



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 15 April 2026
and close at noon on Wednesday 29 April 2026

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita | eS 25/26 4A |
| | To approve | |
| 2 | Court Communications | eS 25/26 4B |
| | To comment | |
| 3 | College Academic Management Structure 2026/27 | eS 25/26 4C |
| | To note | |

Electronic Senate

15 – 29 April 2026

Conferment of the Title of Emeritus / Emerita Professor

Description of paper

1. 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 Angus Bancroft, School of Sociology and Political Science
Professor Stephen Boardman, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
Professor Steven Cunningham, School of Regeneration and Repair
Professor Martin Dennis, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Sciences
Professor Joseph Gafaranga, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
Professor Andrew Jarman, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Sciences
Professor Stephen Neff, Edinburgh Law School
Professor Gordon David Plotkin, School of Informatics
Professor Ethel Quayle, School of Health in Social Science
Professor Dave Reay, School of Geosciences
Professor Norah Spears, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Sciences
Professor Philip Wadler, School of Informatics

4. The Special Minutes are attached as an appendix.

Resource implications

5. None.

Risk management

6. Not applicable.

Equality & diversity

7. The use of the gendered titles 'emeritus' and 'emerita' may not align with an individual's preferences. The Senate Support Team will respect an individual's preference in title designation.

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

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

Author Senate Support, April 2026

Freedom of Information Open paper

Special Minute
Professor Angus Bancroft, MA, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Sociology

Angus Bancroft has made significant contributions to the University's international reputation and research profile since his first appointment as a Research Fellow in 1999. He was appointed as a Lecturer in Sociology in 2004, promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2009; and to personal Chair in Sociology 2021. His contributions to research and teaching have been recognised with the Chancellor's Award for Teaching in 2017, and the fact that he is a Higher Education Academy Senior Fellow in recognition of his sustained and effective contribution to student learning, promoting effective approaches to teaching and learning support as a key contribution to high quality student learning.

As this suggests, Angus Bancroft has made substantial and significant contributions to teaching and curriculum design. He has extensive experience of academic leadership, programme/course design, teaching in a vast range of settings to diverse student groups, and research supervision. His pedagogy consistently put research led teaching at its heart and created sustained cultures of student focused teaching excellence. During his career, Angus designed and taught in the areas of medical ethics, medical sociology, public health, epidemiology, illicit markets, criminology, intoxication, digital research, quantitative methods, and research design. His courses were invariably popular, innovative and original.

Angus' commitment to teaching extends beyond the classroom as seen in his highly influential teaching textbook *Dead White Men and Other Important People: Sociology's Big Ideas* which has had an international impact. It is widely used as the basis for first year courses in universities in the UK, Australia, Korea and China among other places. The Chinese edition was published in 2021 in response to significant demand for a translated version in China, and it has been adopted at several universities in China. Nottingham Trent University used the book as the basis for its revised student induction week which focused around students becoming scholars and adapting to the university environment. Prof. Steve Fuller in the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, said: 'This project of self-discovery in alien worlds enables an artful review of topics that over the past two decades have become paramount in sociology.' The *Sociology Review* journal published a series of invited articles based on it.

Angus' research is known for theoretical innovation and agenda setting in the areas of drug and alcohol use, digital crime and illicit economies. A response to one paper on the darknet, for example, said it offers an 'original reconceptualisation of the notion of drug quality (in terms of purity, and embodied, craft and scientific knowledge) which ought really to inform all future discussion of the notion.' He has been called as an expert witness to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee, House of Commons investigation into Scotland's Drug Problem in 2019 and as an invited speaker at the industry leading Beyond AI Conference in 2018. He is an invited independent member of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Medicinal Cannabis, and has also led path-breaking research collaborations with external agencies and companies, such as Reddit and the UK National Crime Agency. The National Crime Agency said 'this is the first time we have worked with social scientist to improve understanding of the effects of our interventions. Indeed, this is the first time we have

committed to financially supporting any university-based research. As we continue to stand up a new dark web capability this project will be integrated into and impacting on our work from the very beginning’.

His research has gone beyond academia and had widespread cultural impact, forming the basis for an exhibition by the Basel Cultural Museum on ‘The Secret’ and a play performed by Do Not Adjust Your Stage in 2016 at the Edinburgh Fringe. Angus himself performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas 4 times. His research gained extensive media coverage. For instance, it featured on Laurie Taylor’s *Thinking Allowed* on Radio 4, fed into a full-page article for *The Times* on alcohol pricing and informed an article in *Undark* magazine. He was the founder and editor of the Harm Reduction Journal’s specialist section on Digital and Online Harm Reduction and Monitoring.

Angus has made continuing contributions to graduate and early career researcher development, including training and mentoring colleagues into post-doctoral fellowships, lectureships, public and business appointments. He served as 2013-2016 Director of Graduate School in Social and Political Science, with responsibility for circa 450 MSc and PhD students. In this capacity, he led development of internationally leading ESRC-recognised social science research training, PhD supervision quality assurance and progress review. Aspects of this leadership were enhanced in his role as the Director of the Research Training Centre. Angus also supervised circa 15 PhDs to completion and graduation, 9 as lead, 6 as co-supervisor. Two of his PhD graduates won book prizes for books based on their PhD theses, the British Sociological Association Philip Abrams prize (Amy Chandler) and the British Criminological Association book prize (Jennifer Fleetwood).

Angus intends to continue with a number of research collaborations and book projects, including an update and revision of his influential textbook.

Special Minute
Professor Stephen Boardman MA, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Medieval Scottish History

Professor Steve Boardman retired from his Personal Chair in Medieval Scottish History in May 2026. He was educated at the University of St Andrews, where he was awarded his PhD in 1989. He held Postdoctoral Fellowships at the University of St Andrews and a Lectureship at the University of Aberdeen. He was appointed as a Lecturer in Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh in 1997, and was promoted to his chair in 2016.

Professor Boardman has published widely on the politics, culture and society of late medieval Scotland. His first book, *The Early Stewart Kings: Robert II and Robert III, 1371-1406* (1996), is recognised as the standard work on the first two Stewart monarchs. Professor Boardman's second book, *The Campbells, 1250-1513* (2006), was a major reassessment of the relationship between the Highland elite and the Scottish crown. In 2004-7, he led an Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project to survey dedications to saints in medieval Scotland. The project published an online database and two volumes of essays. More recently, he has been involved in a funded research project on 'The Community of the Realm in Scotland, 1249-1424' and led another on Andrew Wyntoun's *Original Chronicle*. His most recent book, *The First Stewart Dynasty: Scotland, 1371-1488*, was published by Edinburgh University Press in April 2026.

Professor Boardman was a popular teacher in the former Department of Scottish History and has made a large contribution to the teaching of the current School of History, Classics and Archaeology. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and MSc courses, reflecting his research interests in the medieval Scottish crown and nobility, saints cults and piety and Highland Scotland. He has taught on various iterations of pre-honours survey courses dealing with Scottish Medieval and British History. He introduced generations of MSc students to the study of medieval and early modern Scottish palaeography. He has also taught using literary sources and organised a course comparing Scotland with Wales and Ireland. To date, he has supervised fifteen PhD students to completion.

Alongside his research and teaching, Professor Boardman held a series of leadership roles. He was Head of the Scottish History department, shared the position of Undergraduate Director in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, was Deputy Head of History and served as acting Head of History in 2018.

Professor Boardman intends to remain engaged with research in medieval Scottish History, including through PhD supervision in Edinburgh and other universities, attendance at events held by the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Scottish History research seminar, and membership of the Scottish Medievalists.

Special Minute
Professor Steven Cunningham (MBChB, PhD, FRCP, FRCPCH)
Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine

Professor Steve Cunningham is retiring from his position at the University of Edinburgh in July 2026. Professor Cunningham has had a distinguished and productive academic career. He obtained his undergraduate medical degree at the University of Dundee in 1987, followed by a PhD in clinical sciences at the University of Edinburgh in 1995. After training in Aberdeen, Dundee, Brighton and Edinburgh, he undertook further specialist training in Great Ormond Street, London and Sydney Australia. After completing training he was acting director of Respiratory Paediatrics Mater Hospital, Brisbane before returning as a consultant to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, delivering a program of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine Research. He became an Honorary Professor in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine at the UoE in 2016 while still employed by the NHS, but moved to a Personal Chair at the University of Edinburgh in 2017. He has been a member of Child Life and health and the Centre for Inflammation Research since then and is currently based in the Institute of Regeneration and Repair.

His PhD examined computerised physiological trend monitoring in the neonatal intensive care unit. Out of this work he made critical observations relating to levels of transcutaneous oxygen risk of retinopathy of prematurity. From these clinical observations (Lancet 1995), he utilised a clinical lectureship with the University of Edinburgh to develop a novel animal model of retinopathy of prematurity (Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science 2000), which instructed future clinical trials of oxygen in preterm infants to reduce risk. At the Institute of Child Health/Great Ormond Street, he worked with novel gene therapy technologies in an animal model to help determine optimal delivery systems for pulmonary human gene therapy (J Gene Med 2002).

During his clinical academic career in paediatric respiratory medicine his research has impacted four key clinical areas:

1) Rare respiratory disease: he developed and chaired the British Paediatric Orphan Lung disease registry from 2006-2017, which enabled European FP7 funding for the European Platform for Children's Interstitial Lung Disease (chILD EU) 2013-2016, from which he became chair of the European Respiratory Society chILD Clinical Research Collaboration (2016-2022) and currently Co-Principal Investigator (PI) for the Edinburgh based LifeArc funded Rare Respiratory Disease consortium (2024-2029). This collaborative work led to the first paediatric medicine for chILD becoming licensed in 2025 (Eur Resp J 2023).

2) Cystic Fibrosis: as a member of the UK (Edinburgh, Imperial, Oxford) CF gene therapy consortium, he helped deliver the first multidose pulmonary gene therapy randomised controlled trial (Lancet Resp Med 2015), the success of which informs current CF gene therapy trials. His delivery of early phase clinical trials for small molecule therapeutics has transformed CF patient lives (Lancet Resp Med 2013 & 2016 & 2018).

3) Asthma: within the Edinburgh based Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research, he focussed on near fatal/fatal asthma and use of oral corticosteroids in young children with wheeze (Lancet Resp Med 2024).

4) Bronchiolitis/early life respiratory infection: as CI for the Bronchiolitis of Infancy Discharge Study (BIDS) he determined a key safety outcome for supplemental oxygen use in infants. The outcome, demonstrating a lower oxygen target is as safe and clinically effective as standard target (Lancet 2015), changed guideline recommendations globally, including by NICE (UK) and bodies in North America, Australasia, China and the majority of European countries. BIDS won the 2016 BMJ Clinical Research Paper of the Year Award.

Prof. Cunningham has provided lead consultancy for respiratory syncytial virus antiviral early phase development and trials in young infants, including acting as Chief Investigator (CI) for a global early phase nanobody technology in young infants with Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) (Lancet Resp Med 2021), the leading cause of viral lower respiratory tract infection and bronchiolitis in infants. Within the Edinburgh led the EU IMI RESCEU consortium, he recruited over 2000 healthy term infants to evaluate the incidence and mechanisms of RSV disease (Lancet Resp Med 2023), informing the subsequent introduction of RSV vaccines, recently licensed around the globe. With the BronchStart group he then delivered outputs on maternal RSV vaccine effectiveness to inform UK (and global) strategy for the reduction in RSV harm for young children (Lancet Child Adol Health 2025). Within the Edinburgh led UK NIHR Global Health (RESPIRE and RESPIRE2) consortium he works with colleagues in developing health to reduce risk in children with lower respiratory tract infection (oxygen saturation measurement, use of digital stethoscopes, use of respiratory rate counters, use of bubble CPAP) (J Global Health 2023), with ongoing work to help deliver a implementation study of pulse oximetry across Bangladesh.

From a teaching perspective, he has delivered a broad teaching and mentorship role to future generations. In his clinical lectureship he developed Edinburgh's clinical skills training centre on behalf of the University and NHS. He was instrumental in developing the Edinburgh Children's Clinical Research Facility and was its Director to 2026. He has PhD/MD trained eleven future consultants in paediatric respiratory medicine, in addition to non-clinical postgraduates.

Professor Cunningham will continue his work as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Human Medicines, and Chair of the MHRA Paediatric Medicines Expert Advisory Group. Providing vital regulatory roles in the UK, thus providing significant citizenship roles on behalf of UoE. He will also continue Co-I roles on four active NIHR funded clinical trials and two ongoing consortia studies, together with chair roles for data safety monitoring boards.

I strongly support his application for Emeritus status and he has the strong support of IRR's Director Professor Stuart Forbes.

Special Minute
Professor Martin Dennis FRCP MD
Emeritus Professor of Stroke Medicine

In 2017, Martin Dennis gave the Princess Margaret Memorial lecture at the UK Stroke Forum, and in 2018 he was awarded the British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP) Presidential award for excellence in stroke practice, research and training. Martin was founding member, and the first President of BASP.

He trained at St. Thomas' Hospital London, qualifying in 1980. He worked on the Oxfordshire Community Stroke Project and wrote his MD thesis on "Transient Ischaemic Attacks in the Community". He moved to Edinburgh as a Senior lecturer in 1990 and was appointed to a Personal Chair in Stroke medicine in 2002.

His clinical work focused on delivering stroke services, their organisation and evaluation. He was the lead clinician for the Managed Clinical Network for stroke in Lothian (2005- 2020), Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Stroke in Scotland (2005-2023) and Specialty Advisor to the Chief Medical Officer (Scotland) in stroke (2020-2023). He established the Scottish Stroke Care Audit (SSCA) in 2002 and lead its development until 2016. The SSCA monitors the quality of care across all NHS Boards for the Scottish Governments Stroke Improvement Programme. He led the development of online training materials for staff working in stroke services across Scotland, and which are freely available to individuals anywhere in the world.

He ran a programme of research aimed at detecting, preventing and treating the complications of stroke more effectively. As chief investigator he completed large international randomised trials to establish: a) the best ways of feeding patients after a stroke; b) methods to reduce their risk of developing blood clots in their legs (DVT); and c) establish the benefits and risks of antidepressants in stroke patients. The NIHR funded FOOD trials enrolled 5033 patients across 125 centres in 15 countries and showed that early tube feeding improved outcomes. The MRC funded CLOTS-1&2 trials recruited 5632 patients across 9 countries and demonstrated that graduated compression stockings, which were widely used, did not reduce the risk of DVTs after stroke. However, the CLOTS-3 trial enrolled 2876 across 94 centres and showed that intermittent pneumatic compression devices applied to patients' legs did reduce DVT and improved patients' survival. The FOCUS trial, and its sister trials (AFFINITY in Australasia/Vietnam and EFFECTS in Sweden) enrolled 6000 patients and reliably determined the balance of benefits and risks of fluoxetine in stroke patients. These trials have had demonstrable impacts on guidelines, clinical practice and patient outcomes across the world.

He has been Principal Investigator or co-investigator on 48 projects with over 350 peer reviewed publications. He was a major contributor to the first three editions of one of the major textbooks on stroke medicine.

He continues to contribute by mentoring colleagues, co-authoring publications, serving on trial management committees and working across sectors to establish how information technology might enhance healthcare delivery.

The college fully supports Professor Dennis being offered Emeritus status.

Special Minute
Professor Joseph Gafaranga MA, PHD
Emeritus Professor of Multilingualism

Joseph Gafaranga was born in Rwanda on 1st May 1958. After a secondary school education which focused on languages (Kinyarwanda, French, English, Latin and Greek), he trained as an English language teacher at the National Pedagogical Institute, completing in June 1981. He then studied English (language, linguistics and literature) at the National University of Rwanda, being appointed as Assistant Lecturer in English when he graduated in September 1983. In 1986-87 he took an MA in Linguistics (specialising in sociolinguistics and bilingualism) at Lancaster University, returning there for his PhD from 1995-1998.

Following temporary appointments at Edge Hill University College, the University of Newcastle, and King's College London, Joseph joined the University of Edinburgh as Lecturer in Discourse Analysis in September 2002. He subsequently became Senior Lecturer before being appointed to a Personal Chair in Multilingualism in 2020.

Joseph's research has primarily focused on language as used by real people in natural social contexts, which he has studied using the techniques of Discourse Analysis and Conversation Analysis. His specific themes have included bilingual conversation and doctor-patient interaction. He has published extensively, including two monographs, *Bilingualism as Interactional Practices* (EUP, 2016) and *Talk in Two Languages* (Palgrave, 2007), and 49 papers and chapters. He has also successfully supervised more than 10 PhDs to completion, principally in the areas of bilingualism and discourse.

Joseph has also contributed extensively to teaching and administration within Linguistics and English Language (LEL) and the School of PPLS. Among much else, he originated research-led courses in bilingualism at both Honours and MSc level, and served as Programme Director for the popular MSc programme in Applied Linguistics, and as Postgraduate Research Director. He has also led knowledge exchange events, including in Rwanda.

Joseph's future plans include contributions both to research and teaching. In particular, he aims to author two textbooks, one in Discourse Analysis and one in Bilingual Interaction, drawing upon his teaching in Edinburgh.

Special Minute
Professor Andrew Jarman, BA, DPhil
Emeritus Professor of Developmental Cell Biology

Andrew Jarman obtained his undergraduate (Biochemistry) and doctorate (Molecular Medicine) degrees from the University of Oxford, and then retrained as a developmental neurobiologist in post-doctoral studies at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute/University of California, San Francisco. In 1994 he obtained a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship and joined the then new Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology at the University of Edinburgh to set up his research group, working on early neural development in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. After 9 years at the Wellcome Centre, he migrated a short distance from Biological Sciences to Biomedical Sciences (Centre for Integrative Physiology), firstly at Reader and then obtaining his personal chair in 2005.

Professor Jarman's research has focussed on the question of how neurons are generated and organised to form the functioning nervous system – a process that turns out to be highly conserved between organisms such that his research on fruit flies has had significant direct influence on understanding and progressing human neural development. To fund this research, he has had continuous grant funding throughout his time at the University of Edinburgh, initially through his Wellcome Senior Fellowship, and subsequently through programme and project grants from the Wellcome Trust, BBSRC, MRC, European Union, the Leverhulme Trust, as well as biomedical charities. He has some 80 peer-reviewed research publications and has co-written two textbooks. Much of his research entailed collaborations with groups in Edinburgh, the UK, the US, Europe, Japan, and Taiwan.

Professor Jarman has supervised some 25 PhD students and innumerable master students. He has acted as examiner for 57 PhD students (internally and externally). From the beginning of his time at the university onwards, Professor Jarman has enthusiastically participated in research-informed teaching in Biological and Biomedical Sciences in courses spanning all undergraduate years from Y1 to Y4. He has sat continuously on numerous undergraduate and masters exam boards, and convened the Physiology Honours exam board from 2011-2018. He co-designed four undergraduate courses. Most recently, Professor Jarman has provided leadership in the School of Biomedical Sciences in developing and delivering the new student support model. He was external examiner for undergraduate programmes at Universities of Manchester (2009-2013) and York (2013-2017).

Professor Jarman played a prominent role in the UK developmental biology community. He was the publications officer for the British Society for Developmental Biology from 2005-2010. He co-organised several successful international conferences, sat on several grant funder panels (most recently the Wellcome Trust Cell Biology, Development and Physiology Advisory Panel).

Professor Jarman has performed a wide variety of citizenship roles at the Centre, School and University levels, of which the following is a fraction. He sat on University's Staff Committee as Contract Research Staff representative (1998-2005). During this time, he sat on Working Groups for reviewing arrangements for Academic Probation, and for Professorial Salary Review. He also chaired the committee's Working Group on the Research Careers Initiative, which coordinated the university's response to Roberts report on management and development of contract research staff. The resulting *Code of Practice for Management of CRS* was well received within the university and won national accolades. Professor Jarman served on the Centre for Integrative Physiology executive committee (2005-2014) and convened the Centre's PhD programme (2003-2016). At the start of the university's ongoing biomedical sciences collaboration with Zhejiang University, he was deputy and then full

director of the first MSc programme attached to the collaboration (2015-2019). He served on School's Research Committee, Genetic Modification Committee, Academic Opportunities Committee, and Academic Promotions Committee.

In retirement, Professor Jarman will remain associated with research, albeit in a new area, and will have continued research contacts and collaborations.

Special Minute
Professor Stephen Neff A.B., J.D., LL.M., S.J.D.
Emeritus Professor of War and Peace

Professor Stephen Neff holds a personal Chair of War and Peace and has been serving at Edinburgh Law School for 43 years. Originally from Bloomington, Illinois, Professor Neff's first degree, in Sociology, was awarded by Harvard University in 1972, after which he studied a Juris Doctor (JD) at the University of Virginia, graduating in 1976. Professor Neff also holds an LL.M, awarded by the University of Virginia in 1977.

Before joining the Law School in 1983, Stephen served as Legal Adviser for the International Secretariat of Amnesty International for one year between 1977 and 1978; during the same year Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. For the following two years (1978-1980), Stephen worked as trainee solicitor for a London Law Firm. He then shifted his focus and interest to academia, working for UNITAR as Research Fellow (1980-1983).

While Professor Neff's primary interest is in the history of international law, his early work revolved around the area of international economic law. His first book, published in 1990, combines both areas of law. In *Friends But No Allies: Economic Liberalism and the Law of Nations* (Columbia University Press), Professor Neff traces the development of the liberal ideal of a global economic order, from early thought about free trade to the creation of post-World War II institutions like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. In the years following, Professor Neff shifted his focus from economic law to the laws of war and peace. In 2000 he published *The Rights and Duties of Neutrals: A General History* (Manchester University Press).

Professor Neff's scholarly production, with around 50 academic outputs, firmly established him as the leading authority in legal history and the history of international law. His book *War and the Law of Nations: A General History* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) was awarded the Certificate of Merit for Preeminent Contribution to Creative Scholarship by the American Society of International Law. Five years later, his book *Justice in Blue and Gray: A Legal History of the Civil War* (Harvard University Press, 2010) was awarded the David J. Langum, Sr Prize in American Legal History. This work deals with the novel legal and constitutional questions that the President, Congress and Courts had to grapple with after the American Civil War; the piece is commended for being 'highly accessible to general readers, especially since it provides lucid explanations of legal concepts and terminology and is written in a vivid and engaging manner.' His most recent book *Justice among Nations: A History of International Law* (Harvard University Press, 2014), avoids technical jargon as he surveys, in 483 pages of well-researched narrative, doctrines from natural law to feminism, and practice from the Warring States of China to the international criminal courts of today.

Not only has Professor Neff excelled in his long and illustrious research career, but he is also a well-respected and dear teacher to all his international law students. Professor Neff has untiringly contributed to the education of numerous generations of international law students throughout his time at Edinburgh Law School, lecturing and leading seminars for both undergraduates and postgraduates. In particular, Professor Neff has been a stalwart on the international law course offered to first year undergraduates, thereby informing their early impressions of this subject. His engaging and entertaining approach to teaching means he has often been described as a 'great' and 'inspirational' lecturer. He has also dedicated a publication to the young generation of international lawyers, *Hugo Grotius On the Law of War and Peace: Student Edition* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Professor Neff wishes to remain immersed in the life of the Law School after he retires. He remains committed to sharing his expertise with new cohorts of international law LL.M students, offering his very popular course Inter-state Conflict and Humanitarian Law.

Special Minute
Professor Gordon David Plotkin BSc PhD FRS FRSE FACM
Emeritus Professor of Computation Theory

Professor Gordon Plotkin FRS has devoted virtually his entire career to the University of Edinburgh. After completing a BSc in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Glasgow in 1967, he undertook his PhD under the supervision of Rod Burstall FRSE in Donald Michie's pioneering Experimental Programming Unit. He was appointed Lecturer in the Department of Artificial Intelligence in 1975, and in 1979 moved with Rod Burstall to the then Department of Computer Science, joining Robin Milner FRS and colleagues to build a world-leading group in programming languages and applied logic.

The Japanese Fifth Generation Project had prompted the launch of the UK Alvey programme in 1983, a major government investment in information technology. Robin Milner recognised this as a strategic opportunity to consolidate Edinburgh's strength in the applied foundations of computer science. This led to the creation of the Laboratory for the Foundations of Computer Science (LFCS) in 1986 by Robin Milner, Rod Burstall, Matthew Hennessy, and Gordon Plotkin. Robin served as the first Director, Gordon as the second, and Rod as the third. The Department containing LFCS later merged with the Department of Artificial Intelligence and other major research centres to form the Division, and then, in 2002, the School, of Informatics. LFCS thrived and is now a long-established and internationally recognised institute within the School of Informatics.

Gordon's research has consistently focused on applications of logic in the broadest sense. His PhD research was on inductive learning, and he retains a strong interest in AI. He has worked on natural language, contributing to Jon Barwise's situation theory, and on systems biology, where he helped develop quantitative rule-based languages for modelling cell pathways. The main body of his work, however, lies in programming languages, and, particularly, their semantics. Dana Scott and Christopher Strachey founded the denotational semantics of programming languages, where, rooted in the logical semantical tradition of Alfred Tarski, programs are interpreted as mathematical functions. These functions are over Scott's informational structures, known as domains. Gordon has made extensive and influential contributions to domain theory and its applications to programming language semantics.

Perhaps his best-known work is on the structural operational semantics of programming languages. This provides a direct, mathematically elementary, rule-based method for describing the dynamics of programs, and it has become a highly flexible and widely adopted framework across both academia and industry. More recently, working principally with John Power and Matija Pretnar, he has played a leading role in developing an algebraic theory of effects. This offers a powerful and increasingly popular general approach to understanding and integrating computational effects in programming languages.

Gordon was promoted to Professor in 1986. Subsequently, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1992. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a member of the Academia Europaea, a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery, and, most recently, an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received numerous national and international prizes and awards in recognition of his contributions. Gordon moved to part-time status in 2011 and will retire in July, although his intellectual home remains firmly in Edinburgh. Alongside his work here, he has benefited

from many influential research visits abroad and has maintained a longstanding engagement with industrial research. He is currently Senior Staff Research Scientist at Google DeepMind.

Among all his achievements, Gordon particularly values the opportunity he had to work with PhD students: to teach them, to learn from them, and to help shape the next generation of researchers. Conferring the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Plotkin would not only honour his substantial contributions to the University of Edinburgh but also affirm his role as an enduring inspiration for the academic community.

Special Minute
Professor Ethel Quayle BA (Hons), MSc, PsychD
Emerita Professor of Forensic Clinical Psychology

Professor Ethel Quayle has served the University of Edinburgh with distinction as Professor of Forensic Clinical Psychology since 2017. Over a career spanning more than twenty-five years, she has established an internationally recognised programme of research and policy leadership in the prevention of child sexual abuse, including technology-assisted sexual abuse and online exploitation.

At Edinburgh, she has made sustained contributions to academic leadership and governance. She served as School Research Director (2014–2017), strengthening the School's research strategy and interdisciplinary collaboration. She has also served as Director of Ethics and as Exam Board Convener for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, contributing to the maintenance of high academic and professional standards. Her commitment to student development is reflected in the supervision of twenty-one PhD students to completion, alongside numerous professional doctorate and MSc dissertations. She currently supervises three PhD students.

Professor Quayle has published extensively in leading peer-reviewed journals and reports, with over 100 publications that have been foundational in shaping research, policy, and professional practice in the field of child sexual exploitation and online safety. Her advisory roles have included service to the UK Home Office, the Scottish Government, INTERPOL, Europol, UNICEF, and WHO. She was Co-Investigator with Professor Schwannauer, of the NIHR-funded i-Minds programme, developing and evaluating a digital intervention for young people affected by online sexual abuse and is fully engaged with this research team in a new research funding proposal (HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-02: Innovative interventions to prevent the harmful effects of using digital technologies on the mental health of children and young adults).

Her standing in the field is reflected in her recent appointment to the newly established European Union Network on Child Protection, as one of only two UK members. In 2018, her services to online child safety were recognised with the award of a CBE.

Through her research, leadership, and mentorship, Professor Quayle has enhanced the University of Edinburgh's reputation as a centre of excellence in evidence-based child protection research and policy engagement.

In recognition of her sustained academic distinction, leadership within the University, and significant national and international contribution, it is proposed that Professor Quayle be appointed Professor Emerita.

Special Minute
Professor Dave Reay FRSGS, SFHEA, FEAUC
Emeritus Professor in Carbon Management & Education

Professor Dave Reay is Chair in Carbon Management and Education in the School of Geosciences. Dave's national and international contributions to climate action and education have been recognised through the award of the University's highest recognition of sustained contributions to teaching - the Chancellor's Award for Teaching. His wider contributions to climate education have been recognised with the award of Senior Fellow of the HEA and appointment as a Fellow of the EAUC. For his work on national and international climate action he was made a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and awarded its President's Medal.

Dave has worked on climate change for over 30 years, spanning research in the Southern Ocean assessing the impacts of warming, through to examining climate action through forests and food systems. He has published over 200 research articles, and authored 6 books, on climate change. Throughout his time at Edinburgh, Dave has been at the forefront of climate change communication, sharing his work through myriad media appearances and interviews, ranging from working on climate change films with Sir David Attenborough to appearing on stage at the Edinburgh Fringe with comedians Eddie Izzard and Dylan Moran.

In 2008 Dave created and launched the world's first MSc in Carbon Management - a collaborative programme across the Schools of Geosciences, Economics and the Business School - aimed at integrating the science, business, economics and policy of climate change. The great success of the programme (its thriving alumni community now numbers >500 graduates) led to his creation and launch of the Online MSc in Carbon Management in 2014, aimed at allowing mature students in work or with caring responsibilities to access the programme from anywhere in the world. For his teaching on this programme, Dave was awarded the PwC Teaching Employable Skills Award. Over the past 5 years Dave has also led the creation and delivery of a suite of open access climate change course for mass audiences (MOOCs), including collaborating with colleagues in India, Mexico and Malawi to provide bespoke climate change courses in their national languages.

Within the university, Dave has held a range of leadership roles including as Director of Postgraduate Teaching in the School of Geosciences, as the University's lead at COP15 in Copenhagen and COP26 in Glasgow, and as Assistant Principal for Global Environment and Society. In January 2020 he was appointed as Executive Director of Edinburgh Climate Change Institute where he oversaw a wide range of research, policy and applied climate change programmes and, in 2021, hosted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Princess Royal.

Outwith the university, Dave has been an established advisor on climate change action for governments, agencies and public bodies. He sat on the Green Jobs Taskforce for the UK Government, was chair of the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan for the Scottish Government, and also chaired the UK Climate Change Committee's expert advisory panel on skills for net zero. Dave has also been a regular expert witness for parliamentary committees in Holyrood and Westminster. In September 2023 Dave was appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero as co-chair of the Just Transition Commission.

In retirement Dave will be focussed on managing his farm on the west coast of Scotland to enhance its biodiversity and simultaneously boost carbon storage.

Special Minute
Professor Norah Spears BSc Hons, DPhil
Emeritus Professor Chair of Reproductive Physiology

Since 2014, Professor Norah Spears has held the personal Chair of Reproductive Physiology, doing so with distinction.

She established her reputation first at the University of Oxford and the University of California at Berkeley, then moving to work at the University of Edinburgh in the mid-1990s. In Edinburgh, she initially held an MRC Fellowship, followed by a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, an appointment that she held for eight years. She moved to a University of Edinburgh appointment as a Reader in 2002. In the first ten to fifteen years of her work here, she led a group that carried out groundbreaking work investigating how mammals regulate the development of a species-specific number of ovarian follicles to ovulate each menstrual or oestrous cycle, leading to the publication of five key papers. This work was very much ahead of its time, with follow-up research only possible through the recent development of new technologies in the fields of physics and engineering. Currently, Professor Spears is collaborating with three different groups, in mainland Europe, Singapore and the United States, helping each of them pursue her earlier work and determine how follicles interact with each other to regulate this key reproductive process. This and other research that she has pursued over the years involved the development of novel methods to grow ovarian follicles in vitro. These breakthroughs led to Professor Spears and her colleague Professor Evelyn Telfer running a financially successful commercial course attended by participants from the U.K., Europe, Africa and the far-East, teaching participants a range of culture techniques. Around that same period, Professor Spears was the Co-ordinator of an MRC Co-operative group investigating the regulation of oocyte development. At that time, only members of a Co-operative group were eligible to apply for MRC project grants. As such, this Co-operative group co-ordinated the work of scientists across several Edinburgh-based MRC Centres, the College of Science and Engineering and the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, allowing all members to obtain further MRC funding.

Recent research has primarily focussed on how exposure to chemotherapeutic drugs affects subsequent fertility. She established an international reputation in determining effects on both males and females, co-editing with her colleague Professor Richard Anderson the influential book 'Cancer treatment and the ovary: clinical and laboratory analysis of ovarian toxicity'. She also co-founded Edinburgh Fertility Preservation, a group of clinicians and scientists working at the University of Edinburgh and hospitals within Edinburgh whose overall aim is to develop procedures for fertility preservation for patients undergoing treatment that might compromise their long-term fertility.

Professor Spears has made significant contributions to science through her editorial work, which has included guest editing for several journals. In 2020, she was appointed co-Editor-in-Chief of a new journal launched by the Society for Reproduction and Fertility. The journal, called *Reproduction & Fertility*, has been enormously successful, reaching the top quartile of reproductive biology publications within its first four years.

Alongside her excellent academic career, she has had a strong commitment to teaching, to mentorship of fellow academics and to equality and diversity work. She is consistently highly rated by undergraduate students, regularly nominated for teaching awards, and saw National Student Survey satisfaction scores of 100% from Reproductive Biology students while running its Honours programme. Her ability to inspire undergraduate students to pursue a

career in reproductive biology is evident from the large number of academics she regularly meets at conferences who attribute their initial decision to enter this field to attending her lectures and tutorials. As well as acting as an official mentor for many academics, both at the University of Edinburgh and through the Society for the Study of Fertility, she ran a mentoring scheme for all tenure-track staff within Biomedical Sciences, with the aim of assisting them through their tenure process. Her support for early career scientists led to the introduction by Professor Spears and her co-Editor-in-Chief Professor Andrew Horne of an innovative scheme at the journal *Reproduction & Fertility*, annually appointing Early Career Associate Editors. Scientists appointed to these roles work alongside the Editors-in-Chief while also learning about manuscript handling: not only do people in these positions usually go on to become full Associate Editors, one of the first people appointed to that role will shortly succeed Professor Spears in the journal's Editor-in-Chief role. As part of her work in equality and diversity, she spearheaded Biomedical Sciences' successful silver Athena SWAN award, also coordinating meetings of Athena SWAN-related work across the College of Medicine. Externally, she chaired a working party to investigate gender equality within the peer review process in the journal *Reproduction*.

Norah Spears' career has been highly successful, not only within the University of Edinburgh, where she has helped develop the reproductive biology community, from undergraduate teaching through to research, but internationally, frequently approached for scientific advice from colleagues across the world, invited to teach at the University of Fujian in China, and undertaking official consultation appointments by pharmaceutical firms. Her research collaborations, editorial work and scientific society involvement will all continue well beyond her retirement.

Special Minute

Professor Philip Wadler BSc, MSc, PhD, FRSE, FACM, FRS

Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Computer Science

We are pleased to nominate Professor Philip Wadler for the title of Emeritus Professor at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Wadler is a popular educator and has had an extensive career in both academia and industry, with seminal contributions to the field of computer science, particularly in the theory and practice of programming languages.

Philip Wadler obtained a BSc with honours in mathematics from Stanford University in 1977, followed by a MSc and PhD in computer science in 1979 and 1984 from Carnegie-Mellon University. He took up a postdoc at Oxford University, and in 1987 he was appointed as a lecturer at the University of Glasgow. In 1996, Phil switched to industry, working at Bell Labs and Avaya Labs. He returned to academia in 2003, taking up the Chair of Theoretical Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Wadler's research centres on the theory and practice of programming languages. He served as first editor of the Haskell report, and introduced what are arguably its two main innovations, type classes and monads. Haskell saw widespread use, and type classes and monads were adopted by a wide variety of other programming languages and proof assistants. He contributed to the design of the programming language Java, and introduced a model of it widely used by researchers. By influencing the design of popular programming languages, Phil has had a profound impact not only on programmers, but also on the users of the systems those programmers build. If you've used Facebook or X, Android or iPhone, you've run code that exploits concepts Phil pioneered.

Professor Wadler has published many seminal monographs and textbooks throughout his illustrious career. His contribution has been honoured in many ways. He served as chair of the ACM Special Interest Group on Programming Languages (SIGPLAN) from 2009–2012 and received its Distinguished Service Award in 2016. He was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2005, a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery in 2007, and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2022. He regularly delivers keynotes at both academic and developer conferences. In 2016, his sixtieth birthday was marked by a two-day *Wadlerfest*, and an accompanying festschrift published by Springer.

Phil is a passionate and popular teacher. On moving to Edinburgh in 2003, he introduced a first-year programming languages course based on Haskell and was shortlisted for the EUSA Teaching Award (Overall Best Performer) in 2009. His Honours courses on programming language theory have been among the most popular theoretical courses. Phil is widely known for theatrical performance and applies this talent outside academia, often performing stand-up comedy via Bright Club, and appeared in the Fringe via the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas in 2024.

Since 2017, Phil has worked closely with industry, including consulting for IOG where he helped to design the smart contract system for its Cardano blockchain and applied formal methods to ensure its reliability. After retirement from Edinburgh, he plans to write a version of his online text for the proof assistant Agda updated to the proof assistant Lean. He will appear again this summer at the Fringe.

To conclude, Professor Philip Wadler's career is characterised by groundbreaking research, impactful teaching, and significant professional service. His work has shaped the landscape of programming languages and computer science education. Conferring the title of Emeritus

Professor on Professor Wadler would honour his substantial contributions to the University of Edinburgh and the broader scientific community.

Electronic Senate

15 – 29 April 2026

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 23 February 2026.

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 a report of business conducted at 23 February 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

Daniel Wedgwood
Governance & Court Services
March 2026

Freedom of Information

Open Paper

Appendix 1:

23 February 2026

1 Principal's Report

The Principal's report was noted. Key points in the report included the following:

- Joint work on a Future Framework for Higher Education had been launched in December by Universities Scotland and the Scottish Government.
- The UK Government had confirmed that the UK would re-join the Erasmus+ programme.
- Some research funding schemes had been paused as a result of changes in approach at UK Research & Innovation (UKRI). The University was closely monitoring the situation.
- Teviot Row House student union was to re-open in March, bringing many improvements to the student experience, in addition to improvements in accessibility and sustainability.
- A programme of events was underway to celebrate 300 years of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh.
- The Research Cultures Action Plan 2026-28 had been launched.
- Prestigious achievements recently recorded by members of the University included winning five European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grants, six inaugural Fellows appointed to the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences and four individuals and student companies being finalists in Scotland's Life Sciences Awards 2026.
- Reports had been published on the University's Social Investment Fund, the Data Driven Innovation Programme and the University's Community Plan.

2 Senate report

Court noted the report, including motions regarding the impacts and risks of current cost reduction programmes. The University Executive had been informed of the motions that touched on work under the Executive's purview, in line with undertakings made to Senate.

It was noted that work to clarify the responsibilities of Senate was in progress and would be brought to Court at a future meeting.

3 Finance and Planning

Court received a full update on the University's financial position and discussed progress towards achieving the budget for 2025-26 and 2026-27, and associated risks.

4 Academic Staff Member Election Regulations 2026

Court approved the regulations and approved an amendment to Court's Standing Orders to introduce a degree of flexibility into the length of terms of Court membership, where necessary to align the terms of different Court members. In line with this, it was agreed that the successful candidate in the forthcoming Academic Staff Member Election should be granted a slightly extended term, from 1 June 2026 to 30 July 2030.

5 Self-Evaluation Action Plan

Court noted the Self-Evaluation Action Plan. It was noted that the Plan, although prepared for external assurance purposes, was valuable to the Students' Association as a record of relevant activity and of the impact of the student voice in learning and teaching.

6 Other Items

Regular reports were received from the Students' Association, the Sports Union, the Development and Alumni Office and Court's committees. Court also received a progress update on development of the Responsible Investment Advisory Group and approved a transfer of governance arrangements for a research consortium that had previously had Court oversight.

Electronic Senate

15 April – 29 April 2026

College Academic Management Structures 2026/27

Description of paper

1. The paper lists the College Academic Management Structures for 2026/27.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the content of this paper.

Resource Implications / Risk management / Equality and Diversity

3. Where applicable, the aforementioned factors will have been considered by each College when deciding on their College Academic Management Structures for 2026/27.

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

4. Not applicable.

Originator of the paper

Senate Secretariat
April 2026

Freedom of Information

Open paper

College Academic Management Structures 2026/27

Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Head of College	Vice-Principal Professor Sarah Prescott
Deputy Head of College	Professor David Smith
Dean of Research	Professor Laura Jeffery
Dean of Postgraduate Research	Professor Laura Bradley
Dean of Education	To be confirmed
Dean of Students	Dr Lawrence Dritsas
Deputy Dean of Students	To be confirmed
Dean of Quality Assurance and Assessment	To be confirmed
Dean International	Professor Soledad Garcia-Ferrari
Dean Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Ms Jenny Hoy
College Academic Misconduct Officer	To be confirmed
Associate Dean (Research Impact)	Professor Ailsa Henderson
Associate Dean (Research Cultures)	Professor Jen Ross
Associate Dean (Research Ethics and Integrity)	Dr Sudeepa Abeysinghe
College Registrar	Dr Heather Lawrence

Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Head of College	Vice-Principal Professor David Argyle
Deputy Head of College and Dean of Clinical Medicine	Professor Lorna Marson
College Registrar	Dr Anne-Marie Coriat
Dean of Research	Professor Sarah Walmsley
Dean of Education	Professor Gill Aitken
Dean of Students	To be confirmed
Dean of Innovation and Engagement	Professor Julie Jacko
Dean of Equity, Inclusion and Community	Professor Sue Fletcher-Watson
Dean of Postgraduate Research	Professor Ruth Andrew
Dean of Quality Assurance and Enhancement	To be confirmed
Dean of International Partnerships	Professor Mike Shipston
Co-Director for Research Ethics	To be confirmed
Associate Dean for Research Integrity	Dr Thamarai Dorai-Schneiders
Associate Dean for Research Culture	Professor Julia Dorin

Science & Engineering

Head of College	To be confirmed
Dean of Education	Professor Linda Kirstein
Dean of Students	Dr Chris Mowat
Dean of Postgraduate Research	Professor Jamie Pearce
Dean of Research and Innovation	Professor Michael Rovatsos.
Dean of Research Culture and REF	Professor Jane Hillston
Associate Dean of Impact	Dr Karl Burgess
Dean, International – Students	Professor Tom Bruce
Dean, International – Partnerships	Professor Neil Robertson
Dean of Quality and Enhancement	Professor James Hopgood
Dean of Research Computing	Professor Mark Parsons
Dean of Innovation	Dr Graham Spittle
Dean of Systematic Inclusion	Professor Karen Halliday
College Registrar	Ms Nicola Davidson