



# THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

## Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 10 January 2024 and close at noon on Wednesday 24 January 2024

## Approved e-Senate Report

A full summary of comments raised via e-Senate can be accessed at [e-Senate comments](#) (EASE login required).

| <b>ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL</b> |   |
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| <b>1.</b>                                  | <p><b>Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita (e-S 23/24 2 A)</b><br/>To approve</p> <p>Senate agreed to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita on those professors listed in the paper. One member provided comment on this item.</p> <p>One member was critical of the procedural approach to e-Senate stating that they believe it to be poor form to confer the status of Emeritus via a process where nil response equals assent. They stated their hope that the e-Senate process be reviewed now that the external review has concluded.</p> <p>The member indicated a preference that a Special Minute refer to the candidates intention to remain active within the University and that Schools be recommended to include this information moving forward.</p> |
| <b>ITEMS FOR COMMENT</b>                   |   |
| <b>2.</b>                                  | <p><b>Court Resolutions (e-S 23/24 2 B)</b><br/>To comment</p> <p>Two members submitted comments on this item.<br/>One member expressed a view that a change from European Politics to Neuropolitics required explanation, whilst another member expressed a view that Personal Chairs should be able to determine the appropriate title to correspond with their area of academic expertise.</p> <p>The comments were passed to the author of the paper.</p>   |
| <b>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR NOTING</b>     |   |
| <b>3.</b>                                  | <p><b>Communications from the University Court (e-S 23/24 2 C)</b><br/>To note</p> <p>Senate formally noted the communications. Comments were received from four members.</p> <p>19 June 2023<br/>Item 2: Principal's Report</p>  |

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|                  | <p>Two members commented on the use and meaning of the terms “freedom of speech” and “academic freedom” expressing opposing views.<br/>One member suggested that the University utilise the expertise within the institution on subject of academic freedom and that the approach be considered by Senate.</p> <p>Item 3: Student Experience Reviews with Schools/Deaneries 2022-23<br/>One member commented on this item, expressing caution with anecdotal reports of positive feedback regarding the Student Support Model without a defined metric for measuring its success.</p> <p>9 October 2023<br/>Item 7: Staff Engagement Survey<br/>Two members commented on this item, with one commenter reflecting on there being a lack of time given to the staff survey and another commenter suggesting that the low response rate may be associated with broader institutional matters at the time, including industrial action and confidence in University leadership.</p> <p>The comments were passed to the author of the paper.</p>  |
| <p><b>4.</b></p> | <p><b>Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee (e-S 22/23 2 D)</b><br/>To note</p> <p>Senate noted the report of the Knowledge Strategy Committee. Comments were received from three members.</p> <p>Item 2: Presentation: Digital Strategy, Digital Estate Update<br/>One member commented on the benefits of SeatEd and encouraged ethical use of anonymised data.<br/>Another member reflected on there being a lack of evidence of the University’s looking to learn from other institutions where there IoT/SMART-like systems have been rolled out at scale. The member urged adequate piloting of systems and consideration of data use and robust of opt-out provisions.</p> <p>Item 3: Chief Information Officer Update<br/>One member sought clarification regarding the reference to updates to the student record (EUCLID) as being linked to the Curriculum Transformation Project.<br/>Another member expressed concern regarding the proposal for a Chatbot within EdHelp, suggesting that investment should be directed toward human-supported alternatives.</p> <p>Item 4: Data Centre Capacity<br/>One member commented on the absence and delay of carbon accounting in relation to the University’s supercomputer facilities as detracting from the University’s carbon and sustainability commitments.</p> |