



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Tuesday 19 January 2021 and close at noon on Wednesday 27 January 2021

AGENDA

1. **Minute** e-S 20/21 2 A
To approve the minute of the meeting held on 7 October 2020

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

2. **Draft Resolutions: Chairs** e-S 20/21 2 B
To comment

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

3. **Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita** e-S 20/21 2 C
To approve
4. **Conferment of degrees** e-S 20/21 2 D
To approve **CLOSED**
5. **Library Committee Membership 2020/21** e-S 20/21 2 E
To approve
6. **Communications from the University Court** e-S 20/21 2 F
To note
7. **Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee** e-S 20/21 2 G
To note
8. **Students' Association Representation on Senate** e-S 20/21 2 H
For information
9. **Sight Scotland Governance – University of Edinburgh Board membership** e-S 20/21 2 I
To note
10. **Report of the Senate Exception Committee** e-S 20/21 2 J
To note **CLOSED**

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

Minutes of Senate meeting held on 7 October 2020

Description of paper

1. The paper provides the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 7 October 2020.

Action requested / recommendation

2. For approval.
3. A comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. If no comments are received the paper will be deemed approved. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk quoting "comment on e-S 20/21 2 A". These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

Resource implications

4. None.

Risk management

5. Not applicable.

Equality & diversity

6. Not applicable.

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

7. Key decisions were communicated in the Senate Committees' Newsletter to stakeholders on the distribution list:
www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/committees/newsletter

Author

Senate Secretariat
January 2021

Freedom of Information

Open paper

SENATUS ACADEMICUS
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS
held online Wednesday 7 October 2020

OPEN SESSION

This section of the meeting is open to all members of staff. 506 members of staff attended this open session.

1. Convener's Communications

An update from the Convener, Principal Professor Peter Mathieson

The Convener highlighted the enormous amount of hard work carried out in difficult circumstances across a huge range of activities in order to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to the revision of school examination results in the summer. Staff were thanked for their extraordinary efforts and commitment that have enabled the University to function effectively during this period.

In relation to the Covid-19 response, the Convener noted that:

- Pending any advice to the contrary from the Scottish Government, the University currently aimed to provide blended delivery of courses, with some in-person contact and some online contact.
- Current numbers of cases of Covid-19 among students are around 300, with numbers of current cases in staff at less than 10. There is currently no evidence of acquisition of infection in the classroom.
- As a result of changes to school exam grades, some courses are very over-subscribed because of the increase in the number of applicants who met the entry requirements. The University aimed to be flexible in relation to applicants who met their offer requirements.
- The University is prioritising providing a safe campus, providing support for students who are Covid-positive or are in self-isolation, and providing guidance and support on wellbeing to the community as a whole.

The Convener noted a number of priorities that preceded the pandemic, including Brexit, the pension dispute and the rising cost of pension contributions, climate change, and the imperative to improve student and staff experience. Financial challenges to the University are also a priority, including but not limited to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Convener moved on to address questions submitted in advance, and via the online meeting Q&A.

In relation to question on bringing students back to campus, the Convener noted that the University is acting in line with Scottish Government advice, and in line with other Scottish universities, and that extensive work and planning has gone into safety developments including scenario planning for infections occurring amongst the University population. While preparations for students to self-isolate in halls of residence were made, it was acknowledged that the difficulties of applying the public health definition of a 'household' to student accommodation were not fully recognised and the University is actively discussing this issue with public health authorities.

In relation to questions on Senate being informed and involved in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Convener noted that Senate is updated through the Convener's communications. However, Senate was not an integral part of the decision-making process that was adopted. The Adaptation and Renewal process has involved many members of staff and student representatives, representing many different constituencies. There was a requirement for extremely rapid decision-making, responding at times to guidance that was changing over hours or days, and under these conditions, a normal decision-making process was not possible. A great deal of effort has been put into communicating decisions to Senate and to all staff and students.

In relation to a question on whether decision-making has been influenced by staff views, the Convener noted the suggestion to create a four-day spring holiday came from out with the senior team, and that a Students' Association suggestion that students be released from their rental contracts in response to the initial outbreak of the pandemic was also adopted.

In relation to a question on why staff were being asked to work on-campus when Scottish Government advice is to work from home where possible, the Convener noted that the requirements for staff to work on campus changed with the start of semester and return of students, and it was no longer possible for some staff to work entirely from home. The University is in regular discussion with public health and government advisors and works within government guidance.

A question was raised about signage requesting people to wear masks in buildings. Signs have been updated across campus, and colleagues were encouraged to contact their building manager in the first instance if they have concerns that signs have not been put up.

The Convener confirmed that there are no announcements to make about compulsory redundancies, and that measures that are being taken are with the aim of avoiding compulsory redundancies.

Questions were raised about possible increases in staff workloads if staff numbers are reduced, and about how staff are being supported to avoid burnout. It was noted that if an application under the voluntary severance scheme is accepted, this is on the condition that the university can manage without that role.

A suggestion was received, noting that the Welcome Week app has been a success with high levels of use, and suggesting that this could be used out with Welcome Week to facilitate student social activities online.

The Convener closed the Q&A.

2. Strategic Presentation and Discussion

Adaptation and Renewal: Students – Reflections, Lessons and Next Steps

Senate heard presentations on the following topics:

Introduction – Professor Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students

Professor Harmon noted that the work of the ART: Students project was originally focused on Semester 1, but it is now clear that it will be a bigger piece of work, looking at Semester 2 and beyond. A key principle of the project has been that the University will closely follow Scottish Government guidance, and this will continue.

Professor Harmon described the initial stages of the ART: Students project as working towards reopening campus, and defining and developing hybrid teaching. He noted that there may be lessons that can be learned from this experience of hybrid and digital delivery of teaching and learning.

One aspect of the University response that may distinguish it from other universities is the fact that Schools own the decisions on how to deliver hybrid models. ART: Students engaged with Schools to find out for example which programmes they wanted to deliver, which programmes they wanted to move to digital delivery, and which courses they wanted to run. Schools then worked on planning hybrid delivery and ART: Students worked to support Schools in this. This took place in the context of marketing legislation that requires students to be informed of major changes to programme delivery: this required that some decisions on course and programme delivery had to be made very quickly, to meet deadlines to provide students with information.

Professor Harmon reported that the hybrid model has been delivered to a large extent, but the proportion of in-person synchronous teaching hours is highly variable across programmes, following decisions by Schools on how to deliver teaching. Professor Harmon identified this variation as a concern for students, including some complaints about low levels of synchronous and in-person teaching, and this will be raised with Heads of Schools.

Previous planning assumptions that restrictions would be relaxed by semester 2 have been revised, and hybrid delivery will continue into semester 2. Professor Harmon noted that some programmes, particularly those with accreditation requirements that necessitate in-person lab work, for example, had intended to deliver these courses in semester 2 and work is underway with the relevant Schools to address this.

Looking towards the next academic year, Professor Harmon indicated that lessons from the experiences of course and programme delivery in 2020/21 will be fed into discussions on curriculum reform, but emphasised that these discussions are still to be had, and no decisions have been made about retaining any elements of hybrid delivery.

Student Support – Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student Experience

The Deputy Secretary reported on the work undertaken by the Rethinking Student Administration and Support strand of the ART: Students project, including moving induction, orientation and matriculation processes online, enhancing online student skills and development resources, and developing online events to support students' sense of community and belonging. Work has continued on projects on administering the special circumstances process, the development of the Study and Work Away (SWAY) team in Edinburgh Global, and the launch of EdHelp, which has been used heavily since the start of semester, and received very positive feedback. Highlights of online support and opportunities included an online course fair, and a Welcome video from the Principal, which was accessed by far larger numbers of students than would normally be able to attend the annual in-person Welcome event in the McEwen Hall.

Timetabling has been extremely complex and challenging and continues to be challenging going into hybrid delivery in semester 2.

Building Ongoing Curriculum Resilience – Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning

The Deputy Secretary outlined the priorities and structure of the curriculum resilience work undertaken to date. Three main strands of work were identified: adapting the curriculum and curriculum delivery for semester 1; learning lessons from semester 1 and feeding these lessons into semester 2 planning and delivery; and learning longer-term lessons from the experience of hybrid teaching. The work was led by a central group, but decisions on curriculum delivery were discipline specific and made within Schools.

Changes to the student cohort have resulted from both the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the changes to UK examination results, with higher than anticipated numbers of home undergraduate students being admitted.

Plans are currently being revised to take account of the current Covid-19 context and teaching in semester 2 will be delivered as hybrid.

Internationalising Edinburgh – Professor James Smith, Vice-Principal International

Professor Smith described developments in international student and staff mobility and transnational activity, noting that ongoing changes in these areas have been exacerbated by the effects of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The University of Edinburgh is involved in extensive student and staff mobility and is very successful in attracting ERASMUS funding, receiving 25% of all funding distributed to the UK. This mobility tends to be Euro- and Anglo-centric, with a year-long exchange for students still seen as the 'gold standard.' In future, more diverse opportunities are likely to be of value, to provide greater access to students with a range of needs and commitments. Feedback from students indicates that shorter term, more experiential learning opportunities would be particularly valued. Measures to improve sustainability, such as carbon offsetting, virtual mobility, and 'internationalisation at home' are also being explored.

Demand for transnational education is increasing and this is expected to continue, with numbers of overseas students undertaking a UK degree while located abroad now outnumbering those who travel to the UK. The focus of the University has been on opportunities in South and East Asia, but it is now necessary to increase the range of opportunities. One current project, Una Europa, a collaboration with seven leading European universities, was highlighted.

Student Perspectives – Ellen MacRae, President of the Students' Association

Ms MacRae highlighted current key priorities for students and the Students' Association, particularly support for mental health and wellbeing. Tackling student isolation, resulting from Covid-19 restrictions and potentially exacerbated by asynchronous online teaching, was also highlighted. The importance of students having opportunities to develop communities with like-minded peers was highlighted. It was also noted that in some contexts, moving services online has increased their accessibility to students, and lessons should be learned from this.

Ms MacRae will continue to work with the University on planning for semester 2, and to ensure that the University continues to listen to students throughout this process. Ms

MacRae highlighted in particular the importance of ensuring students are informed of arrangements for semester 2 as early and as fully as possible, to allow students to plan and to try to reduce students' anxiety and uncertainty.

Following the presentations, there were questions and discussions, including on the topics below:

- Online teaching resources, including captioning of recorded lectures and capacity to deliver a 'hybrid classroom' involving simultaneous in-person and online teaching, are being continuously developed. It was confirmed that the University does not require staff to edit automatic captioning, though staff may choose to do this.
- Support for mental health and wellbeing of staff, particularly for new staff and to avoid burnout, was discussed. Staff were encouraged to discuss issues with line managers, and links to support and resources were circulated to all attendees following the meeting.
- The collaborative and supportive approach of the Students' Association, and their vital role in supporting and representing students was recognised and affirmed.
- Some comments challenged the senior leadership on 'over-promising' the availability of in-person teaching to students, and asked for greater clarity on definitions of hybrid teaching including requirements for synchronous and in-person teaching.
- It was confirmed that no decisions have been made concerning whether changes to teaching delivery made this year will continue in the longer term (for example increased hybrid or online teaching). Experiences this year will be fed into the Curriculum Review project led by the Vice-Principal Students, but discipline-specific requirements and School approaches will remain paramount.
- The quality of technology and internet access available to online students in their home location was recognised as a barrier to accessing online teaching in some instances, and this is not an issue that the University can easily address.
- It was reiterated that the University will continue to comply with Scottish Government guidance on Covid-19 restrictions, and it was noted that keeping education open remains a priority and that based on discussions with the Scottish Government, traveling to work in education continues to be considered necessary travel.
- In response to comments on whether staff feedback is taken into account by senior leadership, it was affirmed that staff feedback is heard, but that many and contradictory views are heard, from many sources, and that not all feedback can or will be acted upon.

The Convener thanked the presenters and all participants for their contributions to the presentation and discussion.

The Convener closed the open session of Senate, noting that Senate members were invited to join the formal meeting of Senate at 4pm.

Break

FORMAL MEETING OF SENATE – from 4pm

This section of the meeting is open to Senate members only

Members Present: MATHESON, Peter (CHAIR), AINSLIE Jonathan, BARANY Michael, BECKETT Chris, BENJAMIN Shereen, BENNETT Stuart, BOND Helen, BOWD Stephen, BRANIGAN Holly, BRENNAN Mary, BYRNE Daire, CAQUINEAU Celine, CAVANAGH David, CHAN Un Ieng, CHUE HONG Neil, CONNOR Andrew, CONVERY Alan, COOMBES Sam, COOPER Sarah, CRUZ Juan, CUNNINGHAM-BURLEY Sarah, DA COSTA Lucy, DANBOLT Jo, EVENSEN Darrick, DESLER Anne, DRITSAS Lawrence, DUNCAN-KARRIM Leah, DUNLOP James, ELLIS Heather, EUSA VP Activities, EUSA VP Community, EUSA VP Education, EVANS Mark, EWING Suzanne, FERNANDEZ-GOTZ Manuel, FISHER Bob, FRENCH Chris, FRIEDRICH Daniel, GORDON Iain, GRANT Liz, GRAY David, GRAY Gillian, GRUMETT David, HALLIDAY Karen, HAMILTON Lorna, HARMON Colm. HARRISON Tina. HAY David, HENDERSON Sarah, HEYCOCK Caroline, HIGHTON Melissa, HILLSTON Jan, HOLLOWAY Aisha, HOPGOOD James, JARRETT Jenny, JENKINS Kirsten, KELLEY Simon, KIRSTEIN Linda, LAMONT-BLACK Simone, MACIOCIA Antony, MACKAY Fiona, MACPHERSON Sarah E, MARTIN Craig, MATTHEWS Keith, MCCAFFERY Sara, MCKIE Linda, MENZIES John, MORLEY Steven, MORRISON Tara, MULHOLLAND Neil, NAVARRO Pau, NGOBENI Ayanda, NICOL Robbie, NORRIS Paul, OOSTERHOFF Richard, ORR Mike, O'TOOLE Michelle, PHILLIPS Claire, REYNOLDS Rebecca, REYNOLDS-WRIGHT John, RICE Ken, RILEY Simon, ROBBINS Jeremy, ROLLE Sabine, SCHWANNAUER Matthias, SCHWARZ Tobias, SHIELDS Kirsteen, SMITH Sarah, SNEELGROVE Lucas, SORACE Antonella, TAYLOR Emily, TAYLOR Paul, THOMAS Robert, TREW Arthur, TURNER Jon, TUZI Nadia, VELLODI Kamini, WAHI-SINGH Bhanu, WARRINGTON Stephen

In Attendance: LINGSTADT Kirsty, MACGREGOR Sue

Apologies: ALIOTTA, Marialuisa, ANDREWS Richard, BOMBERG Elizabeth, BOSWELL Christina, CHAPMAN Karen, COLLINS Kevin, COX Chris, DU PLESSIS Paul, EUSA President EUSA VP Welfare, FAWNS Tim, FFRENCH-CONSTANT Charles, HAYCOCK-STUART Elaine, HILLSTON Jane, JIWAJI Zoeb, KENWAY Richard, MIELL Dorothy, MARTIN Catherine, MCARA Lesley, MCKIE Linda, MCMAHON Sean, MORAN Nikki, MOLE Damian, O BRADAIGH Conchur, PATON, Diane, SECKL Jonathan, SHIPSTON Michael, SIMM Geoff, TERRY Jonathan, TUDHOPE Sandy, TURNER Neil, UPTON Jeremy

3. Senate members' feedback on presentation and discussion topic

Comments were received from two Senate members (both Wardens in halls of residence), highlighting issues faced by students self-isolating in halls. New students in particular are liable to feel very isolated if they have not had opportunities to develop a social group. Students who are self-isolating are also using halls as a learning and teaching environment, and this may have a negative impact on their studies. If restrictions are likely to be long term, it may be necessary to review policies in order to ameliorate problems, such as reviewing how students are allocated to flats (and therefore to potential social groups).

The Convener noted that it is recognised that the definition of a household being used in public health management does not fit the situation of students in halls of residence, and the University is raising this with public health authorities, to try to develop effective definitions of households.

The Senate members, and their fellow Wardens, were thanked for the vital work they are doing in supporting students. The Senate members were invited to follow up with the Vice-Principal Students so that their comments can be fed into the ART: Students work.

4. Report from E-Senate (S 20/21 1 A)

To approve the minute of E-Senate held from 15 September 2020 to 23 September 2020

The Convener noted that comments were received in response to the papers below:

- eS 20/21 1 B – ELIR Reflective Analysis, presented for approval
- eS 20/21 1 C – Annual Report to the Scottish Funding Council on Institution-led Review and Enhancement Activity, presented to Senate for noting
- eS 20/21 1 F – Draft Resolution, Removal of members of the University Court, presented to Senate for comment
- eS 20/21 1 G – Rector Election dates, presented to Senate for comment.

Papers C, F and G were for noting or comment: the comments have been passed to the paper authors for consideration.

Paper B, the ELIR Reflective Analysis, was presented to Senate for approval. Objections were received from one Senate member. For E-Senate, a nil response is considered approval, and unanimity is not required, and therefore the paper was deemed approved, but the objection has been noted in the minutes.

The Convener invited Senate to approve the minutes.

Dr Michael Barany objected to the approval of the minutes, on the basis that it was inappropriate for paper eS 20/21 1 B (ELIR Reflective Analysis) to be approved by E-Senate when an objection from a Senate member had been received. Dr Barany suggested that given the length and timing of the E-Senate paper eS 20/21 1 B and the scope and seriousness of concerns raised in the E-Senate process, the Convener action to deem the paper approved on the basis of nil responses was inappropriate and the paper, concerns, and responses to concerns merited further consideration by the Senate. Dr Barany noted that he had received a response to his comments from the author of the paper, but felt this did not take on board the seriousness of the objections raised. Dr Barany further noted that he had provided detailed comments on the paper in writing. His initial comments on paper eS 20/21 1 B were made available to all Senate members at the time via the Senate website, as per the process for comments received on E-Senate papers. He noted that his subsequent written discussion of the comments with the paper author have not been shared with Senate.

Professor Tina Harrison, as the author of the paper, was invited to respond. Professor Harrison set out the context of the development and approval of the ELIR Reflective Analysis prior to its presentation to Senate, including approval by the Senate Quality Assurance Committee, review by the Quality Assurance Agency Scotland Director assigned to the University of Edinburgh, and review by a senior external assessor from another Scottish university. The document development process has taken around a year, and there have been multiple opportunities for staff to comment on drafts of the document during that process. The request to Senate for approval of the document noted that additional editorial work was still to be done, and Professor Harrison stated that many of the comments made by Dr Barany will be taken on board during that editorial process.

The Convener invited Senate members to make any further comments. Three comments suggested that Dr Barany could be involved in further work on the document. Several Senate members noted that that document has been through multiple stages of approval, including by the Senate Quality Assurance Committee, and has been open for extensive consultation during development. It was noted that the Dr Barany could liaise with the paper author on editorial amendments to the document. The author of the report did not consider that more substantial, non-editorial amendments were required.

The Convener noted that unanimity is not required for Senate to give its approval, although members can require that their dissent from a decision is recorded.

The Convener asked Senate members to vote on whether they supported the objection to approving the E-Senate minutes. Members were asked to use the 'raise your hand' function to indicate that they supported the objection. Three Senate members indicated that they supported the objection, with one abstention. Ninety-nine Senate members were in attendance. The objection was therefore not supported by a majority, and the E-Senate minutes were approved.

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

- 5. Edinburgh University Students' Association Priorities for 2020-21 (s 20/21 1 B)**
To note

Senate noted and welcomed the VP Education's priorities. These priorities have also been reported to the Senate Quality Assurance Committee and Senate Education Committee, and those committees are discussing how they can support the Students' Associations' objectives.

- 6. Honorary Degrees Committee report (s 20/21 1 C (CLOSED))**
To approve

The recommendations were approved.

- 7. Senate Effectiveness Review 2019/20 (s 20/21 1 D)**
To note and comment

Senate supported the recommendations in the report.

Some comments were received on the low engagement of members with the review questionnaire, and alternative ways of engaging staff, such as focus groups, were suggested.

- 8. Senate Standing Orders – minor updates (s 20/21 1 E)**
To approve

The updates to the Standing Order were approved.

- 9. Senate Exception Committee Remit and Membership (s 20/21 1 F)**
To approve

The updated remit and committee membership were approved. New members of the Exception Committee, and those who volunteered, were thanked for their involvement.

- 10. Senate Elections 2020/21 – provisional dates (s 20/21 1 G)**

To note and comment

Senate noted the paper. No comments were received.

11. Senate Standing Committees – upcoming business (S 20/21 1 H)

To note and comment

Senate noted the paper. One comment suggested this was a useful addition to the agenda.

ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTING

12. Student Partnership Agreement update (S 20/21 1 I)

To note

Senate noted the update.

13. Research Policy Group update (S 20/21 1 J)

To note

Senate noted the update.

14. Senate Committee Effectiveness Review – Questionnaire Initial Analysis (S 20/21 1 K)

To note

Senate noted the paper.

15. Senate Exception Committee report (S 20/21 1 L (CLOSED))

To note

Senate noted the report.

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

Resolutions

Description of paper

1. This report 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 attached draft Resolution:

Draft Resolution No. 1/2021: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Security Engineering

3. For E-Senate, 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 quoting "comment on e-S 20/21 2 B". These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

Resource implications

4. There are no resource implications. Part of the approval process involved confirmation of the funding in place to support new Chairs.

Risk management

5. The paper does not include a risk analysis. There are reputational considerations in establishing and renaming Chairs and updating regulations which are considered as part of the University's approval processes.

Equality and diversity

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

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

7. Via Senate's report to University Court.

Author

Kirstie Graham
Deputy Head of Court Services
January 2021

Freedom of Information

Open Paper

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 1/2021

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Security Engineering

At Edinburgh, the Twenty second day of February, Two thousand and twenty one.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Security Engineering:

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 Security Engineering 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 Security Engineering 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 one.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

Conferment of the Title of Emeritus Professor

Description of paper

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

Action requested / recommendation

2. For approval.
3. For E-Senate, a comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. If no comments are received the paper will be deemed approved. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk quoting "comment on e-S 20/21 2 C". These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

Discussion

4. This Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus upon those professors who retired recently or whose retirement is imminent. A Special Minute is 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 will be contacted by Senate Support in due course.

Author

Senate Secretariat
January 2021

Freedom of Information

Open paper

Special Minute

Ian Deary BSc Med Sci (Psychology) MBChB PhD Emeritus Professor of Differential Psychology

Professor Ian Deary was born in Carluke, Lanarkshire in 1954 and educated at Hamilton Academy. He took ONC (David Dale College, Glasgow) and HNC (Glasgow College of Technology) in Medical Laboratory Sciences in 1974 and 1976, respectively. At the University of Edinburgh, he took BSc Hons (Medical Sciences) Psychology in 1980, MBChB in 1983, and PhD in 1992. He passed the Membership examination of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1991. He worked as a house physician and surgeon in Edinburgh, and as a psychiatrist in London (Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals) and Edinburgh. In 1985 he was appointed to a lecturer post at the University of Edinburgh. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1990, to Reader in 1992, and was awarded a personal chair as Professor of Differential Psychology in 1995. He was elected to fellowships of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (1996), Royal Society of Edinburgh (2003), British Academy (2003), Academy of Medical Sciences (2007) and Royal College of Psychiatrists (2008). He was awarded an OBE for services to social sciences in 2019.

Professor Deary's research aims to understand: differences in cognitive abilities and personality; why some people's cognitive functions age better than others'; and the association between early-life cognitive ability and inequalities in later health, illness, and mortality. To pursue his cognitive ageing research, Professor Deary founded the Lothian Birth Cohorts of 1921 and 1936 by tracing over 1600 individuals born in those years who had taken intelligence tests at age 11 in the Scottish Mental Surveys of 1921 and 1947, and built a team of researchers to study them. He founded and directed the MRC/BBSRC-funded Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology, which ran from 2008-2019. His work has attracted large-scale UK and international funding. He has first- and last-authored many key papers in cognitive ability and cognitive ageing, including two first-author papers in Nature. His Google Scholar h-index is 163 with over 110,000 citations (accessed July 2020). His many discoveries include the association between cognitive ability at age 11 and survival to old age, and the environmental and molecular genetic contributions to people's differences in cognitive functions and cognitive ageing. He has written scholarly and popular books on human intelligence differences, both with Oxford University Press. He has mentored many young researchers who hold Professorships and other permanent posts abroad and in the UK.

Professor Deary's research interests on cognitive functions and cognitive ageing continue in his retirement. He also has a growing research interest in the history of his field, especially on the contributions of Professor Sir Godfrey Thomson. He intends to enjoy more time with his family, including his parents, three children, and six grandchildren. He will continue to cycle and to write songs, sing, play saxophone, record, and perform live with his indie-pop band, Dancing Mice. We wish Professor Deary and his wife Ann the very best wishes in what promises to be an active retirement.

Special Minute
Peter Hoskins BA MSc PhD DSc PGCert
Emeritus Professor of Medical Physics and Biomechanics

Peter Hoskins, Professor of Medical Physics and Biomechanics undertook NHS Medical Physics training from 1980-1984 and from 1985 to 2002 he combined NHS service work with research. In 2002 he transferred to a full time University post. His research work has mainly concerned the development and assessment of new techniques for clinical diagnosis, principally of arterial disease.

The need to validate clinical measurements led to a long-standing interest in laboratory-based experimental systems which replicate blood flow and arterial wall motion. There have been many 'firsts'; first computer-controlled flow phantom for Doppler ultrasound (1989), first acoustically equivalent blood mimic (1998, cited >300 times), first acoustically equivalent vessel mimic (2006), first 3D anatomical flow phantom (2007), first test phantoms for pre-clinical use (2013, 2015). Work from his group has been included in national (BMUS, British Medical Ultrasound Society; IPEM, Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine) and international (IEC, International Electro-technical Commission) guidelines on the testing of Doppler ultrasound equipment, with publications in 1994, 1998, 2010, 2014.

Professor Hoskins made the first observations of high inaccuracy in clinical blood velocity measurements (1991). Efforts to improve velocity measurement accuracy led to the first colour vector Doppler system (1994). This was used to make the first ultrasound observations of spiral flow in arteries (with Peter Stonebridge). He was awarded the 1993 Young Investigator Prize of the European Federation of Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology for the associated presentation. Also in 1993 he was awarded the IPEM Founders Prize for contributions to research and national practice.

Professor Hoskins initiated 2 grant-funded projects whose outcome stimulated a new area. The first project involved the use of arterial wall motion to measure the stiffness of abdominal aortic aneurysms, with Prof CV Ruckley and Mr Andrew Bradbury. This was a clinical trial of rupture prediction over 5 years (1995-2000). The second was the use of MRI to measure wall shear stress, including a comparison with computational fluid dynamics, with Ian Marshall, (1998-2001). He initiated the core ideas in both projects and brokered collaborations with external partners. Both projects were concerned with measurement of phenomena and physical quantities directly related to disease progression and rupture, as opposed to indirect measurements used clinically, principally arterial diameter. Both projects were unsuccessful; stiffness was not a predictor of rupture, and measurement of wall shear stress using MRI was difficult. He realised that medical imaging techniques had reached the limit of their usefulness in measuring quantities and phenomena directly related to arterial disease. He realised that the key was the integration of 3D computational modelling with 3D imaging. This was 1999 and the first subject-specific papers in this area has begun to be published. He brokered collaboration with Engineering (Rob Blundell, Bill Easson) and in 2001 was awarded the then largest project grant in the EPSRC Life Science Interface Portfolio of £1.3M.

Since 2000 he has led parallel careers in ultrasound, and in the area that has become known as biomechanics. He led the computational modelling work of a clinical trial of rupture prediction of abdominal aortic aneurysms using MRI (MA3RS trial led by Prof Newby, 2012-2016), with publications from 2015-2020. The collaboration with Engineering in Edinburgh was one of their first ventures in Bioengineering; the subsequent growth of this area led to the formation of a separate Institute of Bioengineering.

Professor Hoskins research has involved multi-centre multi-disciplinary collaboration. His group have benefitted from the interdisciplinary environment and all have developed skills outside of their core training. He supervised 20 PhD students and his grants have involved 25 research staff. Several have permanent positions in the NHS (Blake, Ramnarine, Meagher) or academia (Long, Beech-Brandt, Fraser, Li, Doyle, Thomas, Hammer). In 2009 he was awarded DSc for work in arterial mechanics. To date he has published 146 peer-reviewed journal papers and his h-index (Google) is 43.

Professor Hoskins has been involved in professional and scientific bodies at high level. He was on the Board of BMUS for 7 years (Hon Secretary 2014), and on the Board of IPEM for 3 years (Acting President 2017). Interests in education led to an edited text book 'Diagnostic Ultrasound; Physics and Equipment' which runs to 3 editions (2004, 2010, 2019) which is the main teaching text in the UK and has sold some 6000 copies; and an edited textbook in 'Cardiovascular Biomechanics' (2017) which has been downloaded 120,000 times. He also co-authored a survival guide for physicists and engineers involved in biomedical research, 'Academic Practice' (2017, pp230).

On retirement, Professor Hoskins will continue to support minor teaching at Edinburgh; ultrasound and cardiovascular biomechanics courses within the MSc in Medical Imaging led by Professor Farrall, and will contribute to the undergraduate Medical Physics course led by Professor Clegg. He will also continue writing review papers; articles are in preparation on the 'History of Doppler ultrasound' and 'review of ultrasound flow phantoms'. He will be available for advice in the areas for which he has built up expertise over the last 40 years, in ultrasound, cardiovascular biomechanics and academic practice. He will continue to sit on the IEEE Ultrasonics Symposium Technical Programme Committee (member since 2001) and the editorial board of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (member since 1998), and he has had recent invites to sit on the editorial boards of Ultrasound and of a new NHS practice journal 'IPEM Translation'.

Special Minute

Professor Ian Marshall MA (Oxon), PhD, CEng, CSci, FIPEM

Emeritus Professor of Magnetic Resonance Physics

Ian Marshall graduated from Oxford University with First Class Honours in Natural Philosophy in 1980. He joined the Department of Medical Physics & Medical Engineering in Edinburgh, which was then based in the 'Old' RIE, and he was fortunate enough to have a (tiny) office in one of the 'turrets' overlooking the Meadows. His first years were spent collaborating with clinicians to develop novel instrumentation for clinical and physiological research. In particular, he forged longstanding collaborations with Gordon Drummond (anaesthetics) and Neil Douglas (respiratory medicine). He also recalls programming an early microprocessor chip to extract diagnostic 'late potential' signals from ECGs. Development of an acoustic reflectometry system to measure airways led to the award of a PhD in 1992.

The arrival of the first NHS MRI scanner in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences (DCN) in 1992 was to change Ian's life. The then Head of Medical Physics, Norman McDicken, suggested that he 'find out about MRI and get involved'. Thus began his long, close working relationship with neuroradiology, initially with Robin Sellar and soon afterwards, Joanna Wardlaw. Ian acquired two MRC-funded PhD students and in 1996 transferred to a Senior Lectureship in the University. His MRI research in those days concentrated on diffusion imaging and spectroscopy to explore the connectivity and metabolism of the brain.

Joanna Wardlaw led funding applications to establish a University research MRI facility adjacent to DCN that became the Brain Research Imaging Centre. Ian played a key role in complementary grants to enable functional brain imaging and to install a much-needed data storage system to manage the huge amount of data generated. A continuing interest in the use of MRI to characterise blood flow began in those days, initially in collaboration with Peter Hoskins and with EPSRC funding. Meanwhile, Ian's colleague Mark Bastin took over the diffusion research and has since built his own career around that work.

Ian progressed to Readership in 2003 and Personal Chair of Magnetic Resonance Physics in 2007, before becoming Head of Medical Physics and Director of the WTCRF Image Analysis Core in 2008. In 2011, discipline-based departments went out of fashion and he transferred to the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences.

His research on blood flow migrated from the carotids to the smaller cerebral vessels as MRI technology developed and the clinical focus shifted to mild stroke. His work with MR spectroscopy continued, with application to multiple sclerosis and non-invasive measurement of brain temperature. He has also enjoyed a long-running collaboration with Mike Davies (Institute of Digital Communications), applying advanced signal-processing techniques to speed up the acquisition of MRI images. Ian remembers well the many mental workouts that he and Mike had in order to understand each other's speciality.

During his career, Ian has supervised some 20 PhD students, many of whom have stayed in the field, as PostDocs and subsequently Lecturers. He is particularly proud that his very first PhD student, Jim Wild, was appointed Professor of MR Physics at Sheffield University. Ian has been active in national and international MRI learned societies for many years, earning the slightly embarrassing '20+ year' ribbon on conference badges. He has found it very rewarding to have served on programme committees and to have hosted conferences in Edinburgh. It is always a delight to showcase this spectacular city.

After 40 years in medical physics, he has decided it is time to step back, whilst maintaining some supervisory contact with current students. With his wife Elizabeth, he plans to continue exploring Scotland and the rest of the world, enjoying wildlife and eating out, once The Vaccine is available.

Special Minute
Professor Andrew Scott BA, AcSS
Emeritus Professor of European Union Studies

Professor Andrew (Drew) Scott is an economist by training and, prior to joining the University of Edinburgh, he was Lecturer in Economics at Heriot-Watt University. He joined the Edinburgh Law School in 1993 as Senior Lecturer and member of the Europa Institute, an interdisciplinary research centre founded in 1968 by the late Professor JDB Mitchell; which Drew went on to lead in his capacity as Institute Co-Director since 2001. Drew was appointed to a Chair in European Union Studies in 2003 and admitted to the Academy of Social Sciences in 2013.

Drew's research and teaching concern the field of European integration, with specific focus on economic integration; the EU's governance and institutions; and the place of Scotland in Europe. He has published widely in the area, with insightful and impactful significant contributions on questions that interrogate subsidiarity; economic and monetary union; economic and social cohesion; the impact of devolution on the UK's European policy-process; and problems of economic policy coordination in a devolved UK. Drew's research and teaching truly connect different disciplinary silos, achieving precisely the mission of his path-breaking post within the Edinburgh Law School. Importantly, his expertise beyond law was infused not just at PhD and postgraduate taught levels, but also across the Ordinary and Honours undergraduate programmes.

Drew's exceptional service to the discipline of European Union Studies – for example, he was joint editor of the Journal of Common Market Studies from 1991-98 – was recognised in 2018 through a UACES (University Association for Contemporary European Studies) Lifetime Achievement Award; commending, in the words of the UACES Chair, 'the quality and versatility of Drew's thinking and writing about Europe; the inspirational excellence of his teaching and speaking on the subject; and his unstinting public service (a far richer notion than "impact") as academic expert'.

Drew is indeed passionately committed to public service beyond the academy. He has prioritised engagement events throughout his Co-Directorship of the Europa Institute, harnessing his extraordinary web of connections across the UK, Europe and the United States. He has acted as expert adviser to various EU agencies, including the European Commission and the Statistical Office of the EU. Since 2016, Drew has been a member of the First Minister's Standing Council on Europe and continues to act as Expert Adviser through part-time secondment to the Scottish Government.

Throughout his Edinburgh academic career, Drew has also consistently exemplified academic leadership and good citizenship; notably through his work as Law's Director of Undergraduate Studies and, most recently, as Dean International (Europe) for the University.

We are certain that neither Drew's creative and trans-boundary thinking about European integration nor his deeply felt commitment to Edinburgh Law and to the University, as well as to wider Scottish and European civic society, will wane through retirement. Nevertheless, we hope that for Drew and his wife, Dr Aileen McLeod – who celebrated their wedding at Old College in 2015 – many new adventures, especially in music and travel, also await.

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

University of Edinburgh Library Committee Membership 2020/21

Description of paper

1. The paper details the proposed Library Committee members for the session 2020/21.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to approve the attached membership.
3. For E-Senate, a comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. If no comments are received, the paper will be deemed approved. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to Senate.Support@ed.ac.uk quoting “comment on E-S 20/21 2 E”. These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

Resource implications

4. None.

Risk Management

5. Not applicable

Equality and diversity

6. Yes, we anticipate no negative impact on any of the protected characteristics. Membership of this Committee was chosen on the basis of those staff able to speak for their relevant areas. The Committee is able to seek specialist advice on the protected characteristics if they feel they are not fully represented on the Committee e.g. information on disability from the IS disability information officer.

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

7. Any agreed actions should be communicated to the Secretary of the Committee who will ensure communication with relative stakeholders.

Author

Louise Tierney
Secretary to the Library Committee, Information Services
December 2020

Freedom of Information

Open paper.

University of Edinburgh Library Committee

Membership List for 2020/21

Expiry

Student Representatives:

Fizzy Abou Jawad (Vice-President Education)	2021
Ifeanyi Omah (PG Representative)	2021
Paulina Kliva Gulbe (UG Representative)	2021

Appointed by the Knowledge Strategy Committee:

Professor Dorothy Miell (Convener/Chair)

College of Arts, Humanities & Social Science:

Professor Melissa Terras (College Library Committee Convener)	
Dr Alasdair Raffe	2021
Dr Alex Lawrie	2021

College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine:

Professor Jurgen Schwarze (College Library Committee Convener)	
Michelle Evans	2021
Sharon Boyd	2021

College of Science & Engineering:

Professor Simon Kelley (College Library Committee Convener)	
Dr Adam Kirrander	2023
<i>Vacancy</i>	2023

Library and Related Professional Staff Representatives:

Gavin McLachlan (Chief Information Officer & Librarian)	ex-officio
Jeremy Upton (Director of Library & University Collections)	ex-officio
Christine-Love Rodgers (Library and University Collections)	2021
Barry Croucher (User Services Division)	2021

External Representative:

Diane Job (Director of Library Services, University of Birmingham)

In Attendance:

Eleanor Rideout (Records Management)
Jo Craiglee (Head of Knowledge Management and Planning)
Kirsty Lingstadt (Head of Digital Library & Deputy Director of Library and University Collections)
Louise Tierney (Secretary to the Committee)

Nominated Deputies:

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Prof. Niall Anderson and Dr Chiara Piccinelli

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Science and Engineering

To Receive Papers (not in attendance):

Natalie Hay (natalie.hay@eusa.ed.ac.uk – EUSA administration support)

Anna Maciulewicz (anna.maciulewicz@eusa.ed.ac.uk – EUSA Administration support)

Vicky Watters (Vicky.watters@ed.ac.uk – PA to Chair)

Amanda Hogg (Amanda.hogg@ed.ac.uk – PA to Director of Library & University Collections)

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

Communications from the University Court

Description of paper

1. To update Senate on certain matters considered by the University Court at its meeting held by videoconference on 30 November 2020.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.
3. For E-Senate, a comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. If no comments are received, the paper will be deemed noted. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to SenateSupport@ed.ac.uk quoting "comment on e-S 20/21 2 F". These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

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. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Author

Dr Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services
19 January 2021

Freedom of Information

Open Paper

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY COURT

30 November 2020

1 Adaptation & Renewal Report

An update on the work of the Adaptation and Renewal Team from mid-September to November was reviewed. Current efforts are focused on: asymptomatic testing for students intending to travel over the Christmas vacation, with over 14,000 tests booked to date (with two bookings per student as two tests are taken); access to services for those remaining in Edinburgh over the winter vacation; and, preparations for the second semester. Government advice for the beginning of the second semester is awaited but is expected to include testing and a staggered return. Longer term planning within the reshaping workstream is considering reshaping within the context of Strategy 2030, with an initial discussion later this week at a University Executive virtual 'away day'. Members discussed the provision of temporary student villages that increase the amount of physically distanced indoor space for students and the level of staff consultation planned for the reshaping workstream and accounting for greater staff workloads with hybrid teaching. It was noted that the reshaping workstream is still at an early stage but consultation and engagement will be central to its development and will include an opportunity to consider the longer term implications of hybrid teaching and teaching and research careers more broadly.

2 Student Experience Update

A regular update on student experience activities and a presentation on curriculum transformation was reviewed. Reflecting on the current semester, there has been a greater emphasis on engagement with students in halls of residence, including regular 'Town Hall' meetings, but there has been an undoubted negative impact on student experience from public health restrictions on social interactions outside of households.

Regarding curriculum transformation, the intention is to build a consensus around improving the current complex offering, including the transition to the University and generating a lifelong affiliation after study. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Building a better understanding of current strengths and weaknesses from an external perspective and testing any changes with prospective students and other stakeholders;
- The current level of academic staff engagement with curriculum transformation – feedback has indicated a clear appetite for reforming the current curriculum, recognising that it is overly complex;
- Considering whether a new curriculum needs improved models of contracts for teaching staff to deliver this;
- Ensuring that a new curriculum is based on the University's values; and,
- Potential for community gardens or allotments to help with social interaction and mental health.

3 EUSA President's Report

The Students' Association President reported on activities since the last meeting, including greater use of Association venues as the semester has progressed and encouraging levels of participation in intramural sports. It was noted that public health measures have made the transition to university life more difficult for many new students. The experience to date has been markedly different to expectations for many students and as such there is a desire from many students for financial recognition for this. The importance of active outreach and communication with students remaining in Edinburgh over the winter vacation

period was emphasised and the provision of asymptomatic testing for those returning to home addresses welcomed, although students may choose to travel outside of the recommended period and may not opt-in for testing. On behalf of Court, the Rector thanked the student sabbatical officers for their work on behalf of the student community.

4 Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20

Following scrutiny by the Audit & Risk Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee, the draft Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2020 were presented for approval. It was noted that while the operating surplus reported is a positive result given the impact of the early stages of the pandemic from March to July 2020, this has been bolstered by City Deal funding and two significant philanthropic donations, with the underlying operating performance not including restricted income in a deficit position. The distortion in the total comprehensive income figure resulting from large non-cash movements in pension provisions was discussed and the need for accompanying communications to explain the results for stakeholders unfamiliar with the accounting conventions used, with a Frequently Asked Questions document suggested. It was confirmed that lenders with covenants in place are familiar with the UK accounting conventions used in respect of non-cash movements such as pension provisions and are content. The importance of maintaining an operating surplus to allow for reinvestment was noted and the Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20 approved.

5 4D Cellular Medicine at the Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine

A request for capital funding to accommodate a 4D cellular medicine hub for the Medical Research Council (MRC) Human Genetics Unit at the Western General Hospital site was reviewed. The MRC's agreement to match fund the project cost conditional on specific assurances was welcomed. It was noted that the unit is a flagship centre of research excellence but is constrained by the quantity and quality of its accommodation, which this project will help address. Members discussed liability in the event of any over-spending on the build, noting that a net underspend has been achieved for estates capital projects in recent years and discussed conditions in the MRC grant award. Court agreed to approve funding to complete the project.

6 Integrating Climate Emergency and Strategy 2030 commitments in University Committee papers

The inclusion of a new section and accompanying guidance in Court and committee paper templates to integrate consideration of the Climate Emergency, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategy 2030 outcomes was approved.

7 Enterprise IT Investment

A proposed investment in Enterprise Infrastructure to provide a consolidated platform for central on-premises IT services aside from high performance research computing was approved.

8 DiRAC3 High Performance Computer Purchase

The purchase of a high performance computing facility for particle physics theory researchers across the UK, to be hosted at the University and funded by the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council, was reviewed. The funding award was welcomed and the impact of high performance computing on the 'zero by 2040' carbon target discussed. It was noted that the facility is relatively small in size and will be located alongside other high performance computers at the Advanced Computing Facility, where specialised cooling measures are taken to reduce energy usage. Further innovative carbon reducing ideas are being explored for the Advanced Computing Facility, although carbon offsetting will also be

required to meet the zero by 2040 target. It was requested that sustainability analysis be included in future high performance computing proposals similar to that included within estates capital project proposals. The purchase of the facility was approved to the value of £7.7M in capital expenditure for the high performance computer and £200k for data storage (both inclusive of VAT) and signing authority delegated to Professor Dave Robertson, Head of College of Science & Engineering.

9 Exception Committee Report

The following matters relating to the Rector Election 2021 approved on behalf of Court by Exception Committee were noted:

- The election dates, with voting to take place from Tuesday, 23 February 2021 until Friday, 26 February 2021;
- Appointment of the Chancellor's Assessor, Sheriff Principal Alastair Dunlop QC, as the Returning Officer, with a Deputy Returning Officer to be nominated by the University Secretary; and,
- Rector Election Regulations 2021 (without the inclusion of an option to re-open nominations, maintaining the status quo position given the differing views of the two representative bodies for the student and staff electorates).

10 Resolutions

The following Resolutions were approved:

- Resolution No. 74/2020: Removal of Members of the University Court
- Resolution No. 75/2020: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Organic Synthesis
- Resolution No. 76/2020: Foundation of a Personal Industrial Chair of Data-Driven Manufacturing
- Resolution No. 77/2020: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Chemical Reaction/Catalysis Engineering

Electronic Senate

19-27 January 2021

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Description of paper

1. The paper reports on the Knowledge Strategy Committee meeting held by videoconference on 20 October 2020.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.
3. For E-Senate, a comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. If no comments are received the paper will be deemed noted. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to Senate.Support@ed.ac.uk quoting "comment on E-S 20/21 2 G". These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

Resource implications

4. None.

Risk management

5. Not applicable.

Equality & diversity

6. Equality and diversity implications were considered within each agenda item.

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
14 January 2021

Freedom of Information

Open paper

REPORT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

20 October 2020

1 Digital Strategy Presentation

A presentation on the development of a new digital strategy to link to Strategy 2030 and the University's adaptation and renewal work in response to the pandemic was received. The associated vision and principles will be progressed and a period of consultation undertaken prior to the completion of a first draft, which is expected in December. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Ensuring that any College-level digital strategies under development are complementary and do not pull in different directions – the development of the University-level digital strategy will closely involve IT Committee and Knowledge Strategy and their University-wide memberships for this reason;
- Recognising that while the move to remote learning and working from March has led to a step change in the levels of digital engagement across the University, embedding a digital culture beyond the present circumstances may still take time and need encouragement and commitment at all levels;
- IT security should be built into all elements of the strategy; and,
- The consultative approach was welcomed – with a deliberate effort to be made to consult with colleagues beyond a core of digital enthusiasts.

2 Chief Information Officer Update

The Chief Information reported on key activities and events since the last meeting, including: preparations for the new semester – with the University's Centre for Research Collection being the first research library in the UK to re-open in early July following UK-wide restrictions and the Main Library launching a click and collect service for the first time; pressures on staff within Information Services Group given the tremendous increase in demand for digital services, with thanks noted to staff in Estates for their work to create a safe environment for those returning to campus; responding to increased demand on digital systems, adding capacity where required; concerns that some software suppliers may seek to increase prices given current circumstances; putting additional security measures in place given the worldwide growth in cybercrime seen during the pandemic, including significant cyberattacks on a number of other UK universities; and, anticipating supply chain delays given the pandemic through advance bulk ordering of key equipment. On behalf of the Committee, the Convener thanked all staff in Information Services Group for their work in assisting all areas of the University in preparing for the new semester and delivering a hybrid teaching model.

3 Adaptation & Renewal Update

Information Services support provided as part of the adaptation and renewal programme being undertaken by the four workstreams of: Research; Student; Estate & Digital Infrastructure; and, Reshaping, was reviewed. Additional services that have been established in recent months include a cloud based phone service for areas such as the IT helpdesk, admissions and a Covid hotline; an online conference facility; a social media platform for prospective students and student ambassadors (Unibuddy); the provision of 3,000 ethernet cables to students in halls of residence in advance of upgrade of the network; and, a Virtual Private Network for students in countries subject to local firewalls to allow them to access remote learning. The impact on ongoing projects that predated the pandemic was queried, with around half of such projects suspended to allow staff and financial resource to be redeployed.

4 Student Study Spaces Update

An update on the project to reconfigure student study spaces given public health requirements was considered. The introduction of a two metre physical distancing rule without mitigation

would reduce study space capacity to 25% of pre-Covid levels. In response, a phased roll out of additional study space areas has been ongoing since mid-September, with 1,374 new spaces added by early October and a further 348 expected by the end of the month. The project includes the provision of a seat booking app developed by the University and ongoing management of study spaces, including analysing student demand and responding to feedback, e.g. considering the appropriate mixture of shorter and longer time slots for booking. Members discussed health and safety measures, with students encouraged by staff monitors to clean spaces after each use and professional cleaning undertaken twice a day; and assessing priority cases for use of study spaces – with information already available on students from widening participation backgrounds and the ability for students with other circumstances (e.g. commuter students) to either self-identify or raise this with their personal tutor.

5 DiRAC3 High Performance Computer purchase

The proposed purchase of a High Performance Computing (HPC) facility, the Extreme Scaling DiRAC3 service for UK Particle Physics Theory researchers was reviewed. It was noted that the purchase would be fully funded by the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), at a cost of £7.7M in capital expenditure for the HPC and £200k for data storage (both inclusive of VAT) for the first stage of the new facility. A second stage may follow during financial year 2021-22. Noting that the service support costs would be met by a separate grant from the STFC, the purchase was strongly supported and recommended for approval by Court.

6 Network Replacement Programme Update

An update on the deployment of the new University data network was considered. Members discussed the intention of the replacement programme to extend to University halls of residence, which currently operate on a separate network, and whether the installation date for halls of residence of January/February 2021 can be brought forward given present circumstances. The potential for accelerated installation is being explored as a priority but time is also required to assess pilots of new technologies planned for the network including a pilot underway in one hall of residence. The risk of network disruption during the installation was also raised, noting that the work of greatest risk has already been completed and risks at this stage are more logistical than technical in nature. Temporary outages as equipment is installed will be local in scale and advertised in advance.

7 Introduction of Use of Operational Data Policy

A proposed Use of Operational Data Policy to formalise different use cases and provide clarity for access requests for operational data (e.g. system generated logs used for fault resolution, service capacity planning, estate capacity management) was reviewed. The importance of robust processes to ensure that staff using operational data who join, leave or change roles have appropriate access rights granted and withdrawn as required was raised. It was agreed to recommend the draft Policy for approval by the University Executive.

8 Information Security Policy Refresh

Proposed minor updates to the Information Security Policy including a clarification that the Policy applies when working remotely were reviewed and recommended for approval by the University Executive.

9 Virtual Classroom Policy

A new Virtual Classroom Policy to clarify rights and responsibilities when delivering and recording teaching and learning using digital communication and collaboration technologies was noted, following approval by the Senate Education Committee prior to the start of the new

semester. The Policy will return to the Senate Education Committee with an amendment to state that data generated using the Zoom videoconferencing services is stored in the United States of America. It was commented that this point may not be widely known and will be communicated, although information security colleagues are content with the data security arrangements.

10 Guidance on Recommended Student Technology

Guidance on recommended technology for students to use to ensure the best possible learning experience in line with the move to hybrid teaching was welcomed, with the guidance to be kept under review and updated over time.

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

Students' Association Representation on Senate

Description of paper

1. This paper presents an update to Senate from the Edinburgh University Students' Association on the student members of Senate.

Action requested / recommendation

2. The paper is presented for information. Under sections 5 and 7 of the Senatus Academicus (Senate) Election Regulations, the Edinburgh University Students' Association are responsible for determining the office holders whose roles will entitle them to take up Senate membership, and Senate is informed of any changes at the next meeting of Senate. Under Ordinance 212, the total number of student positions on Senate is 30.

The current student membership is as follows:

- 5 Sabbatical Officers
- 7 Section Representatives
- 5 Liberation Officers
- 6 Undergraduate School Representatives
- 6 Postgraduate School Representatives
- 1 Activities Representative – Academic

The Students' Association wishes to make the following changes for the 2020/21 academic year:

- 8 Section Representatives (previously there were 7)
- 5 Postgraduate School Representatives (previously there were 6)

This is to accommodate the creation of a new Section Representative for Commuter Students.

3. For E-Senate, a comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to Senate.Support@ed.ac.uk quoting "comment on e-S 20/21 2 H". These comments will be added verbatim to a closed section of the Senate website at <http://edin.ac/18tbekG>

Resource implications

4. None.

Risk management

5. Not applicable.

Equality and diversity

6. The Section Representative roles represent non-traditional and under-represented cohorts of students, and therefore their inclusion in Senate is a positive move to reflect the diversity of the student body. While this does impact the number of seats for Postgraduate representatives, we have ensured there is still representation across the three Colleges,

through both the remaining 5 Postgraduate School Representatives and the two University-wide Postgraduate Section Representatives.

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

7. Senate Support Services will update the Senate Election Regulations: Appendix 2, Student membership.

Author

Sarah Moffat
Representation and Democracy Manager
Edinburgh University Students' Association
January 2021

Electronic Senate

19 – 27 January 2021

Sight Scotland Governance – University of Edinburgh Board membership

Description of paper

1. Last year Sight Scotland (formerly The Royal Blind Asylum and School) contacted the University of Edinburgh regarding changes it wanted to make to the composition of its Board. The University had one of seven nominated Board members from Edinburgh-based public institutions, and Sight Scotland requested the dis-establishment of all these nominated posts.

Action requested / recommendation

2. E-Senate are requested to formally note the decision reached to remove our existing right to nominate a member to the Sight Scotland Board.
3. For E-Senate, a comment need only be submitted to raise an objection/suggest corrections. If no comments are received, the paper will be deemed noted. In this context any comments on this paper should be emailed to Senate.Support@ed.ac.uk quoting “comment on E-S 20/21 2 I”. These comments will be added verbatim at <https://edin.ac/2DYSYJT>

Background and context

4. Sight Scotland, a charity based in Edinburgh, contacted the University last year regarding changes it wanted to make to the composition of its Board, and could only do so by a Supplementary Charter which required Privy Council agreement. In particular, they felt there were too many members (19) on the Board (12 elected Directors, 7 nominated from Edinburgh-based public institutions including the University) and wanted to dis-establish the nominated posts.
5. In requesting a change of Board composition to the Privy Council, Sight Scotland had to demonstrate that it had taken on board the views of relevant stakeholders. The University was a stakeholder because it was one of the public bodies that was able to nominate a Board member. By amending its Charter, this would remove the University’s existing right to nominate a member to the Board in perpetuity, although Sight Scotland stressed it wished to maintain a relationship with the University going forward.

Discussion

6. The University’s most recent appointee to the Sight Scotland Board was Baljean Dhillon, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology. Due to time constraints he stepped down from his role in December 2020, instead offering to continue to provide his clinical expertise to them.
7. As providing a Board member to Sight Scotland has not been straightforward in recent years, it was felt that this provided a natural break point in the formal relationship. Sight Scotland therefore indicated they would not formally seek a nominee from the University in anticipation of the changes they were making to their Board membership.
8. Until Professor Dhillon stood down, the University was the only Edinburgh-based public institution that had an active interest in the Sight Scotland Board. The other organisations had either agreed to withdraw their membership or have not had a nominated member for a number of years.

9. Given the above information, the Principal and Vice-Principal Strategic Change and Governance agreed on the 14 December 2020 that the University would be content to remove our existing right to nominate a member to the Sight Scotland Board.

Resource implications

10. Not applicable

Risk management

11. Not applicable

Equality & diversity

12. Not applicable

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

13. Sight Scotland were informed of the decision outlined in paragraph 8 on 14 December 2020. We expect to receive further communication from Sight Scotland after their amended Supplementary Charter has been submitted to the Privy Council for approval.

Author

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Freedom of Information

This paper is open.