sarah Wolffe to be reappointed for a three year term; and,
- Douglas Millican to be appointed for a three year term

Remuneration Committee

- Frank Armstrong to be reappointed for a two year term; and,
- Douglas Millican to be appointed for a three year term

Knowledge Strategy Committee (joint standing committee with Senate)

- Sarah McAllister to be reappointed for a one year term

Other positions

Intermediary Court Member (the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance expects Court to appoint a lay member to act as an intermediary for other members who might raise concerns about the conduct of the Court or the Senior Lay Member and to lead the appraisal of the Senior Lay Member on an annual basis)

- Frank Armstrong to be reappointed for a two year term

'Whistleblowing' designated Court lay member (the University's Whistleblowing Procedure states that: "There may be circumstances in which the individual considers it necessary to bring a matter to the attention of a designated lay member of the University Court")

- Sarah Wolffe to be reappointed for a three year term

Income Due Diligence Group (a management body which reports to the University Executive but contains a student sabbatical officer appointed by the Students' Association and an individual appointed by Court on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee. It has the purpose of advising on whether the sources and purposes of income for the University relating to philanthropic and contractual business, industrial and international government sources are ethically acceptable)

- Sarah Wolffe to be reappointed for a three year term

Court Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) Sub-Group (comprised of independent members who are not USS members themselves in order to provide impartial advice to the Principal and executive staff on responses to employer consultations on the USS pension scheme. The current membership comprises Janet Legrand (Convener), Hugh Mitchell and Doreen Davidson (the latter as a recent lay Court member with professional pensions experience, who is also a Trustee of the Staff Benefits Scheme, the University's in-house pension scheme for professional services staff in Grades 1-5))

- Douglas Millican to be appointed with immediate effect, in anticipation of employer consultations that may take place over the summer following the recent triennial valuation

Curators of Patronage (formally approves appointment to a small number of Professorships that predate the creation of the University Court in 1858 as well as a formal role in submitting a nomination to the Court to the post of Principal should there be a vacancy and a recruitment exercise conducted)

- Janet Legrand to be reappointed for a three year term

Development Trust (oversees the disbursement of philanthropic donations to the University made to the Trust in line with donor wishes and strategic priorities)

- Ruth Girardet to be appointed for a three year term

Scottish Consortium for Rural Research (SCRR) Board Chair (the University founded the Edinburgh Centre for Rural Economy in 1947, which became the Edinburgh Consortium for Rural Research in 1989 and then the Scottish Consortium for Rural Research (SCRR) from 2012, to reflect its expanding membership, now comprising 24 organisations. Reflecting the role of the University in establishing the body, the SCRR's constitution states that its Board will be chaired by a senior member of the University, appointed by Court for a five year term. The most recent chair was Professor Jonathan Seckl, former Senior Vice-Principal)

- Professor Geoff Simm, Assistant Principal Agriculture and Food Security and Director of the University's Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems to be appointed for a five year term with effect from 16 October 2023

External effectiveness review

6. Proposals for the commissioning of an externally facilitated evaluation of the effectiveness of Court and its committees to take place in academic year 2023/24, as expected as part of compliance with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance, were considered. The merits of either commissioning a consultancy firm or appointing an individual with significant experience of higher education governance, particularly in the Scottish context, was reflected upon, with preferences expressed for the latter. On the review's specification, considering the effectiveness of Court and its committees in enabling the success of the University's strategic plan, Strategy 2030, was proposed and opening the review with a survey of Court and committee members was suggested. It was agreed to delegate authority to the Senior Lay Member and University Secretary to finalise a draft specification for submission to the October 2023 Court meeting.

Court Member Complaints Handling Guidance

7. A draft guidance document for handling complaints or concerns regarding Court members was reviewed, noting that the document is intended to address the current lack of written guidance in this area beyond the formal procedure for removal of Court members that had been established in line with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016. Options for implementing the guidance were considered, with agreement that the guidance should be used as an internal aide-mémoire reflecting existing practice for the Vice-Principal & University Secretary rather than a formal document. It was agreed that the guidance should be circulated to Court members for their information in the same manner as the pre-existing

guidance on use of social media and new members made aware of the guidance as part of their induction. The guidance will be circulated to Court members by email for their information.

Equality & Diversity

8. The equality and diversity of Court and its committees is considered when making recommendations or approvals.

Further information

9. Author

Lewis Allan

Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand

Convener, Nominations Committee

Freedom of Information

10. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Audit & Risk Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Audit & Risk Committee.

Date of Meeting

2. 18 May 2023

Action Required

3. Court is invited to note the key points from the meeting and approve:

- Internal Audit Plan 2023-24;
- External Audit Annual Plan 2022-23 ;
- The total University of Edinburgh Group External Audit Fee for the 2022-23 audit; and
- The appointment of PwC to provide external audit services from financial year 2023-24 for a period of 3 years with an option to extend by up to 2 further years.

Key points

Paragraphs 4-27: Closed section

Equality & Diversity

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

Further information

29. Author

Kirstie Graham
Court Services

Presenter

Douglas Millican
Convener, Audit & Risk Committee

Freedom of Information

30. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Knowledge Strategy Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 30 May 2023

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting and to approve:
- A change in name to the University Computing Regulations, to the University Computing: Acceptable Use Policy;
 - Minor updates to the Regulations/Policy, set out in Appendix 1; and,
 - That future revisions to the University Computing Acceptable Use Policy should be approved by the University Executive rather than the University Court (with continued oversight through Court membership of the Knowledge Strategy Committee, which will continue to review any changes prior to approval).

Key points

Presentation: Beyond Net Zero and Sustainable Development Goals

4. Scott Davidson, Deputy Director for Social Responsibility and Sustainability and Head of Sustainability, provided an overview of the Climate Strategy refresh, with a focus on the role for IT and Data. Three focal areas of the emerging climate strategy refresh were highlighted: a rebalance to emphasise the importance of research, teaching and learning and partnerships; widening the focus to include other planetary crises, such as the biodiversity collapse; and science aligned targets, including the importance of maintaining global temperatures at no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels. While the University has managed to reduce its own carbon emissions by around 8 to 9% over the previous 15 years while growing in size considerably in that period, a step change is required if a 43% carbon reduction by 2030 is to be met. Any underperformance in reducing carbon emissions at present will need to be counterbalanced by overperformance at a later date as carbon reduction is measured against a carbon "budget". IT-related solutions that might assist were highlighted, including virtual conferencing, electric vehicle charging, facilitating shared or more efficient use of energy intensive research equipment and dynamic energy demand management.

5. The presentation and the positive work underway in this area was welcomed. It was noted that the Department of Social Responsibility & Sustainability had recently appointed a Senior Implementation Manager, whose role focuses on embedding climate and sustainability into decision-making across the University and it is hoped to see major progress in this area in the next 6-12 months.

Presentation: ISG Sustainability – Green Data Centres and ISG Plans

6. Tony Weir, Director of IT Infrastructure, provided an overview of Information Services Group (ISG) sustainability, with a focus on Green Data Centres. It was noted that PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness) is the standard measure of data centre efficiency, with the average annual PUE of the University's three data centres decreasing over the past three years to around 1.2 – with the worldwide average being 1.5 and world leaders around 1.1. There is a continued focus on improving the efficiency of data centres and some IT equipment such as some servers operated by Schools with more data-intensive research areas have been moved to the more energy efficient data centres.

7. Other areas highlighted for ongoing or potential future improvements in sustainability included: end user devices; open access laboratories, noting that software applications can be virtually presented to any student device, providing flexibility and reducing the need for open access seats; the new University network, which has a power management capability to reduce power consumption; procurement controls, with the use of national frameworks that promote ethical supply chains; reuse/disposal of equipment for community reuse; and, printer consolidation, with an approximately 35% reduction in the number of printers.

8. It was noted in discussion that the last University energy audit was undertaken in 2019, with audits paused during the pandemic given the need to access physical spaces and these will now resume.

Chief Information Officer Update

9. Key activities and updates since the last meeting were reported, including:

- **Sustainable IT Sub-Group:** it was noted the Sub-Group had now formed and is chaired by John Thompson, Professor of Signal Processing and Communications in the School of Engineering. A number of initiatives will come forward and further updates will be provided at future meetings.
- **IT systems outage:** on 5 May the University experienced widespread technical issues which affected multiple services for staff and students. Although there was no data loss during the outage a large number of services were unavailable for the majority of the day. As this incident occurred during the exam period, it was declared a University-level major incident and the University's Incident Management Team was convened to manage continuity arrangements, including those undertaking exams or who required special arrangements. It was noted the root cause of the outage was a failure of older infrastructure for the University network, which is in the process of being replaced, with the new infrastructure possessing greater fail-safes that should avoid any repetition of this magnitude when operational. A full incident report had been completed with lessons learned. Members discussed the problems caused by the usual communications route of University mailing lists failing as a result of the outage and the importance of improving rapid communications and contingency plans for alternative communications channels should a similar incident of this nature occur again.
- **USS and Capita data breach:** it was noted there had been a recent data breach affecting some of the UK-wide Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) data on scheme members hosted by Capita. USS had emailed affected members, where they held email addresses, advising on the nature and

extent of the breach. Further advice was available on the USS and Capita websites, and scheme members have been offered free access to a 12-month membership of Identity Plus, a monitoring service provided by Experian. Although it was noted that the University itself is not involved in this incident and that USS members have a direct relationship with USS, it is understandably highly concerning to many staff and a Staff News item has been published on the University website regarding this issue. Members suggested further communications from the University would be helpful and welcomed, with the Vice-Principal & Chief Information Officer to consider this with senior colleagues. *[Secretary's note: a subsequent update including information security advice was [published](#).]*

- **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) update:** recent developments were noted, including:
 - Consideration by the European Union of a new legal framework on the development and use of artificial intelligence, with proposed legislation;
 - Draft guidelines for University staff on AI have been developed and will be finalised and circulated *[Secretary's note: guidance for staff on generative AI has since been [published](#)];*
 - Adobe Firefly, a new AI image and text effect software, has now been licensed for use at the University.
- **Supply chain disruption:** global supply chain disruptions reported at previous meetings are slowly improving.

10. The following points were raised in discussion:

- **Information Security training course:** it was noted this had been made mandatory for all staff and consideration was being given to whether this should also be mandatory for students. It was noted that the course is available on People & Money for staff and on the Learn Virtual Learning Environment for students.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication project.** The project is proceeding and is being piloted with selected staff groups (Information Services Group and Registry) before a wider roll-out.

University Digital Strategy Update

11. An update on the progress with the development and implementation of the University Digital Strategy was presented. It was noted that the Digital Estate Prioritisation Group (DEP), a subgroup of Estates Committee, will agree a 5-10 year roadmap of the major investments in the Digital Estate. The DEP will meet throughout the summer to agree the roadmap, which will then be taken to the Estates Committee in September 2023. Once the roadmap has been agreed, the University Digital Strategy will be taken through governance committees for approval, including Knowledge Strategy Committee, and it is expected that the Strategy will be launched in late 2023.

Timetabling and Exams Replacement Project – Update on Progress

12. An update on the progress of the project to replace the teaching timetabling, room booking and exam scheduling systems was discussed. It was noted this is a three year programme of work and was approved by the Estates Committee in May 2022.

13. A short presentation was given, which summarised the project timeline and teaching timetabling business processes and links to other services. Key dates highlighted included June 2023 (the first go-live for the Optime Exam application to enable the scheduling of the August re-sit exam diet) and February 2024 (when the Optime Timetabler and Booker applications go-live, for the start of the timetabling planning cycle for the 2024-25 academic year). It was also noted that upgrades had recently been undertaken for the existing system, which would operate through to July 2024.

University Firewall Website Controls – Plagiarism Sites

14. A paper considering blocking access to websites hosting plagiarism content and essay mills was considered. It was suggested that it would be helpful to include a message on any website blocked with an explanation of why the site has been blocked and the dangers of interacting with essay mill companies. Any message could also highlight support available to students. It was confirmed that, subject to testing, it was possible to configure a message to be displayed when an individual attempts to access a site that is blocked and it should be possible to display a custom message, with the content of that being agreed and provided when available. It was agreed to make this recommendation in a paper for submission to Senate Education Committee and then University Executive. It was agreed to amend the wording on ResNet (the student residential network, a sub-set of the overall network) in future papers to clarify that any websites blocked would be consistent throughout the University network, including halls of residence.

15. Problems arising from emails and WhatsApp messages to students from essay mill companies were raised. It was confirmed the University operates a strong email filtering block that filters out many unsolicited emails to University accounts and any that do arrive can be forwarded to the IT helpdesk. Personal email addresses and personal WhatsApp accounts may have protections from the commercial providers of these services but this is outwith the control of the University, unlike access to these sites via the University network.

Revision to University Computing Regulations and Proposed Change of Title

16. Proposed revisions to the University Computing Regulations, including a renaming to the University Computing Acceptable Use Policy were considered. Subject to an addition to clarify that it has replaced the previous Regulations, it was agreed to recommend these to the University Court for approval. It was confirmed that the website link for the new Policy would not change from the existing link.

People and Money Update

17. An update on the implementation of the People & Money systems and processes was noted. It was reported that the immediate priorities included the ongoing core stabilisation of research finance processes and activities and preparation for year-end activity. Workload demands for teams and colleagues working on the People & Money implementation were highlighted, with the busy financial and academic year-end period approaching.

Other items

18. The Committee noted updates on: the procurement of a Short Courses platform; the upgrade of the Learn Virtual Learning Environment; major library and IT

expenditure commitments; the Information Services Group capital envelope 2022-2028; and, the network replacement programme. Regular reports were received from the IT Committee, Library Committee, University Collections Advisory Committee, Digital Research Services Steering Group and Estates Committee.

19. The use of recordings of tutorial sessions by students was raised. It was noted that whilst recordings for personal use are permitted for the most part under the Inclusive Learning Policy, subject to agreement with staff who would be recorded, concerns have been raised about recordings being uploaded to translation applications, with data protection and copyright concerns. The Assistant Principal Online Learning agreed to consider this and to update the Committee.

Further information

20. Authors

Jamie Tait
Governance Manager & Clerk to
Knowledge Strategy Committee

Presenter

Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Freedom of Information

21. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Senatus Academicus Report

Description of paper

1. A report of business considered by Senatus Academicus ('Senate') at meetings held on:

- 8 February 2023
- 29 March 2023 (reconvened from 8 February 2023)
- 26 April – 11 May (e-Senate, by correspondence)
- 24 May 2023

2. The Annual Report of the Senate Standing Committees is available under the 'Additional Information' heading on the Court site for background information. The Annual Report was submitted to Senate on 24 May but was not reviewed as the meeting ran over time. It will be resubmitted to a future meeting of Senate.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the report, including the motions passed on academic office space and the management response to these, appended to the report.

4. The report draws upon approved or draft minutes of the Senate meetings. Given the length of the report, Court is invited to comment on whether it would prefer to receive a more edited version in future, noting that the full agenda, papers and minutes of Senate meetings are published at [Agendas, Papers and Minutes](#) and that Court members receive email updates when Senate papers, including minutes of previous meetings, are published.

Discussion

Extracts from the confirmed minute of the Senate meeting, 8 February 2023

Minutes of Senate meeting held on 12 October 2022

5. Senate approved the minutes, subject to the following amendments:

- Under Item 7: Code of Student Conduct: The statement was read out by the EUSA Women's Liberation Officer, not EUSA VP Welfare.
- Under Item 2.2: The query regarding the resourcing of Timetabling should be recorded under Item 1.1 not 2.2. The comment should be amended to reflect Ms Evan's response to the query, which was to confirm that Timetabling was adequately resourced.

In relation to Timetabling, a Senate member indicated that the issues that Senate members had raised in October 2022 in relation to Semester 1 continue to be experienced in Semester 2. The Convener noted that some Senate members had asked that Ms Evans provide an update on Timetabling at this meeting. However, given the substantial agenda for the 8 February meeting, this update would be received at the next Ordinary meeting of Senate. Ms Evans invited members to raise any concerns with her in the interim.

Matters arising

Update on discussions on the Sustainable Travel Policy [Minutes of 12 October 2022 meeting of Senate, Item 8]

6. The Convener confirmed that, following Senate's discussion on 12 October 2022, he had conveyed Senate's views on the Sustainable Travel Policy to the University Executive. The University Court also received a report which included the minute on this item from the 12 October 2022 Senate meeting. In response to a query that Senate had raised in October 2022, the University Secretary confirmed that the contract with the supplier, Diversity Travel, runs until 2025. The contract does not contain specific review dates but can be terminated or suspended as provided for in the contract. She also confirmed that the contract does not stipulate that the University must use a single supplier for bookings.

Update on Externally Facilitated Review

7. Professor Ella Ritchie introduced herself, indicating that she is former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University and has undertaken reviews of four Scottish Universities. She is supported on the review by Professor David Langley, and Hillary Gyebi-Ababio. Ms Gyebi-Ababio is the former Vice-President (Higher Education) at the National Union of Students (NUS) and will primarily support the student side of the review. Prof Ritchie indicated that the review will focus on Senate and its Standing Committees. As part of the process, the consultants will review background documentation (for example, Senate minutes), undertake surveys of Senate members and Standing Committee members, hold a series of individual interviews and focus groups, and observe meetings of Senate and its Committees. She planned to present the findings of the review to Senate in May 2023. She would frame her findings and recommendations within the institutional and legislative context. She encouraged members to engage with the review by way of completing the survey and volunteering for focus groups. The review would primarily be conducted online.

Senate Elections 2023/24 & Senate Standing Committees 2023/24

8. Senate approved the appointment of Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer for the Senate elections. Senate considered two alternate processes for allocating terms of office to successful candidates for election to Senate, with Ms Hayes noting that Court Services had confirmed that either process is compatible with the Senate Election Regulations. Senate agreed by majority vote a process whereby voter preferences are utilised to allocate terms of office to successful candidates (see Option B, paragraph 26 of the paper). Senate approved the later of the two potential timelines for receiving nominations and conducting voting for the elections, starting with a call for nominations opening on 1 March 2023, as set out in Appendix 1, on the grounds that this would allow Court to consider its recommendations for Senate Assessors (which would have implications for the conduct of the elections) at its meeting on 27 February 2023. Senate noted the technical amendment to Appendix 4 of the Senate Election Regulations, adding the Provost to the list of Ex Officio members (in place of the former Senior Vice-Principal role). Senate approved the timeline, process and Returning Officer for elections to Senate Standing Committees, as set out in paragraphs 30-34 of the paper.

9. Senate discussed the proposal to exclude Senate Assessors from the overall count of elected Senate members as outlined in Appendix 3, making the following points:

- Were Senate to recommend that Court change the Senate Election Regulations, it would need to hold off the nomination and election process for elected academic staff members until after Court had met to consider the proposed change.
- It was not clear whether the proposed amendment was compatible with Ordinance 212. From one perspective, Ordinance may imply that the Senate Assessors should be counted with elected academic staff in Senate, in which case under the proposed amendment the total elected academic staff membership could exceed the 200 to be elected under the Ordinance. It was noted in reply that the Ordinance's provision for election 200 at-large academic members does not limit the number of ex officio members who can also be elected, currently including the Academic Staff member on Court who is elected but not counted towards the 200 at-large elected staff

10. Senate supported by majority vote to seek Court approval for amending the Senate Election Regulations to exclude Senate Assessors from the overall count of elected Senate members. Academic Services would seek legal advice before seeking Court approval for this amendment at the meeting on 27 February 2023.

Curriculum Transformation presentation and papers

Curriculum Transformation Framework and Curriculum Transformation Resources

11. These papers were introduced by Professor Colm Harmon (Vice-Principal, Students), and accompanied by presentations from Dr Jon Turner (Director of the Institute of Academic Development), Professor Iain Gordon (Head of the College of Science and Engineering, CSE), Professor Holly Branigan (Head of the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, PPLS), Dr Philip Larkman (Director of Teaching for the Deanery of Biomedical Sciences, BMS) and Niamh Roberts, (President, Edinburgh University Students' Association). In their introductions, and in response to questions from Senate members, they made the following points:

- Curriculum Transformation is a major long-term investment project for the University. It aims to improve the University's educational experience for students and educators and provides an opportunity for cross-disciplinary study, innovation and creativity in education and positive changes to University systems and process.
- The first paper (Paper 3D) provides an overview of the proposed Undergraduate Curriculum Framework. This includes four programme archetypes, which allow for disciplinary depth and learning beyond the home discipline. The Framework also includes challenge courses, which intend to draw on institutional strengths allowing for programme-level learning, experiential learning and enrichment opportunities, drawing on expertise not only from University staff but also potential external input.
- The project is working towards September 2026 implementation to allow for a phased roll out. The second paper (Paper 3E) sets out the proposed approach to developing the case for investment for the successful implementation of the project. The project team recognises that staff workload and morale issues will create challenges for implementing the project, and the team will need to work with stakeholders to identify appropriate ways to reconcile these issues. In response to a query, the project team confirmed that the consultancy costs set out in the paper remain within the £50k limits required for procurement.

- The project team plans to bring forward separate proposals in relation to the Postgraduate Taught dimension of Curriculum Transformation in due course.
- CSE intends to pilot a challenge course on sustainability to explore the issues, including timetabling, scaling and governance, which would need to be addressed ahead of a broader roll out of challenge courses. It has established a scoping group with representatives from across Schools to develop the challenge course.
- PPLS has used Curriculum Transformation as a catalyst for discussions around pedagogy and curriculum, including discussions about ways to implement Curriculum Transformation within each of the School's subjects. As a result of these discussions, the School has identified some challenges and tensions, for example that introducing new mandatory elements to programmes could reduce flexibility for students to transfer between programmes.
- BMS have used Curriculum Transformation as an opportunity to consider how to offer cross-disciplinary collaborative courses in the early years of its programmes. The Deanery is committed to offering challenge-based courses to its students. However, its prior experiences of developing an interdisciplinary challenge-based course (Our Changing World) highlighted some of the challenges associated with developing courses that are relevant and accessible to students across the University.
- The Students' Association believes that the project offers improved opportunities for students including the development of real world skills, increased competitiveness in the job market, improved employability with graduates equipped with skills across disciplines, and improvements in assessment and feedback.

12. Senate members made the following points:

- Some members, including student representatives, commended the project's focus on challenge courses, and thought that they should be available across all years of programmes, not just in years one and two, as students are more likely to have the skills to benefit from these courses in later years. However, some members felt that it would be difficult to design challenge-based courses capable of accommodating large numbers of students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds while delivering a high quality student experience, and also had concerns that large-scale courses could lead to increased utilisation of guaranteed hours teaching staff contracts. In some cases, members thought it may be more appropriate for Schools to develop new challenge courses embedded within their disciplines. Members had mixed views on the terminology of 'challenge' courses, since it could imply that other courses did not challenge students.
- Members supported the project's student-led (rather than teaching-led) approach to learning.
- In addition to developing skills in interdisciplinary learning, the project should assist students to develop general academic skills such as academic English.
- While the project needs to take account of the requirements of professional and statutory bodies, it should not treat professional programmes as separate when implementing the project. Professional programmes will be particularly good at delivering some aspects of Curriculum Transformation, and the project should enable other programmes to learn from their expertise.

- While the timelines for implementing the project are ambitious, they do allow Schools and Deaneries a reasonable length of time for piloting, testing and development of the curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning. While the University will need to determine certain elements of programmes in advance of UCAS deadlines for the admissions cycle for 2026-27 entry, there will be opportunities to work through implementation in a phased way.
- The project appeared to assume increased investment in central University structures, systems and processes. However, the University's current arrangements can create impediments to Schools and Deaneries developing interdisciplinary teaching at a local level, and some members thought that the project should focus on removing these barriers to enable organic local developments. When planning for implementation, the project should consider how to develop the University's staff and culture, and models of teaching, as well as systems and processes.
- Some members felt that the papers did not provide enough clarity regarding the proposals and direction of travel to allow them to decide whether to support them.

13. Following discussion, Senate supported by majority vote the proposals outlined in Paper D for:

- The continued development and design of key elements of the undergraduate curriculum framework (programme archetypes, challenge courses, experiential learning, enrichment elements and curriculum design principles); and
- The next steps for in-depth engagement with Schools and Deaneries on their response to the framework to inform its further development and the preparation of a detailed plan and timeline for implementation.

14. Senate also supported by majority vote the continued development of the case for investment, phased implementation and risk management needed to support the delivery of the curriculum transformation project, as set out in Paper E.

Senate Oversight of the Curriculum Transformation Programme

15. Dr Tamara Trodd introduced this paper, which aimed to clarify Senate's role in regulatory and superintending the teaching and discipline of the University in relation to the Curriculum Transformation Programme (CTP). Senate members made the following points in relation to motion 3.1 (which proposed that formal approval of the package of strategic, regulatory, and academic policy changes relating to the CTP, and all other such changes from the CTP under Senate's remit, be reserved to full Senate) and motions 3.2 and 3.3 (which proposed that the delayed implementation of the programme be used as an opportunity to review the CTP approach, and that the outcome of this review be discussed at the May 2023 meeting of Senate):

- While Senate should make the strategic academic changes regarding Curriculum Transformation, motion 3.1 would require Senate to make quite detailed decisions on a wide range of aspects of academic policy and regulations. Were Senate to pass this motion, it may need to hold additional meetings in order to get through the relevant business. Requiring formal Senate approval for arrangements for piloting aspects of the CT Framework could inhibit innovation.
- Motion 3.1 would involve a substantive change in the delegation of the powers from Senate to the Committees. The externally-facilitated review of Senate

and Committees is reviewing the relationship between Senate and its Committees, and it would be more appropriate for Senate to hold off any decisions on the delegation of powers to the Committees until the conclusion of the review.

- It may prove difficult to interpret motion 3.1 in practice, since, while some decisions would relate unequivocally to changes associated with Curriculum Transformation, others may be aligned to Curriculum Transformation but not associated with the project as such (for example, where Schools or support services propose to change their own programmes in advance of the full implementation of Curriculum Transformation in order to anticipate elements of the CT vision or archetypes).
- The proposed review arrangements set out in motions 3.2 and 3.3 were not aligned with the direction of travel that Senate had just approved in relation to agenda item 6.1.
- It would be challenging to undertake the proposed review in time for the May 2023 Senate meeting.
- The proposed review would have resource implications, and the paper does not set out the practical implications of redirecting resources to the review from other activities.

16. One Senate member, Prof Tina Harrison, proposed amendments to motions 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3:

Proposed amendment to 3.1: “This motion asks that major strategic elements of changes to existing academic policy and regulations relating to the implementation of the Curriculum Change Programme come to Senate for approval, as currently intended. However, ALL changes to relating to Curriculum Transformation should not be reserved to full Senate, recognising the existing governance arrangements in place which provide Senate Standing Committee with authority to make decisions on changes to academic policies and regulations. From a governance perspective the Curriculum Transformation Board has the responsibility to maintain oversight of the project and make recommendations to the University Executive and Senate Education Committee.”

Proposed amendment to motions 3.2 and 3.3: “This motion proposes that the extended planned implementation date of CTP and a more explicit element of phasing provides an opportunity to undertake in-depth engagement with all Schools and complete work on the investment case and implementation plan (throughout the remainder of AY22/23), and asks that Curriculum Transformation Board reviews progress and plans once this work has been done, and reports on that review to the first meeting of Senate Education Committee and Senate at the start of academic year 2023/24.”

17. Some Senate members felt that the wording of the proposed amendments (for example, where they varied from the original motions) was not sufficiently clear to allow for a vote. Given that there was insufficient time left in the meeting to redraft the amendments, and that some Senate members reported that their laptops were running out of power (which would have prevented them from voting) Senate agreed to defer decisions on Paper 3F to a subsequent meeting. In the meantime, the Vice-

Principal (Students) offered to meet with the authors of the paper to discuss the issues they raised, and to explore potential ways to reframe their proposals.

Senate Role in the Response to People and Money Crisis

18. In advance of Senate discussing Paper 3G, as a matter arising from the previous Senate meeting, Professor Dave Robertson provided an update on People and Money. He recognised that the implementation of People & Money has placed intensive pressure on parts of the University and created significant resourcing issues. He indicated that, in order to address issues associated with People & Money, the University was taking pragmatic steps focussing on six lines of work, including research finances, training, and streamlining back office processes. He also reported that Internal Audit is preparing proposals for an independent review of People & Money.

General points on conclusion of 8 February meeting

19. Since Senate was no longer quorate, and the meeting had already overrun the scheduled time by 30 minutes, the meeting of Senate was adjourned at 5:30pm, before discussion of the item *Senate Role in the Response to People and Money Crisis* was complete. The President of Senate indicated that he would communicate a date for a reconvened meeting as soon as possible, taking account of scheduled industrial action and diary constraints to consider the following items:

- Supporting a Negotiated Resolution to Industrial Action as an Academic Priority
- Honorary Degrees Withdrawal Procedure
- Senate Standing Committee Membership – outstanding membership items
- Laigh Year Regulations
- Research Strategy Group update

Extracts from the unconfirmed minute of the reconvened meeting of Senate – 29 March 2023

20. The Convener, Principal Sir Professor Peter Mathieson, opened the meeting however the meeting did not reach quorum. The meeting is reconvened from 8 February with outstanding agenda items carried forward. Senate proceeded to consider items of business and any items of business deemed contentious would be held over to be considered by a future quorate meeting of Senate.

Senate minutes – 8 February 2023

21. The following amendments to the minute were raised:

- A correction to include attendees who were in attendance but missing from the record.
- An amendment to item S22/23 3B to minute the concern raised regarding Personal Tutors assigned to transgender students.
- An amendment to item S22/23 3C to reflect the differing viewpoints on Ordinance 212.
- A request to include the rationale for not circulating the paper submitted for Item 9: Legal Context of Senate Motions. It was noted in response that no amendment to this item should be made as the paper was not received at the 8 February meeting. The member noted their agreement for this to be recorded under Matters Arising of the 29 March meeting.
- A request to revise the minute of S22/23 3D & 3E to reflect the critical tone of discussions.

22. A request was made to record the majority associated with votes undertaken at Senate. The Senate Clerk would investigate whether numbers can be included for previous meetings.

23. Senate deemed the 8 February minutes contentious. The minute will be revised in light of comments and presented for approval at a future meeting of Senate.

24. A member raised a discrepancy in the 12 October minute. The member requested that section 2.1 (Minutes of Senate meeting held on 12 October 2022) be amended by including the following text: "A number of amendments were submitted and incorporated in advance of the meeting. There was a discrepant recollection about paper 21 (point 10 of the minutes), namely whether Senate had agreed to "approve" the paper formally. This was clearly and distinctly recalled by the member raising the point, but not reflected in the informal meeting notes or draft minute. In the interest of time, the convener was asked to allow this to be noted without a formal motion to that effect, but declined to do so."

25. The revision was deemed uncontentious and, though Senate was not quorate, it agreed to accept the amendment to the 12 October minute.

Matters Arising

Senate Elections and Amendment to Senate Election Regulations [Minutes of 8 February 2023 meeting of Senate, Item 5]

26. Senate reached quorum during consideration of this item. Ms Olivia Hayes, Clerk to Senate, provided an update on the Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections. There were 130 vacancies on Senate with 98 nominations received. An early review of nominations indicate that an election would be held in the CAHSS non-Professorial category to determine successful candidates. An election would be held to determine the terms of office in the CAHSS Professorial, CSE non-Professorial and CSE Professorial categories. The nomination period closed at 12noon, Wednesday 29 March. A member requested that nominations in the CMVM Professorial and non-Professorial categories be reopened. Ms Hayes noted that significant effort had been made to generate interest in the elections and that a further extension to the nomination period would impact on the election timelines previously advertised as well as the support available to conduct the elections. A member queried whether colleagues who hold an Honorary contract are eligible to stand for election to Senate. It was noted that the Senate Election Regulations state that academic staff members who hold a contract of employment issued by the University are eligible to stand for election to Senate. Academic Services agreed to confirm the eligibility of staff who hold an Honorary contract.

27. A member raised concern regarding the advice provided to Court by Academic Services, external legal advisors and Legal Services on a proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations approved by Senate at its 8 February meeting. The member was basing his comments on a summary of legal advice which was provided in an open Court paper relating to the relevant Court meeting, the member believed that the paper contained two factual errors which they considered significant.

28. The Convener noted that Court received legally privileged and confidential advice on the amendment and Court agreed not to adopt the amendment. The Convener agreed that Court would be advised of the challenge to the legal advice received, subject to feedback received from Legal Services on the comments raised by the Senate member.

29. The University Secretary agreed to return this item to Court noting the challenge to the legal advice and Court would be responsible for determining how to proceed.

External Review – update on timelines

30. The Convener provided an update on the timelines for the completion of the Senate External Review. Due to a high level of engagement with the review, the timescales for presenting emerging findings and submission of the final report have been extended. Senate would receive a presentation of emerging themes and findings at its meeting on 24 May with the final report to be received in June.

Legal Context of Senate Motions/ Context of Some Recent Member Contributed Papers

31. A member noted that a paper titled *Legal Context of Senate Motions/ Context of Some Recent Member Contributed Papers* submitted for inclusion in the 8 February meeting and included on the 8 February agenda marked as 'to follow'. A revised version of this paper was submitted on 8 March but was not included on the 29 March agenda (which was a continuation of the February meeting) on the grounds that it was not part of Senate's business in February. The authors objected to the assertion that the paper was not part of Senate's February business noting that it was listed on the 8 February agenda and not withdrawn by the authors. The paper outlined what the authors considered to be the legal context of the limitations of Senate's powers and challenges experienced in proposing a Senate response to the University travel policy. The member noted the following concerns on behalf of the paper authors:

- The authors raised concern that a request to change the paper for submitted on 8 February was received.
- The authors view is that the decision to withdraw the paper is contradictory to the Standing Orders and that no document formally approved in law, by Senate or by Court can be relied on for provided a basis for not permitting the paper to be included.
- The authors raised objection to the decision to withdraw the paper from the 29 March meeting and requested that the paper be included in the 29 March meeting. The authors noted that the decision to withdraw the paper raises serious concerns with the actions of the Convener which suggest a desire to suppress criticism.

32. The following points were made:

- Legal advice had been obtained which stated that the Standing Orders can be relied on and are instructive and of assistance in determining which person or body is responsible for determining what matters are put before Senate at a meeting of Senate. This position is supported by advice from the University's Legal Services team and external legal advice. The Principal, as President of the Senate, had received professional legal advice on this issue and was entitled to rely on that advice.

- The Sustainable Travel Policy is a critical issue and the policy impacts on the ability of staff to undertake their job within a reasonable framework. There is a cumulative effect of policies, including the Sustainable Travel Policy, which Senate members would like an opportunity to discuss at Senate. It was noted by Legal Services that the legal advice provided did not state that any particular matters were unable to be discussed at Senate.

33. The Convener noted that an earlier version of this paper focussed on the author's opinions about legal matters which were contrary to the legal advice received, and that the decision not to circulate the paper was based on legal advice that the paper fundamentally misrepresented the law and may materially misdirect Senate as to legal matters, rather than a desire to suppress criticism nor prevent discussion on particular topics as suggested.

34. The University Secretary noted that the language within the paper could be damaging if received out of context and without accompanying advice from the University's Legal Services team.

35. The Convener would consider receiving the paper at a future meeting of Senate. Any future inclusion of the paper on a future Senate agenda would be accompanied by a paper prepared by Legal Services given ongoing concerns about the accuracy of the author's statements on legal issues.

Laigh Year Regulations

36. Senate reached quorum and approved the Laigh Year Regulations as presented.

Senate Oversight of the Curriculum Transformation Programme (CTP)

37. This item was introduced by Dr Tamara Trodd. There was discussion on this item held at the 8 February meeting of Senate. The paper has been revised following the 8 February meeting and in light of constructive discussions held with colleagues in the interim on the wording of the motions presented. Senate members made the following points:

- The National Student Survey results indicate that something within the existing model is not working and institutional oversight is required to enact change.
- Work is ongoing around the decolonisation of the curriculum and discussions on the urgency of the climate crisis, which students wish to see reflected in their studies.
- The CTP presents an opportunity for disciplines to come together
- Further work is required to support and understand the resourcing and skills required to support the project. Allowing for work on the digital strategy and systems improvements required for the project to continue is essential to ensuring these are ready and adequately tested ahead of being rolled out.
- There is a gap in information on the costs associated with the project, for example, the proportion of student numbers on challenge courses and the FTE staffing expected to support challenge courses. This information is required ahead of significant investment being made.
- The University's Quality Assurance processes should support curriculum enhancement and development. It was queried whether QA processes are robust enough to support Schools where feedback indicates difficulties.

- Further engagement work will be undertaken by the CTP with Schools to consider how the framework can be adopted in specific disciplines and areas. This is also intended to establish pinch points where further work is required and to help Schools to understand the resourcing implications of the project.
- There is general uncertainty, confusion and a degree of fear around what is to come from the CTP. Senate members are eager for clarity on key points and details where concern has been raised to be able to consider its support for the work to progress. Members raised concern regarding the transparency of the project and welcomed an ongoing dialogue on the development of the project.

38. Following discussion, Senate approved the amended paper on the following basis:

- It agreed to adopt Motion 3.1 as presented in the paper.
- It agreed to adopt the following amendment to Motion 3.2:

That the delayed implementation of the programme be used as an opportunity to review the CTP approach in order to minimise the risk of the final CTP design failing to meet approval with Senate. The review should articulate the key features of CTP as it is currently envisaged, and how it will improve the Edinburgh curriculum, with reference to specific features of the proposed new degree programme design; and what arrangements are contemplated for staffing and resourcing new curriculum and course models and associated features including institutional placements?

- It agreed to adopt the following amendment to Motion 3.3:

That the outcome of this review be discussed at the October 2023 meeting of Senate along with a motion to approve continuing the programme with the direction of travel subject to any revisions arising from the review.

- It agreed to adopt Motion 3.4 as presented in the paper.

Senate Role in the Response to People and Money Crisis

39. Following a short break, Senate did not reach quorum and was inquorate for the remainder of the meeting. Senate agreed to proceed to consider non-contentious items of business. The Convener, with the agreement of the paper authors, provided Senate with an update on developments related to People and Money which have taken place since the 8 February meeting of Senate:

- An external review into People and Money is in the final stages of being commissioned by the University Court. Paul McGinty, Head of Internal Audit, confirmed that they are proceeding to the invitation to tender stage and that a Senate Assessor to Court will be engaged in the selection of the external reviewer.
- The Principal has engaged Robert Fraser, former Director of Finance at Glasgow and Manchester, as an advisor to the Principal on operational matters relating to the handling of People and Money. This appointment followed consultation with an informal advisory group of some of the independent members of the Court and is separate to the external review

and intended to provide support on immediate actions to support improvement.

40. Dr Stuart Gilfillan introduced the paper. The paper outlines the significant and ongoing consequences and costs resulting from the implementation of the People and Money infrastructure. The paper seeks to formally ensure Senate is kept informed of and involved in the review of People and Money. Though Senate was no longer quorate, the Convener invited Senate to approve the motions outlined in the paper. All motions were deemed non-contentious and the paper was approved.

Supporting a Negotiated Resolution to Industrial Action as an Academic Priority

41. This item was introduced by Dr Michael Barany. The provides Senate with a summary on the current industrial action, a continuation of sector-wide industrial disputes of many years running, bears fundamentally on the academic mission of the university. The paper outlines a number of steps to support a negotiated resolution in the best interest of our academic mission.

42. The Convener of the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC), Dr Paul Norris, provided an update on decisions taken at a recent meeting of APRC. The Committee considered and approved two temporary variations to academic regulations to mitigate against the impact of disruption on students, in line with the Taught Assessment Regulations:

- APRC approved a temporary variation to permit schools to make changes after the start of a course without the approval of College or consultation with students and external examiners.
- APRC approved a temporary variation to relax the requirement to consult External Examiners when setting examination papers.

43. The Committee agreed that the temporary variations were urgent and necessary. The temporary variations and guidance on the application of these were communicated to Schools last week.

44. Though Senate was no longer quorate, the Convener invited Senate to approve the motions in turn.

- Senate considered motion 2.1 to be non-contentious and this was approved.
- Senate considered elements of motion 2.2 to be contentious.
- Senate approved an amendment to split motion 2.2 as follows:
 - 2.2a: University management has expressed a commitment to mitigate disruption due to strike action. Senate believes that the only sustainable and effective long-term mitigation in the best interest of students and the university's academic mission is a negotiated resolution that minimises the fact of strike action in the first place.*
 - 2.2b: It is a disservice to students, staff, our communities, and our public mission to limp along from strike to strike without comprehensively addressing the underlying issues at stake.*
- Senate considered motion 2.2a to be non-contentious and this was approved.
- Senate considered motion 2.2.b to be contentious and this was not considered. This motion would be considered at the next quorate meeting of Senate. The following comment was made on this motion:

- The use of the word ‘disservice’ is not reflective of the efforts by staff in engaging with and attempting to resolve the dispute.
- Senate considered motion 2.3 to be non-contentious and this was approved.
- Senate considered motion 2.4 to be contentious and this was not considered. This motion would be considered at the next quorate meeting of Senate. The following comments were made on this motion:
 - There may be unintended consequences of adopting this motion which are not adequately understood. This includes the challenge in achieving and maintaining quorum at Senate, which would be a significant risk to considering time-sensitive and critical decisions as proposed by motion 2.4.
- Senate considered motion 2.5 to be contentious and this was not considered. This motion would be considered at the next quorate meeting of Senate.
- Senate considered the overarching motion 2.6 and sub-motions 2.6.1 and 2.6.4 to be contentious and these were not considered. These motions would be considered at the next quorate meeting of Senate. The following comments were made on these motions:
 - The University is part of national pay bargaining and therefore unable to deviate from the pay scales agreed via this process.
 - The restoration of pension benefits is dependent on the valuation of the scheme and therefore a decision regarding the benefits and contributions is a decision for the members of the pension scheme.
- Senate considered motions 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 to be non-contentious and these were approved.

Honorary Degrees Withdrawal Procedure

45. This item was introduced by Ms Lucy Evans, Deputy Secretary, Students. Ms Evans noted that a review of the Procedure was undertaken following Senate’s approval to withdraw an Honorary Degree and comments relating to the associated Procedure. Under the revised Procedure the decision to withdraw an Honorary Degree would remain with Senate.

46. Though Senate was no longer quorate, the Convener invited Senate to approve the paper. The item was deemed non-contentious and approved.

Extracts from unconfirmed report of e-Senate held 26 April – 11 May 2023

Resolutions

47. Senate considered the draft Resolutions below and offered no observations.

No. 8/2023: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations

No. 9/2023: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

Communications from the University Court

48. Senate formally noted the communications. Comments were received from three members and were passed to the author of the report.

Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee

49. Senate noted the report of the Knowledge Strategy Committee. Comments were received from two members and were passed to the author of the report.

Extract from unconfirmed minute of Senate meeting – 24 May 2023

Presentation: Emerging findings of the Senate External Effectiveness Review

50. Senate received a presentation from Professor Ritchie, lead consultant for Advance HE, which provided an overview of the approach and emerging themes from the externally facilitated review. Professor Ritchie extended her thanks to Senate and Standing Committee members on behalf of Advance HE for taking time to contribute to the review. Professor Ritchie also thanked Academic Services staff for their support throughout the review. The following key points were made:

- The support provided to Senate by Academic Services staff including Olivia Hayes and formerly by Tom Ward was noted as being an asset to Senate.
- The methodology used by the review included two surveys: one of Senate members and a second of Standing Committee members, a review of documentation, observation of Senate and Standing Committee meetings and individual interviews. The strong engagement with the survey along with overall review methodology provided a rich picture of Senate.
- Academic Governance is working well in some areas, with the majority view reflecting that Senate operates in the interests of the wider University rather than the interests of individual members'. The overall view is that Standing Committees add value to decision making processes.
- Some areas are not working well and there may be benefits seen by making changes to the operation and scope of Senate, the focus and outcomes coming from Senate, culture and links to Colleges, Schools and Court.
- An emerging theme is on the culture of Senate and it was observed that it is challenging to conduct constructive debate around core issues. Discussion was observed as being confrontational with the use of the chat function during meetings detracting from valuable strategic discussions. Respecting agenda and meeting timings would aid in creating trust, where there is currently a culture of openly questioning of the value of Senate among members.
- An emerging theme is on the reputation of Senate and there is a risk of Senate becoming unrepresentative of the academy. This is reflected in the lack of attendance at meetings and frequent quoracy issues. There was some evidence of Senate views being side-lined, even when the opinion was strong and broad. There would be benefit in building the reputation and culture of Senate across the University.
- An emerging theme is on student voice at Senate. There is a lack of profile and visibility of student matters, which affects engagement and trust. This was particularly seen among student members who are not representatives of the Student Association and whom struggled to keep track of the progress of issues.
- An emerging theme is on enablers at Senate. At present, operational matters dominate strategic discussion and detract from focus on strategic issues. A focus on detailed procedural matters alienates staff and is usually unproductive. Greater visibility of professional services leadership on Senate and clarifying the scope and boundaries of Senate and its relationship with Schools and Colleges would be useful.
- An emerging theme is on the Senate Standing Committees. Overall the Committees generally work well, however there would be value in strengthening connectivity between Senate and its Committees.

- Emerging themes including the University's focus on EDI matters was not visible as part of academic governance during the review. There is a limited research agenda at Senate, despite the promotion of research being one of Senate's statutory functions.
- A range of emerging recommendations were outlined, as presented in the slides, these cover the following broad areas: a change to allow Senate to focus on the academic mission; an enhanced role of the senior leadership team on Senate to create more collegiality and cohesion across Schools, Colleges and departments; increased visibility of the agenda setting process; an increased profile of student matters at Senate; discussion of research strategy; composition of Senate; logistical enablers to support operational effectiveness of Senate; a review of Senate induction; and an expansion of support provided to Senate by Academic Services.
- A range of emerging suggestions were outlined, as presented in the slides, these covered the following broad areas: the balance of activity between Standing Committees; strengthening links between Court and Senate; empowering subject and School leaders to help formulate feedback or steer policy; Senate membership as part of the WAM; and increased promotion of the work and benefits of Senate.

51. Professor Ritchie invited initial comments from the floor. The following points were made:

- The purpose of Senate was raised as a key area of concern with recent focus on legalistic and non-academic issues. It was noted that increasing the time spent on core issues relating to Senate's remit would be useful.
- A more constructive approach to the debate in Senate would be valuable. An approach which sees speakers taking a collegial approach to solving issues was suggested.

52. Professor Ritchie invited further comments via email by 7 June. The full report would be provided by early July with the report and recommendations to be considered at the next meeting of Senate.

Senate Minutes - Minutes of Senate meeting held on 8 February & 29 March 2023 and Report of E-Senate held from 26 April – 10 May 2023

53. Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held 8 February 2023 as presented. A significant number of detailed amendments to the minutes of the meeting held 29 March 2023 were raised. Senate agreed to consider the amendments received electronically. The formal approval of the 29 March minute would be deferred until the next Ordinary meeting. The Report of E-Senate held from 26 April – 10 May 2023 was not considered and would be carried forward to the next Ordinary meeting.

Matters Arising

Senate Elections and Amendment to Senate Election Regulations [Minutes of 29 March 2023 meeting of Senate, Matters Arising]

54. The Convener noted that consideration of this item would be covered under Item 19: Senate and Senate Standing Committee Election Results 2023
Supporting a Negotiated Resolution to Industrial Action as an Academic Priority

55. This item was received at the reconvened meeting held on 29 March. However as Senate was not quorate and some items were deemed contentious, the paper is returned to Senate for consideration.

56. Professor Diana Paton introduced the paper which was presented to Senate for approval. The paper outlines a number of steps to support a negotiated resolution in the best interest of the academic mission. This is the result of the long term degradation of pay and conditions within the higher education sector and that the current industrial action, including the marking and assessment boycott, can only be resolved with a long term pay and conditions solution.

57. Professor Paton outlined that Senate approved motions 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 at the 29 March meeting. The previous approval of motion 2.3 asks that the University Executive concentrate efforts on promoting a negotiated national resolution. An update on this progress of this action was requested.

58. Professor Paton outlined that decisions on variations to regulations resulting from Industrial Action are too important to be considered by APRC, and these should be considered by full Senate. Should Motion 2.4 be carried, this would require additional emergency meetings of Senate.

59. The Convener of Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC), Dr Paul Norris, provided an overview of the temporary variations approved by APRC. The decisions taken by APRC are in line with the authority as given in Regulations 70 and 71 of the Taught Assessment Regulations. The timing of APRC's decision was the point at which decisions were required due to disruption to assessments that were taking place, including oral assessments, and in time for Boards of Examiners to have adequate time to prepare ahead of Boards being held in June. It is likely that further meetings to consider temporary variations will be necessary over the coming months. Following feedback from APRC members, the Convener agreed that the Committee would discuss the handling of decisions relating to industrial action at the next meeting of APRC.

60. Senate members raised the following points:

- A student member strongly conveyed their concern regarding the impact of Motion 2.4 on students. The variations approved by APRC were noted as being insufficient to fully mitigate against the impact of industrial action, which has had a significant impact in 2022/23 and throughout their studies. They reflected on the solidarity of students with the UCU fight, however noted the approval of Motion 2.4 would have a significant and detrimental impact on students and erode staff/student relations.
- A reflection on the ability of Senate to resolve an industrial action dispute was made. The Convener noted that though some motions are outside the remit of Senate and some actions are not deliverable, Senate can express its view on the actions requested.
- A concern was raised regarding the maintenance of academic standards in approving temporary variations. Members noted concern among non-Senatorial colleagues that the temporary variations do not uphold academic standards nor meet the requirements for external accrediting bodies. The Deputy Vice-Principal, Students (Engagement) noted that the Quality

Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has confirmed that it is satisfied with the variations approved and is content that the University is maintaining academic standards. Boards of Examiners retain responsibility for reaching decisions under the temporary variations and in line with any external accreditation requirements.

- Boards of Examiners will be under pressure to utilise the temporary variations and concern was noted regarding the impact on appeals. The guidance produced to accompany the temporary variations provides Boards with explanation on the information required where they do not apply the temporary variations.
- The impact of industrial action on lost learning was raised. There is concern among colleagues that missed education cannot be appropriately mitigated and this will have an impact on students in later years.
- The impact of industrial action has been ongoing for a number of years and the University has a duty to mitigate against impact to students on a staffing matter. The mitigations approved by APRC are robust, proportionate and appropriate to supporting students through a period of disruption. It is necessary for APRC to be able to take agile and quick decision making and the prospect of emergency meetings of Senate was flagged as a concern.
- The financial implications for specific cohorts were raised. There may be a disproportionate impact on international students who are unable to graduate and who must return to Edinburgh to undertake further study.
- The paper was originally presented to Senate on 8 February. The placement of this item on previous meeting agendas and chairing of meetings were noted as a barrier to having this item considered sooner. The Convener noted that his role is to allow Senate members to have their views heard.
- The authority of the Academic Contingency Group (ACG) was raised. The Convener of APRC confirmed that this Group is comprised of individuals in key roles across the University and is a practical way of achieving discussion on key issues affecting multiple areas.
- A concern was raised regarding the tone of contributions from some members and the disparaging comments made regarding the motivations of individual colleagues.

61. Following discussion, Senate moved to vote on the remaining motions contained within the paper. Motion 2.2b was deemed uncontentious and Senate agreed to adopt the motion as presented in the paper. An amendment to Motion 2.4 was moved and seconded. It was proposed that the motion be revised to:

2.4.1: As any academic policy changes or exceptions necessarily trade off with the primary goal of promoting a negotiated resolution, Senate expects strike-related concessions to be presented to Senate as a whole for approval, and this supersedes the delegation of authority to Senate standing committees where applicable. As with other matters approved by the whole Senate, it is anticipated that the relevant committee (typically APRC) would develop and approve recommendations; the Exception Committee retains its powers to approve exceptional urgent cases that cannot await full Senate consideration.

2.4.2: Senate notes that APRC considered a suite of variations to the Taught Assessment Regulations at its 2 May meeting (APRC 22/23 8B). These have

not been approved by Senate and are therefore not in force until approved by a vote of full Senate.

62. The Convener received legal advice, which he chooses to accept, on the legality of Motion 2.4.2. The advice states that motion 2.4.2 as presented is not lawful. Senate cannot retrospectively withdraw the decisions taken by APRC which are in line with the delegated authority as it currently stands. Any decision to withdraw the delegation of authority would apply prospectively. Therefore, this motion would not be presented to Senate for a decision.

63. A member noted in response that the assertion that 2.4.2 is not lawful reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of the motion, which is not a retrospective action and is a reflection of current affairs.

64. Senate undertook a vote on Motion 2.4 as presented in the paper. 62% of members did not support adopting the motion as presented in the paper.

65. Ahead of a vote on Motion 2.5, the Director HR Partnering: Professional Services provided an update on the grade scale review which will consider the pay across all grade points. The actions contained within the motion pre-empt the outcome of the review and it is not possible to commit to what specific outcomes may arise from the review at this stage.

66. It agreed by a majority vote of 67% to adopt Motion 2.5 as presented in the paper however this is not deliverable as the outcomes of the grade scale review are not known.

67. Ahead of a vote on Motion 2.6.1, the Principal noted that the action requested in the motion is not deliverable by individual employers and he cannot publically commit to this, however Senate can express its view. The University is part of national pay bargaining at the request of the trade unions.

68. It agreed by a majority vote of 64% to adopt Motion 2.6.1 as presented in the paper

69. Ahead of a vote on Motion 2.6.4, the Principal noted that the restoration of pension benefits is a matter for the pension trustees and he cannot publicly commit to this. However, Senate can convey its opinion and it is at the discretion of the trustee to reach these decisions.

70. It agreed by a majority vote of 71% to adopt Motion 2.6.4 as presented in the paper

Court Resolution – Personal Chairs

71. Members were invited to comment on the paper and no comments were received.

Proposal to extend Scotland's Rural College's (SRUC) Accredited Institution status to Postgraduate Research Provision

72. The Deputy Vice-Principal, Students (Engagement) introduced this item which was presented to Senate for approval. The paper contains a proposal to build on the

long-standing relationship with SRUC by extending the current Accredited Institution status of Scotland's Rural College's (SRUC) from taught degrees to include the provision of University of Edinburgh validated postgraduate research provision. There are already a number of joint PhD's with SRUC and this proposal would delegate awarding responsibility and offer accredited status to SRUC and these programmes.

73. Senate members made the following points:

- A query was raised regarding the review processes and the suitability of holding an interim review at the mid-way point to ensure procedures continue to align with those of the University. In response it was noted that there is a five year review cycle and that SRUC is subject to the same QA arrangements as the University which includes an annual review.
- A query was raised on whether there is desire from SRUC to extend to wider subject areas. In response it was noted that SRUC have a defined scope and remit and have not indicated a desire to extend beyond the defined subject areas. SRUC has put forward the request and the University has not sought to define or dictate what provision is considered.

74. Senate approved the paper as presented.

Legal advice in relation to the paper: "Context of Some Recent Member Contributed Papers"

75. The Convener outlined that the paper is presented to Senate to note and that he accepts the paper and the legal advice provided within it. A concern was raised with regard to paragraph 7 and the assertion of an action that Senate would not be able to take legal advice in the future. Senate noted the paper. Senate did not agree to the action in paragraph 7 that Senate *take no further action in response to the Revised Paper as it relates to the legal advice previously provided.*

Context of Some Recent Member Contributed Papers

76. This item was introduced by Dr Michael Barany. The paper is presented to Senate to note. Dr Barany outlined his views regarding the legal advice received by the Principal. A member raised, what were in his view, series of errors within the paper and shared a number of comments with Senate in the meeting chat. The Convener noted that in his role it is appropriate to take advice from suitably qualified experts and he is confident with the advice received. The Provost also raised her concern regarding the tone of debate and discussion and that Senate and its members should remain mindful that it is not appropriate to call into question the competency of any University's staff and external advisors. Senate noted the paper.

Senate Oversight of Estates Provision for Academic Offices

77. This item was introduced by Dr Tamara Trodd. The paper is presented to Senate at the request of non-Senatorial academic staff and asks Senate to recognise that space provision has significant implications for the conduct of academic work and that future estate development plans may impact on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the academic community.

78. The Provost noted that academic view and ownership of estates planning is embedded at all levels and that project boards have both academic and student representation. There is a high degree of locality in estates planning to reflect the

unique needs for each discipline and compromise is required to achieve a high quality estate which delivers on the University's academic mission.

79. The University's estate is of a significant size and space should be used effectively and reflect the University's commitment to sustainability, evolving patterns of work, the underutilisation of space and the increased demand for particular types of spaces, for example, study space.

80. The University estate is overseen by Court with decisions undertaken via the appropriate governance pathways and with the academic mission at the centre of decisions taken.

81. Senate members raised the following points:

- Members expressed support for the opportunity to discuss the provision of space, which is an important and complicated issue and reflects the desire of staff to work on campus. The management of existing spaces and new building projects is a complex and pressing issue across the University. Though it may not be possible to achieve all the aims outlined in the paper, this presents an opportunity to consider strengthening the existing practices for consultation with academic staff.
- The Head of the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) outlined his experience of the ECA building project as an example of how building projects operate within local contexts. The ECA project is seeking to enhance access to space and provide office space, suitable music and study spaces and meet specialist space needs. It is focussed on the academic mission and the need to enhance space needs with discussions still ongoing. Colleagues have been consulted and provided a strong view of their needs. Work is ongoing to balance these needs with competing demands.
- There is a need to balance difficult and competing priorities including financial and practical constraints however the academic mission remains forefront across these tensions. The space required will be highly subjective to the discipline and nature of work being undertaken at any one time. The diversity of those requirements should be considered at the design stage.
- There is a need for private and quiet space for academic staff to hold confidential conversations with students and undertake research. Space should reflect the needs of academic staff and the views of staff and research should be taken account of in reaching decisions on what space is required for academic staff to effectively undertake their role. It may be useful to undertake benchmarking on a discipline level against other institutions, including Russell Group universities, to establish how peers and competitors manage the provision of space.
- The suitability and consideration of space for staff in lower paid roles such as postdoctoral research staff was highlighted as a concern. These staff require appropriate space to work and are often located in open plan offices and it may not be feasible for these staff to work from home.
- The University's commitment to climate and sustainability should remain a key consideration in any estates projects undertaken.

82. Following discussion and in the interests of time, it was proposed that a single vote be taken. However, the paper author requested a vote on each motion. Senate approved the paper on the following basis:

- It agreed by a majority vote of 89% to adopt the following amendment to Motion 5.1:
5.1 That Senate requests *the relevant bodies including Court and the University Estates Committee* to take account of its views on the provision of space where it affects academic work, for instance by altering availability and occupancy of offices for core academic tasks including research, supervision and teaching preparation.
- It agreed by a majority vote of 90% to adopt the following amendment to Motion 5.2:
5.2 That Senate requests *the relevant bodies including Court and the University Estates Committee* ensure that current and future Estates development plans make provision for appropriate spaces for academic staff to conduct research and their other contracted work (e.g. teaching, supervision, administration, collaboration with external partners), based on consultation and agreement with academic staff in the relevant areas, and that efficiency and utilisation rates should not be prioritised over the ability of staff effectively to conduct research and related academic work on campus.

83. Though Senate was no longer quorate during approval of this item, the Convener invited Senate to consider the remaining motions. These were deemed non-contentious and voting undertaken.

- It agreed by a majority vote of 80% to adopt Motion 5.3 as presented in the paper
- It agreed by a majority vote of 83% to adopt Motion 5.4 as presented in the paper

Secretary's note: a management response to the motions is appended to the paper.

Note for Court: update on Senate Elections

84. As referred to in paragraphs 27-29 above, a Senate member queried the legal advice regarding the Senate election regulations, which Court considered at its meeting on 27 February. This query was based on summary of the legal advice. Legal Services was consulted on this challenge and advised that the legally privileged and confidential advice provided to Court does not require to be revised in light of this challenge, with Court asked to note this.

85. The election of new members to Senate was successfully completed in line with the Senate Election Regulations and the results of the election declared on 17 May 2023. The results are published on the [Senate website](#) and a report prepared for the 24 May 2023 meeting. Senate did not reach this item of business at the meeting and will formally receive the paper at a future meeting of Senate.

Further information

86. Author Olivia Hayes, Academic Policy Officer Presenter Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor

Freedom of Information

87. Open paper

Note from University management in response to motions passed re: provision of space for academic activity by Senate at its most recent meeting

Senate, at its most recent meeting, passed 4 motions in relation to the provision of space for academic activity on the University estate. The Provost and other senior academic Leads closely involved in Estates governance / current projects, provided context around the University's Estates governance and approach to space, some of which is further noted below where relevant in the context of motions 5.1-5.4.

Motions 5.1 and 5.2 are direct requests made of Court and not of the executive management of the University. That said, it is important to note that the development of any capital project prioritises fitness for purpose relative to the activities to be undertaken in the space. Efficiency and utilisation are important considerations in the establishment and management of any estate and they constitute one element of responsible use of institutional resources; they are not, however, considerations which take precedence over fitness for purpose.

In relation to Motion 5.3, Edinburgh has one of the largest and most complex estates in the HE sector: with 550 buildings of varying age, type, condition and protected status, as well as occupants of those buildings from a vast range of academic disciplines and professional backgrounds. Consequently, development of absolutes in terms of policy is not pragmatic or helpful, not least in terms of identifying fitness for purpose, which often requires – and currently involves – strong academic and disciplinary input.

In this regard, and when evolving or redeveloping the estate within a project-led environment, consultation is always placed at the heart of the decision-making process. Specifically, Project Boards are structured to place the ownership of project outcomes and the key space decisions firmly in the hands of the project stakeholders e.g. staff and students. The Project Sponsor (generally a senior academic member of staff in the case of a School or College project) also has the autonomy, and relevant disciplinary expertise, to identify critical 'user groups' in any given project (e.g., the School Research Committee), and to ensure their involvement in a Project Board or as part of broader consultation arrangements. Complementing this academic expertise, Estates Department colleagues bring their professional experience and advice in relation to, for example: best industry practice; sectoral trends; sustainability; design quality; inclusivity; and value for money, ensuring project benefits can be fully realised and aligned to Strategy 2030.

The overall capital programme is constructed and enacted through Estates Committee, which includes staff and student representatives, including the Provost and Heads of College, as well as external experts and members of the governing body. All business cases developed for Estates Committee are reviewed in detail by this group, with Business Cases needing to demonstrate alignment to Strategy 2030, including how they will facilitate benefits to all parts of the University's academic mission.

In relation to Motion 5.4, it is worth noting that "Academic office space" is not a defined term used by the University in the allocation of its space. There are space

'norms', which offer indicative space volume allocations for different purposes. As noted in response to motion 5.3 above, a definitive policy position is unhelpful in a highly diverse estate used for a large range of research, teaching and other purposes. Consequently, a review of guidelines at Senate would not be helpful in addressing the points raised by Senate and may actively detract from the flexible approach appreciated by Project Sponsors and Boards in considering their specific disciplinary requirements.

Two planned actions are likely to be helpful in the context of Senate's points, however, including facilitating greater academic engagement in planning and use of the University's estate:

1. The Estates Director is planning a review of Project Board governance during 2023. As part of that exercise, academic engagement will be explicitly considered, such that Project Sponsors, who lead the development of engagement and consultation plans of the boards, can be satisfied that all appropriate input, across key areas of the academic mission, is, and has been, considered as a project is designed and executed.

2. A review of estate use and needs (in 3 selected Schools across the University; one per College) is planned in the coming months; this will enhance understanding of how space – in different academic disciplines – is meeting the needs of the core academic activities being undertaken, informing the broader development of capital work aligned to delivery of the University's academic mission and Strategy 2030.

Motions passed by Senate:

5.1 That Senate requests the relevant bodies including Court and the University Estates Committee take account of its views on the provision of space where it affects academic work, for instance by altering availability and occupancy of offices for core academic tasks including research, supervision and teaching preparation.

5.2 That Senate requests the relevant bodies including Court and the University Estates Committee to ensure that current and future Estates development plans make provision for appropriate spaces for academic staff to conduct research and their other contracted work (e.g. teaching, supervision, administration, collaboration with external partners), based on consultation and agreement with academic staff in the relevant areas, and that efficiency and utilisation rates should not be prioritised over the ability of staff effectively to conduct research and related academic work on campus.

5.3 That the view of Senate is that across the university, designated, single-person cellular offices for academic staff should be understood as a valid requirement, and open-plan or hot desk offices should not be used unless this has been determined appropriate to support research in the relevant subjects (e.g. through consultation with relevant Research committees in the affected areas) and agreed with affected staff.

5.4 That Senate requests the university's current guidelines on academic staff office space are to be brought to Senate for discussion in the next academic year.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Student Experience Reviews with Schools/Deaneries 2022-23

Description of paper

1. The paper presents the findings of review meetings that have taken place during 2022/23 with every School and Deanery with regards to matters related to student experience. This work was proposed to the University Executive and University Court following the results of the National Student Survey in summer 2022.

2. This work directly responds to Strategy 2030. For the Teaching and Learning area of focus we have set out that: *Our teaching will match the excellence of our research. We will improve and sustain student satisfaction and wellbeing.*

Action requested/Recommendation

3. The review sets out a number of consistent areas of focus for improvements the student experience set out by Schools. Following support of the University Executive, University Court is asked to consider the findings outlined in the report, the work already underway and support proposed next steps.

Background and context

4. In August 2022, the Vice-Principal Students and Deputy Secretary Students, presented a paper to University Executive, with a similar paper to University Court in October, providing reflection on the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) and proposals for ways forward for improvements to the quality of the student experience.

5. In order to align with major University initiatives underway, and to reflect the sense that previous collective engagements with Schools had proven to be less effective at isolating particular areas of focus, University Court was informed of the mechanism to work School by School and ask them to reflect and react to what they see as their current state and prospects for change.

6. The findings are brought forward in the attached paper, with initial proposals on how to respond to these concerns, ways to further formalise this work in the future and will inform monitoring and reporting against our student satisfaction Key Performance Indicator in our Strategic Performance Framework.

Discussion

7. Colleagues reflected the positivity towards the new student support model, and similarly seen the merits of the work on curriculum. These were viewed as strong opportunities for improvement, although clearly the scale of change (and the constrained period in which it is happening) continues to create some concern.

8. A number of challenges were raised consistently in the discussions which are felt to be causing challenges to student satisfaction, such as, *inter alia*:

- a. Student support model implementation and refinement
- b. Assessment and feedback

- c. Space and place
- d. Communications
- e. Extensions and special circumstances
- f. Timetabling
- g. Teaching & Learning Leadership
- h. Change fatigue

9. These issues reflected sizable elements of work already underway e.g., task and finish groups set up on areas of continuous improvements.

10. Further next steps include:

- a. the development of the idea of a Student Experience “Compact” into a formal proposal for initial roll out in 2023/24, working with the Provost’s Office, Colleges and Strategic Planning in the first instance. The model for any such process will come to University Executive later in the year.
- b. Wide communication of this review report with all Schools, as well as members of the Vice-Principal Students Portfolio Leadership Group and Student Lifecycle Management Group, as part of a transparent approach to work in this critical area.
- c. For the findings to be the topic of a future Academic Strategy Group.

Resource implications

11. There are no specific resource requests in this paper. However, it is noteworthy that the continuous service improvement task and finish groups are and will have implications on workloads for colleagues in Schools and central services. This is being monitored by the Student Lifecycle Management Group.

Risk Management

12. Failure to address student experience would mean we have not met our strategic ambitions as set out in Strategy 2030. It also carries reputational risk and continues to affect the University’s standing in national league tables.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

13. The report would support the SDG “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” as part the strategic objective to improve student experience. The proposals would not hinder the achievement of any other UN SDGs or exacerbate the Climate Emergency.

Equality & Diversity

14. An Equality Impact Assessment may be required as plans are developed, notably for the creation of a Student Experience Compact. The work undertaken will support greater equality, diversity and inclusion for students within our community.

Next steps/implications

15. Following approval, the next steps will be taken forward as set out in the report and above (item 10).

Consultation

16. Following discussion at University Executive, this report has been shared with all Schools, as well as members of the Vice-Principal Students Portfolio Leadership

Group and Student Lifecycle Management Group. We are in discussions with the Office of the Provost for these findings to be the topic of a future Academic Strategy Group.

Further information

17. Author

Lucy Evans

Deputy Secretary, Students

Presenter

Colm Harmon

Vice-Principal Students

Freedom of Information

18. Open paper with the appendix closed.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Report on the UCU Marking and Assessment Boycott

Sections 1-49: Closed paper

Freedom of Information

50. Closed due to commercial confidentiality



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

**UCU Marking and Assessment Boycott: Representation to University Court
Regarding Senate Approval of Academic Exceptions**

Description of paper

1. The paper submits a representation from 24 Senate members seeking Court's review and potential nullification of decisions made by the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC) on 2 May 2023 to make a number of temporary variations to academic policies and regulations to mitigate against the potential impact to students given the University & College Union's (UCU) marking and assessment boycott, a form of industrial action being taken by the union.

2. The paper includes:

- The representation;
- A response to the comments made in the representation;
- Information on subsequent developments since the representation was lodged, including consideration and voting on a related matter at the Senate meeting of 24 May 2023; and,
- Legally privileged advice on the scope of Court's powers in this area, included in Appendix 1.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To:

- Note the representation and the response to comments made in the representation;
- Note subsequent developments, including voting on a related matter at the 24 May 2023 Senate meeting;
- Consider the legally privileged advice contained within Appendix 1; and,

In light of the subsequent developments and the legal advice, Court is asked to consider whether to review the decision of APRC; and if so whether to nullify the decision of APRC as requested in the representation.

Background and context

4. This is an unusual request in that we are not aware of a representation having been submitted to Court previously by a group of Senate members seeking to overturn decisions made by a Senate committee. Senate met after the representation was received and voted against a motion that would remove delegated authority from the Senate committee to approve temporary variations in periods of significant disruption. Given this unusual situation, legal advice has been sought in order to aid Court in its consideration of the representation. If Court were to overturn the temporary variations this would remove the mitigations in place to support students during a period of significant disruption

Discussion

Representation

5. The following message was received by the Court Services Office on 10 May 2023:

Representation to University Court Regarding Senate Approval of Academic Exceptions

Pursuant to [section 6 subsections \(2\) and \(3\) of the Universities \(Scotland\) Act 1889](#), the undersigned members of the University of Edinburgh Academic Senate request that the University Court review and consider nullifying the approval of a suite of academic exceptions presented to the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee as paper APRC 22/23 8B on 2 May 2023.

It is being claimed (e.g. in guidance produced by Academic Services circulated 5 May) that APRC approved a significant collection of major exceptions to the university's policies and regulations regarding assessment and degrees as mitigation to recent strike action and the possibility of marking and assessment boycotts. Official minutes have not been circulated or approved from that meeting, and there is some ambiguity about the decision-making process and to what extent approval was properly recorded at that meeting. Any such ambiguity on a matter of this magnitude may be regarded as an unacceptable liability to the university, exposing us to reputational harm and the risk of appeals by students who recognise that their outcomes have been affected by policy and regulation exceptions.

The 2 May APRC Meeting

APRC considered paper [APRC 22/23 8B at its 2 May 2023](#) meeting. The paper was recorded as "for discussion" in the agenda, but the "action requested" section asked the committee to approve a large number of exceptions with immediate effect under the provisions of [Taught Assessment Regulations](#) 70 and 71, which refer to "significant disruption" such as "extremes of weather" that affect the results available to Boards of Examiners.

According to members present at the meeting, the chair invited discussion of proposed exceptions point by point, collecting questions, concerns, and proposed revisions to each exception in the paper and confirming periodically that there were not further interventions to the points in question before moving on. It has emerged that the chair considered this confirmation tantamount to approval of these exceptions. However, the following facts are, as far as we can gather, unambiguous:

- APRC was not invited to review or approve final wordings of the proposed exceptions following discussion of the proposals in the 2 May paper.
- APRC did not have the opportunity to review or approve the final guidance attached to these exceptions, on which several crucial considerations for the exceptions hinged.
- APRC members did not have the chance to consider holistic or 'big picture' considerations apart from the point-by-point discussions.
- At no point did the chair take a vote on the exceptions, nor did he unambiguously confirm that the proposed or modified exceptions had the full consensus support of the committee. There was no formal agreement by the committee to consider the exceptions approved subject to the discussed revisions. At least one committee member confirmed in writing to the chair

following the meeting that they did not feel final texts had been formally approved.

There are further causes for concern that suggest significant potential liabilities:

- The proposals were presented without a full Equality Impact Assessment, and APRC did not have the opportunity to consider evidence or discuss the equality impact of the exceptions.
- While contingency planning is essential, the exceptions were proposed to “take effect immediately” in part in anticipation of prospective disruptions that had not yet occurred (and are still avoidable pending national and local negotiations), contradicting the Taught Assessment Regulations stipulation that “The Academic Policy and Regulations Committee must confirm that significant disruption *has occurred*” (in the past tense) before exceptions may take effect, and it is unclear to what extent APRC was furnished or considered evidence of the true extent of actual *or* prospective disruption.
- Without considering the proposals here on their merits, there were significant ‘big picture’ questions about the maintenance of consistency and academic standards should the exceptions be widely used, as well as numerous smaller questions about ambiguities and potential inconsistencies. It is unclear to what extent APRC was furnished or considered evidence regarding the maintenance of academic standards, nor whether they had sufficient opportunity to ensure that ambiguities or inconsistencies were resolved.

The Governance Context

APRC has traditionally exercised delegated power to approve academic exceptions to the Taught Assessment Regulations. However, recent context suggests this power should be understood in a limited sense subject to a high expectation of prudence and restraint.

Members of Senate came to the new academic year with an interest in reconsidering aspects of the membership of committees and the delegation of powers. A compromise was reached with committee conveners in a series of meetings in August-October 2022 that existing delegation of powers would be maintained pending a planned (and currently in progress) external review of Senate and a number of interim changes to committee membership to reflect the expectation that committee decisions are the business of the entire Senate and should reflect the consideration and views of all interested members.

One of the interim changes to membership, having elected Academic members of Senate on each committee to liaise with the elected cohort that makes up the majority of Senate membership, was implemented by the end of 2022. Conveners failed to implement the other changes that Senate voted to adopt in its October meeting.

Per the new arrangement, the elected member representatives on APRC gathered input from the elected Senate cohort prior to the 2 May meeting. Without considering the proposals here on their merits, it is significant that there was a large volume of questions and concerns, and the representatives did not have opportunity to raise, much less definitively resolve, each one.

Prior to the 2 May meeting, there was billeted for approval of the full Senate a proposal to reserve decisions on industrial action related academic exceptions to Senate as a whole, for a variety of reasons. Both Senate's February Ordinary Meeting and March Special Meeting to consider unfinished February business were quorate, but in both cases the President of the Senate departed from the allocated timings for discussion of earlier agenda items and the meeting lost quorum before the proposal on exceptions could receive a vote. Senate was thus due to resume consideration of the proposal at its upcoming meeting of 24 May.

Without considering detailed matters of timing and procedure, we would note that there are undoubtedly other approaches to considering and approving exceptions than the process followed on 2 May. In particular, APRC could have focused at that meeting on clarifying and solidifying the evidence and justification for exceptions ahead of considering them at the 24 May full Senate meeting, in time to approve any needed exceptions ahead of June Exam Boards. Other options exist for expedited or special consideration of urgent proposals, by APRC and otherwise, should needs arise. It therefore should not be presumed that APRC took the process it did out of necessity.

We fully appreciate the difficulty and sensitivity of the above matters, and we thank the trustees of the University Court sincerely for your diligent exercise of statutory oversight of the essential academic mission of this university.

Signed,

Dr Adam Budd; Andrew Hudson; Dr Arianna Andreangeli; Dr Benjamin Wynne; Dr Charlotte Desvages; Dr Christopher Beckett; Professor David Ingram; Professor Diana Paton; Professor Edward Mitchard; Professor Jane Calvert; Dr M. R. J. Williams; Professor Melissa Terras; Dr Michael Barany; Mohammad Amir Anwar Dr Murray Earle; Dr Peter Adkins; Dr Rebecca Marsland; Dr Sam Coombes Dr Simone Dimartino; Dr Steven Morley; Dr Stuart Gilfillan; Dr Tom Booth; Professor Tony Carbery; Dr Uzma Tufail-Hanif

Response from the Convener of Senate Academic Policy & Regulations Committee and Academic Services

6. Dr Paul Norris, Convener of Senate Academic Policy & Regulations Committee, Lisa Dawson, Academic Registrar and Academic Services, the team which provides secretariat and governance support to Senate and its committees, have reviewed the representation and responded to comments made as follows:

Handling of minutes:

The handling of minutes here is as standard. It is standard practice for decisions of the committee to be enacted after the meeting, and before the minutes are approved at the next meeting. This is the standard approach in how decisions are made at University committees; members of committees are able to raise objections and if none are received, it is assumed agreed and recorded. In addition, a summary of the decisions approved (and revised wording of the variations) was shared with members on Friday 5 May prior to the guidance being issued.

Designation of the paper as “for discussion”:

To the extent that the designation “for discussion” could have been cause for confusion, the content of the paper is explicit that APRC were asked to approve variations for implementation, and this was reiterated at several points in the discussion with the opportunity provided to members after discussing each point to object. Papers requiring decisions appear in the broad “for discussion” section of the agenda. Although this can be reflected on when producing future agendas.

Review of final wordings:

The proposed timeline, was following APRC, the Academic Contingency Group would develop and issue appropriate guidance later that week was outlined in the meeting. The Convener’s understanding, confirmed by others who they checked with after the meeting, was that Academic Services were to incorporate the changes approved by APRC into the final decisions/guidance. This was partly a response to the timeframe available, and the committee may wish to consider such matters around how best to promptly develop updated decision text when planning future meetings.

In addition, APRC was provided with a summary of the decisions on the Friday, prior to the guidance being issued. Although the covering email said this was for information, members of the committee did raise issues and the final guidance was updated to reflect these.

Review of final guidance:

Whilst APRC approve changes to/variations of policy, it does not typically (and indeed is not required) to approve guidance, which is developed by Colleges, Academic Services etc.

Lack of opportunity to consider holistic or ‘big picture’ considerations:

APRC approved the operation of the Taught Assessment Regulations 70 and 71, both of which are concerned with the general application of variations – no comments on general concerns were raised at those points. In addition, the end of the meeting did have a brief discussion of next steps, at which members could have raised concerns/objections or general points if they wished.

No vote on the exceptions or formal confirmation of approval:

The terms of reference do not require formal votes for the committee to approve decisions. Indeed, votes are rarely, if ever used. At each decision point, after the discussion, the Convener summarised the Committee position, including any issues that would need to be covered, or deleted, from the proposed variations. The Convener then invited colleagues to object to the position as summarised, no objections were forthcoming, and hence approval of the summarised position recorded. Had objections been raised after each summing up, the Convener would have a) looked to agree a minute which was along the lines of “x was approved, but members wished to note the following objections” b) hold a vote if the will of the committee appeared contested. Since no one objected to the summing ups when invited, the Convener felt no need to go further.

Equality Impact Assessments:

There was a reflection on equality and diversity in the relevant section of the paper. As the proposals were operating as part of existing policy/practice, no requirement to update the existing Equality Impact Assessment for the Taught Assessment Regulations or to develop a separate Equality Impact Assessment was identified. The Taught Assessment Regulations themselves state “The regulations operate in accordance with legislation and University policies on Equality and Diversity: www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/about/legislation”

Extent to which disruption had occurred:

It is untrue to say disruption has not occurred. As early as the week of Monday 24 April, assessments had been cancelled, with colleagues notifying the University they would be partaking in the action. It was therefore reasonable to conclude that “significant disruption” had occurred on at least some programmes and that the variations approved may therefore be needed. The documentation issued to Colleges and Schools is explicit that the approved variations are exceptional, and are only to be used when all options available under normal regulations have been exhausted, AND only apply where disruption is directly attributable to the industrial action. For example, where a student’s profile of marks is unaffected by industrial action their progression/award will be decided as normal.

It is unrealistic to think that guidance on the use of variations could be issued at a later date. The issues involved in operating variations are complex, and those involved in exam boards, and other affected decisions, require time to consider how variations will work in practice. The conditionality described above therefore operates as a mechanism for allowing the issuing of timely guidance, while ensuring that any variations are only applied where “significant disruption” is judged to have occurred.

It’s worth noting that APRC has previously approved some variations as a result of the industrial action, notably around the ability of exam boards to adjust component weightings where assessment was missed due to the industrial action. This variation was approved once it became apparent that some students had missed in class assessment in semester 1 due to it falling on strike days. The position of the University, and APRC earlier in the year, is that we would consider approving variations as needed (or at least when requested by the Academic Contingency Group) precisely because we wanted to keep any variations specific to the disruption faced at that time. For example, we have yet to consider any variations around 1st year postgraduate research student review assessment because this will not be a (widespread) issue until later in the summer.

Maintenance of consistency and academic standards:

The guidance issued, in line with the appropriate University regulations, clearly states that the exam board remains the primary decision making body for academic outcomes, and that the application of any variations can only be done while maintaining academic standards. The precise application of variations will be dependent on issue specific matters, for instance the centrality of a particular course to demonstrating programme learning outcomes, or the need to pass certain courses to meet the requirement of external accreditation. Individual exam boards are the bodies that will have the knowledge to know if applying a specific variation, in the

context of their programme, is appropriate or will compromise academic standards. This necessarily requires the devolving of such decisions to exam boards, rather than ridged orders within the guidance.

Similarly, with regards to quoracy of exam boards, while the approved variations allow for boards to meet with fewer members than may normally occur, the requirement for boards to have sufficient expertise to make the decisions they are considering remains. This is again likely situation specific, and so something best left for colleagues to judge in their own situation. For example, a taught postgraduate student progression board with only a few colleagues might be competent to decide that due to missing course grades, students should be allowed to commence their dissertation, on the understanding that they have not yet formally progressed, but may not have sufficient expertise to decide whether students can formally progress while awaiting the grade of a specific core course.

Governance context:

All members of the committee were welcome to speak at any point in the meeting, and during any of the discussions, likewise the Convener openly invited objections or further points following their summing up of each position. It is not clear why any member of the Committee therefore believed they did not have the opportunity to raise points they wished. Subsequent to the meeting the Convener received one request from a member to be able to add additional points to the minute of the meeting when it comes forward for approval. The minute was presented to APRC on 25 May and was approved without any additions or amendments.

Subsequent developments

7. Senate met on 24 May and considered a paper submitted by 8 Senate members titled 'Supporting a Negotiated Resolution to Industrial Action as an Academic Priority' (Paper S 22/23 5B within the papers published [here](#)), which had been partly considered at a meeting on 29 March, with some aspects carried over to the 24 May meeting. The paper invited Senate to adopt the following motion:

2.4. As any academic policy changes or exceptions necessarily trade off with the primary goal of promoting a negotiated resolution, Senate expects strike-related concessions to be presented to Senate as a whole for approval, and this supersedes the delegation of authority to Senate standing committees where applicable. As with other matters approved by the whole Senate, it is anticipated that the relevant committee (typically APRC) would develop and approve recommendations; the Exception Committee retains its powers to approve exceptional urgent cases that cannot await full Senate consideration.

8. Senate undertook a vote on the motion and 62% of members did not support adopting the motion.

9. Following the Senate meeting, an author of the paper and a signatory to the representation contacted the Court Services Office seeking to make an update to the representation in reference to a decision made by the Principal (as President of Senate, the convener of Senate meetings) about a proposed motion relating to the APRC decisions. The Principal had not allowed the proposed motion on the basis of having received legal advice that advised that this would be unlawful as a retroactive

amendment. The author seeks Court's agreement that it was improper for the Principal not to allow the motion. Legal advice has been taken on this matter and is included in the appendix. Given this legal review and that the chairing of Senate meetings do not seem to be within the scope of Court's powers in reviewing Senate decisions, the full comments are not included in the paper but are available to Court members upon request.

Legal advice

10. Court is invited to review legal advice on the scope of its powers to review decisions of Senate, contained within Appendix 1.

Resource implications

11. None at present but if Court were to review and then decide to overturn the decisions this likely would have significant implications for academic staff involved in marking and assessment and professional services staff supporting these processes, who have been working in line with the temporary variations agreed, as well as for students who might be impacted.

Risk Management

12. Risks have been raised by the 24 Senate members who have made the representation with a response given above. Court should also consider risks in opting to review and potentially nullify a decision made with proper authority by the APRC, which Senate itself has not opted to overturn or limit and the legal advice on Court's powers in this area. Court may wish to consider the significant risks to students and their ability to be awarded and graduate in order to take up employment or further study, or progress to the next year of their degree with the University. Any overturning of the decision and withdrawal of the temporary variations would have a catastrophic impact on all students in the University and is contrary to our responsibility to minimise any adverse impact on our students in such periods of disruption.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

13. Not applicable.

Equality & Diversity

14. The representation and the response above reference equality aspects, particularly equality impact assessments.

Next steps/implications

15. Colleagues involved will be updated on Court's decision.

Consultation

16. The representation has been submitted by 24 Senate members, listed above. The authors of the response to the comments made in the representation is listed below, with legal advice provided from Legal Services and external solicitors. The paper has been reviewed the Vice-Principal & University Secretary.

Further information

17. Authors

Representation: 24 Senate members listed above

Presenter

Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary, Students

Response to the comments:

Dr Paul Norris, Convener of Academic Policy & Regulations Committee; Lisa Dawson, Academic Registrar; Academic Services

With legal advice provided by Legal Services and external solicitors

Freedom of Information

18. The paper is open but the appendix containing legal advice is closed as it is confidential and legally privileged.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

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.
2. The Students' Association's activities contribute to the following aspects of Strategy 2030:
 - i) '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'

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

Niamh Roberts, President 2022/23

5. As I finish my term of office, I encourage senior leadership and members of Court to use their influence and power to support more "on-the-ground" works, with capital and with time. While the Court should not busy itself with operational works, we need Court members to advocate for students and staff even in those times when this challenges our other strategic aims. As a powerful institution in the sector, we can afford to fall slightly in some of our areas of excellence, if it means we become great in places where we are, frankly, not. We require a priority shift in favour of our members, our students and staff, without whom we would have no University. I have thoroughly enjoyed this year and thank Court members for their work. Still, I am sorry to say that with all my experience at various levels of the University, I have lost some of my hope in our world-class institution. We must re-engage our members if we are to be fit for purpose, inform them, and bring them into our spaces and more than just representatives, if we are to truly be world-class.

Sabbatical Officer Updates

Niamh Roberts, President 2022/23

6. I have been leading the team to handover to the new Sabbaticals – indeed, it will be Sharan, our 2023/24 President who will present this paper. I am very hopeful that you all welcome her to the space and respect her mandate as a student representative, as you have for me.

7. At the University Executive away day I presented to members some reflections from the year, and focused on the qualitative and high-level aspects of student experience and how it relates to senior management. I shared with the Executive some examples of staff attitudes that have shocked myself and the Sabbatical Team, and direct quotes which belittle students and invalidate the essential part they play in creating this great university. I urge the members of Court to refresh their idea of our purpose and mission. Beyond Strategy 2030, we are here to create a great educational and development experience for our students, supporting them to focus on their academics and extracurricular activities rather than on getting by in a cost of living and mental health crisis.

8. We at the Students' Association have also been reviewing our own strategy, prioritising our service provision and identifying opportunities to improve or innovate our offer. In particular, our activities and societies work will be an area of focus while our largest student hub, Teviot Row House, is closed and students are left to find new spaces to co-create and engage in their studies and their hobbies. Sitting on the Teviot Project Board, I am driving the University to provide permanent additional study space as well as decanting the recreational and casual spaces which we provide in Teviot. As study spaces is one of the most common and constant drivers of students' day-to-day dissatisfaction with the University, we feel that any spaces provided should not be temporary, and should not be seen as an increase in space that justifies student growth. Currently, the University does not have the capacity for even our enrolled students, and we hope the feedback students have provided on the Teviot project is a reminder of this.

9. Finally, I am handing over the Student Voice task-and-finish group, which I co-chair, to Sharan; but at the time of writing we have had two meetings and have established there are some general barriers to facilitating and embedding the student voices in University work. We have identified that while engagement is one of the most obvious challenges, closing the feedback loop is something which many departments and the central senior team struggle to do. By improving our communication about where feedback goes and how it is utilised, I really believe that central and local departments of the University can show students that they have efficacy in the workings of this institution. My experience has informed me that this will help us to reduce hostility and create a better community feeling between all staff and students.

Natalia Ellingham, VP Activities and Services 2022/23

10. In preparing for handover with the new sabbatical offers, Natalia has been wrapping up a number of projects and bringing others to a point where Katie, the 2023/24 Vice President Activities and Services, can build on them.

11. On the 10th and 17th May, the Students' Association and Sports Union collaborated on a 'Kit Swap' event for the first time. Natalia helped set this up to support students get involved in clubs and societies, and to support sustainability efforts. Overall, it was a huge success with over 120 people attending across the two days and a large amount of clothes that would otherwise go to waste, being collected. There are plans to repeat this next academic year, which would also help grow the working relationship between the Students' Association and Sports Union.

12. Additionally, Natalia has been working closely with Edinburgh University Theatre Company in regards to Bedlam theatre. She is pleased that Bedlam Festival has returned after a few years of not running and that it remains a student-led event. Already there has been a high uptake in performers booking slots, and at the time of writing, Natalia is on the interview panel along with the newly appointed Venue Manager to recruit for the remaining Bedlam Festival roles.

13. Natalia has also been on the Teviot Row House Project Board and Client Briefing meetings with Page\Park architects along with myself, to share the student perspective in planning and discussions. In response to student feedback after the joint University-Students' Association communications were released in early May, Natalia and I have worked with the marketing team to release further updates. Natalia and colleagues met with Sam Marks (an active student who has commented publicly on Teviot) to better understand his and other students' concerns, clarify what the project would entail and emphasise that we are doing all we can to provide alternative spaces for students; the meeting went well and off the back of it, we are continuing to update our website and link to the University's page, to make it easy for students to stay up to date with the project.

14. In April, Natalia attended the National Student Drug and Alcohol conference. The conference covered the commercial side of 'no and low' offerings, the work by Universities UK on drug harm reduction, universities' legal responsibilities and more. It was a very informative event that Natalia is planning to build on through working with senior management to move from a zero tolerance to harm reduction approach – this is something that Lauren will also be able to support in her second term. For a large part of her term, Natalia has been involved in the King's Buildings Nucleus from being a part of the Nucleus Strategic Oversight Group to getting involved in the student interest groups which cover: study and social space, community outreach and art & curation. She has met with the students several times to create a brief for the building, which encapsulates themes and values that the students decided were foundational for all activity in the building. Natalia has also been working with the Collections team to plan rotating exhibitions using the University's collection, and specially commissioned student artwork.

15. On King's Buildings more generally, she has been keen to act on student feedback calling for a greater sense of community and better services at the campus. She has met with students, Estates and College of Science & Engineering staff to discuss opportunities to improve the student experience; the main aspect of this is King's Buildings Fitness which is currently closed. While she has been successful in conveying the importance of this facility and the multiple benefits for staff and students, it will not reopen in September 2023 as hoped due to not receiving funding through the planning round. Natalia will work with Katie to plan next steps and work towards reopening in the future.

Isi Williams, VP Community 2022/23

16. Once again, this past couple of months has seen Isi focus on the Cost of Living Crisis. As many of you have seen, she put together a report which summarised data from a survey carried out in early 2023. It is the largest survey on the effects of the Cost of Living Crisis to date at the University of Edinburgh and showed that:

- More than 1 in 5 students are regularly going without food or other necessities because they cannot afford them.
- Only 1 in 2 are confident that they can cover their basic living expenses.
- 75% of respondents fall below the poverty line and the average student falls below the destitution line.

17. Isi led a Cost of Living campaign that saw 2215 students sign her open letter. It can be found on our website, and was submitted to Senior Leadership for their consideration. She also saw off the last Breakfast Club of the academic year – a Students' Association initiative that she implemented to tackle food poverty due to the University's inadequate policy in this area. Over the past 6 months it fed thousands of students and acted as a lifeline to many.

18. Isi organised Sustainable Action Week and led several events that saw many students engage with climate action in a practical way. For this and her work on starting an internal sustainability working group at the Association, she was awarded a Department of Social Responsibility & Sustainability Changemaker Award. She has continued to feed into important work at the University such as the Good Food Policy and has been working towards getting a Green Hub up and running.

19. Finally, Isi is looking forward to handover with Alma and will make the most of her last couple of weeks both at the Association and the University.

Sam Maccallum, VP Education 2022/23

20. Reflecting on their year in office, Sam would like to thank the academic and professional services staff that have taken the time to support them in their role this year. This academic year was not without challenges, but the commitment to improving student experience and to student voice from many staff has been greatly appreciated. Sam has increased student membership and engagement in different groups in the University, including college committees and within Curriculum Transformation through co-chairing the Student Engagement Strategy Group. Sam has appreciated the time and attention the attendees of the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences and College of Science & Engineering committees have given students this year, and hopes that the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine will be running similar student forums in the next academic year after initial discussions with College staff. The Students as Change Agents Think Tank ideas launch this spring was an excellent showcase of the work that staff and students can produce together, and hopefully will encourage further collaboration with students across different disciplines in the future within Curriculum Transformation.

21. Since Sam's last update, they have worked to support students through recent escalations in industrial action, and supported the temporary relaxations to the taught assessment regulations through the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee. Many students have already faced significant impact to their studies this academic year, and even with these temporary changes in place, it will not be enough for every student this academic year to graduate and progress unaffected. Sam hopes that the University will continue to advocate for students' interests after they leave their role; in this case, the only resolution is between resolving

problematic pay imbalances and continued commitment from the Universities and Colleges Employers Association to engage productively and openly with the University & College Union.

22. Recognising that this disruption coincides with a summer and resit exam diet with many students facing honours level assessment without prior experience of closed book exams, Sam hopes the commitment to implementing the Assessment and Feedback Principles and Priorities will work to alleviate some of the problems that have been faced by this cohort of students. With the first Quality Enhancement & Standards Review soon approaching in November 2023, Sam hopes that the University will continue to prioritise the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review response; and consider the implications that inconsistency across Schools may have on specific groups of students in light of the second phase of the Student Support Model, and planned changes to Extensions and Special Circumstances.

Lauren Byrne, VP Welfare 2022-24

23. Lauren and Natalia participated in the Union of Jewish Students and Holocaust Education Trust's collaborative project, Lessons from Auschwitz. This experience involved attending participative seminars, hearing from Renee Salt, a Holocaust survivor, and visiting Auschwitz. They are using this experience to raise awareness of the importance of combatting antisemitism, and inform students on how it transpires on campus.

24. Lauren has also been involved in conversations around the expansion of Report and Support to include racial hate crime, discrimination and bullying, exploring how we can link up relevant student communities, implement wider communications and continually monitor how this new post works with existing areas for continued prioritising of safety in student experience.

25. Lauren has also been working on Widening Participation, having spoken at and participated in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences recent event, Widening the Student Network. She also gave input on the University's Widening Participation Strategy 2030, focussing on tackling classism and building inclusive curriculums.

26. Ahead of the 2023/24 academic year, Lauren is working on renewing the #NoExcuse campaign, to strengthen the Students' Association and the University's commitment to zero-tolerance for gender-based violence. This will aim to encourage students to engage with consent literacy materials when they join the University, and to highlight the support available to anyone who may experience gender-based violence.

27. Lauren also attended the National Union of Students' Liberation Conference as a delegate, attending different breakout groups to shape national policy on trans rights, accessibility and international students. Following this, she attended the Russell Group Student Unions' Conference, with a focus on student mental health, discussing sector-wide goals that our universities can strive towards.

28. Relatedly, she is continuing to work with staff involved in the implementation of the new model for student support ahead of full roll-out in September. This includes

working to understand the place of the Student Wellbeing Service within the structure, how Student Advisor training can address themes like equality, diversity and inclusion and widening participation, and focussing on communications to students.

29. As Lauren will be returning for a second term, continuing in the role of VP Welfare, she is looking to the future and planning for upcoming and continuing projects. She is also very much looking forward to becoming a member of Court as of June.

Association Activity - Summer and looking ahead to Semester 1

30. The semester may be ending, and we will provide a reflection and report on our work and impacts this year to a later meeting of Court. The Association however remains busy, with some significant strategic change projects running internally, and also substantial student and community-facing work, including: a number of summer trading and engagement opportunities; numerous work streams running for Welcome Week, and plans to develop our existing spaces within Potterrow and Pleasance to offer increased food and beverage services to alleviate some of the impact of Teviot closing in Semester one.

31. Membership Engagement Teams are currently delivering summer work including Sabbatical, and other representative handover and induction; supporting over 150 staff and student volunteers to deliver the Big Sort project with the University (gathering unwanted items from students moving out of around 25 University accommodation sites, for redistribution to charity, and to new students at our Welcome Week 'FreeShop'); some Postgraduate-facing summer activity and events.

32. We are also focussing on plans for Welcome Week and Semester one, to ensure all student-led activity – societies, peer learning and support, student representatives – can get off to a good start, and our new students get a great introduction to student life. Welcome Week will once again include The Gem covered venue in Bristo Square facilitating expanded Sports/Societies and Freebie Fairs, as well as a huge range of entertainments, mixer events, society tasters, and a wide range of city orientation activities and tours led by students.

33. At the same time the Advice Place remains busy and continues to support students with end of year academic concerns, and appeals, with the continued industrial action also generating a substantial and additional set of direct enquiries to our service. We are also supporting several students with housing issues – including those due to move out of University accommodation but with nowhere to go, and also those students planning to start University in September concerned about the very challenging housing situation in Edinburgh. We are meeting with colleagues in the University's Accommodation team to ensure we can share information, and plan how best together to support students with accommodation concerns both over the summer and in the run up to and start of the new academic year. We do anticipate that there will be some new students who do not have anywhere to live, whilst being expected to engage well with induction and the start of the academic year, and we know already that there are current students struggling to secure accommodation

either for the summer or from September. A joined up approach to communications and support will be essential.

34. In terms of our trading, and city engagement activity, we have a positive summer ahead with the festival (more below), and also supported the Edinburgh Marathon on 28th May with the start point at Potterrow. 24 June sees us hosting Edinburgh Pride within Potterrow, Teviot and Bristo Square, with an estimated 7,000 attendees. This will include guest artists and entertainment, community fairs, safe and inclusive rest areas and child friendly areas.

Fringe Festival

35. Festival planning is well under way with our partners Gilded Balloon and Pleasance Theatre Trust. Teviot, Potterrow, Pleasance will all be fully utilised, including adjacent outdoor spaces. The Fringe remains a core element of our funding model. We are currently finalising recruitment of an additional 350 frontline staff, although around 120 of these are from our current student staff staying on for the summer. This recruitment also provides a useful pipeline of staff who build up experience rapidly over an intense 5 week period, who often then stay with us to support Welcome Week and semester 1 service delivery.

36. This year we are supporting Edinburgh University Theatre Society, as Bedlam Fringe reopen for the first time since 2019. We are supporting students to run the operation from programming and theatre operations management through to budgeting and of course performance. We have supported recruitment of the core Bedlam Fringe student management team, the Association will be running the bar provision with our staff; that being a risk mitigation measure rather than significant commercial opportunity.

Teaching Awards

37. Our Teaching Awards winners were announced in May, with video announcements and acceptance speeches throughout the day and a reception for all shortlisted nominees taking place in Teviot Garden, attended by University staff, Association staff and students. Over 2,600 nominations were received this year, with all nominations reviewed by a student panel. You can see more about the Awards, including our Roll of Honour listing all nominees, as well as information about our shortlist and winners [here](#). Whilst our event has scaled back somewhat since before Covid, the Awards, and engagement with staff remains an important marker of students valuing the commitment to academic and pastoral support university staff continue to provide. All staff nominated receive an individual communication with the feedback submitted with the nominations they have received. It's worth noting here that students also nominated a number of Student Advisers and staff from support services, as well as academic staff, and our Postgraduate Tutors.

Teviot Renovation

38. The Teviot renovation is progressing as per the intended programme. Our current focus is split between the communications to students, the decant of activity from Teviot to elsewhere and the ongoing development of the plans.

39. The news of Teviot's closure for renovation landed badly with high numbers of negative responses. However, as we have been able to make more details available

the situation appears to have improved. There is still frustration about the lack of study space provision and the length of closure time. We recognise there is study space provision now being confirmed although students may still feel uncertain about whether that will suffice.

40. Plans for the decant of activity are progressing but more slowly than we'd wish. We are working up enabling works for Potterrow and Pleasance in terms of hospitality and events. Study space as noted above is looking more positive with alternative university solutions. We also remain in discussions with the University over possible society use spaces – our block bookings process for society bookings for semester 1 opened this month with and we typically receive around 3000 event space requests by students each semester.

41. There has been a huge amount of preparation work to get us to this stage given that Teviot will not feature in room availability. All room capacities, primary and secondary uses have been revised to offer as much flexibility as possible to societies who will be displaced from Teviot. We will be mobilising the Potterrow venue in the evenings Mon – Thurs as a society bookable space in lieu of the large capacity Debating Hall and Dining Room in Teviot, this has had a consequential knock-on effect with commercial bookings which we are working hard to retain as best we can.

42. There are ongoing discussion with University timetabling colleagues regarding space options for many of the society bookings we will be unable to satisfy and we estimate the unallocated displacement from Teviot that we haven't been able to accommodate in our other spaces to be circa 1,500 individual bookings.

43. We are continuing discussions on the financial impacts on the Association across the next 2 years of the closure and decant – these are progressing positively and we anticipate having some formal agreement in place by the end of June.

Supporting and Empowering our staff

44. This has been a significant area of focus for us this year – to support recruitment and retention, and build motivation and morale following the constant disruption and impacts of the pandemic. We believe this to be critical in supporting our ambitions to strengthen and innovate in student service provision. We have completed phase one of the implementation of our organisational Pay and Reward review which has seen us introduce a new framework for pay to improve pay fairness and transparency for our staff. Phase two will be complete by October. It provides some pay progression, creates more competitive rates of pay compared to external sectors, and also supports our strategy to move to progress to Real Living Wage as our base rate of pay by 2025. At the same time we have invested in organisational communication activity, and in rebuilding staff community post-pandemic through a staff-led programme of events and networks. In addition we have strengthened our staff benefits and wellbeing support, including some specific cost of living measures. We have planned future work founded on values and behaviours, to refresh induction, appraisals, performance management and staff development, particularly to support career development for more junior staff where there is not always an obvious career path within the organisation. Our annual staff survey is showing some positive impacts of our work over the last 12 months, with 73% of our staff now recommending us as a place to work, compared to 59% last year (and 61% pre-

pandemic), and more staff feeling well-informed and that the organisation cares about their wellbeing. Even the challenging area of pay is seeing some early improvement as we've worked towards our new framework. For the first time we wanted to establish a new Key Performance Indicator on staff perceptions of us as an inclusive employer (or not) – 86% of our staff feel that we are an inclusive employer which feels like a strong standing start on that piece.

Finance update

45. Our regular financial performance update follows – this reflects our year end position, which after a year of uncertainty is looking like a positive and strong result. A lot of hard work from colleagues has gone into this; in managing costs, growing trading activity and indeed covering directly workload from vacancies, which have in turn contributed - in a less positive way - to our positive financial result. It is a great turnaround from where we were last year, and puts our financial recovery on track and our longer term financial sustainability on a firmer footing, supporting the planned costs increases following implementation of our Pay and Reward review and progression towards Real Living Wage. Less positive remains the uncertainty of impacts of the Teviot refurbishment project, and some very challenging forecasts on utility costs.

46. We are pleased to have our planning round award now confirmed for 2023/24 (through to 2028/29). This certainly enables us to plan effectively and deliver within an agreed funding envelope on our services and strategic ambitions.

March 2022 (Period 12) High Level Summary

£ 000's	YTD			Current Month		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Commercial net income	591	336	254	133	101	32
Block Grant	3,243	3,280	(37)	279	283	(5)
Total net income	3,833	3,616	217	411	384	27
Membership Engagement & People Development	(1,166)	(1,249)	83	(140)	(110)	(29)
Corporate Services (excluding utilities)	(992)	(1,024)	32	(101)	(94)	(7)
Marketing & Member Communication	(378)	(395)	17	(46)	(34)	(12)
Central Overheads	(730)	(543)	(187)	(105)	(50)	(55)
Total non-commercial expenditure	(3,266)	(3,211)	(55)	(392)	(288)	(104)
Surplus / (deficit) excluding utilities	567	405	162	19	96	(77)
Utilities	(464)	(249)	(214)	(47)	(21)	(26)
Surplus / (deficit) including utilities	104	156	(52)	(28)	75	(103)

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

Commentary & analysis

47. The full year result to March 2023 is a surplus of £104k, £52k behind budget but £290k better than the prior year. This year has continued to be challenging and carried out against a backdrop of continued operating cost pressures and uncertainty around student behaviour post pandemic, and impacted by sustained periods of industrial action. If we exclude utilities costs, which are largely out of our control, the surplus is £567k, significantly ahead of budget. Most of this favourable variance is driven by a strong commercial trading performance along with lower staff costs across most areas of the organisation.

48. The March month results are behind budget as a result of expenditure that was budgeted in earlier months or one off items incurred in March. Note that the results shown above do not include the amortisation of the pension past service deficit provision on the balance sheet, which at time of writing, has yet to be processed. After this has been processed it is expected that the full year surplus will increase to £212k.

49. Critically for us we remain on track with our five-year financial recovery plan, which aims to restore net assets to pre-pandemic levels, as a proxy measure for financial recovery. The £1m business interruption loan Santander bank provided to see us through the pandemic continues to be paid down.

Utilities

50. Total utilities costs ended the year at £464k which is consistent with our forecast for the past few months. This is a significant £214k more than what was expected based on pre-pandemic levels of building usage and these additional costs have impacted our financial performance this year.

51. These figures have been included in previous reports, but as a reminder the below shows actual utility costs for the past 3 years as well as the forecast for the year ahead.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Combined utility costs	Actual £150k	Actual £247k	Actual £464k	Forecast £602k

52. Our Trading Operations made a surplus of £91k in March which is £9k better than budget. This brings the year to date surplus to £289k which is a significant £147k better than budget. Teviot has traded extremely well this year and generates most of the improvement against budget. Some of the staff savings in Trading Operations will have been budgeted centrally as ‘churn’ savings, but overall the staff costs and overheads across all our spaces continue to be tightly controlled which has helped to improve the bottom line position.

53. Retail has made a surplus of £41k in March which is £12k ahead of budget for the month. This brings the year to date surplus to £138k which is £52k better than budget. The shops at the King’s Buildings Nucleus (shop and wrap bar) and Pollock Halls have outperformed budget this year and Potterrow has done well to be on budget in light of lower footfall than expected. This is a fantastic result where staff costs have been tightly controlled in response to sales volumes being lower than expected. Some of the Retail saving against budget is also due to the closure of the shop at 40 George Square earlier in the year and higher than expected supplier discount income earned in 2022/23.

54. The final Festival contribution for 2022 is £250k. As previously reported, this is less than budget due to c20% lower footfall in general, but overall the result is a strong performance for the first full Festival since the pandemic and one which we are building on for this year.

55. Student Event Support is mainly a cost area but does generate income from advertising, room bookings and event income and ticket sales from club nights and other events. They support students and student groups to utilise our spaces for society and event bookings. The March results were a surplus of £11k which is £14k better than budget. This gives a year to date improvement of £132k against the budget. Event income in the year has been much higher than expected and this has more than offset the shortfall in club night ticket income. The launch of a second club night was not as well attended as originally expected and we closed this down. Staff costs in this team have been lower than budget due to a number of vacancies over the year and this coupled with lower expenditure on overheads is helping improve the bottom line.

56. Membership Engagement & People Development support students, through the provision of the Advice Place, the Student Voice and Student Council, student societies and peer learning and support, and supports the Association staff. The overall position for this area is £83k better than budget year to date. There have been a number of vacancies in this team over the year and together with an overall lower expenditure on overheads is driving the improved position against budget.

57. Corporate Services consists of Estates, IT and Finance and excluding utilities is £32k favourable to the budget year to date. This is nearly all due to staff vacancies over the year and higher than budgeted bank interest income generated from the higher interest environment we are currently in.

58. Marketing & Member Communications support all areas of the Association and is reporting £17k better than budget overall.

59. Central overheads on the face of it is significantly adverse to the budget year to date. This is because the budget included £50k of strategic savings and £100k of 'churn' savings (short term savings in staff costs where vacancies take longer to fill), but the actual savings are realised in other areas. We have experienced a significant amount of staff turnover this year and total salaried staff costs (including pension & National Insurance) are around £190k favourable to budget. This sort of level is not usual and is not expected to continue in future years. There are some central costs which have been higher than budget this year, mainly bank charges and irrecoverable VAT.

Cash – current position and forecast

60. Cash balances at the end of March are £1.0m. This is £270k lower than the previous year due to the loan repayments of £460k which have been made during the year. There is also an underlying improvement due to the surplus that has been generated in the year which is helping improve the overall balance sheet position.

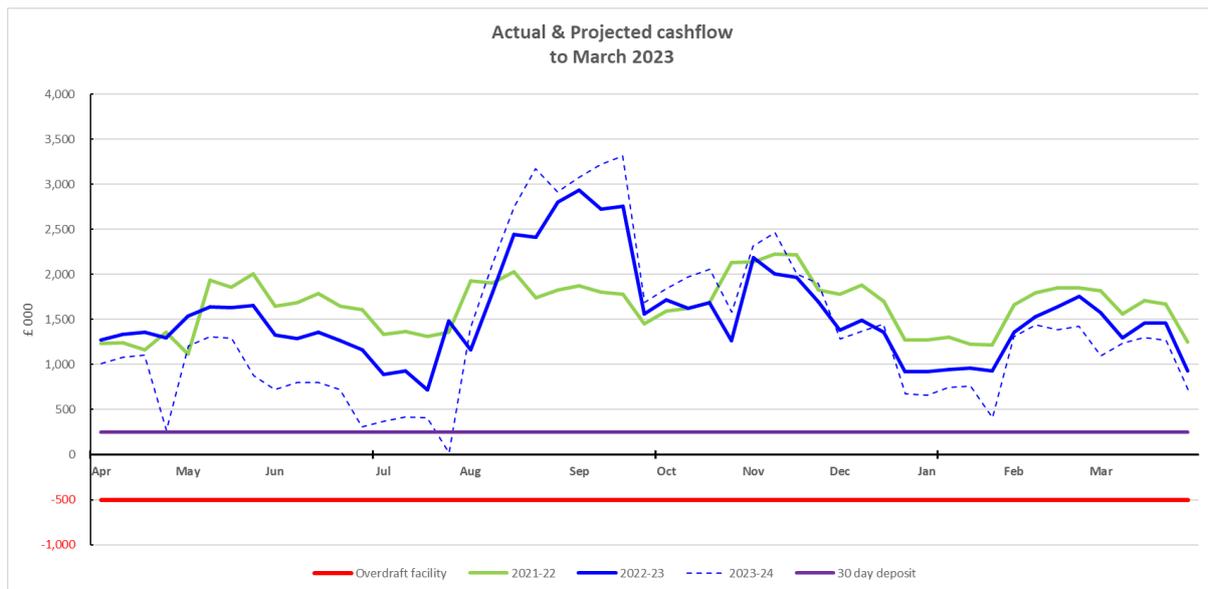
61. Another quarterly capital and interest repayment was made at the end of February, which leaves an outstanding loan balance of £366k at the year end.

62. The graph below now shows our budgeted cashflow forecast for the 2023/24 financial year. The noticeable spikes down shown in the graph are a result of timing between the end of the month payments and the receipt of our next quarterly

University grant payment. This was discussed with the University who have agreed to pay our grant payments a week earlier to avoid these potential dips in our cash reserves.

63. Around £250k of cash is held in a 30 day higher interest earning account which is not instantly accessible and this is shown as a purple line in the graph below.

64. The overdraft facility, shown in the chart as a red line, is maintained throughout the 2022/23 financial year and has so far not been utilised.



Resource implications

65. This is a regular update report, there are no resource implications outlined.

Risk Management

66. Financial risks are highlighted in the report.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

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

Equality & Diversity

68. 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

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

Consultation

70. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

71. Author

Niamh Roberts
President 2022-23
June 2023

Presenter

Sharan Atwal
President 2023-24

Freedom of Information

72. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

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.

Discussion

Rounding off the 2022/23 Academic Year

5. We finish the year on our second highest membership ever, with over 800 committee members and 350 coaches supporting 7,500 members, and hundreds of other students who have engaged on an informal basis via participation programmes and one-off events. We start 2023/24 with 70 clubs, with Baseball, Chinese Martial Arts and Combat Sports, and Flag Football all being admitted this year.
6. On the 2nd of June we finished the year with our annual Blues and Colours Awards Dinner, giving 119 Blues, Half Blues, and Colours to our top athletes and committee members who have gone above and beyond. The Cameron Blue of the Year was awarded to Eve Pearson of the Women's Hockey Club, whose accolades include five caps for Scotland at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, and the McTernan Colour of the Year was awarded to Seb Hudson of the Jiu Jitsu Club, who in his four years on the committee has made an impressive impact in both the club and the local Jiu Jitsu community. In addition to outgoing Director of Sport, Jim

Aitken MBE, who was inducted into Edinburgh's Sport Hall of Fame in December, three more individuals were inducted into the Hall of Fame. They were alumni Sarah Adlington (Judo) and Seonaid McIntosh (Rifle), and current student Grace Reid (Diving).

7. As we enter the summer period, we are supporting clubs with budgeting for the next academic year, ensuring that increased costs for transport and other expenditure is accounted for in club budgets.

British University and College Sport (BUCS) season round up

8. We have reached the conclusion of a fantastic season of BUCS, seeing a 5th place (2021/22, 4th) finish in the overall BUCS points table with a current total of 4,324 points, more than in 2021/22.

9. Recent highlights include Alice Goodall taking the gold medal at the BUCS 10,000m Championships, Rifle winning six medals (including four) golds at the BUCS Long Range Championships, and University of Edinburgh athletes and coaches being shortlisted in six out of seven categories at the Scottish Student Sport awards.

10. We continue to work with Sport & Exercise to deliver high quality programmes, including facilities. Going forwards, we aim to move back up the table to 4th. To do this, we will need to be agile and ambitious in attracting and looking after top athletes, ensuring athletes at all levels have access to high quality facilities (see point 26) and support, and look for opportunities to compete with rival institutions. We are conscious that capacity remains a challenge and now that we have 70 sports clubs, addressing this is more important than ever. The importance of our ability to deliver programmes with depth in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th teams cannot be understated for both our position in the BUCS points table and to the opportunities available to students wanting to represent Edinburgh. Offering a quality experience across all our programmes has become more important than ever.

11. We are concerned that some of the current ageing facilities will no longer be suitable for expected use in the near future, so we ask that plans for new developments are viewed as a priority.

Edinburgh Award

12. In 2023/24 the Sports Union will again deliver two versions of the Edinburgh Award and build on the success of 32 students completing the two Awards in 2022/23. The Leadership version will offer club committee members the opportunity to develop themselves and receive training in mentoring. The new Coaching version will give student coaches the opportunity to develop skills more specific to coaching, while undertaking Continuing Professional Development in relevant areas such as sport psychology and nutrition. The new Coaching version will support the development of student coaches, of which we currently have 200+ working with our clubs. It will also add value to the £5,000 we spend annually on supporting student coaches and officials through qualifications.

Hop Run

13. Following the success of the Edinburgh Winter Run, we continue to work with Dirty Events to offer our staff and students access to mass participation events in the Edinburgh region. The Hop Run takes place on 10th June and offers 10km and 5km routes from Rosslyn Chapel to Stewart Brewing in Midlothian, near to our Easter Bush Campus. Through funding targeted at postgraduate and international student engagement we were able to cover the entry fee for 100 members of that community. This encourages more people to get active in a way that brings together the Edinburgh University communities

14. We hope to continue to develop our offering of affordable and accessible events to engage the university community (and wider) in getting physically active.

Coaching and Volunteering Academy

15. The three students taking part in the Volunteer Zambia project have now landed in Lusaka, where they will spend eight weeks upskilling Zambian coaches so that they can deliver sport to children in Zambia year-round.

16. We have recently appointed the next Coaching & Volunteering Academy Intern. The Coaching & Volunteering Intern plays a crucial role in club engagement and supporting the work on the Coaching & Volunteering Academy and the Sports Union. This role helps to give students valuable experience in a working environment and build their skills in communications, time management and project work. The role supports the Sports Coordinator: Volunteering & Participation and this year has worked to develop the process of coach recruitment and Continuing Professional Development opportunities for paid & voluntary coaches, a number of which are students at Edinburgh.

Community Sport

17. We continue to have a positive impact on the wider Edinburgh and Lothians community through sport. Young people from Broughton High School regularly attend structured sport sessions at Pleasance and Peffermill. This cohort have been selected as being from a lower Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) area and the project aims to showcase a wider variety of sports than they might otherwise engage with in school and their communities. The group of 15 Secondary 1 – Secondary 3 pupils have participated in sports such as climbing, rowing and lacrosse, and early research findings show that pupils who participate in the project are more likely to stay active for longer.

18. We continue to support the Educated Pass programme where youth football teams from lower SIMD areas participate in lectures about the importance of education and the variety of opportunities to work in sport. Teams from Musselburgh Windsor, Holytown Colts and Shotts FC have participated this year and long-term research about the project shows that young boys who have been involved in the project are more likely to stay on longer at school and achieve higher grades.

Stressbusters and Summer Series

19. Over April and May, 16 'Stressbuster' sessions were organised across 14 sports, providing free opportunities for students to take part in new sports over the exam

period. Of those who took part in Stressbusters, 73% were non-club members and 60% postgraduate students.

20. Over the summer, we will be primarily targeting postgraduates and other students who are remaining in Edinburgh for the duration of the summer. On 5th June, we held a Summer Series with a Boccia taster led by Scottish Disability Sport, and a Cricket Taster led by the Cricket Club, along with tournaments in Football 5s, Rounders, and Ultimate Frisbee. We look to continue to build this momentum over the summer by organising other casual one-off sporting opportunities.

Intramural Sport: Looking Ahead

21. In our last report we detailed how we were working on establishing named contacts in Schools. Our Sport Participation Activator has now established named contacts within six Schools that have agreed to work in a coordinator role. Discussions are progressing with five Schools who are close to deciding on an individual, and discussions continue with four Schools beyond that. As part of this, we are working to set a strategy for raising awareness and growing interest in student populations, and establishing a motivated core who will enter and organise teams. Similar conversations are ongoing with Residence Life.

22. We aim to have a presence at outreach events at Pollock Halls to build engagement outside of the Sports/Activities Fairs, at times that suit new students moving into halls. We hope to encourage engagement across halls, supporting the sense of community and belonging created among university accommodation.

23. Across the next academic year, we will look to expand the sports offered within Intramural Sport, with Table Tennis being selected as the most appropriate new addition. We are looking at opportunities to deliver Intramural Table Tennis within halls of residence that currently have their own Table Tennis equipment.

Resource implications

24. 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. By working with schools, we are able to promote intramural and recreational sport opportunities to students and staff deeper within the University. Club Wellbeing Officers receive training to support them with promoting positive wellbeing within their clubs.

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

By providing free personal development opportunities and workshops through the Coaching and Volunteering Academy such as ConcussED, we upskill our coaches, volunteers, staff, and other students who engage in sport.

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

By livestreaming sport matches, we are able to showcase the talented women who participate in sport at the University and introduce new audiences to women's sport. We continue to work with our students to ensure our offering is inclusive to women, a latest example being the introduction of a Flag Football club, the predominantly women's version of American Football. Our Inclusion committee continues to work to increase participation and ensure that underrepresented groups are included in sport at Edinburgh.

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

By closely monitoring trends in student engagement in sport and the current financial climate, we are able to adapt our activity to include more students whilst ensuring we have the financial means to continue to grow and develop our offering. By encouraging staff, students, and coaches to engage with our Coaching and Volunteering Academy (alongside other University programmes) we can increase their employability and improve their experience at work and in University.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Our International Sports Club actively seeks to increase participation in physical activity in International students, a group who traditionally have lower rates of engagement in sport at the University. Our work with the Volunteer Zambia project promotes the development of sport in Zambia. By working to increase participation in recreational sport, we ensure that students have the opportunity to take part in physical activity regardless of their financial circumstances.

Equality & Diversity

25. 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

26. An implication of this paper is that Court are asked to consider are how Edinburgh remains near the top of the British university sport offering at all levels, from recreational participants to performance athletes. Looking forward we need to be ambitious in our plans for sport to continue to attract top athletes and offer a good experience for students at all levels (see point 10).

27. We encourage colleagues to reach out if there are ways we can work collaboratively on any of the points mentioned in the discussion. If any Court members would be interested in hearing more about the work of the Sports Union and meeting some of our incredible volunteers, please do not hesitate to get in touch on sports.president@ed.ac.uk.

Consultation

28. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

29. Author

Heather Gault

Sports Union President

June 2023

Freedom of Information

30. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Director of Finance's Report

Description of paper

1. This paper provides the latest position on the University's management accounts (excluding subsidiaries) up to the end of March in Appendix 1 and, as we move towards the end of the financial year, we outline the draft (unaudited) Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (COSI), which is one of the primary statutory financial statements reported externally each year. We also provide updates on the Edinburgh University Staff Benefits Scheme, our banking arrangements and our subsidiary company financial performance.

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

Sections 3-31: Closed section

Further information

32. Authors

Ricky O'Kane
Interim Head of Group Finance

Presenter

Lee Hamill
Director of Finance

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

2 June 2023

Freedom of Information

33. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Planning and Budgeting: 2023-24 Proposals

Description of paper

1. This paper requests Court's approval of the University's Group-level budget for 2023-24, which has been developed within a 5-year context and which will enable delivery of plans and priorities aligned with Strategy 2030. This represents a key output from the Planning and Budget-setting process which was refreshed in 2021-22 and further adapted in 2022-23. Feedback from University Executive and Policy and Resources Committee has informed the presentation of planning priorities and budgets for Court approval.

2. The planning round supports delivery of the University's Strategy 2030. Narrative plan submissions were structured around the Strategic Performance Framework: a set of 16 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) designed to drive and enable reporting on progress against key objectives in Strategy 2030.

Sections 3-35: Closed section

Further information

36. Authors

Kim Graham, Provost
Lee Hamill, Director of Finance
Rona Smith, Deputy Secretary,
Governance and Strategic Planning

Presenter

Rona Smith, Governance and
Strategic Planning

Freedom of Information

37. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Student Accommodation

Sections 1-38: Closed paper

Further information

39. Authors

Michelle Christian
Director of Property at ACE

Steven Poliri
Estates Development Manager

Jane Johnston
Director of Estate Development

Presenter

Gary Jebb
Director of Place

Freedom of Information

40. Paper should remain closed due to commercially sensitive information.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Edinburgh BioQuarter – Update on Procurement of a Private Sector Partner

Description of paper

1. This paper provides an update on the procurement of a Private Sector Partner (PSP) for Edinburgh BioQuarter. The PSP will join the existing partnership between the University, Scottish Enterprise (SE) and the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) ('the Partners') to create a health innovation district which will create jobs, homes, and a community for thousands of people in Edinburgh.

Sections 2-30: Closed paper

Further information

31. Authors

Ashley Shannon
Director of Operations
Corporate Services Group

Presenter

Catherine Martin
Vice-Principal Corporate Services

Esther Duncan
Legal Services
6 June 2023

Freedom of Information

32. Closed paper – commercially sensitive. Disclosure would substantially prejudice the procurement process and the commercial interests of the University and the other BioQuarter Partners.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Data-Driven Innovation Initiative Progress Report, 2022/23

Description of paper

1. This paper is the progress report for the University Executive and Court on the critical activities, results, and new developments in the Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) initiative and the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal (CRD) in the year 2022 and the first half of 2023.
2. The paper also provides information about the plans for the next phase of DDI. With all six DDI Hubs to be completed at the end of 2023, the 5th programme year is a vital halfway milestone. At this pivotal moment, DDI leadership has decided to strengthen the governance and management procedures of the Programme, to maximise the long-term success of DDI as a 'single DDI innovation platform', easily accessible and visible to external organisations and partners, supporting the delivery of innovative approaches and driving economic growth for the region.

Action Requested/Recommendation

3. To note the information presented and to take the opportunity to comment on the developments and ask questions should any arise.

Background and context

4. The Data-Driven Innovation initiative is a 15-year, £661m investment and innovation programme launched in August 2018, supported by a total of £270m capital funding from the UK and Scottish Governments as part of the £1.3 bn Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal. As such, it is the largest single innovation grant ever received by a UK university from the Government. The University has committed to invest £100m of revenue funding over ten years for DDI activities to deliver inclusive growth in the Edinburgh region.
5. DDI is built upon a strong foundation of a world-leading range of DDI skills and capabilities that evolved in the Edinburgh city region over the past 20 years. The vision of the DDI initiative is to *establish the City Region as a global location for organisations that power services through data science, attract international talent and investment, unlock opportunities through mastery of data assets, deliver transformative changes across the public, private and third sectors, and exemplify a strategy for data-driven regional growth and societal prosperity.*
6. DDI establishes a network of six connected innovation hubs at the University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University, creating a powerhouse for collaboration with external partners. DDI Hubs house expertise and facilities to help ten industry sectors become more innovative through data.
7. Using the DDI Hubs as an externally facing innovation platform and utilising both existing resources and new revenue investment by the University, DDI ensures continuing success by delivering against five key objectives – DDI TRADE Key Performance Indicators:

- **Talent:** meeting data skills demands through a range of programmes for students and the wider population
- **Research:** expanding the City Region's leading DDI research to meet future data needs of the industry
- **Adoption:** increasing the use of DDI by the public, private and third sectors in the city region and beyond
- **Data:** providing the secure data storage and analytical capacity to underpin all Programme activities
- **Entrepreneurship:** enabling entrepreneurs to develop new DDI-based businesses.

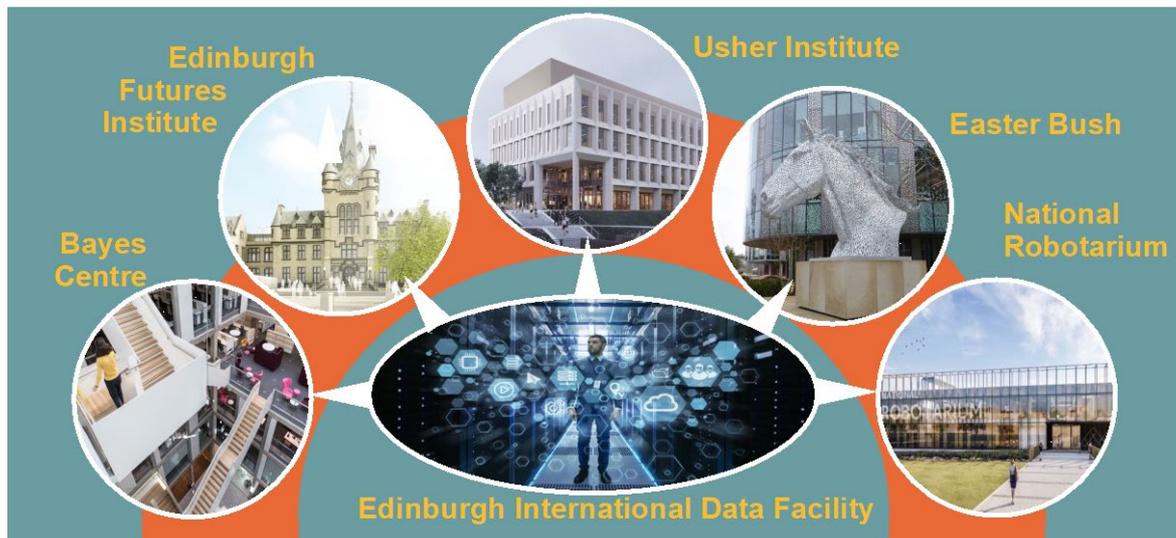


Figure 1: The six DDI Hubs form an externally facing innovation platform supporting ten industry sectors.

Sections 8-35: final version of the report available at:
<https://www.ddiannualreport23.com/>



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

People & Money System Update

Description of the paper

1. This paper provides an update on the implementation of the People and Money system and processes which underpin our Finance, HR Payroll and Procurement services.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To comment on and note the paper.

Sections 3-34: Closed paper

Further information

35. Author

Barry Neilson

Director of Strategic Change

Presenter

Catherine Martin

Co-Chair of People & Money Enactment Group

Freedom of Information

36. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

People & Money – External Review

Description of paper

1. Following the Court meeting on 5 December 2022, Court issued a statement which noted that ‘a timely and rigorous External Review of the implementation of the People & Money system should be instigated with a proposal on commissioning, scope, and timescale of the review being brought back to Court for approval, recognising that this needs to be balanced against completion of the stabilisation work currently underway’.
2. As such, a proposal was subsequently presented to Court on 27 February 2023. This proposal and outline approach was approved by Court.
3. The purpose of this paper is to provide Court with a short update on progress with commissioning of the External Review.

Action Requested/Recommendation

4. To note the update and raise any questions as considered appropriate.

Discussion

5. The detailed Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the External Review was issued via the Crown Commercial Services procurement portal on 31 March 2023. The ITT included an outline timeframe as presented in the table below with tender submissions received in early May 2023.

Description	Time/Date
Tender Pack Issued	31 March 2023
Conference Call for Bidders	13 April 2023
Deadline for Clarification Questions	26 April 2023
Tender Submission Deadline	5 May 2023
Presentations	1 June 2023
Intention to Award	w/c 5 June 2023
Indicative Contract Start Date	w/c 19 June 2023
Fieldwork	June / July 2023
Reporting	August 2023

6. Key points of note are as follows:

- Nominated members of Court have been informed and closely engaged in the process to date (Janet Legrand, Douglas Millican and Richard Blythe).
- University Procurement, Legal Services, and Communications & Marketing (CAM) specialists have been consulted and engaged throughout the process to date.

- Shortlisted firms presented to an assessment panel on 1 June 2023. The panel comprised Janet Legrand, Douglas Millican, Richard Blythe, Leigh Chalmers, Paul McGinty (Head of Internal Audit) with support from Gordon Whittaker (University Procurement).
- Following panel scoring and assessment, a preferred bidder to undertake the External Review has been selected and the process of formalising contractual arrangements is underway with the aim of commencing the project this month (June 2023) following initial planning meeting(s).
- An updated communication and engagement plan is under development to supplement the high-level communications to date.
- Work is ongoing on the compilation of a 'data room' of relevant programme documentation and artefacts likely to be required to support the External Review (with the assistance of the Strategic Change team). Other related planning activity is ongoing including co-ordination with wider Stabilisation plan activities.
- The risk assessment associated with the External Review has been maintained.

Consultation

7. This paper has been discussed with the Vice-Principal & University Secretary prior to sharing with University Court.

Further information

8. Author

Paul McGinty
Head of Internal Audit

Presenter

Leigh Chalmers
Vice-Principal & University Secretary

Freedom of Information

9. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Prevent Duty Annual Update

Description of paper

1. The paper provides an update to Court on the University's obligations under the Prevent duty for 2022/23.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To note this update and the ongoing work in response to changes set out by the UK and Scottish governments in regards the Prevent Duty.

Background and context

3. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) imposes a duty on universities and other public bodies to have due regard to need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This duty is commonly referred to as "the Prevent duty".

4. Under the guidance published for Scottish universities, "Monitoring and Enforcement" is understood to be the responsibility of each institution's governing body. This guidance sets out high level expectations for the University in the areas of: external speakers and events, leadership, engagement with local Prevent or CONTEST multiagency groups, staff training, safety online and welfare and pastoral care.

5. In 2019, the UK government committed to carrying out an Independent Review of Prevent. The Review and Government's response was [published](#) on 8 February 2023.

6. Of the 34 recommendations presented in the Review, four recommendations specifically relevant for universities in Scotland are:

- The Scottish Government should restructure Scottish Prevent in-line with the regionalisation model for England and Wales. This would move Prevent from the communities and integration agenda towards other strands of CONTEST. The Scottish Government should provide a dedicated Prevent lead, a Higher Education/Further Education regional co-ordinator, and Prevent-funded projects for the region. Scottish Police should also prioritise enhancing practitioners' understanding of Scotland's terrorism threat picture via the dissemination of regular local threat assessments (known as 'Emerging Threat and Risk Local Profiles');
- Develop a new training and induction package for all government and public sector staff working in counter-extremism and counter-terrorism. Training should focus on improving understanding of the ideological nature of terrorism, including: worldviews, objectives and methodologies of violent and non-violent extremist groups, grievance narratives and issues exploited by terrorist recruiters and extremists;
- Higher education staff responsible for authorising on-campus events with external speakers should be provided with training on how to manage and assess risk. Where necessary this should include conducting effective due diligence checks, and guidance on how to balance statutory obligations under

the Prevent Duty with the legal requirement to protect freedom of speech; and,

- Develop specific measures to counter the anti-Prevent campaign at universities. Higher and further education co-ordinators should work closely with institutional safeguarding leads to co-ordinate activities for students and staff which directly take-on and challenge disinformation about Prevent. The Department for Education should develop a network of speakers who are able to speak to students and staff about counter-radicalisation work and its benefits.

7. Alongside the above, a Review of Prevent Governance within Scotland took place in 2021. The Scottish Government's Safeguarding and Vulnerability Team, in agreement with the UK Home Office, have created a Prevent Assurance Return Process. This process is three-fold and consists of:

- A Self-Assessment Toolkit
- An annual return
- The creation of an Annual Report on Prevent Delivery in Scotland created by the Safeguarding and Vulnerability Team for and on behalf of the Prevent Sub-Group, for delivery via the Strategic Contest Board for Scotland to Scottish ministers, and ultimately the Home Office.

8. This process forms part of an overall intended strengthened quality assurance framework across the UK for Prevent Delivery.

9. This Assurance Return requires a Red/Amber/Green rating of their compliance with the Prevent Duty Guidance. This is to help us establish a baseline of delivery of Prevent in Scotland to identify both areas of good practice and areas for further development and support.

Discussion

10. The University continues to approach application of the Prevent duty in a proportionate manner. This is also consistent with the government guidance referenced above, which states that: "...We do not envisage the new duty creating large new burdens on institutions and intend it to be implemented in a proportionate and risk-based way."

11. Any high-risk events with external speakers, and any cases of concern for students, are referred to the University Compliance Group, which is chaired by the University Secretary.

12. Since the last update to Court (13 June 2022) to the date of writing (3 June 2023):

- Events on campus: 13 referrals were made to the University Compliance Group about higher risk events with external speakers – none of these events were relevant for considerations within Prevent;
- Referral of vulnerable students: 0 students were referred to the University Compliance Group; and,
- Revised research ethics procedures: 0 cases of students carrying out research as part of their dissertations into sensitive / extremism-related areas were raised.

Resource implications

13. Not applicable.

Risk Management

14. The University has a legal duty to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.” Failure to comply with the duty may lead to the Prevent Oversight Board recommending that the Secretary of State use the power of direction under section 30 of the Counter-Terrorism Act (2015). This power would only be used when other options for engagement and improvement had been exhausted.

Equality & Diversity

15. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in implementation of the Prevent duty, and equality and diversity is taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis by the University Compliance Group.

Next steps/implications

16. N/A

Consultation

17. An update was provided to University Executive in February 2023 on the outcomes of the UK government Independent Review of Prevent as part of a Report on a Review of the Speakers and Events Policy.

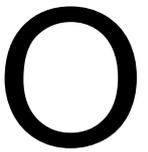
18. Consultation has taken place with Legal Services on the Self-Assessment Return.

Further information

19. Author & Presenter
Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary Students

Freedom of Information

20. Open paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Education Act 1994 requirements in relation to the Students' Association

Description of paper

1. This paper introduces the annual Certificate of Assurance supplied by the Edinburgh University Students' Association to demonstrate University compliance with the requirements of The Education Act 1994 (the Act). This is attached as Appendix 1.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To note the Certificate of Assurance and be assured of current compliance.

Background and context

3. Section 22 of the Education Act (1994) requires that the Governing Body of every establishment shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that any students' union operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances. Governing Bodies are also required to ensure that there is adequate publicity for the requirements of the Act, through the issuing of a Code of Practice which sets out how arrangements are made to both secure its observance, and through the provision of information to intending and matriculated students about the right to opt out of student membership.

4. Within this requirement it is determined that any students' union should have a written constitution and the provisions of that constitution should be subject to the approval of the governing body at intervals of not more than five years

Discussion

5. Court is provided with assurance each year that the University is compliant with the provisions of the Education Act in relation to the activities of the Students' Association.

6. The Association last reviewed its written constitution in the form of the Articles of Association and the associated regulations in June 2021, with that review being reported to, and approved by, Court at the time. The next formal review will be due in June 2026.

7. On occasion the Code of Practice itself requires minor updates, mainly to take account of changes in terminology as a result of Association regulation changes. This year there are two such minor changes. Firstly the 'Elections Appeals Committee' has been replaced by the 'Governance Subcommittee' and this change is reflected in the code (para 13). Secondly, 'Student Activities' is now referred to as 'Student Opportunities' and this is reflected in the code in relation to funding (para19).

8. An issue was identified during the year where the Students' Association's complaints procedure was reviewed and, although compliant with the Education Act itself, it was found to not fully align with wording in the Code of Practice; this was in

terms of the stages of appeal. However, the complaint procedure has been updated to reflect the Code of Practice wording, so there is no change to the Code of Practice required as a result.

9. No other matters have arisen which require to be specifically raised, and Court can be assured of current compliance with the Act.

Resource implications

10. There are no specific or additional resource implications associated with this paper.

Risk Management

11. There are no specific risk implications associated with the paper.

Equality & Diversity

12. Due consideration to equality and diversity has been given to ensure compliance with the Act.

Next steps/implications

13. The completion of the Certificate of Assurance at the end of each academic year will be supported by a review of actions/processes in place to fulfil the key requirements of the Act.

Consultation

14. This paper has been reviewed by Students Association colleagues and the Deputy Secretary Students.

Further information

15. Authors

Stephen Hubbard
CEO, Edinburgh University Students'
Association

Presenter

Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary, Students

Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary, Students

Freedom of Information

16. Open paper.

Code of Practice relating to the Edinburgh University Students' Association



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Purpose of Code of Practice

The 1994 Education Act (Section 22) requires University Court, the governing body of the University, to ensure that the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances. This Code of Practice sets out how the University will carry out its responsibilities under the Act.

Overview

The Code of Practice covers areas such as:

- The right of students to opt out of membership;
- EUSA's democratic processes;
- EUSA's financial and resource allocation mechanisms;
- Affiliations by EUSA to external organisations; and
- The implications of Charity Law on the activities that EUSA can undertake.

Scope: Mandatory Code of Practice

This Code of Practice applies to all University of Edinburgh students, and is brought to their attention annually by publication on the EUSA and the University website.

Contact Officer	Lucy Evans	Deputy Secretary, Students	lucy.evans@ed.ac.uk
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Document control

Dates	Approved: June 2023	Starts: June 2023	Equality impact assessment: N/A	Amendments: N/A	Next Review: June 2024
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Approving authority	University Court
Consultation undertaken	EUSA, Deputy Secretary Students
Section responsible for Code of Practice maintenance & review	EUSA, Deputy Secretary Students
Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations	N/A

Code of Practice relating to the Edinburgh University Students' Association



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Part II of the Education Act 1994 places a range of responsibilities on the governing bodies of university institutions in regard to the organisation of students' unions. In particular the governing body shall prepare and issue, and when necessary revise, a code of practice as to the manner in which certain requirements of the act are carried into effect.

1. Edinburgh University Students' Association qualifies as a students' union within section 20 of the Act.

2 This Code of Practice, approved by University Court with the agreement of the Students' Association, sets out how the University will carry out its responsibilities under the Act. The specific responsibilities to be included in the code are highlighted in bold italics below:-

Constitution

The students' union should have a written constitution and the provisions of that constitution should be subject to the approval of the governing body at intervals of not more than five years.

3. The Students' Association is governed by its Articles of Association approved by the University Court. The Articles of Association make provision for detailed regulations to be published which shall be approved by the Association Trustee Board and /or the student body as defined by the Articles of Association.

4. Copies of the Articles of Association and Regulations are available to any student, on request, from the President of the Students' Association. They are also available on the Students' Association website.

5. The Articles of Association are to be reviewed by the University Court at intervals of not more than five years. This need not mean a special quinquennial review of the Articles of Association. The Court may take the opportunity to review the terms of the Articles of Association should the Students' Association at any time bring forward proposed amendments.

Membership

Students should have the right not to be members of the students' union. Students who exercise that right should not be unfairly disadvantaged, with regard to the provision of services or otherwise, by reason of their having done so.

6. All matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh, whether full-time, part-time or online distance learning; undergraduate or postgraduate, including visiting students or students on exchange; and all sabbatical trustees during their period of sabbatical office shall be entitled to membership of the Students' Association. Any student who wishes not to be a member, or who decides to withdraw from membership of the Students' Association, should inform the President of the Students' Association and the Secretary of the University in writing.
7. Any student not in membership of the Students' Association is not entitled:
 - (a) To participate in the government of the Students' Association and, in particular, to propose or vote in referenda, attend meetings, stand or vote in the election of Students' Association Officers, Students' Council, Standing Committees and Representative Committees, or play any part in any other comparable bodies that may be established.
 - (b) To hold office in any Students' Association Committee or Society.
 - (c) To benefit from any concessionary rates for membership of Societies, or for attendance at entertainments events, that may be offered exclusively to Students' Association members.
8. Any such student shall cease to be a member immediately and may not re-apply for membership until the following academic session.
9. Students who are eligible for full membership, but have exercised the right not to be a member, shall have access to all services and activities provided by the Students' Association other than those outlined in paragraph 7, and shall be subject to the same disciplinary procedures in relation to their use of these services and participation in these activities.
10. The University has made no special arrangements for the provision of services or facilities for non-members of the Students' Association, since it is satisfied that the provision made by the University and the Students' Association for all students, whether they are members of the Students' Association or not, is sufficient to ensure that those who have exercised the right of non-membership under the Act are not unfairly disadvantaged. There will be no financial compensation to students who have exercised their right of non-membership.

Elections

Appointment to major students' union offices should be by election in a secret ballot in which all members are entitled to vote. The governing body is required to satisfy itself that the students' union elections are fairly and properly conducted. A person should not hold paid elected students' union office for more than two years in total.

11. Major students' union offices shall be defined as full time sabbatical Students' Association Executive Officers who have been granted a Laigh year by the University.
12. All elections in the Students' Association shall be conducted in accordance with regulations laid down in accordance with the Articles of Association and approved by the Governance Subcommittee of the Trustee Board. These regulations shall ensure that

appointment to major students' union offices, as defined in 11 above, is by election in a secret ballot in which all full members are entitled to vote.

13 Any complaint regarding the conduct of elections shall be decided upon by the Returning Officers appointed by the Governance Subcommittee of the Trustee Board, subject to appeal to the Governance Subcommittee of the Trustee Board whose decision shall be final.

14. The University Secretary (or their nominee) may observe any part of the election process and an annual report will be made to the University Secretary on the conduct and outcome of the elections to the major students' union offices.

15. Paid students' union offices shall be defined as full time sabbatical Students' Association Executive Officers. No person shall hold such office for more than two terms of one academic year each term and this is provided for in the regulations.

Finance

The financial affairs of the students' union should be properly conducted and appropriate arrangements should exist for the approval of the students' union's budget and the monitoring of its expenditure by the governing body.

The Students' Association is to publish a financial report annually or more frequently. The report is to be made available to the governing body and to all students and will contain, in particular, a list of external organisations to which the Students' Association has made donations during the period to which the report refers and details of those donations.

16. The Students' Association Finance, Risk & Audit Subcommittee shall prepare an annual budget and forward business plan prior to the commencement of each financial year, which shall be submitted to the Students' Association Trustee Board for approval. The annual budget shall be presented for ratification to the University Policy & Resources Committee acting on behalf of the governing body.

17. The Students Council shall receive the annual audited accounts of the Students' Association for information and the Students' Association Trustee Board shall receive the annual audited accounts of the Students' Association for approval. The annual audited accounts shall be presented for information to the University Policy & Resources Committee acting on behalf of the governing body.

18. The Students' Association will provide Financial and Management Information to the University Secretary and Director of Finance in line with the requirements set out in the University's annual letter of grant. The Director of Finance will report any points of note to the University Policy and Resources Committee.

18. The accounts shall contain details of any donations made to external organisations during the financial year.

The procedure for allocating resources to groups or clubs should be fair and should be set down in writing and be freely accessible to all students.

19. The allocation of resources to groups and societies affiliated to the Students' Association are managed by the Finance, Risk & Audit Subcommittee of the Trustee Board. The procedures are included in the Regulations which are available to any student, on request, from the President of the Students' Association. The procedures and opportunities for funding are also available on the Students' Association website under the Student Opportunities / Resources section.

Affiliations and Donations

If the student union decides to affiliate to an external organisation it must publish notice of its decision, stating the name of the organisation and details of any subscription or similar fee paid or proposed to be paid and of any donation made or proposed to be made to the organisation and such notice is to be made available to the governing body and to all students.

20. All affiliations and donations made by decision of a Referendum, Students' Council, Standing Committees, Representative Committees or Students' Association Executive Officers shall be published in the annual accounts of the Students' Association.

When a student union is affiliated to any external organisation there are to be procedures for the review of affiliations under which the current list of affiliations is submitted for approval by members annually or more frequently, and at such intervals of not more than a year as the governing body may determine, a requisition may be made by such proportion of members (not exceeding 5 per cent) as the governing body may determine, that the question of continued affiliation to any particular organisation be decided upon by a secret ballot in which all members are entitled to vote.

21. An annual vote, by secret ballot, at a general meeting of the Students' Council open to all members, will be held to consider the affiliation of the Students' Association to any continuing affiliations previously agreed.

22. Any affiliation made by the Students' Association may be rescinded by a decision of students made in accordance with the procedure for referenda outlined in the regulations which provide for a call for referenda being made by not more than 5% of members.

Complaints Procedure

There should be a complaints procedure available to all students or groups of students who are dissatisfied in their dealings with the students' union, or claim to have been unfairly disadvantaged by reason of having exercised the right to not be a member. This procedure should include the provision for an independent person appointed by the governing body to investigate and report on complaints.

24. Any student or students who are dissatisfied in their dealings with the Students' Association, or claim to be disadvantaged by reason of their having exercised the right to withdraw from membership, shall be entitled to have their complaint considered in accordance with the Students' Association complaints procedure and this is available to all students. This procedure includes the right of appeal to the University Secretary (or their nominee) and the subsequent right of appeal to an independent person appointed by University Court.

The following aspects are not required to be referenced in the code of practice, but it is an obligation for the governing body to bring these matters to the attention of students at least once a year. These will be published alongside this code on the Students' Association website.

Charity Law

The activities of the Students' Association are restricted by the law relating to charities. Consequently the Students' Association cannot have a political purpose and must not seek to advance the interest of a political party, but it may seek to influence opinion on issues relating directly to its own stated purposes, provided such activity is within its powers. The ways in which charities may or may not legitimately engage in political activities is the subject of advice and legislation from time to time by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, courts of law, Parliament and government departments.

Code of Practice

This Code of Practice is brought to the attention of students annually by publication on the Students' Association and the University website.

Information for prospective students

The right of a student to not be a member of the Students' Association, and the arrangements for students to still access those services provided by the Students' Association for all students whether members or not, is made available to prospective students via inclusion in this code of practice which is published on the Students' Association website and on the University's website.

Approved by University Court, 19 June 2023 [TBC]



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Donations and Legacies; Alumni Relations 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 27 March 2023 to 27 May 2023.
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.

Sections 5-14: Closed section

Student Engagement

15. Of the 46 successful Student Experience Grants from the Autumn 2022 round, disbursement of all awards is now complete, with the exception of one project which has been delayed until the new academic year.

16. The annual [PhD Horizons Conference](#), which offers career insights to PhD students, will return to an in-person event on 14 June. The event will feature a series of alumni panel discussion throughout the day. PhD Horizons is our annual focus on career insights for PhD students to help you explore different career options. While all students are welcome to get involved, the content covered will primarily be of interested to current PhD students or those considering a PhD in future.

Alumni support for Student Recruitment

17. Alumni Ambassadors took part in eight offer holder events hosted by the International Recruitment Team in the USA in March and April. Focussed events for undergraduates and postgraduates took place in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington DC and New York. As well as sharing their experiences and answering questions our 12 Alumni Ambassadors enjoyed informally speaking with future students at a networking reception following each event.

18. In April, 11 Alumni Ambassadors participated in undergraduate and postgraduate applicant information sessions for students in Hong Kong. As part of a panel, alumni shared insights into their experience of living and learning in the city and where their degree has taken them since graduation.

19. In Singapore, alumni also supported an offer holder event at the end of April, hosted by Louise Zeelenberg, International Recruitment Manager South East Asia & Australasia.

20. Alumni Ambassadors in Paris supported an in-person offer holder event in May, hosted by Doug Thompson, International Recruitment Manager Europe, sharing their experiences of studying at the University and in the city and answering questions from our future students.

21. In June, Alumni Ambassadors will support a series of online offer holder sessions across East Asia. These sessions will be hosted by Esther Sum, International Recruitment Manager East Asia, and with focussed sessions for students in Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

22. Alumni also participated in panel sessions during Postgraduate Online Open Days on 24th and 25th May.

23. During Postgraduate Offer Holder events on 7th and 8th June, alumni will participate in 2 different panel sessions, and there will be 2 events delivered by the Alumni Team and the Careers Service on 'Developing your Career'.

Digital Communications

24. Issue 4 of the [Enlightened](#) digital magazine was published in April featuring more alumni impact stories. Alongside that, the Multi Story Edinburgh newsletter continues to be sent regularly to new graduates with the most recent edition issued at the end of May.

Print Communications

25. The Communications team is currently working on a refreshed version of the Multi Story Edinburgh handbook. The publication contains advice, insights and signposts to further support, together with features on recent graduates and experiences they can pass on. Multi Story Edinburgh handbooks will be distributed to approximately 6,500 graduating students at the upcoming summer 2023 graduations.

26. Following the positive feedback the Communications team received for the graduation handbooks, planning for a new printed publication 'Enlightened' especially for an alumni audience is now underway. As with Development & Alumni's digital magazine of the same name, the new printed publication will be a way for alumni to read impactful stories about the University and their fellow alumni. The magazine will be mailed out later this year to a group of alumni identified by the Business Enhancement team.

Podcasts

27. We continue to develop the [Multi Story Edinburgh podcast](#) which has had over 6,700 downloads to date. In Season Four which was released earlier this year, the Communications team spoke to graduates from the class of 2022 and explored how things are going, what they learnt, and whether things have returned to normal yet. Planning for the next season is underway, with recruitment finalised for our student intern host who will work on the podcast during summer 2023.

28. A new podcast 'Enlightened Conversations' will launch in July. The first episode has been recorded featuring two Business School graduates and focusing on the

themes of ageing well, extended working lives, and the power of a multigenerational workforce. The podcast will provide a dedicated space for cultivating meaningful conversations on varied and topical subjects; it will be promoted under the Enlightened brand.

Resource implications

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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

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

Consultation

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

Further information

35. Authors

Gregor Hall

Finance Manager

Gloria Ombuya

Alumni Relations Project Officer

Development & Alumni

Freedom of Information

36. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Annual Recognition of Alumni Clubs

Description of paper

1. This paper recommends the annual formal recognition of University of Edinburgh alumni clubs.
2. Development & Alumni continue to identify and develop opportunities to engage alumni in programming that enables them to participate in facilitating the University's global impact and play a role in shaping the futures of our graduating students, both of which contribute to aspects of a number of the University's goals under Strategy 2030.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To renew formal recognition of the nine University of Edinburgh alumni clubs currently recognised and note activity over the past 12 months.

Background and context

4. Court approved a paper on the governance of Alumni Clubs in February 2018, which set out proposals to introduce a more systematic approach to the development and support of the range of alumni groups acting on behalf of the University in locations around the world and to manage the reputational risk involved.
5. Nine alumni clubs have been approved for formal recognition to date, an initial seven alumni clubs in June 2018 followed by two further clubs in October 2018 and June 2020 respectively. In addition, we currently have over 35 alumni groups and regional contacts connecting local alumni in locations across the world.

Discussion

6. We have seen a pleasing increase in levels of activity across the alumni network over the past year, with around 30 volunteer-led events taking place across the globe. These have been a mixture of smaller social gatherings and larger scale activities, with events taking place in locations including New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Toronto, Hong Kong, Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Beijing, Brussels, New Delhi, Dubai, Istanbul, Paris and London.
7. A highlight in the calendar was the welcome return of a number of in-person alumni Burns Night events in January. The alumni clubs of Washington DC, Toronto, New York and Chicago hosted their first Burns Suppers since the start of the pandemic, with each seeing a great turnout and receiving excellent feedback. Local alumni based in Delhi also gathered for an informal Burns celebration. Other highlights included the first University of Edinburgh Zhejiang Alumni Association conference in March and the Edinburgh University Brussels Society returning to an in-person format for their annual event connecting International and European Politics students with alumni working in institutions and companies in Brussels, after two years of holding this successfully online.

8. We were also pleased to continue to connect our clubs with a range of academic staff, both virtually and in country, including Professor Jamie Cross giving a virtual talk for the Edinburgh University Club of Toronto in February and Professor Liz Grant hosting a dinner for the Washington DC Alumni Club and several engaged volunteers in April while she was in the US.

9. Our own international alumni events over the past year have also played a key role in supporting local activity and stewarding clubs and volunteers, both in terms of well-established clubs in priority regions such as the US and Canada, but also in locations with developing activity such as Kenya and Mexico. As part of our international event planning, we will continue to look to support alumni clubs and groups in this way, particularly in locations of strategic priority.

10. In addition to supporting clubs with their own activities, we continue to engage our alumni network and volunteers in a range of strategic and priority programmes including support for student recruitment and student engagement initiatives such as the Insights Programme.

11. The following nine clubs are recommended for renewed formal recognition:

- Edinburgh University Club of Toronto (EDUCT)
- Edinburgh University Boston Club
- Edinburgh University Club of New York
- Edinburgh University Alumni Club of Washington DC
- Edinburgh University Club of London
- Edinburgh University Brussels Society
- University of Edinburgh London Alumni Network
- University of Edinburgh Alumni Association of Hong Kong
- University of Edinburgh Alumni Association of Shenzhen

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

13. There are no significant risk implications arising from this paper.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

14. This paper is fulfilling operational governance. However, alumni relations programming, which enables the participation of our graduates in the life and work of the University, supporting the delivery of University strategy and objectives, will tie in with the University's work across climate mitigation and the SDG goals in a number of ways.

Equality & Diversity

15. No equality and diversity issues are identified.

Next steps/implications

16. We will continue to look to evolve our approach to ensure that we are enabling alumni in different parts of the world to engage with the University community and their fellow graduates in the most meaningful way possible, while also ensuring alignment with wider alumni relations priorities and strategy.

17. We will continue to identify, develop and deliver engagement opportunities and initiatives to ensure our global alumni network continues to feel a strong connection to the University community and appropriately supported in organising their own activities.

Consultation

18. This paper has been prepared by the Alumni Relations team and reviewed by Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement.

Further information

19. Author

Natalie Fergusson

Global Alumni Manager, Development & Alumni

30 May 2023

Freedom of Information

20. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Resolutions: Degree Programme Regulations

Description of paper

1. This paper invites Court to approve two Resolutions presented in final form, containing annual updates to the degree programme regulations.

Action requested/Recommendation

- 2. To approve the following Resolutions presented in final format:
 - Resolution No. 8/2023: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
 - Resolution No. 9/2023: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

Background and context

3. 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. Resolutions have been formulated to incorporate the recommended changes and attached to these Resolutions are a list of degrees to which these regulations apply.

Discussion

4. The key changes proposed to the Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2023/24 are as follows:

5. Links within the regulations to other information and changes in terminology have been updated as necessary. This includes changes in terminology related to the adoption of the Student Support Model.

Regulation Updated	What has changed
4 Compliance (Fitness to Practice)	Cross-reference to sections on College Fitness to Practice Procedures added.
9 Timing of admittance to degree programmes and courses	Amended to add clarification that no student may commence any year of their degree programme more than two weeks after the start of the relevant academic year. Amended to clarify that, in circumstances where a Board of Examiners awards a null sit, the requirement for students to enrol in a course in the first two weeks of semester applies.

13 Study Period	The MBChB is an Ordinary degree, but is a 6 year programme. Updated on the basis that a 10 year maximum period is more appropriate for this programme.
92 Passes with Distinction	Removed the regulation on Passes with Distinction from College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations. The College state that this regulation has been obsolete for some time.
92 (formerly 93) BVM&S Distinction at graduation	Amended to state that Distinction at graduation will not be awarded to students admitted from 2023/24 onwards.
93 onwards - College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations AND College of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations	All regulations below 92 have been renumbered to reflect the removal of a regulation from Section C.

6. The key changes proposed to the Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2023/24 are as follows:

7. Links within the regulations to other information and terminology have been updated as necessary. This includes changes in terminology related to the adoption of the Student Support Model.

Regulation Updated	What has changed
6 Fitness to Practice	Links to College Fitness to Practice Procedures added
9 Late Admission	Amended to add clarification that no student may commence their degree programme (rather than 'be admitted') more than two weeks after their given start date. Amended to add clarification that students cannot enrol on courses more than two weeks after the start of the course, without College approval.

33 Authorised Interruptions of Study	Amended to permit the Head of College to exceptionally authorise an Interruption of Study which would take the total period of interruption beyond 100% of the prescribed period of study, provided this does not exceed the maximum allowable study period.
34 Extensions of Study	Amended to clarify that the total maximum period of permitted extensions is 24 months, provided this does not take the student past their maximum allowable study period.
41 Supervision	Amended to “Student visa” and removed “Tier 4 visa”. Amended the link to Immigration information for staff working with non-UK students.
90 Masters in Transfusion, Transplantation and Tissue Banking (MSc)	Programme specific regulations removed to reflect the programme closure.
90 onwards - College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations AND College of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations	All regulations above 90 have been renumbered to reflect the removal of a regulation from Section C.

8. The draft Resolutions were circulated to General Council with no observations received and were considered by Electronic Senate from 26 April – 10 May 2023, with no observations.

9. 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

10. There are none to be raised to Court.

Risk Management

11. Academic Policy & Regulations Committee has considered any risks presented by the proposed amendments, and regards these as minimal.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

12. Relevant to SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Equality & Diversity

13. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the proposed amendments.

Next steps/implications

14. Senate and the General Council will be informed of the approval of the final Resolutions and the degree regulations will come into effect on 1 August 2023. The list of approved Resolutions is annually reviewed and published on the University's website.

Consultation

15. Academic Services 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. Court reviewed them in draft form at the April meeting, following which they were circulated to Senate and the General Council before returning to Court for approval.

Further information

16. Authors
Dr Kathryn Nicol and Ms Olivia Hayes
Academic Services
June 2023

Freedom of Information

17. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

19 June 2023

Resolutions – Chairs

Description of paper

1. This paper invites Court to approve Resolutions to establish Chairs (i.e. professorial positions) in accordance with agreed arrangements and the requirements set out in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966. This paper contributes to the Strategy 2030 outcome: ‘We will be a destination of choice, based on our clear “Edinburgh Offer”’.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To approve the following Resolutions presented in final format:

No. 10/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Human Robot Interaction

No. 11/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Architectural History and Theory

No. 12/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Buddhist Studies and Indian Religions

No. 13/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Landscape and Wellbeing

No. 14/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Comparative Public Policy

No. 15/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Innovation in Food Systems

No. 16/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of the Sociology of Health and Illness

No. 17/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Bilingualism and Language Development

No. 18/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Comparative Social Policy

No. 19/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Documentary Film

No. 20/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Public Policy and Democratic Innovation

No. 21/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Practical Philosophy

No. 22/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Coastal and Marine Archaeology

No. 23/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cultural Anthropology

No. 24/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Contemporary Jewish Cultural History

No. 25/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Art History

No. 26/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Gender and Politics

No. 27/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Behavioural Genetics

No. 28/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Interpersonal Relationships in Education

No. 29/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cognitive Neuropsychology

No. 30/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Social Research on Inequality

No. 31/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Interdisciplinary Design Studies

No. 32/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Political Theory

No. 33/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies

No. 34/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of International Security

No. 35/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biblical Criticism and Biblical Antiquities

No. 36/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Music Psychology
No. 37/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medieval Art
No. 38/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Pragmatics
No. 39/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Archaeology of the Roman Empire
No. 40/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of South Asia and International Development
No. 41/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of U.S. History
No. 42/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Epistemology
No. 43/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Anthropology and Health
No. 44/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Translation Studies
No. 45/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Seventeenth-Century Literature
No. 46/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Syntax and Semantics
No. 47/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Research Collaboration
No. 48/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neurophilosophy of Agency and Free Will
No. 49/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
No. 50/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Brain Imaging
No. 51/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Anatomy
No. 52/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Forensic Pathology
No. 53/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Glial Cell Biology
No. 54/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology
No. 55/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Nephrology
No. 56/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Bowel Cancer UK/Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Chair of Colorectal Cancer Research
No. 57/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Student Learning in Primary Care
No. 58/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Regenerative Nephrology
No. 59/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Rheumatology
No. 60/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medical Oncology (Cancer Informatics)
No. 61/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Vertebrate Developmental Biology
No. 62/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Educational Development and Student Learning
No. 63/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Genetic Engineering
No. 64/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Palliative and Supportive Care
No. 65/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Integrative Endocrinology
No. 66/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Critical Care and Epidemiology
No. 67/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Digital Biomarkers and Precision Medicine
No. 68/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Protein Biology
No. 69/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Dermatology
No. 70/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neurodegenerative Disorders and Clinical Trials
No. 71/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Bioinformatics
No. 72/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Hepatology
No. 73/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Small Animal Gastroenterology
No. 74/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Public Health Education

No. 75/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Healthcare for Older People
No. 76/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neuroscience and Mental Health
No. 77/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neurology and Epidemiology
No. 78/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Autophagy and Cellular Homeostasis
No. 79/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cardiovascular Imaging
No. 80/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Behavioural Neuroscience
No. 81/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Geomorphology
No. 82/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Speech Technology
No. 83/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Observational Cosmology
No. 84/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Planetary Science
No. 85/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Land System Science
No. 86/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Sustainable Energy Systems
No. 87/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Rock Physics
No. 88/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Ecology and Disease
No. 89/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Statistics and Data Science
No. 90/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Earth Observation
No. 91/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computer Systems and Architecture
No. 92/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Neuroscience
No. 93/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Statistical Signal Processing
No. 94/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Renewable Energy Technology and Policy Innovation
No. 95/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Fluid and Suspension Dynamics
No. 96/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Electronics and Information Engineering
No. 97/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Geography & Interaction
No. 98/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Mineral Physics
No. 99/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Flavour Physics
No. 100/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Communications Engineering
No. 101/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Theoretical Astrophysics
No. 102/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Optical and Wireless Communications
No. 103/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Biomedical Informatics
No. 104/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neutron Spectroscopy
No. 105/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Impulsive Dynamics
No. 106/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Chronobiology
No. 107/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Chemical Biotechnology
No. 108/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Mechanistic Cell Biology
No. 109/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Mathematics of Data Science
No. 110/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Future Governance, Public Policy and Technology
No. 111/2023: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Geometry and Physics

Background and context

3. The Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation 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.

4. 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 before the draft Resolution is circulated for formal consultation and approval.

Discussion

5. Resolution No. 111/2023 concerns the alteration of the title of a substantive Chair. The remaining Resolutions are for Personal Chairs and were approved by the Central Academic Promotions Committee.

6. The draft Resolutions were circulated to General Council and Senate for observations, with no observations received.

7. Resolutions creating Personal Chairs all follow the same format, so Resolution No. 10/2023 is attached as an example of the Personal Chair Resolutions. Resolution No. 111/2023: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Geometry and Physics is also attached to this paper.

Resource implications

8. Part of the approval process for new Chairs involved confirmation of the funding in place to support the posts.

Risk Management

9. There are reputational considerations, which are considered as part of the University's approval processes.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

10. This paper does not directly contribute to the climate emergency or SDGs as it is fulfilling a legislative requirement.

Equality & Diversity

11. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with this paper. However equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to Chairs.

Next steps/implications

12. 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.

Consultation

13. Senate and the General Council are asked for observations on Resolutions and a notice is published online to enable observation from any other body or person having an interest to express observations.

Further information

14. Author

Kirstie Graham
Court Services Office
June 2023

Freedom of Information

15. Open paper.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 10/2023

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Human Robot Interaction

At Edinburgh, the Nineteenth day of June, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Human Robot Interaction:

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 Human Robot Interaction 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 Human Robot Interaction 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 August Two thousand and twenty three.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 111/2023

Alteration of the title of the Chair of Geometry and Physics

At Edinburgh, the Nineteenth day of June, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Chair of Geometry and Physics founded by Resolution 4/2022;

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 Geometry and Physics shall hereafter be designated the Chair of Physical Mathematics.
2. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 August Two thousand and twenty three.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary