

Senate
e-Senate Report of 27 August to 10 September 2025
Confirmed Report

1 Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita (e-S 25/26 1A)

Senate approved the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita on the following professors:

- Professor Timothy Bates, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Professor Gert Biesta, Moray House School of Education and Sport
- Professor Ann Bruce, School of Social and Political Science
- Professor Alan Bundy, School of Informatics
- Professor Eleanor Campbell, School of Chemistry
- Professor Tony Carbery, School of Mathematics
- Professor Simon Clark, School of Economics
- Professor Martin Chick, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
- Professor Nick Colegrave, School of Biological Sciences
- Professor Emma Davie, Edinburgh College of Art
- Professor Sergio Della Sala, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Professor Adam Fox, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
- Professor Pete Higgins, Moray House School of Education and Sport
- Professor Ruth Jepson, School of Health in Social Science
- Professor Wendy Johnson, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Professor Alex Lascarides, School of Informatics
- Professor John Lee, School of Informatics and Edinburgh College of Art
- Professor Bettylou Los, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Professor Fiona Mackay, School of Social and Political Science
- Professor Gillen McCluskey, Moray House School of Education and Sport
- Professor Bruce McGorum, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
- Professor Robbie Nicol, Moray House School of Education and Sport
- Professor Pauline Phemister, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Professor Wilson Poon, School of Physics and Astronomy
- Professor William Rampen, School of Engineering
- Professor Lynne Regan, School of Biological Sciences
- Professor Don Sannella, School of Informatics
- Professor Richard Sparks, Edinburgh Law School
- Professor Richard Thomson, Edinburgh College of Art
- Professor Stephen Warrington, School of Engineering
- Professor Tim Worrall, School of Economics

Senate noted the special minutes provided for each professor.

Ten members commented on this item.

Seven members communicated their approval, with one member expressing a lack of clarity on the basis for which emeritus/emerita status is conferred. The same member observed that there was a considerable variability in the extent that those conferred Emeritus/Emerita status intend to contribute to the University in retirement.

Two members observed that there were higher numbers of retiring professors presented to Senate than in previous years. Both members queried the impact of the University's voluntary severance scheme on the increased number of departing professors. One member noted that one retiring colleague was promoted to Chair two years prior and that several colleagues have held Professorships for less than ten years. Both members queried how the loss of Professorial-level expertise would be mitigated, with one member querying whether the impact of departing staff had been adequately assessed.

A shorter than usual Special Minute drafted by the School of Health in Social Sciences was identified, however the member raising this also acknowledged that the Minute included all required information.

The same member stated they felt that approving emeritus/emerita status via passive assent was disrespectful. The member believes that Senate approval should be granted through quorate affirmation in an ordinary Senate meeting and they felt the time saving of considering the paper via e-Senate was negligible. The member expressed concern that the use of e-Senate to confer emeritus/emerita status signified a devaluing of Senate's role in academic governance.

Clerk's note: Professor Lynne Regan was originally listed as being part of the School of Engineering. Professor Regan was a colleague in the School of Biological Sciences, her Special Minute was updated during the period which e-Senate was running.