THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 11 September 2024
and close at noon on Wednesday 25 September 2024

AGENDA

1	**Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita**	**e-S 24/25 1A**
	To approve.	
2	**Court Resolutions**	**e-S 24/25 1B**
	To comment.	
3	**Report from the Senate Exception Committee**	**e-S 24/25 1C**
	To note.	**CLOSED**
4	**Communications from the University Court**	**e-S 24/25 1D**
	To note.	
5	**Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee**	**e-S 24/25 1E**
	To note.	
6	**Report from the Central Academic Promotions Committee**	**e-S 24/25 1F**
	For information.	

e-S 24/25 1 A

Electronic Senate

11 – 25 September 2024

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 recently retired or whose retirement is imminent.

Action requested / recommendation

2.   To approve. Please note that in the approval of the award of Emeritus/Emerita Professor via e-Senate, a nil response is regarded as assent. Members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations using the form available on the Senate Members Portal (Senate member access only). These comments will be added verbatim to the Senate Members Portal e-Senate page where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

Discussion

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

Professor Chris Carr, Business School
Professor Peter Dayan, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Professor Roger Jeffery, School of Social and Political Science
Professor David Robertson, School of Informatics
Professor Malcolm Douglas Walkinshaw, School of Biological Sciences
Professor Christopher Williams, School of Informatics

4.   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

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

Author Senate Support, 6 September 2024

Freedom of Information Open paper

Special Minute
Professor Chris Carr MA, PhD, CEng, MIMechE, ACMA, DMS
Emeritus Professor of Strategy

Professor Carr has been Professor of Corporate Strategy at the University of Edinburgh Business School since 1999. His early career, for BAe Systems and then GKN from 1970-1980, took in apprenticeship, five years at Cambridge University (Engineering and Economics MA then Manufacturing/Management Masters), and later a DMS then a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and Chartered Management Accountant, following work in Product and Product Development and International Project Management. He worked on turnkey projects in the USA (taking GKN Automotive drive-chains global) and in Iraq.

Following a PhD in Business Strategy at Warwick, he continued lecturing at Warwick Business School, followed by lectureships at Buckingham, Bath, finally as Senior Lecturer at Manchester Business School before joining Edinburgh.

At Edinburgh, Professor Carr has taught Strategy programmes at all levels, serving as Research Champion, Head of Group, and assisted the Colleagues Recognition programme. Having been part of the team taking GKN Automotive global, his field research (c370 companies in 22 countries) has pioneered global and comparative strategy, including strategic investment decisions worldwide, cross-cultural leadership and successfully sustained global strategies, eg GKN's over 260 years.

Professor Carr's teaching and research overseas includes: Brazil (FIA, Sao Paulo University and Imbec, Rio), Russia (Presidential Academy and Moscow State, St. Petersburg, Urals and Tomsk Universities), China (China Academy of Social Sciences, Zeiiang, South West and Shenzen Universities), India (IIMs Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi; Hyderabad Admin Staff College, Ranchi and Chenai), Thailand (Thammasat University), South Africa (Cape Town Business School), Germany (Witten-Herdecke University as Professor in International Business), France (HEC), Spain (Carlos III University), Italy (Bicoca), Turkey (Bilgi); USA (Wright State University and Visiting Scholar for 5 months at Harvard Business School working with their Global Strategy Group).

He is author of *Global Oligopoly. A Key Idea for Business and Society* (Routledge 2020), *Britain's Competitiveness* (Routledge 1990) and *Strategic Investment Decisions* (Averbury 1994, with C.R.Tomkins and B.Bayliss), other book contributions and 40 articles in academic journals including *Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Management Studies, Business History, Management International Review*, *Long Range Planning*, *International Journal of Human Relations Management, Management Accounting Research, British Accounting Review, R&D Management, Technology Analysis and Strategic Management; International Journal of Production and Operations Management, International Journal of Cross-Cultural Management, European Management Journal, Sloan Management Review* and *Thunderbird International Review.*

Teaching initially emphasised Corporate Strategy at all levels, then more innovative Global Strategy programmes for the MBA, the International Business and Emerging Markets MSc and Global Strategy and Sustainability MSc. Remaining in Edinburgh following retirement, Prof. Carr plans to continue writing and other contributions to EUBS and the University. He sees scope for new research and teaching in Global Strategic Analytics, extending his 2020 book's use of Big Databases by collaborating with colleagues from Analytics and Informatics. Inspired by an initiative whilst at Harvard, he would also like to initiate an "After Success What Next Programme" to meet the needs of 50+s and society in an age of longer lives.

Special Minute
Professor Peter Dayan BA, DPhil
Emeritus Professor of Word and Music Studies

Professor Peter Dayan is currently Honorary Professorial Fellow in Word and Music Studies at the University of Edinburgh (since May 2021). After completing a BA in French and German and his DPhil at Merton College, Oxford, Peter became Junior Research Fellow, Lincoln College, Oxford (1982-1985) then started at Edinburgh in 1985, first as Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer (1993), then Reader in French (1999). His Promotion to a Personal Chair came in 2007 when he became the world first Professor of Word and Music Studies, until his retirement in May 2021.

Professor Dayan is an exceptional scholar: a gifted musician, he is one of the three or four foremost scholars in the world in the field of Word and Music Studies. His monographs in the field have been widely read and cited. He has been involved in all the most important collective publications in the field over the past decade, including *The Edinburgh Companion to Literature and Music* (2020) and *The Routledge Companion to Music and Modern Literature* (2022), and the series *Word and Music Studies*. He has been commissioned by Brill to write the first ever *Handbook of Word and Music Studies*. He was joint recipient of the Society's Gapper Book Prize in 2021, for his book *The Music of Dada*. And he was invited to contribute a volume to the MHRA's series "Selected Essays", which has now been published, under the title *For the Love of Art.*

His scholarly achievements are all the more remarkable given that he also devoted a great deal of his time and energy to administrative roles (in particular as Head of French 2019-20, and as Head of Department, 2014-17). An outstanding and extremely popular teacher, Peter has also left a lasting imprint in the memory of generations of students.
His undergraduate teaching strategies were innovative and forward-looking: he was responsible for introducing Computer Assisted Language Learning to the University, from the late 1980s. Edinburgh became as a result something of a national champion in this domain, with the UK's first dedicated Languages Microlab. He was also a pioneer in the introduction of student-led and student-centred teaching and assessment.

Peter was at the forefront of the introduction of comparative literature and, later, of intermediality into the undergraduate curriculum. He taught in every year on the MSc in Comparative Literature and he constantly pushed for the enlargement of the concept of comparative literature. His options were open to, and attracted each year, students from English Literature, Translation Studies, and Asian Studies, as well as, latterly, musicology. This kind of extended comparatism proved to be what our taught PGs are most interested in. It culminated recently in the creation of the MSc in Intermediality. And Peter's outstanding teaching career is perhaps best reflected in his legacy as PhD supervisor, with former students now teaching all over the world.

We wish Peter and his family all the best in this new era of his life where we know that words and music will continue to play a central role.

Special Minute
Professor Roger Jeffery BA, MSc, PhD.
Emeritus Professor of Sociology of South Asia

Roger Jeffery's academic life has been devoted to understanding the societies of South Asia and explaining it to students and, increasingly, to a wider public. He has been motivated by a desire to apply key sociological approaches to show how the lives of ordinary people in South Asia are linked to wider social processes. Since joining Edinburgh Sociology in 1972 he has maintained an outstanding record of gaining research grants and publishing the results, in international journals and with leading academic publishers. Wherever possible, he has also ensured that his publications have been accessible to students and scholars in South Asia. He was appointed Professor of Sociology of South Asia in October 1997.

He graduated with a First-Class degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge and conducted his first research in South Asia as part of his MSc in Sociology at the University of Bristol. His research has developed organically, with a common thread being a concern with poverty and its alleviation. His PhD research on health policy – published by the University of California Press – was followed by collaborative research and teaching relationships with scholars from a range of disciplines, such as social forestry, public health, education and environmental sciences, in addition to sociologists, economists and anthropologists, based in Germany, France, and Switzerland, as well as in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Professor Jeffery is a strong supporter of area studies: he believes that it is essential for scholars to use interdisciplinary approaches to address social issues, with a thorough understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic context, both contemporary and historical. His many research projects often required extended periods of residence in north India. From 1982 onwards he carried out fieldwork in villages in Bijnor district, 100 miles north-east of Delhi, which he visited for several long spells of research over more than 20 years, the last in 2001-02. As a frequent principal or co-investigator, he has won, with others, over £5 million in research grants. In total he has authored, co-authored, edited or co-edited 20 books, 66 articles in academic journals, and 64 chapters in edited volumes.

A long-standing member of the British Association for South Asian Studies, Roger also reenergised the European Association for South Asian Studies, serving as a member of its executive committee, and as its President for six years. Throughout his time in Edinburgh Professor Jeffery has cheerfully undertaken a variety of formal roles, as Post-Graduate Dean in the (then) Faculty of Social Sciences, and three years as head of the (then) Sociology Department. He helped to found the University's Centre for South Asian Studies and its India Institute. He was also the University's Dean (International) for India, 2011-2015.

He has continued with an active research career well after the normal age of retirement, and a sign of his versatility is that his recent research has dealt not only with the social implications of pollution from reactive nitrogen compounds in South Asia but also with the historical and contemporary inter-relationships of India and Edinburgh.

Special Minute
Professor David Robertson BSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Applied Logic

Dave Robertson joined Edinburgh's Department of Artificial Intelligence in 1984 through a lucky accident. He had programmed population dynamics simulations as part of his BSc in Ecological Science and was recruited into AI to fill an unexpected vacancy for a Research Fellow on a project to synthesise ecological simulation programs. This led to more general work on program synthesis from domain-specific requirements languages, and he became a lecturer in 1988, working on engineering approaches to the use of mathematical logic in program specification. He was part of the team that established teaching in Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Edinburgh, which was pioneering at that time. He is thus part of Informatics' long heritage of AI research and teaching, for which we celebrated our 60 year anniversary in 2023.

Much later, while on an EPSRC Advanced Fellowship at UoE, he studied in the CSIC AI Research Institute in Barcelona, where he received his PhD in 2000. He, and his research group, invented a new approach to coordinated knowledge sharing in large scale multi-agent systems. Many others internationally collaborated to develop and enhance this concept via large EU projects and UK national programmes. This stimulated a variety of applications in astrophysics, business process modelling, ecology, emergency response, proteomics, healthcare and other areas. In 2008, he was made Chair of Applied Logic.

In 2009, he became Head of School of Informatics (created from an earlier unification of departments of Artificial intelligence, Computer Science and Cognitive Science) in the newly built Informatics Forum. Informatics then grew a dedicated technology transfer operation that produced more spin-outs and start-up companies than any other comparator UK institution at that time. This synergy between research and innovation in computing science set the stage for later innovation more broadly in the University and beyond – for example, with Scotland's DataLab, the UK's Alan Turing Institute and Europe's EIT Digital. He also initiated Design Informatics, a research and teaching arm of Informatics, joint between Informatics and Edinburgh College of Art.

In 2014, he was seconded into College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, where he was inaugural co-Director of its new Centre for Medical Informatics. He went on to become Director for the Scottish node of Health Data Research UK (the UK national institute for data-intensive healthcare research). Simultaneously, he was a Dean in Science and Engineering and was part of the team that established Edinburgh Data Science and our Data Science, Innovation and Technology on-line education programme.

In 2017, he returned to the College of Science and Engineering as Head of College, where he served until 2022. During his tenure, which included our difficult Covid years, CSE became the largest generator of research income in the University, and it also led our movement towards interdisciplinary data science, completing the first of our major innovation hubs for data science (the Bayes Centre) in 2018. More broadly, he was chair of the UK Computing Research Committee (the expert panel of IET and BCS, representing top-level UK computing research); a member of the EPSRC ICT Strategic Advisory Team and the MRC Population Health Sciences Group. At a European level, he was on the Supervisory board of EIT Digital (the European Community's network for funding of innovation in computing science).

In recent years he has helped the University to deal with the complex human, organisational and technical difficulties flowing from introduction of our new finance and HR systems. This provides an unusual form of symmetry with his early-career research into software requirements engineering.

In the future he intends to grow his personal consultancy activities and work in applied AI internationally. Professor Robertson should be highly commended for his commitment to the University of Edinburgh and his dedication to its pursuits. This commitment will continue after his retirement and this should be recognised through an Emeritus Professorship, an honour that he has fully earned through his unwavering service and achievements.

Special Minute
Professor Malcolm Douglas Walkinshaw: BSc, PhD, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Structural Biochemistry

Malcolm Walkinshaw obtained his BSc in Chemistry (1972) and PhD degrees in X-ray crystallography (1975) from the Chemistry Department at Edinburgh University. He then joined the group of Professor Struther Arnott at Purdue University, Indiana, working on molecular structures of polysaccharide polymers. This was followed by a von Humboldt Fellowship with Professor Wolfram Saenger in Göttingen where he worked on protein structure determination and developed an interest in the nascent field of Structure Based Drug Discovery. This fast-developing approach led to a new opportunity with the pharmaceutical company Sandoz (now Novartis) in Basel where over a period of ten years he built a successful 'Drug Discovery Group' which developed novel biophysical and computational approaches to design new drug-like molecules. While there, he was awarded an honorary position as Privatdozent at the University of Basel Biozentrum.

Meanwhile in Edinburgh, a new Chair of Structural Biochemistry was founded in 1995 in recognition of the growing importance of macromolecular structure determination. Malcolm Walkinshaw was appointed and provided with laboratory space in the then new Michael Swann building. There he created a structural biology grouping which later became part of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology. In 2006 with funding from Wellcome, Scottish Enterprise and the BBSRC, Walkinshaw transformed molecular biology infrastructure in Edinburgh by founding the Centre for Translational and Chemical Biology to provide world class facilities for protein production, characterisation and structure determination. Complementing this technological advance, he devised a pioneering MSc course in Drug Discovery and Translational Biology. This proved so popular with students from the UK and overseas that it has spawned several related MSc courses that have enhanced the School both reputationally and financially. Aside from his research and teaching innovations, Walkinshaw took on collegial responsibilities as Head of Institute for Structural and Molecular Biology from 2006 to 2013.

A guiding focus of Walkinshaw's research has been translational exploitation of basic science discoveries, in particular the link molecular structure and biological function. Following his pioneering work on the immunosuppressant cyclosporin-A, he contributed to the development of drugs for the treatment of cancer and several infectious tropical diseases. In addition, his laboratory devised widely adopted algorithms to improve the efficiency of 'rational' drug design. For five years he was seconded to the company Cyclacel where structure-based approaches were successfully used to identify and develop kinase inhibitors. He has also held consultancies with Roche, Novartis and Debiopharm. Walkinshaw's work has resulted in over 250 publications describing how molecular interactions functionally modulate protein-protein, protein-DNA and protein-drug interactions. During his 28 years at Edinburgh Walkinshaw has mentored over 30 PhD students and his group's work has resulted in patented discoveries of novel small molecules and new modes of action relevant to a range of diseases, including parasitic and viral infections. Most recently a major grant from Wellcome led to the development of compounds that blocked the trypanosome glycolytic pathway providing a new mechanism and proven cure for Sleeping Sickness in an animal model.

In summary, Professor Walkinshaw has championed the translational approach to biomedical science, contributing to a modernising cultural shift in the School of Biological Sciences. By choosing research problems designed to address unmet clinical needs and

securing commercial collaborations, he has shown by example how to combine basic with applied science. As a direct result of his efforts, translational biology is now embedded in the MSc curriculum, increasing the profile and relevance of the School of Biological Sciences.

Special Minute
Professor Christopher K I Williams BA, MSc, MSc, PhD, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Machine Learning

Professor Chris Williams is one of our most esteemed faculty members at the School of Informatics. As he retires in September 2024, he leaves behind a legacy of exceptional research and teaching in Artificial Intelligence. Held in the highest regard by both colleagues and students, Chris has served as a mentor and confidant to many over the years. Behind his unassuming nature and affable disposition, lies a lifetime of outstanding scientific contributions. His commitment to the School and University will continue after his retirement and this should be recognised through an Emeritus Professorship, an honour that he has unreservedly earned through his unwavering service and achievements.

Professor Williams graduated from the University of Cambridge in 1982 with a first-class honours degree in Physics and Theoretical Physics. He continued at Cambridge for an additional year, earning a Distinction in Part III Maths in 1983. Subsequently, he pursued an MSc in Water Resources at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (1984), and worked in Lesotho, Southern Africa, on low-cost sanitation projects from 1985 to 1988.

His interest in neural networks, which underpin methods like modern Large Language Models, led him back to academia in 1988. He studied Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence under Prof. Geoffrey Hinton FRS at the University of Toronto, earning an MSc in 1990 and a PhD in 1994. In September 1994, he joined Aston University as a Research Fellow and became a Lecturer in August 1995.

Professor Williams moved to the Department of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh in July 1998, was promoted to Reader in the School of Informatics in October 2000, and to a Personal Chair of Machine Learning in October 2005. His research interests are in Machine Learning and Computer Vision. He has worked on new models for understanding time-series, images, and for finding structure in data. The book *Gaussian Processes for Machine Learning* (MIT Press, 2006, co-authored with Carl Rasmussen) is a key reference in the field. It won the 2009 DeGroot Prize of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis. Prof Williams has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and graduated 23 PhD students.

In today's world, methods from machine learning are ubiquitous across most areas of AI and across many applications, but that was not the case when Professor Williams arrived in Edinburgh in 1998. With visionary leadership, he nurtured the growth of the Machine Learning Group within the Institute for Adaptive and Neural Computation. Under his guidance, innovative courses were developed to equip students with the skills and knowledge essential for thriving in this transformative field.

With promotion to Chair came more responsibility, and Chris has always been willing to be a good citizen and step up into significant roles in the School. For example, he served as Director of the Institute for Adaptive and Neural Computation from 2005 to 2012. He was program co-chair for the Neural Information Processing Systems conference in 2009, one of the top conferences in machine learning. He spent 2013 on sabbatical at Oregon State University, and on returning to Edinburgh was founding Director of the Centre for Doctoral Training in Data Science (2014-2016). From 2016 to 2018, he served as the first University Liaison Director for the University to the Alan Turing Institute, which involved regular travel to London. From 2018 to 2021 he was Director of Research for the School of Informatics. Chris was key in setting up the Data Science Unit in the School of Informatics, which is the

first of its kind in the University, with a remit to help academics and researchers across the University to leverage data and AI in their research.

Professor Williams became a Fellow of the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) in 2019, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2021.

Chris has two daughters, Kate, born in 1993 and Ruth, born in 1995. His plans for the future include some world travel, as well as hill-walking in Britain.

Electronic Senate

11 - 25 September 2024

Resolutions

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. 99/2024: Foundation of a Personal Chair of AI, Memory and War
- No.100/2024: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Educational Change and Diversity

Members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations using the form available on the Senate Members Portal (Senate member access only). These comments will be added verbatim to the Senate Members Portal e-Senate page where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

Background and context

3. 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

4. The draft Resolutions are attached to this paper.

Resource implications

5. There are no resource implications in altering these Chair titles.

Risk Management

6. There are reputational considerations in establishing and altering the title of Chairs which are considered as part of the University's approval processes.

Responding to the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Goals

7. N/A.

Equality and Diversity

8. 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

9. Via Senate's report to University Court.

Consultation

10. The statutory process for the creation and renaming of Chairs requires consultation with Senate and the General Council prior to approval by the University Court.

Further information

Author(s)	**Presenter(s) (if required)**
Kirstie Graham	
Deputy Head of Court Services	
August 2024	

Freedom of information

Open paper

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 99/2024

Foundation of a Personal Chair of AI, Memory and War

At Edinburgh, the Second day of December, Two thousand and twenty four.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of AI, Memory and War:

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 AI, Memory and War 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 AI, Memory and War 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 January Two thousand and twenty five.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 100/2024

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Educational Change and Diversity

At Edinburgh, the Second day of December, Two thousand and twenty four.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Educational Change and Diversity:

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 Educational Change and Diversity 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 Educational Change and Diversity together with all other rights, privileges and duties attaching to the office of Professor.

4.   This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 August Two thousand and twenty four.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

Electronic Senate

11 – 25 September 2024

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 17 June 2024.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.

Background and context

3. The University Court routinely reports to Senate on business which is of interest to Senate.

Discussion

4. Please see Appendix 1 for the full report of business conducted at the 17 June meeting.

Resource implications

5. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Risk management

6. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Equality and diversity

7. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

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

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

Author

Dr Daniel Wedgwood
Governance & Court Services
28 August 2024

Freedom of Information

Open Paper

Appendix 1:

17 June 2024

1   Rector's Welcome; New Members and Attendees

The Rector, Simon Fanshawe, formally opened the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to Dora Herndon and Ruth Elliott, as the new student members of Court, and congratulated Sarah McAllister on her re-election as Professional Services elected staff member of Court and Kathryn Nash on her re-appointment as the academic trade union member of Court. The Rector's opening remarks focused on the University's pursuit of truth, the importance of dialogue and debate and the need to make efforts to access and take into account a wide range of views. He also noted his very positive impressions of recent University events that he had attended.

2   Principal's Report

The Principal's report was noted. Key points in the report included the following:
- Higher education policy had been debated in context of the UK general election. A number of political decisions could potentially have an impact on the sector, including elements of migration policy.
- There had been a series of engagement events with the Senior Leadership Team across the University.
- Scottish Funding Council grant funding to the University had been confirmed at the end of May.
- The Edinburgh Futures Institute was open and hosting events in addition to cross-disciplinary education and research and civic and cultural partnerships, all with a focus on focus on the responsible use of data to address global challenges, including ethics of artificial intelligence, social inequality and climate change.

3   Report from the Short Life Working Group on Definition of Armaments for Investments

Court discussed the report and potential actions in response, taking input from the Convener of Investment Committee. The outcomes of this discussion were set out in a public statement, which can be found at:
https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff/2024/a-statement-from-the-university-court

3   Senate report

Court received the confirmed Report of e-Senate Business conducted by correspondence between 24 April and 8 May 2024 and a summary of business conducted at the Senate meeting of 22 May 2024.

4   Planning and Budgeting

Court considered planning documents and the University's Group-level budget for 2024-25. Noting a challenging financial context for the university sector, Court agreed that the University should set a budget for 2024-25 in line with previously agreed budgetary principles of financial sustainability. It was noted that further detail would be provided to Court ahead of its next meeting.

5   Report of the Externally-Facilitated Effectiveness Review

Court received the final report of the Externally-Facilitated Effectiveness Review that had been carried out over preceding months in accordance with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. It was noted that the review expressed a high level of confidence in the University's governance arrangements. There were recommendations for further enhancement. Nominations Committee would consider these in the first instance and propose relevant actions to Court thereafter.

The report has been published at:
https://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/GaSP/Governance/Court/ExternalEffectivenessReport.pdf

5   Student Experience

Court received a regular update on work to enhance the student experience, including an update on work to improve the consistency and timeliness of feedback on assessments within and across the three Colleges. Updates were also provided on developments in relation to the Curriculum Transformation Project, Portfolio Review and the Student Support Model.

It was noted that a Court seminar on the student experience, with the involvement of the students' association, was planned to take place early in the 2024/25 academic year.

6   Estates

Court approved revisions to the Residential Strategy and allocations of funding for a number of Estates projects, where these were additional to the existing Capital Plan or otherwise required Court's approval under the Delegated Authority Schedule.

7   Digital Strategy

Court approved the Digital Strategy and Digital Estates Capital Plan, noting that these had received thorough scrutiny from Estates Committee, Knowledge Strategy Committee and other groups. The Digital Strategy will be published in due course.

7   Equality Diversity & Inclusion Data Report 2024

Sarah Cunningham-Burley, University Lead on Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI), introduced the report and its appendices on student and staff data. It was noted that the report focussed on data, rather than policy or relevant initiatives, and contributed legal compliance in addition to keeping Court informed. Many areas showed progress, while areas for further work had also been identified.

The statutory requirement to foster good relations between different groups was also discussed: it was noted that this responsibility was borne by all members of the community and recognised that this could be challenging in the context of deeply felt and strongly expressed views on certain topics. For its part, the University had taken various actions to support those in groups that might be affected by external events and to promote constructive debate through on-going work on academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Court approved the report and its annexes for publication and thanked Sarah Cunningham-Burley for all of her contributions in the role of University Lead on EDI, as she approached the end of her term in this role. It was noted that the University had recently successfully renewed its Athena SWAN Institutional Silver award.

8 Resolutions (Degree Programme Regulations)

The following Resolutions containing annual updates for the degree programme regulations were referred to Senate and the General Council for observations:

Draft Resolution No. 4/2024: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
Draft Resolution No. 5/2024: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

9 Other Items

Regular reports were received from Court's committees, the Director of Finance, the Students' Association and Sports Union and the Development & Alumni Office. Court also reviewed a report on work carried out during 2023 in support of the University's People Strategy. Annual update reports were received on the University's obligations under the Prevent duty and compliance with the requirements of The Education Act 1994 regarding the Students' Association.

Court formally approved:
- the annual recognition of University of Edinburgh alumni clubs; and
- Undergraduate and postgraduate degree programme regulations.

Electronic Senate

13 September – 27 September 2024

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Description of paper

1. The paper reports on the Knowledge Strategy Committee meeting held on a hybrid basis on 30 May 2024.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.

Resource implications

3. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Risk management

4. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Equality & diversity

5. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

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

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

Author
Jamie Tait
Clerk to Knowledge Strategy Committee
September 2024

Freedom of Information
Open paper

REPORT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

30 May 2024

1   University Digital Strategy and Digital Estate

The Knowledge Strategy Committee (KSC) discussed the high-level outline of the University Digital Strategy and Digital Estate, an overview of the University Digital Strategy and plans for the Digital Estate.

The Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University noted the Digital Strategy aligns with Strategy 2030, having the same focus areas of People, Research, Teaching and Learning, and Social and Civic Responsibility. These are underpinned by the Digital Estate. A 10-year University Digital Estate Roadmap had been developed and the University Digital Estate Capital Plan supported the investment needed to deliver the Strategy. It was also reported an Estates Committee seminar had recently taken place to consider the University Digital Strategy and Digital Estate. The Seminar was supportive of the Strategy and commended the work that had been undertaken.

In discussion the Committee noted the following:

- Overall ownership of the Digital Strategy would sit with KSC, which would also review its progress. It was confirmed this would be in the form of an annual or bi-annual progress report.
- The importance of communicating the Strategy. It was confirmed that a full communications approach was in place, and upon approval, it was crucial that awareness of the Strategy was raised across the University community.
- There are 10-year roadmaps for each theme within the Digital Estate Heatmap, with the roadmap showing items where work is taking place or expected to take place.
- Feedback from postgraduate research students to be included in the Key Performance Indicator of "Excellent University Community Experience". It was suggested this could draw on responses to relevant questions in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey.
- A summary of progress on the substantive Digital Estate projects, along with an overview of plans for the Digital Estate in support of University Digital Strategy and Strategy 2030, would be produced for each KSC meeting going forward.

The Committee were supportive of the Strategy and recommended for approval the University Digital Strategy to University Court (17 June) via Policy and Resources Committee (3 June).

2   Chief Information Officer Update

- **Visit from John Edwards, UK Information Commissioner.** The UK Information Commissioner recently met with the Principal, Director of EPCC and the Vice-Principal and Chief Information Officer, and Librarian to the University.

- **Zoom licence**. It was noted that a small number of Schools remain regular users of Zoom, and the University is therefore renewing its licence for a further year. It was also noted that Microsoft Teams and Collaborate (the University supported virtual classroom and meeting tool) are the other widely used video conferencing/collaboration platforms.

- **Printer use**. There is currently a wide consultation on the use of printers, with the aim of reducing the number on the estate, both in order to help reduce costs and for environmental reasons.

- **Digital Accessibility**. Digital accessibility regulations mean that public sector bodies have a legal obligation to meet accessibility requirements for their websites. The University is currently the subject of two digital accessibility audits, one of which is on how external members of the University use our recruitment website and functionality.

3   Knowledge Strategy Committee Governance Update

The Committee noted an update on governance relating to KSC, its thematic committees and other related committees and groups. It was also noted that an internal audit review of the Estates Committee, and effectiveness reviews of both University Court and Senate, would feed into the discussions. An options paper would be submitted to the KSC meeting in October 2024.

4   Enabling Curriculum Transformation

Muriel Mewissen, Portfolio and Team Manager for the University Secretary's Group (USG) and Colleges, gave a short presentation on the outcome of the impact assessment, of the potential roll-out of the proposed new curriculum, on Information Services Group (ISG) managed systems and services. The significant impact, effort and potential cost was highlighted, set in a context of an extended period of time. Assessment is currently being undertaken on the split between postgraduate taught and undergraduate to respond to feedback from the University Initiatives Portfolio Board (UIPB). It was noted that, in order to help reduce risk and impact a number of elements would require to be developed, including obtaining a full set of technical requirements and a clear and well managed scope.

The Convener noted that the business case under development was proposing a phased rollout with different timelines for postgraduate taught (PGT) programmes, undergraduate (UG) programmes and new elements of the curriculum. An outline business case (OBC) was presented to the UIPB in May, and the Curriculum Transformation Project (CTP) is currently coordinating feedback to the UIPB, to allow the UIPB to make a recommendation to University Executive.

The Committee welcomed the update and detailed conversations and planning that had taken place. It was confirmed that parallel discussions in relation to non-ISG systems were also taking place to ensure work was aligned and the business case fully informed. It was noted that the full business case (FBC) should clearly demonstrate the benefits of CTP, recognising the context of competing areas for potential investment.

5   Captioning Project Update and Service Improvement

Melissa Highton, Director of Learning, Teaching and Web Services and Assistant Principal Online Learning, provided an update on the progress and findings of the Captioning Project and on what is planned for the future for the project. It was noted that captions play a key part in making content accessible and inclusive, and in order to encourage increased use of captions, it was recommended to switch them on by default for both Media Hopper Replay (Lecture Recording) and Media Hopper Create (Media Streaming Service). It was confirmed that the quality of captioning had improved and both services had the most up-to-date technology.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- The membership of the Captioning Service Project Board for 2023/24 included staff and students with hearing loss and significant equality, diversity and inclusion experience.

- The project provides paid work for students to work as captioners, with flexibility on hours and hybrid working.

- Any recording with a confidence score of 90% and over would be automatically published by default. This would be regularly reviewed and can be changed if required. It was confirmed that the confidence score was generated by AI.

- Any potential difficulties with certain words or phrases can be flagged in advance.

- A sentence could be shown at the start of each recording to note that automatic captions had been used.

Having sought assurance around the ability to highlight errors and have these addressed, and to pre-warn students of the automatic basis of captioning, KSC were strongly supportive of the project, noting the value it added to the student experience. KSC therefore approved the recommendation that, in line with the discussion at the previous meeting, automated captions are turned on by default on two services starting next academic year – Media Hopper Replay (Lecture Recording) and Media Hopper Create (Media Streaming Service).

The Committee noted the service would be formally launched with communication going out across the University, including to students with adjustment, staff in the Disability and Learning Support Service and School Student Advisers.

It was also recommended a short paper be submitted to the next Senate Education Committee to confirm this decision, and a one-page crib sheet for staff in advance of the automated captions being turned on would be helpful.

6 **Student Analytics to Underpin Student Support**

Lisa Dawson, Academic Registrar, presented a paper with the outcomes of a pilot study undertaken to assess whether the data held within our core University systems could identify changes in patterns of student engagement enabling early and targeted interventions and support for students. It was noted an OBC had been presented to Senate Education Committee in November 2023, who endorsed the next phase of work to develop a full business case to introduce student analytics as an underpinning technology for student support. Earlier this month, the Student Lifecycle Management Group discussed the use of student analytics and its practical application within Schools, with positive feedback from this session.

The Committee welcomed the update, noting the project was about supporting our staff and students and helping make potentially earlier decisions. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Learn was used as the critical data source for the pilot and would therefore be key as the project moves into Phase 2.

- As a Digital Estate related project, this could be included within the roadmap.

- The importance of clearly defining procurement requirements in Phase 2.

- The need to protect student data with clear communications, helping mitigate any mistrust or negative reactions.

- Phase 2 will involve UG, PGT and PGR students, with the outcome of the study aiming to support the objective of the new student support model. It was recommended to include PGR supervisors and the Doctoral College in Phase 2 to ensure PGR students are involved in this work.

KSC noted the outcomes of the pilot study and endorsed the proposed next steps.

7   Library Book Management (RFID) Full Business Case

The Committee considered the FBC for a Library Book Management (RFID - Radio Frequency Identification) project. This project would replace outdated self-service and book security equipment at the University's Main Library and nine site libraries, and add RFID tags to an estimated one million open-shelf library items.

The Director of Library & University Collections noted that the current technology at the University is becoming obsolete, and market intelligence showed that RFID would remain for the foreseeable future and is the standard technology for libraries in the higher education and other sectors. The project would also provide an improved student experience through secure collections and the development of services in line with evolving technologies.

The Committee approved the FBC and agreed for it to be added to the roadmap, noting capacity to support the project by ISG would be subject to the final outcome of the University's planning round. If supported, this would be taken forward under the Collections 2025 Programme. The Committee also agreed it would be useful to see longer-term trends of Library usage at a KSC meeting in 2024/25.

8   Accommodation, Catering and Events Kx System Direct Award Full Business Case (Including Kx Hosting)

The Committee noted the contract renewal for the Kx system by direct award via the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) framework, as well as the project to move on-premise Kx databases and applications to Kinetic Solutions managed Azure hosting. It was confirmed a detailed migration plan would be in place to move the on-premise database and application servers to the fully managed cloud hosting environment. The Committee were supportive of the FBC and endorsed submission to the Digital Estate Prioritisation Group, Capital Projects Group then Estates Committee for final approval in August 2024.

9   Other items

The Committee recommended for approval to University Executive revisions to the University Computing Acceptable Use Policy. The Committee also noted papers on ISG Planning 2024/25 to 2028/2029; Digital Estates Capital Plan – 2023-2029; Digital Estate Project Status; Information Security; Identity and Access Management; Edinburgh access to Language Models and AskEdHelp; Main Library Masterplan; Network Replacement Programme; and Timetabling and Exams Replacement Project. Regular reports were received from the IT Committee, Library Committee, University Collections Advisory Committee and Estates Committee. The Committee also approved meeting dates for 2024/25.

Electronic Senate

11 – 25 September 2024

Report from Central Academic Promotions Committee

Description of paper

1. Report of the recommendations of the Central Academic Promotions Committee.

Action requested / Recommendation

2. For information.

Resource implications

3. Increased salaries will impact on each individual College's staff budget.

Risk Management

4. N/A

Responding to the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Goals

5. N/A

Equality and Diversity

6. Equality and Diversity is central to the considerations of the Central Academic Promotions Committee.

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

7. N/A

Further information
Author   **Presenter(s) (if required)**
Louise Kidd
HR Partner Reward
University HR
28 August 2024

Freedom of information: Open

REPORT FROM THE CENTRAL ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

The following award of Personal Chair has been made since the last report to Senate:

Title	Initial	Surname	College	School/Deanery	Personal Chair Title	Date of Effect
Dr	N	Pantic	CAHSS	Moray House School of Education & Sport	Personal Chair in Educational Change and Diversity	1 August 2024

Louise Kidd
University HR
28 August 2024