



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## **Electronic Senate**

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 12 January 2022 and close at noon on Wednesday 26 January 2022

## **AGENDA**

### **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

- 1. Draft Resolutions: Chairs** **e-S 21/22 2 A**  
To comment

### **ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

- 2. An update to the Senate membership - New Student Members**
  - Sofia Marina Konstantinidou – PG Representative
  - Shrikant Wad – PG Representative
- 3. Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita** **e-S 21/22 2 B**  
To approve
- 4. Communications from the University Court** **e-S 21/22 2 C**  
To note
- 5. Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee** **e-S 21/22 2 D**  
To note

**Electronic Senate****12 - 26 January 2022****Resolution****Description of paper**

1. This paper is presented to Senate for consultation in accordance with the procedures for the creation of Resolutions as set out in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966.

**Action requested / Recommendation**

2. Senate is invited to make observations on the following attached draft Resolutions:

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

3. For E-Senate, members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations by email. Any comments on this paper should be emailed to [SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk](mailto:SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk) quoting "comment on e-S 21/22 2 A". These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>. This is an EASE-protected webpage where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

**Background and context**

4. Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled the University Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation of Chairs. The Act sets out the procedure for making Resolutions and stipulates that Senatus Academicus, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest require to be consulted on draft Resolutions throughout the period of one month, with the months of August and September not taken into account when calculating the consultation period.

**Discussion**

5. The School of Engineering wishes to establish a Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics to lead research and teaching in this area and wishes to recruit externally. The Central Academic Promotions Committee met electronically on 15 December 2021 and agreed to award three Personal Chairs.

**Resource implications**

6. The approval processes include confirmation of the funding in place to support the Chairs.

**Risk Management**

7. There are reputational considerations in establishing Chairs which are considered as part of the University's approval processes.

## **Responding to the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Goals**

8. The Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics will contribute to the University Strategy 2030 aspiration to create initiatives on environmental sustainability and meet the UN sustainable development goals that, for example, explicitly signpost the importance of cleaner energy on the path to zero carbon. A number of existing research synergies and collaborations need to be fostered urgently and developed with Universities in Scotland and further afield, as well as with Industry and relevant Government agencies. The incumbent of this Chair will be the catalyst for such successful synergies.

## **Equality and Diversity**

9. Equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to chairs.

## **Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed**

10. Via Senate's report to University Court.

## **Consultation**

11. University Executive approved the creation of the Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics at its meeting on 9 November 2021. The Central Academic Promotions Committee agreed to award the three personal Chairs at its meeting on 15 December 2021.

## **Further information**

### **Author(s)**

Kirstie Graham  
Deputy Head of Court Services  
November 2021

### **Presenter(s) (if required)**

### **Freedom of information**

Open paper

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

**Resolution of the University Court No. 1/2022**

**Foundation of a Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics**

At Edinburgh, the Twenty first day of February, Two thousand and twenty two.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics.

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 Chair of Ocean Fluid Dynamics 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. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 March Two thousand and twenty two.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

**Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 2/2022**

**Foundation of a Personal Chair of Experimental Medicine**

At Edinburgh, the Twenty first day of February, Two thousand and twenty two.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Experimental Medicine:

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 Experimental Medicine 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 Experimental Medicine 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 December Two thousand and twenty one.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

**Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 3/2022**

**Foundation of a Personal Chair of Aging, Health and Methods**

At Edinburgh, the Twenty first day of February, Two thousand and twenty two.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Aging, Health and Methods:

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 Aging, Health and Methods 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 Aging, Health and Methods 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 December Two thousand and twenty one.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

**Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 4/2022**

**Foundation of a Personal Chair of Geometry and Physics**

At Edinburgh, the Twenty first day of February, Two thousand and twenty two.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Geometry and Physics:

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 Geometry and Physics 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 Geometry and Physics 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 February Two thousand and twenty two.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary

**Electronic Senate**

**12 – 26 January 2021**

**Conferment of the Title of Emeritus / Emerita Professor**

**Description of paper**

1. The Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita upon those professors who retired recently or whose retirement is imminent.

**Action requested / recommendation**

2. For approval.
3. For E-Senate, a nil response is regarded as approval. A comment need only be submitted to raise an objection / suggest corrections. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to [SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk](mailto:SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk) quoting “comment on e-S 21/22 2 B.” These comments will be added verbatim at <http://edin.ac/18tbekG>

**Discussion**

4. This Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita upon those professors listed below:

Professor P Brophy, Deanery of Biomedical Sciences  
Professor K Chapman, Deanery of Clinical Sciences  
Professor E Clive, Edinburgh School of Law  
Professor M Holmes, Deanery of Clinical Sciences  
Professor N Mutrie, Moray House School of Education

The Special Minutes are attached as an appendix.

**Resource implications**

5. None.

**Risk management**

6. Not applicable.

**Equality & diversity**

7. Not applicable.

**Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed**

8. Those Professors who have been conferred with the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita will be contacted by Senate Secretariat in due course.

**Author**

Senate Secretariat  
January 2022

**Freedom of Information**

Open paper



**Special Minute**  
**Peter Brophy, FRSE, FMedSci**  
**Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience**

Peter Brophy will retire on December 31st, 2021 after nearly 27 years of service to the University of Edinburgh. He graduated with a BSc (First Class Honours) in Biochemistry from Queen Elizabeth College (now King's College), London University and a PhD in Biochemistry from Guy's Hospital Medical School (now King's College Medical School), London University in 1974. After post-doctoral research at the University of British Columbia and the University of Utrecht he was appointed Lecturer in Biochemistry, University of Stirling. In 1995 he was appointed to the Mary Dick Chair of Veterinary Anatomy and Cell Biology in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. In 2009 he was appointed to the Chair of Anatomy in the Medical School. He is thus the only person in the University's history to have held both the Veterinary and Medical Anatomy Chairs,

Peter's research has focused on the myelination of nerve fibres in the central and peripheral nervous systems and on the glial cells that assemble this essential structure. This work has resulted in several discoveries which are fundamental to our understanding of how myelination is regulated in health and disease. His lab's discovery that the Neurofascin gene was responsible for regulating the assembly of the nodes in nerve fibres that promote rapid nerve transmission led them to identify the first human neurodevelopmental disease caused by mutations in this gene. His group's work on the Periaxin gene led to the discovery of the cause of a debilitating type of degenerative disease that severely affects the peripheral nervous system. These discoveries have been recognised by his peers in the field of myelination by his election to Chair the prestigious Gordon Conference on Myelination and Glia in 2008, and by his continuing role as a member of the Organizing Committee for the Biennial European Glia Conference.

In 2006 Peter and Professor Peter Sandercock, Professor of Medical Neurology, were jointly instrumental in establishing the UK's first Multiple Sclerosis Research Centre as a result of a case made to the UK Multiple Sclerosis Society and a donation of £2.5 million from JK Rowling. The continuing success of this University of Edinburgh Centre has been recognised by the recent renewal of its funding support in 2021. National recognition has been reflected in his election to Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences (2003) and the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2007). He has served on the Executive of the British Neuroscience Association and the Council of the Academy of Medical Sciences as well as the awards committees of the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council. International recognition is shown by his election to a visiting Professorship at the École des Neurosciences de Paris (2011), as the continuing Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board, INSERM Institute for Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, Institut du Fer a Moulin, Paris, as the Chair of the Committee on Stokes Professorship Awards, Science Foundation Ireland and his membership of a variety of Scientific Review Boards in Canada, Italy and France.

As the newly-appointed Chair of Anatomy in the Veterinary School he undertook, somewhat to the surprise of his colleagues, the complete dissection of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, from head to tail, and as Department Head he introduced a variety of teaching innovations so that student progress was monitored by both formative and summative assessment. In addition to his interest and involvement in undergraduate teaching, throughout his career in Edinburgh Peter has paid immense attention to the career progression of his lab members. Five are now full University Professors in the UK, Italy and Chile.

Peter has been actively involved in contributing to the development of neuroscience research in the University, first as Head of the Preclinical Veterinary Sciences Department and Dean of Research in the Vet school. During the 1990s the structure and organization of

research in the Faculty of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine underwent major reconfiguration, a process in which he played a full part as the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Research Committee. Reorganization meant that a Neuroscience Centre, which he subsequently directed, was established in the Medical School. Subsequently he led the Centre for Neuroregeneration which was in the vanguard of the relocation of Neuroscience research to the Bioquarter at Little France.

In retirement, Peter expects to develop what he hopes will be a burgeoning second career as a member of the Best Dressed Blues Band. His strong links to the University will continue as a co-principal investigator on a research project that will continue into 2022. Thus, Peter expects to maintain his interest and involvement in the continued success of Edinburgh Neuroscience.

**Special Minute**  
**Karen Chapman BSc, PhD**  
**Emeritus Professor of Molecular Endocrinology**

Karen Chapman will retire from the University at the end of 2021. She held a personal chair in Molecular Endocrinology from 2008. Karen completed her PhD in DNA repair and recombination with Professor Peter Emmerson at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Her postdoctoral research on transcriptional regulation with Professor Mark Ptashne at Harvard University was supported by fellowships from The Royal Society and the European Molecular Biology Organisation. In 1985, she joined the MRC Brain Metabolism Unit in Edinburgh and in 1991, the (then) Department of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, the latter supported by a Caledonian Research Foundation/Royal Society of Edinburgh fellowship. She became a Lecturer in 1994.

Stimulated by her postdoctoral research on a prokaryotic ligand-activated transcription factor, since moving to Edinburgh Karen's research has focussed on steroid hormone action - in particular, glucocorticoid action and metabolism. She has made seminal contributions to our understanding of the role of glucocorticoid metabolism by the 11 $\beta$ -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase enzymes during inflammation. Her current interests include how glucocorticoids mature the fetal and neonatal heart, affecting life-long risk of cardiovascular disease and relevant to the widespread clinical use of corticosteroids in preterm birth. She has over 130 peer-reviewed publications that together have attracted over 11,000 citations. She has supervised or co-supervised 32 successful PhD students, an achievement of which she is particularly proud.

As a member of the Society for Endocrinology, Karen has served on several of their committees as well as the Council of Trustees, most recently as the General Secretary. During 2020-2021, she led a governance review for the Society. She is also a member of the European Society for Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society of Australia and holds several editorial positions, including co-Editor-in-Chief of Current Opinion in Endocrine and Metabolic Research. She has chaired research grant panels for the Norwegian Research Council and the FWO Research Foundation of Flanders. Karen is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia, where she was also one of the founding directors of the Western Australian Cardiovascular Research Alliance, standing down in 2021.

Throughout her career, Karen has been a keen advocate of postgraduate education, mentoring and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). She was Postgraduate Director of Quality and Enhancement for the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine from 2009-2015 and a member of the Senatus Quality and Enhancement Committee over the same period. Until 2016, she co-led the Edinburgh Clinical Medical School Athena SWAN team which was successful in obtaining the first Athena SWAN award to a Medical School in Scotland (bronze, 2014 and then silver, 2016). Since 2012, she has co-led the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine EDI committee and she is also convenor of the Gender Equality sub-committee of the University EDI committee. Karen is a member of the recently formed Research Cultures Working Group of the University and also leads the Centre for Cardiovascular Science Research Integrity team. From 2013 to 2020, Karen was lead organiser for "Let's Talk About Health and Disease", the flagship public lecture series for the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. She has found it particularly rewarding working with a talented and diverse group of people - academics, technical and professional support staff as well as students from across the University and discovering the many complex layers that make the University of Edinburgh so interesting and rewarding to be part of. However, for Karen, the best part of "the job" has been the deep friendships, the mentoring relationships (including the peer mentors!) and collaborations over the past 30 years at the University of Edinburgh.

In retirement, Karen will spend more time in Australia with her husband, Steve, taking any opportunities for travel. As well as enjoying time with their 3 adult children, Karen plans to do all the things she never had time to do whilst working. She plans to continue to publish her research as well as reviews and hypotheses and will stay involved in her editorial roles. Karen will be involved in PhD training in the College and will continue to provide mentorship to colleagues at the University as well as being actively involved in discussions relevant to research culture and EDI.

**Special Minute**  
**Professor Eric Clive CBE MA LLB LLM SJD Dr hc FRSE**  
**Professor Emeritus of Scots Law**

Eric Clive is one of the most prominent and distinguished scholars working in the field of private law in Europe. His career has fallen into three distinct parts. From 1962 to 1981 he was a full-time member of the Law School, culminating in his appointment to the prestigious Chair of Scots Law. During this period, he wrote the standard work on the law of husband and wife as well as publishing many academic papers.

Thereafter Professor Clive served as a Law Commissioner in the Scottish Law Commission, the government's law reform agency, for an unprecedented 19 years. Under his guidance, family law in Scotland was largely re-written in a series of Acts of Parliament that have transformed the lives of the people of Scotland. Professor Clive also turned his hand to many other subjects including succession law, contract law, and the law of sale of goods. No law reformer in the UK has worked so effectively or had so much impact on the development of the law.

After retiring from the Scottish Law Commission, and by then in his early 60s, Professor Clive embarked on a third career, becoming one of the leading figures in a European project known as Principles, Definitions and Model Rules of European Private Law (Draft Common Frame of Reference). The aim of this project was to prepare model rules and definitions which could act as a point of reference or "toolbox" for both European and national legislators. The final version of the DCFR ran to six volumes and 6,500 pages; Professor Clive was one of the two principal editors. The DCFR has proved highly influential, and constitutes the most significant project in European private law to have taken place in the last few decades. It has been referred to by the highest levels of the courts throughout Europe and provoked academic debate and commentary in European journals. The Scottish Law Commission has used the DCFR as the main point of reference in its law reform project: "Contract Law in the Light of the Draft Common Frame of Reference." This culminated in the Report on Review of Contract Law: Formation, Interpretation, Remedies for Breach, and Penalty Clauses published on 29 March 2018.

Professor Clive is a Commander of the Order of the British Empire and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His standing as a scholar was further marked by the award of honorary doctorates by the Universities of Osnabrück and Edinburgh.

Professor Clive has a long and distinguished career as a legal scholar of this university. While he has retired from teaching, he remains an active member of the Edinburgh Centre for Private Law, a research centre based in the Law School. He is closely in touch with a number of colleagues, and regularly provides them with the benefit of his knowledge and experience by commenting on draft publications. His extensive network of contacts also allows him to put members of staff in touch with academics from other countries in Europe who can act as contributors to projects organised from Edinburgh. Generously, he has continued to put his expertise at the disposal of the Law School, being always available to discuss a recent issue or development, meet with PhD students or support Law School events and to participate in and contribute to Centre events.

Professor Clive is a distinguished and influential scholar in areas of law which are of central importance to a number of members of Edinburgh Law School. It is strongly within the School's interests that he should be appointed as Emeritus Professor.

**Special Minute**  
**Megan C Holmes BSc PhD**  
**Emeritus Professor of Molecular Neuroendocrinology**

Megan Holmes has held a personal chair in Molecular Neuroendocrinology since 2008. She obtained her PhD in Physiology at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, University of London in 1980, then moved on to postdoctoral Fellowships at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Child Health USA. On returning to the UK, in 1992 (after a 6-year career break), she joined the University of Edinburgh with a precursor to the part-time Wellcome Trust Return-to-Work Fellowship.

The central theme of Megan's research throughout her career has been 'Stress'. Although 'stress' is a beneficial response, chronic stress can be a common cause of metabolic and brain disorders. Megan's research has defined mechanisms by which glucocorticoids - an important class of stress hormone - lead to stress-related disorders, particularly of the brain. Her work has defined the mechanisms regulating glucocorticoid action at different stages of life, particularly in the brain. She showed that early life is a particularly sensitive period - a developmental window - when inappropriate exposure to stress hormones can alter susceptibility to metabolic and brain disease in later life. She demonstrated that high glucocorticoids alter placental function as well adversely affecting the developing fetal brain directly, with consequent deleterious effects on brain function as adults. She developed novel *in vivo* imaging of the adult rodent brain to demonstrate functional changes in the brain associated with stress.

In 2011, Megan established and became the inaugural Director of Edinburgh Preclinical Imaging (EPI) to provide *in vivo* imaging of small animals across the University. She is on the directorate of Edinburgh Imaging, which incorporates imaging facilities and expertise for human, large and small animal imaging across the University. Megan was instrumental in obtaining funding for the new 9.4T MRI scanner and played a key role in obtaining funding for new preclinical ultrasound imaging to ensure the highest specification imaging can be carried out. She led the preclinical imaging theme for the Centre of Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology (cross-council funded).

Megan has been an investigator/co-investigator on research grants totalling ~£10.1M. She has published 101 original research papers and review articles (collectively attracting more than 14k citations), in addition to 14 book chapters and has presented her group's research at numerous scientific conferences both nationally and internationally. She has supervised/co-supervised 19 PhD students, 11 MSc students and acted as external examiner in close to 40 occasions.

Stress research covers several research fields hence reflected in Megan's membership of several societies (British and American Neuroscience and Endocrinology societies, as well as the Physiological Society). She has regularly presented at society meetings and been on meeting organising committees. She was on the Society for Endocrinology Science Committee (2013-18) to support endocrinology basic research and careers. However, her main work was to promote the field of Neuroendocrinology, which spans all 3 research disciplines, but is a minority in all. She has been a member of the British Society for Neuroendocrinology (BSN) from its early conception as the British Neuroendocrine Group, until the present day. She served on the steering committee for 10 years and was their treasurer for 8 years to distribute money from the BSN journal to support neuroendocrinology research. She remains a senior editor of the BSN's journal.

Megan has made important contributions to teaching/training in the University of Edinburgh. She was on the Honours Neuroscience exam board (2014-20), was Neuroscience elective course organiser (2005-15) and has participated in several MSc courses. She acted as external examiner for an MSc Neuroscience course in the University of Bristol (2012-2017). She has also been keen to support the careers of young researchers, postdoctoral and tenure track, within the University formal mentoring schemes since 2010.

In retirement, Megan plans to continue to contribute to postgraduate training and Honours year undergraduate teaching and maintain her editorial roles. As lead applicant on the WT grant (2019-24) for the new MRI imaging facility she will continue to ensure the development of cutting edge scanning and image analysis and continue to publish the papers from her recent research. Finally, she is looking forward to enjoying hiking in the Scottish hills and coastline, as well as spending more time with grandchildren.

**Special Minute**  
**Nanette Mutrie MBE**  
**Emerita Professor of Physical Activity for Health**

Professor Mutrie was appointed to Moray House School of Education and Sport in July 2012 as Chair of Physical Activity for Health. She immediately created and had approved the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC) which was launched on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2013 to an audience of over one hundred people, and with a keynote from Professor Fiona Bull who leads the World Health Organization in the area of physical activity. In 2013 she played a significant role in the completion of REF2014 for the 'sports-related' submission. She then served on the REF2014 assessment panel. Soon after she proposed that Institutes within the school should have Directors of Research and she was appointed to this role for the Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Health Sciences (ISPEHS). This enabled a transformation on how research was facilitated and encouraged in ISPEHS. Nanette subsequently led the submission on sport-related research for REF2021.

Professor Mutrie's main research interests have been in developing and testing interventions that help people move more. She has over three hundred publications with collaborators and students and has now completed the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the textbook *Psychology of Physical Activity* with co-authors.

Professor Mutrie is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS); a Fellow of The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES); and of Health Enhancing Physical Activity – Europe (HEPA -Europe). She is a Director of the charity Paths for All which has a vision of Scotland as a country where everyone can and should walk every day. She has also contributed to policy, for example 'Let's make Scotland more active' and to the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) programmes on physical activity and the environment, as well as to the promotion of walking and cycling. She is currently a member of the National Strategic Oversight Group for Physical Activity in Scotland.

Professor Mutrie has led the core PAHRC team for nine years – colleagues in the team have produced outstanding research outputs with impact. The future is bright for this area and for this team. Professor Mutrie can advise and mentor this group as needed.

Professor Mutrie was awarded an MBE from the New Year's Honours list in 2015 for her contribution to the promotion of physical activity in Scotland. This honour was awarded by the Queen at Holyrood.

She has a social media presence with six thousand followers on Twitter and is frequently asked to speak on radio or via podcasts.

Professor Mutrie plans to maintain her research connections with the University of Edinburgh mainly through PAHRC and the Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Health Sciences where she hopes to continue a mentoring role; to provide some lectures or tutorials; and to help to plan the annual conference hosted by PAHRC. She will continue to represent and support PAHRC on three research projects.



**Electronic Senate**

**12 – 26 January 2022**

**Communications from the University Court**

**Description of paper**

1. To update Senate on certain matters considered by the University Court at its meeting held on 6 October 2021.

**Action requested / recommendation**

2. Senate is invited to note the report.
3. For E-Senate, members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations by email. Any comments on this paper should be emailed to [SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk](mailto:SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk) quoting “comment on e-S 21/22 2 C”. These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>. This is an EASE-protected webpage where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

**Resource implications**

4. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

**Risk management**

5. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

**Equality and diversity**

6. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

**Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed**

7. Regular reports on the Court’s work of interest to Senate will continue to be submitted.

**Author**

Dr Lewis Allan  
Head of Court Services  
7 January 2022

**Freedom of Information**

Open Paper

## Communications from the University Court

6 October 2021

### 1 New Members and Attendees

Debora Kayembe, Rector, welcomed members and attendees. New Court members Douglas Alexander (General Council Assessor), Ruth Girardet (Co-opted Member) and Alistair Smith (Co-opted Member) and new attendee Rona Smith (Director of Strategic Insight & Planning) were welcomed to their first meeting.

### 2 Principal's Report

Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, supplemented the written report with the following points:

- Members and attendees were thanked for the contributions to the Court seminar that took place prior to this afternoon's meeting and considered the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and freedom of expression and academic freedom;
- The successful return or introduction to campus for many students and staff at the start of the new academic year has helped create a positive atmosphere of renewal after the disruptions of the previous 18 months; and,
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced earlier this week a new artificial intelligence fund for student scholarships and research fellowships. The Russell Group subsequently invited the University to produce a statement in response in recognition of the University of Edinburgh's leadership in this area.

Members raised the following points:

- What the estimated financial impact of the UK Government's 1.25% Health and Social Care Levy from April 2022 will be – this has an estimated direct cost of £1m in the current year and £3-4m per annum from 2022/23 onwards. There will also likely be an indirect cost as suppliers may increase prices as their own operating costs increase;
- The University's participation in the UK Government's Turing Study Abroad Scheme – the University has been successful in bidding to be a major participant in the scheme and would also be keen to be involved in any Scottish Government-funded international student exchange scheme, as has been mooted;
- The impact of the increased student intake this year on the future size and shape of the University – external factors have meant that the student intake has been larger than planned, with a similar position evident at many comparator institutions. A general growth in overall student numbers is not a planning assumption or aim;
- The Scottish Funding Council's Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability – the review encourages collaboration within and between universities and colleges, which the University is involved with and is keen to continue doing;
- The UN COP26 Climate Change Conference – there is leadership involvement in the COP26 Universities Network from Professor Dave Reay, involvement in a wide range of events in both the 'green' and 'blue' zones of the conference, as well as hosting events in Edinburgh, where many delegates will stay or visit during their time in Scotland;
- The proportion of teaching in groups under 50 that is taking place in-person – this varies by School and by course but on average over 80% of teaching of groups under 50 is presently in-person. For the next semester the aim is to increase the 50 person cap to 120, which should lead to a further increase in on-campus teaching; and,

- The reasoning for a cap on teaching groups in-person that are no larger than 50 – this is a reflection of capacity constraints when timetabling decisions were made with assumptions of what the public health guidance would be for universities and is in-line with Scottish Government expectations of careful management of a return to greater levels of on-campus activity this year. As this has been successful from a public health perspective there is confidence to raise the cap next semester, although much will depend on how the pandemic develops over the winter period.

### **3 National Student Survey Results and Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) Response Action Plan**

Findings from the 2021 iterations of the undergraduate National Student Survey (NSS) and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey were reviewed. The results remain disappointing for the NSS in particular, with a decline in the overall satisfaction score to 71%, in comparison to a sector average of 79%. It was noted that, while the pandemic has led to an overall decline in student satisfaction levels for the sector, some institutions have improved over this period. Many comments submitted by students chime with findings from the recent Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR), such as a desire to reform the current Personal Tutor system, improving quality and timeliness of feedback on academic work, inconsistency between Schools, a slow pace of change and the general complexity of navigating the University from a student perspective. While the overall ELIR outcome is positive, there are challenging recommendations in the report for the University to consider and act upon. A draft action plan to respond to the recommendations has been developed for initial review by Court and will be submitted to Senate for approval.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Postgraduate and postdoctoral staff who support undergraduate teaching could have greater training provided before teaching and this should be resourced; and more generally, the level of resource that may be required to take forward the draft Action Plan was queried – there will be a resource commitments made as part of implementing the Action Plan, such as reform of the Personal Tutor system;
- A long-standing issue has been a propensity to over-assess students and this should be considered within the Curriculum Transformation Programme – the approach to assessment has been ‘bottom-up’ to date and a strategic approach is needed that is clear and consistent for students;
- Course Enhancement Questionnaires will not be offered this year but they have been a useful source of data on the student experience – response rates have been in decline and a new approach will be taken with a mid-course rather than end-course questionnaire in place from 2022/23. This should allow for action to be taken on issues raised before the course concludes;
- How well understood the particular issues with assessment and feedback are – there is a desire for feedback that is timely, consistent and useful in the sense of being linked to the requirements of the course and helping students develop further;
- Setting appropriate metrics (e.g. using a narrow peer group that most closely matches the University) to measure success, focusing on a small number of key improvements to make and improving accountability for leaders in each area (e.g. inclusion in annual review discussions) could add an impetus for improvement;
- NSS results have been disappointing for a prolonged period of time, despite the high priority given to them by Court and whether there a resourcing and/or governance element to this if there are some areas with persistently low results that do not make significant changes as a result. The ELIR report also highlights the governance challenge of the highly devolved nature of the University;

- The disappointing results are recognised by staff and a great deal of work has been undertaken over the years in response – it would be helpful for Schools to have a document that brought together analysis of this to aid future action;
- Improving communications to students to reinforce positive action taken;
- Any feeling of institutional acceptance that low student satisfaction scores are inevitable should be challenged by Court and all parts of the University; and,
- From a student perspective, one of the biggest difficulties is not feeling valued and not feeling a sense of belonging as an individual in the institution and in the wider city – it is notable that student satisfaction tends to be higher on smaller, more close-knit courses. In addition, students from widening participation backgrounds may need particular support and find that a single negative incident may affect them disproportionately.

Court agreed to emphasise the high strategic priority it places on improving student satisfaction measures and in particular its desire to see a greatly increased pace of change in this area and offered support to the senior leadership team in advancing this change.

#### **4 Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence**

An update on activity in preventing and responding to sexual violence and gender-based violence and the work of a University taskforce on the subject, now integrated into the Gender Equality Sub-Committee of the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, was reviewed. Work at the University is focused on: better support for those affected; encouraging greater disclosure of incidents; and, culture change to reduce incidences. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Whether online modules in consent and tackling harassment could be implemented on a mandatory basis this academic year – the software has only recently been purchased and complex issues around triggering (e.g. those who might recognise for the first time a previous experience as being an experience of sexual violence having completed the module) should be considered further before a decision is taken; and,
- Whether the intention in the paper to “reduce incidences of sexual violence over time through education and culture change” should aim for eradication rather than reduction – it was acknowledged that long-term societal-wide change is needed, which the University can help to contribute towards, as well as greater support for those who disclose and encouraging disclosure.

#### **5 Students' Association and Sports Union Reports**

Ellen MacRae, Students' Association President, presented reports from the Students' Association and the Sports Union and introduced a brief video highlighting some of the many Welcome Week events held in Bristo Square. Over 25,000 visits to the 'Gem', a temporary covered outdoor space took place in Welcome Week. The Gem hosted student societies and sports club fairs and helped introduce first years and many second years new to Edinburgh to the campus.

It was noted that difficulty in finding suitable and affordable private accommodation in Edinburgh is a serious concern for many students this year. This could be further exacerbated in the coming years as the large cohort of first year undergraduate students seek private accommodation for their subsequent years of study. The Association's President asked that accommodation availability in the city be considered in thinking on the future size and shape of the University.

## 6 Performance Measures to Support Strategy 2030

Performance measures to support engagement with, and measurement and delivery of, the University's Strategy 2030 were considered and approved. It was noted that the intention is to establish baselines, recognising that the pandemic will have a disruptive effect on the stability of some of the measures, benchmark where possible and to embed the measures in the planning round as well as providing progress reports to Court and the University Executive. The following points were raised in discussion:

- The measures were welcomed as a necessary means for Court to assess progress in meeting the University's Strategy 2030 ambitions;
- Support was expressed for suggestions made at Policy & Resources Committee to consider leading measures for student experience, suitable measures for Data-Driven Innovation and greater use of external benchmarking with comparable institutions where possible;
- Whether a staff engagement measure could use comparative information from staff surveys at peer institutions;
- Whether a reputation measure could be developed – noting that international university reputation surveys tend to be based on research activity and the difficulties in disentangling different elements which might contribute to reputation but are not related to present day activity, e.g. history and location; and,
- The measures will be one element of a larger toolkit for measuring performance, with the top-level measures to be published within the Annual Report & Accounts and should be suitable for that format.

## 7 People and Money System

A revised plan for the implementation of the People & Money System (the programme delivering the core IT system for HR, Finance, Payroll and Procurement) was presented. The programme was reviewed over the summer period by Professor Dave Robertson, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Science & Engineering, resulting in a recommendation to seek additional funding to complete the implementation using a new approach. This should include working to fixed 'go-live' dates, de-scoping in some areas, additional operational management and adoption, working closely with the main budget holders and strengthened governance and assurance changes. Given the scale and nature of the programme, risks, while reduced, will remain, with institutional perception and confidence in the new system vital for success. The proposed governance and assurance changes have been developed by the Principal and include establishing an Enactment Group to focus on the implementation of the programme, to be co-chaired by Dave Robertson and Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services and bringing an external perspective with Professor Anthony Finkelstein, President of City, University of London, and an expert in systems change, agreeing to provide independent advice on a pro bono basis. The following points were discussed:

- The proposals have been reviewed and the recommendation supported by the Policy & Resources Committee and its People & Money Sub-Group, which includes lay members with experience of the implementation of systems of this type in their own organisations and the additional complexities such programmes often encounter as they develop;
- Continuing to provide Court with assurance that programme milestones are being met – there will be fortnightly reporting to the Enactment Group, monthly reporting to the University Executive and reporting to the Policy & Resources Committee and the Knowledge Strategy Committee, which in turn will report to Court within their regular reports; and,

- Whether there will be additional costs borne in local areas in implementing the system – any additional ‘bedding down’ costs will be funded by the six budget holders for their own areas.

The recommended option to complete the programme using the new approach was approved along with the additional costs associated with the budget variance, noting that this in the context of strengthened governance and assurance changes.

## **8 Edinburgh BioQuarter: Update on Formalising Partnership Arrangements and Procurement of a Private Sector Partner**

An update on plans to formalise partnership arrangements with Scottish Enterprise and the City of Edinburgh Council and to procure a private sector partner to assist in the development of a Health Innovation District at the BioQuarter site, Little France, was reviewed.

Court agreed to support:

- a) the formation of a company limited by shares, EBQ3 Ltd, in which the University would hold a third of the equity alongside Scottish Enterprise and the City of Edinburgh Council, in accordance with the terms of the EBQ3 Shareholders’ Agreement which will govern decision making including appropriate reserved matters;
- b) the University’s Director nominees of EBQ3 Ltd as Ashley Shannon, Director of Operations in Corporate Services and Gary Jebb, Director of Place;
- c) the proposed future structure of the BioQuarter partnership with the Private Sector Partner (PSP) through a Strategic Joint Venture arrangement and associated legal framework;
- d) the publication by EBQ3 Ltd and the 3 BioQuarter partners of the Contract Notice and undertaking the formal public procurement process to select a PSP. This procurement process will ultimately lead to the University entering into the Strategic Joint Venture Agreement with the other BioQuarter partners and the PSP, as well as the other legal agreements necessary to progress the development of the BioQuarter site;
- e) the principles of the Outline Business Case set out in the paper; and,
- f) relevant delegations of authority to progress the procurement process.

## **9 Carbon Sequestration through Forests and Peatland**

An update on plans to sequester carbon to offset unavoidable emissions associated with travel as an essential component of meeting the Strategy 2030 outcome of “We will be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040” was reviewed. Initial scoping work considered a market based approach (purchasing carbon offsets from third party providers on a transactional basis) and the alternative approaches of purchasing land or working in partnership with existing landowners to restore peatland or expand forests or working in partnership with existing landowners. Having found the market based approach to be more expensive and to offer less certainty than a land ownership or land partnership approach, a combination of land ownership and land partnership is proposed to combine the favourable elements of both – with land ownership offering the greatest amount of certainty and the ability to develop related research and teaching opportunities on the land and the partnership approach not requiring an initial capital investment and the benefit of working with experienced custodians of the land. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Whether the scale of land purchase proposed will be sufficient to meet the level of carbon offset required – the proposal includes both land purchase and working in

long-term partnership with existing landowners and should enable the level of carbon offset sought to be met by 2040;

- Airlines are increasingly offering travellers the opportunity to carbon offset journeys and if this becomes included as standard in airline tickets in future the need for the University to offset travel emissions separately would reduce – this is uncertain and by acting now the University can show leadership in this area. Should travel emissions reduce or be offset by airlines and other transport providers the University will still need to offset other activities that generate emissions such as electricity for high performance computing use and the proposals can contribute to this;
- More generally, the extent to which the policy landscape is changing rapidly in this area, making the costs and benefits of a long term decision such as land purchase more difficult to assess at present and at a time when forestry land has been increasing in price – while there is uncertainty at present the direction of travel for organisations aiming to achieve net zero emissions is increasingly to include carbon offsetting as part of a strategy to achieve this. The University of Edinburgh would be at the forefront of the higher education sector by acting now and given the increasing interest in carbon offsetting forestry land is likely to become more expensive in future;
- The level of prioritisation for the proposal compared to other capital projects – the project is modest in its capital requirements and has been recommended as a strategic priority;
- The benefit to the University’s reputation and credibility from showing leadership in this area and taking a significant step towards the ‘zero by 2040’ aim;
- Likely support from the student body for the proposals and the opportunity for teaching and research activities on the land to create wider benefits and a virtuous cycle of activity; and,
- Considering further the communication of the proposals given the commercial confidentiality of some aspects.

Subject to further discussion with relevant members on planned communications, Court supported the proposals and:

- (i) approved expenditure of capital to enable purchase of land for carbon sequestration through forests and peatland; and,
- (ii) noted expenditure of the associated revenue elements, noting that this would be found from within existing resources for 2021-22 and factored into the University’s planning round for future years.

## **10 Other items**

The Annual Report to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-led Review and Enhancement Activity 2020/21 was approved. An update on recruitment for four senior leadership posts – Provost, Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Science & Engineering and, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences – was noted. Regular reports from the Director of Finance, the Development and Alumni Office, Senate and from Court’s committees were noted.

**Electronic Senate**

**12 – 26 January 2022**

**Knowledge Strategy Committee Report**

**Description of paper**

1. The paper reports on the Knowledge Strategy Committee meeting held by videoconference on 11 October 2021.

**Action requested / recommendation**

2. Senate is invited to note the report.
3. For E-Senate, members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations by email. A nil response is taken as assent. Any comments on this paper should be emailed to [SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk](mailto:SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk) quoting “comment on e-S 21/22 2 D”. These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>. This is an EASE-protected webpage where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

**Resource implications**

4. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

**Risk management**

5. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

**Equality & diversity**

6. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

**Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed**

7. Regular reports on aspects of the Committee’s work of interest to Senate will continue to be submitted.

**Author**

Dr Lewis Allan  
Clerk to Knowledge Strategy Committee  
7 January 2022

**Freedom of Information**

Open paper



## **Report from the Knowledge Strategy Committee 11 October 2021**

### **1 Chief Information Officer Update, including People & Money Update**

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

- The continued consolidation of companies in the educational technology sphere, which has given the sector concern for future software pricing. A sector-wide software negotiation group has been formed in response with Universities UK and Jisc (a not-for-profit company that provides network, IT services and digital resources for UK higher education institutions), with the Chief Information Officer a member of the group;
- A revised approach to the implementation of the People & Money System (the programme delivering the core IT system for HR, Finance, Payroll and Procurement) has been agreed by the University Court, with a new Enactment Group to oversee implementation for the remainder of the duration of the programme, which will now operate to fixed implementation dates for the second and third phases;
- The Estates Facilities Management System was due for replacement this year but has been updated to extend its operation for a further two to three years so that it is not replaced at the same time as the People & Money System is implemented for risk management reasons;
- The hybrid and home working programme will shortly conclude and hand over its outputs to Human Resources to aid in a developing a policy on the subject. Work is also underway to equip a number of hybrid meeting rooms in different University buildings;
- Over 1,000 Library tours were taken by students during Welcome Week and these were offered to all students as many continuing students are also new to the campus;
- The global IT supply chain remains challenging and a buffer stock of laptops is being maintained to aid consistency of supply to users; and,
- There have been outages of the residential accommodation network and the printing system caused by security updates which necessitated immediate implementation – these were pro-active measures to improve security and not in response to a cyber attack.

The People & Money update was discussed, noting that the system will have a wide impact on different aspects of the University and ensuring appropriate accountability to different stakeholders outside of the Enactment Group. It was noted that the Enactment Group reports to the University Executive, which has University-wide membership and responsibilities and that any professional services role changes linked to the new system will involve consultation with the Joint Union Liaison Committee, following usual practice. The Committee's desire to ensure that consultation takes place for any wider People & Money-related changes was noted.

### **2 Digital Strategy**

An update on the work to develop a Digital Strategy was reviewed. A first full draft is expected by the end of October and this will be subject to consultation before submission to Knowledge Strategy Committee and other committees. As part of the Digital Strategy, a Digital Estate workstream is underway and is developing outline business cases for eight digital estate projects. The following points were raised in discussion:

- The importance of expectation setting before the digital estate projects are prioritised to reduce any disappointment from those keen to see certain projects

progress. The outline business cases are high-level at this stage and will not move to a more detailed stage until prioritised;

- Using digital estate projects to improve sustainability in the University was encouraged;
- The timing of the Digital Strategy consultation should be considered with any other planned consultations to avoid overlap where possible and the consultation could be extended if so; and,
- Whether the Digital Strategy consultation will be digital only or involve in-person events. In-person consultation meetings will be held, with digital disenfranchisement being a key concern. It is recognised that not all staff have access to University devices to engage with a digital-only consultation.

### **3 Digital Estate Business Cases**

Two of the eight outline business cases developed as part of the Digital Estate workstream of the Digital Strategy were considered: Timetabling; and, Managing User Access to Systems and Data, with the remaining cases under development. The Timetabling business case proposes to replace the existing software, which is reaching end-of-life, with a new software as a service cloud solution. The Managing User Access to Systems and Data project proposes replacing the current EASE system with a new identity and access management toolset, including multi-factor authentication to improve security. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Both projects were supported;
- Introducing a new timetabling system in summer 2022 alongside a major upgrade to the main Virtual Learning Environment may need backfilling of 'business as usual' roles in these areas to allow staff to prepare for the new systems in what is a particularly busy and critical area – this is recognised and will be considered further as the business case is developed. Given the risks of introducing a new timetabling system mid-year the preference is to introduce a new system in the summer period; and,
- Whether the Managing User Access to Systems and Data project will consider the integration of the current EASE system with other University systems and potential knock-on effects on these from replacing the current system. Inter-relationships with other systems can be mapped out as the project develops, with identity and access management systems being well understood and are less technically complicated to implement than many other new systems, giving relatively low risk from a technical perspective.

### **4 IT Committee Terms of Reference**

The Committee approved:

- A minor change to the terms of reference for IT Committee; and,
- The appointment of Michael Rovatsos, Professor of Artificial Intelligence, as Convener of IT Committee for a four year term from November 2021 to October 2025 inclusive.

A further minor revision was suggested to the IT Committee Terms of Reference. This will be included within a wider set of proposed revisions to be submitted to a subsequent meeting.

### **5 Research Publications and Copyright Policy (2021)**

An updated Research Publications and Copyright Policy to ensure that grant holders comply with new open access requirements for a number of major research funders and to

allow authors to reuse their own content in teaching and future scholarship was reviewed. The following points were raised in discussion:

- The approach taken is similar to that of peer institutions in the UK and follows that of earlier pioneers in the US;
- The potential impact on early career or casualised staff undertaking unfunded research in their own time and those working on self-funded PhD theses with the intention to publish monographs, including those who are students and also staff members. It was noted that: students own their own copyright and the policy will not apply to students and staff can opt out of the policy for any publication should they wish (but if the publication has been supported by funding from an external funder that requires open access this may be in breach of funding conditions and will need to be considered). The policy will not apply to monographs, although it should be noted that monographs supported by UK Research & Innovation funding are required to be open access from 2024 and there is an expectation (to be confirmed) that the next UK Research Excellence Framework will require submitted monographs to be open access. The University's Doctoral College was suggested as a forum for considering any other complexities for PhD students who are also staff members. When open access requirements are extended to many monographs, internal support for publishing costs will need to be considered for monographs not funded by external grants;
- The great majority of research undertaken in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is not grant funded and therefore does not have financial support for 'pay to publish' open access publication. There is also the complexity of publications co-authored by multiple authors in different universities with different publication policies. It was noted that staff can opt-out of the policy for any publication at their discretion; and,
- Including a reference to clarify that the policy applies to research that is not funded by external grants, such as by adding the phrase "internally funded" while acknowledging that staff can opt-out of the policy at their discretion – it was agreed that this was best highlighted in communication of the policy and it was requested that the draft communications be shared with the Committee before they issue.

## **6 Other items**

Proposed Digital Research Services investments for 2021/22 were approved. The following papers were noted: a revised Open Educational Resources Policy; the regular Information Security update; an update on student study space provision on campus for the new academic year; an update on the development and implementation of the Core Systems Strategies; a progress report on the deployment of the new University data network; a progress report on the replacement of the University's Enterprise Infrastructure; an update on the ten-year forecast for the Information Services Group capital plan; and, regular reports from the IT Committee and Digital Research Services Steering Group.