



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Senatus Academicus

Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 2-5 pm

Online meeting

Microsoft Teams

Confirmed Minute

Attendees: ADKINS Peter, ALIOTTA Marialuisa, ANDERSON Steve, ANDREW Ruth, ANWAR Mohammad, BAILEY Matthew, BARANY Michael, BAYNE Sian, BECKETT Chris, BENJAMIN Shereen, BLYTHE Richard, BOLAND Jose, BRADAIGH Conchur, BRADFIELD Julian, BRADLEY Laura, BRENNAN Mary, BROWN Aidan, BURLEY Sarah, BYRNE Lauren, CAIRNS John, CALVERT Jane, CAMACHO Pablo, CAQUINEAU Celine, CARBERY Anthony, CHALMERS Leigh, CHAN Annie, CONVERY Alan, COOMBES Sam, DAVIES Jamie, DESLER Anne, DESVAGES Charlotte, DUNSMORE Agata, EARLE Murray, ELEFThERIOU Constantinos, ELLINGHAM Natalia, ENGLISH Andrea, EVANS Mark, EWING Suzanne, FISHER Bob, FRENCH Chris, GEBBIE Hope, GILFILLAN Stuart, GODDARD Benjamin, GOMES Miguel, GORDON Iain, GOTZ Manuel, GRAHAM Kim, GRANT Liz, GRATWICK Richard, GRAY Gillian, GUO Yong, HANSEN Tobias, HARRISON Tina, HAY David, HECK Margarete, HELBING Pia, HELGASON Thorunn, HENDERSON Sarah, HIGHTON Melissa, HILLSTON Jane, HOLLOWAY Aisha, HOPGOOD James, HOY Jenny, HUDSON Andrew, IBIKUNLE Gbenga, JAIN Aditi, JORDAN Crispin, KELLY Tobias, KENNY Meryl, KINNEAR George, KIRSTEIN Linda, LAURENSEN Dave, LEWIS Steff, LIU Annie, LLOYD Ashley, LOVE Jason, LUGER Ewa, MACCALLUM Sam, MARSLAND Rebecca, MATHIESON Peter (Convener), MCCORMICK Alistair, MEIKSIN Avery, MORAN Carmel, MORLEY Steven, MORRIS Richard, MORROW Susan, MURRAY Lyndsay, NAVARRO Pau, NGWENYA Bryne, NICOL Robbie, NORRIS Paul, PATON Diana, PRESCOTT Sarah, RICE Ken, RILEY Simon, ROBERTS Niamh, ROLLE Sabine, SCHMID Marion, SCHROERS Bernd, SCHWANNAUER Matthias, SHAW Jo, SIMM Geoff, SKOWRONSKA Izabela, SMITH David, STRATFORD Tim, STUART Elaine, SULLIVAN Gavin, SYED Amer, TERRY Jonathan, THOMAS Robert, THOMSON Alex, TOWNSEND Rosemary, TRODD Tamara, TUFAIL-HANIF Uzma, TURNER Jon, TUZI Nadia, WALSH Patrick, WARRINGTON Stephen, WILLIAMS Isi, WÖHRLE Marie-Louise, WOOF Robyn, WYNNE Ben, YILDIRIM Alper

In attendance: DOCHERTY Sinead, DUFFIN Arlene, EVANS Lucy, HAYES Olivia (Clerk to Senate), KAYEMBE Debora, NICOL Kathryn, WARD Tom.

Apologies: ANDREANGELI Arianna, ARGYLE David, BOOTH Tom, BOSWELL Christina, BRANIGAN Holly, BUDD Adam, CONNOR Andrew, CRANG Jeremy, CRUZ Juan, DANBOLT Jo, DAWSON Karen, DEVANEY John, DIMARTINO Simone, DUNLOP James, EVANS Jay, FORBES Stuart, GILL Amrit, HARMON Colm, HAYCOCK-STUART Elaine, HUNTER Emma, INGRAM David, JEFFERY Laura, LAMONT-BLACK Simone, LORETTO Wendy, MACIOCIA Antony, MARTIN Catherine, MATTHEWS Keith, MCLACHLAN Gavin, MCQUEEN Heather, MOLE Damian, MORRIS Andrew, POWELL Wayne, REYNOLDS Rebecca, RYDZEWSKA Ewelina, SCHWARZ Tobias, SHIPSTON Mike, SILMEE Nowar, TAYLOR Paul, TERRAS Melissa, TUDHOPE Alexander, WEIR Christopher, WILLIAMS Mark.

The Convener, Principal Professor Peter Mathieson opened the meeting and confirmed that Senate had reached quorum. Members were reminded of the etiquette for Senate meetings conducted online.

<p>1.</p>	<p>Convener's Communications</p> <p>The Convener noted the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal extended his thanks to Senate for the well wishes conveyed by Senate when he was unwell in August. • People and Money has generated a high level of concern among colleagues, which was acknowledged by the University Senior Leadership. Additional resource has been focussed to help clear a backlog of invoices and there is evidence that this is starting to have an impact. • A student occupation of the Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre is currently underway, resulting in disruption to teaching and preventing Senate meeting in person. There is open communication between the students, Security, and the University and the occupiers are taking account of Health and Safety concerns. • The Student Accommodation guarantee for first-year and overseas students has been met and exceeded by approximately 2000 students. The Convener understood that all students seeking emergency accommodation have received an offer.. • The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), who is a major funder of research, increased PGR stipends to take account of cost of living increases. The University has agreed to align with the UKRI by increasing levels of other PGR stipends • The University has elected to implement the increased Real Living Wage immediately to reflect the cost of living crisis. • Increased funds have been made available under the Student Hardship Fund to reflect the increase pressure resulting from the cost of living crisis. • The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, who the University has a twinning agreement with, was recently subject to deliberate attacks. The University wrote a message of support for the partner University in response to the attacks. <p>In response to this update, the Students' Association President noted the Advice Place are still receiving enquiries from students awaiting emergency accommodation. The University Secretary agreed to look into this issue.</p> <p>1.1 Update from Timetabling Unit</p> <p>Deputy Secretary, Lucy Evans provided an update on behalf of the Timetabling Unit. She indicated that since the University has returned to full scale, in-person teaching, there have been challenges in scaling up operations, which the Unit is in the process of addressing. This has resulted in some key challenges, and there are plans in progress to address these, summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning exercise begun later than usual due to uncertainty regarding a return to in-person teaching. The Timetabling Unit are reviewing timelines for this process moving forward. • There were a significant number of late submissions from Schools, likely related to uncertainty around in-person teaching, making it difficult to achieve a clash-free timetable. The Unit is reviewing the process for submission of timetabling information. • A high volume of change requests (approximately 5000) were received at the start of the semester. Thought is being given to capturing change requests earlier in the process. • A corruption of the database occurred in the first week of teaching and resulted in a full shut down and rebuild of the system. A process is underway to procure a new system. • The forthcoming opening of the Nucleus at the Kings Building's campus will assistance with the capacity of the University Estate. <p>She thanked colleagues for their patience and support during a challenging period, and for the comments received prior to the meeting, and invited Schools to contact her if they wish to discuss the issue further.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>2.1 Senate Minutes S 22/23 2 A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Senate meeting held on 11 August 2022 • Report of E-Senate held from 14 September – 28 September 2022 <p>Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held 11 August 2022, and the report of E-Senate held from 14 September - 28 September 2022.</p>

	<p>2.2 Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Curriculum Transformation Programme costs [Minutes of 9 February meeting of Senate, Item 4] <p>Deputy Secretary, Lucy Evans provided an update on the Curriculum Transformation Programme costs. While it is too early in the project to provide a detailed assessment of costs, she reassured Senate that the project team are mindful of resourcing associated with Curriculum Transformation and taking this into account for planning purposes, and have been gathering information on what resource is needed and consulting with universities with similar programmes to gain an understanding of their resourcing experience. The team are conscious that staff with a key role in implementing Curriculum Transformation would also have a key role in other projects, such as the Student Support Model.</p> <p>Senate members raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When initially raising this issue at the meeting held 9 February 2022, Senate asked for information on costs associated with the project, including consultancy costs. The Vice-Principal Students indicated at the time these would be provided. • MVM is in the process of revising its Medicine curriculum, and it would be helpful to clarify the relationship between this review and Curriculum Transformation. • Resourcing with regard to timetabling was raised, in relation to both sufficient staff capacity and sufficient teaching spaces. • Academic staff require sufficient time to redesign teaching based on the spaces they are allocated. <p>Ms Evans thanked members for their comments and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary figures on Curriculum Transformation costs are not available at present. An update would be provided to Senate at a future meeting. • External examiner concessions associated with industrial action - to be covered under Item 17 – Report of Concessions from APRC [Minutes of 25 May meeting of Senate, Item 6] <p>Convener of Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC), Dr. Paul Norris confirmed that this would be covered under Item 17: <i>Report of Concessions Approved by Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee</i>.</p>
	<p>2.3 Welcome to new student members</p> <p>Welcome was extended to the following new student members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aditi Jain, Undergraduate representative • Amrit Gill, Undergraduate representative • Annie Liu, Undergraduate representative • Izabella Skowronska, Undergraduate representative • Tobias Hansen, Undergraduate representative • Yong Guo, Undergraduate representative
3.	<p>Further Information on the Powers of Senate S 22/23 2 B</p> <p>To note</p> <p>This item was introduced by Tom Ward, Director of Academic Services. The paper sets out Legal Services' legal advice on the Powers of Senate, and provides context for items later in the agenda. The Convener indicated that he accepts the advice.</p> <p>Senate members raised the following points on the item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legalistic phrasing in the paper was difficult for some members to understand. • Whilst the paper is specific to the Sustainable Travel Policy paper, the paper makes statements about the limitations of Senate's powers, which may pertain to other issues. Some members felt these points required further discussion and did not agree with the advice as presented. • The advice appeared based on a restrictive reading of the limits of Senate's powers.

- One elected member stated they had engaged in lengthy dialogue with Academic Services to clarify the legal powers of Senate and a number of their queries remain unanswered. The University Secretary confirmed that questions could continue to be put to Academic Services.
- The paper does not explain how the powers of Senate and Court intersect with the powers of University Executive.
- A paper outlining the interaction between Senate and Court's powers would be useful to develop shared understanding across Senate and Court.
- Senate is spending a lot of time discussing legal and procedural issues, which means that there is less time for substantive discussion and debate.

In general, Senate members indicated that they would find it useful to have an opportunity to ask Legal Services questions about the paper. The University Secretary indicated that, if members submit questions or concerns on the paper to Senate Support, she will be able to arrange for Legal Services to provide a response for the next meeting of Senate.

4. Senate Standing Committees – upcoming business **S 22/23 2 C**

To note and comment

This paper was introduced by Professor Tina Harrison, Convener of SQAC, on behalf of Senate Standing Committee Conveners. .

She thanked Senate members for their useful engagement in the recent round of Committee business.

Senate noted the paper. In response to queries, Tina Harrison and Lucy Evans (Deputy Secretary, Students) clarified that:

- Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC) will have a role in determining how to approach the evaluation of the roll out of the Student Support Model, in conjunction with the project's Board.
- Student Experience Services is taking steps to address the backlog of cases for the Student Disability Service, and the Senate Education Committee is the appropriate Senate committee to oversee this.

5. Senate Standing Committees membership **S 22/23 2 D**

To approve

This item was introduced by Tom Ward, Director of Academic Services.

Senate approved the paper, subject to one amendment. In order to, where possible, achieve an even distribution of these additional members across the three Colleges, the three elected member positions are nominally assigned to each College. If vacancies remain following each College being assigned a position, any remaining positions will be allocated to interested nominees. If the number of nominees exceeds the number of places then the drawing of lots will determine who is assigned the position(s).

Senate also approved one further amendment related to the member of the committees:

Each Committee Convener is expected to propose for approval by the Senate Exception Committee and/or next Senate Meeting reasonable additions to their committee to improve BAME, student, and trade union representation.

- Conveners to present an update on how they intend to account for the views of underrepresented groups on their Committee's to the February 2023 meeting of Senate. They made the following points
- The composition of Standing Committees is reflective of the recruitment of post holders to College positions, which constrains the Conveners' ability to respond to the amendment.
- The composition of Standing Committees is to be considered by the externally facilitated review, and that full consideration of the composition of Standing Committees should be held over until the outcome of the review is available. There may be unintended consequences of a further expansion of membership without due consideration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees can seek input from underrepresented groups without requiring an expansion of the membership, for example, via consultation. <p>Senate also approved the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees. The Terms of Reference would be revisited once the outcome of the externally facilitated review was available, and once the newly-introduced arrangements for strengthening Senate's oversight of and engagement with the Standing Committees could be evaluated.</p>	
6.	<p>Curriculum Transformation Update</p> <p>To note and comment</p> <p>This item was introduced by Dr Jon Turner, Director of the Institute for Academic Development. The paper provided Senate with an update on the Curriculum Transformation Programme, including the development of a proposed curriculum framework which will be presented to Senate and relevant Standing Committees in early 2023.</p> <p>Members were invited to submit comments by email to Dr Jon Turner.</p>	S 22/23 2 E
7.	<p>Draft Resolution – Code of Student Conduct</p> <p>To comment</p> <p>This item was introduced by Dr Kathryn Nicol, Head of Policy and Regulations, Academic Services. Senate were invited to comment on the paper, which will be submitted to the University Court for final approval in December. Comments received from members prior to the meeting would be taken into account prior to the final version being presented to Court.</p> <p>Senate members raised the following points on the item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the offences under the Code is 'offensive' behaviour or language. Since there is variation in what individuals deem offensive, it would be helpful for the University to define what it means, to avoid impinging on freedom of speech. The EUSA Women's Liberation Officer read out a statement prepared in consultation with students who had experience of the Code process. The statement was critical of the current process and called for further work to be undertaken to revise the Code of Student Conduct, particularly with a view to strengthening the University's action in relation to gender-based violence, and included practical suggestions for taking this work forward. The Students' Association asked whether further changes could be made to the Code in advance of presenting the revised Code to Court for approval. <p>Dr Nicol made the following points in response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Code of Conduct is one strand of support available to students who wish to disclose information about gender-based violence to the University. Academic Services receives specialist advice including legal advice when considering cases relating to allegations of 'offensive' behaviour or language, and use the University's Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Statement as a reference point. If the Code is approved by Court in December 2022, it will be implemented from January 2023 and accompanied by student-facing guidance to support the revisions. This will also be an opportunity to refresh awareness of the Code process among key stakeholders. There is insufficient time to make further significant changes to the Code in time for December 2022 in a considered and responsible manner. However, further work on the Code is planned, which will include consultation with the Students' Association, and Senate members' comments will feed into this longer term piece of work to improve the process. <p>Members were invited to submit further comments on the current or future revisions to the Code to Dr Kathryn Nicol.</p>	S 22/23 2 F
8.	<p>Revision to the Sustainable Travel Policy (2021)¹</p> <p>To comment and endorse</p>	S 22/23 2 G

¹ Legal advice indicates that Senate does not have the power to make binding decisions on this item.

	<p>This item was introduced by Professor Diana Paton. The paper was a continuation of the discussion on the topic held at Senate in May 2022.</p> <p>The Principal confirmed that, while Senate does not have the power to make decisions on this item, he was content for Senate to express its views on the matters. He had asked the University Executive to delay consideration of a sustainable travel item until its meeting in November 2022 to allow the views of Senate to be fed into this discussion. He indicated that, in addition to these discussions at Senate, the University has taken other steps to gather feedback on how well the Policy is working in practice.</p> <p>Senate were invited to comment on the paper. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate members continue to have concerns that the travel policy is negatively affecting academic work at the University, including work associated with academic research time. The impact on Postgraduate Research students' ability to undertake their research within available budgets was highlighted as being of particular concern. • In particular, colleagues raised concern regarding the impact of the single supplier booking requirement on staff and students conducting research. • Senate members asked for more information on the terms of the contract with the supplier, including whether the contract stipulates a requirement for a single-supplier to be used for travel bookings. • Concern was raised that the core ethos of the policy may be overshadowed by the practical difficulties experienced with the arrangements for travel bookings. It was noted that the primary issue should be to use the policy to positively change practices and attitudes to support more sustainable travel. <p>Senate endorsed the paper's analysis of the negative impact of aspects of the policy, and endorsed the proposals that those with primary executive oversight should seek to address these issues, including removing the single supplier rule for academic travel.</p> <p>The Principal indicated that he and the senior leadership team recognise colleagues' concerns, and he confirmed that the views of Senate would be shared with the University Executive at their next meeting. Senate members were encouraged to continue sharing concerns and comments to their Head of School or Head of College. The University Secretary agreed to confirm the position on some specific elements of the contract with the supplier, including the date of expiry of the contract, whether the contract includes any formal review points, and whether the contract stipulates a requirement for a single-supplier to be used for travel bookings.</p>
9.	<p>Senate and its Standing Committees Internal Effectiveness Review 2021/22 S 22/23 2 H</p> <p>To note and comment</p> <p>This item was introduced by Tom Ward, Director of Academic Services. Senate noted its thanks to Academic Services for undertaking the Internal Effectiveness Review. Members were invited to submit comments on the feedback from the review and proposed actions in response to Tom Ward.</p>
10.	<p>Solidarity with Students in Iran S 22/23 2 I</p> <p>To discuss and comment CLOSED</p> <p>This item is closed business.</p>

ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTING

11.	<p>Senate Exception Committee Terms of Reference and Membership 2022-23 S 22/23 2 J</p> <p>To approve</p> <p>This item was presented to Senate for approval.</p> <p>A Senate member (with appropriate seconders) introduced four amendments in relation to this item. Prior to making a decision on the amendments, Senate noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was close to its scheduled end and there was insufficient time to fully consider the amendments put forward.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposer noted that he had made the proposed amendments available to Academic Services in May 2022. There may be unintended consequences and practical implications to adopting some of the amendments, and it would be appropriate for Senate to consider an analysis of the implications before making a decision. <p>Notwithstanding these points, Senate decided to consider the amendments.</p> <p>An amendment (Amendment 1) was moved and adopted without vote by Senate. It modified sections 2.3 and 3.4 as follows:</p> <p><i>2.3 Unless otherwise represented, the membership of the Committee must also include two elected academic staff Senate members and a representative of the Edinburgh University Students' Association (normally the President).</i></p> <p><i>3.4 Four members of the Committee shall be a quorum. This number must include the Principal or Vice-Principal Students and an elected academic staff Senate member.</i></p> <p>An amendment (Amendment 2) was moved, seconded and passed by majority vote. inserted the following in section 3.2:</p> <p><i>3.2 The aim will be to circulate minutes, agendas and papers to members of the Committee at least five working days in advance of the meeting or prior to the conclusion of the consultation period. Notice of business shall be given to the Senatus to the extent possible, and papers made available upon request so that comments can be given to a member of the Committee. In cases of extreme urgency, which is likely to be the case given the nature of this Committee, and with the agreement of the Convener, papers may be tabled at meetings of the Committee. If being conducted by correspondence the consultation period may be no shorter than a 24 hour period.</i></p> <p>An amendment (Amendment 3) was moved and adopted without vote by Senate. It inserted the following in section 4.1:</p> <p><i>4.1 To consider any matter between meetings of the Senatus that cannot await the next such meeting and with the full delegated authority of Senatus to make a decision on the matter on behalf of the Senatus insofar as a decision cannot be deferred to a meeting of the Senatus.</i></p> <p>An amendment (Amendment 4) was moved and adopted without vote by Senate. It modified section 2.3 as follows (with text from amendment 1 in italics):</p> <p><i>2.3 Unless otherwise represented, the membership of the Committee must also include two six elected academic staff Senate members, including at least one such member from each College, and a representative of the Edinburgh University Students' Association (normally the President).</i></p> <p>In addition to approving the four amendments, Senate approved the minor amendment to the Committee membership, as set out in the paper.</p>
12.	<p>Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee S 22/23 2 K Additional Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee S 22/23 2 KK To approve CLOSED</p> <p>This item is closed business.</p>
13.	<p>Senate Elections 2022/23 – key dates S 22/23 2 L To note and comment</p> <p>Senate noted the paper.</p>
14.	<p>Edinburgh University Students' Association VP Education Priorities 2022-23 S 22/23 2 M To note and comment</p> <p>Students' Association VP Education Sam Maccallum introduced this item. They emphasised that some students are very concerned regarding the return to in-person examinations, particularly since students in Years 3 and 4 in have never taken in-person examinations during their degree programme.</p>

	<p>They also raised concerns regarding the timing of the Student Disability Service communicating Learning Adjustments through to teaching staff and other staff responsible for examinations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Tina Harrison indicated that the Senate Education Committee had recently approved new Assessment and Feedback Principles and Priorities, which encouraged staff to consider inclusivity through assessment design. She also reported that appropriate senior University staff are actively engaged in discussions with Schools regarding in-person exams. 	
15.	<p>Student Partnership Agreement</p> <p>To note</p> <p>Senate noted the paper. Professor Tina Harrison invited members to contact her with any queries or comments on the paper.</p>	S 22/23 2 N
16.	<p>Research Strategy Group update</p> <p>To note</p> <p>Senate noted the paper.</p> <p>It was noted that a paper is being prepared by the Provost for the University Executive, highlighting the University's excellent performance on REF and explaining how the University will utilise the additional Research Excellence Grant funding that the Scottish Funding Council allocated to the University. This paper would be made available to Senate in due course.</p>	S 22/23 2 O
17.	<p>Report of Concessions Approved by Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee</p> <p>To note and comment</p> <p>This item was introduced by Convener of APRC, Dr Paul Norris. The paper was provided to address the matter arising of the 25 May 2022 meeting of Senate.</p> <p>Senate noted the paper.</p> <p>Members were invited to raise comments with Dr Norris via email.</p>	S 22/23 2 P