



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 16 September 2026
and close at noon on Wednesday 30 September 2026

AGENDA

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|----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita
For approval | e-S 26/27 1 A |
| 2. | Court Communications
For comment | e-S 26/27 1 B |
| 3. | Report from the Central Academic Promotions Committee
For information | e-S 26/27 1 C |
| 4. | Rector Election Date 2027
For information | e-S 26/27 1 D |
| 5. | Senate Election Dates
For information | e-S 26/27 1 E |

Electronic Senate

16 – 30 September 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.

Fit with primary responsibilities

2. *D26: To approve the conferral of Emeritus/Emerita status on retiring professors.*

Action requested / recommendation

3. 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

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

Professor Christine Bell, School of Law
Professor Adrian Bird, School of Biological Sciences
Professor Ian Chambers, School of Biological Sciences
Professor Do Coyle, Moray House School of Education and Sport
Professor Martin Denvir, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Sciences
Professor Andrew Dugmore, School of GeoSciences
Professor Colin Duncan, School of Regeneration and Repair
Professor Godfrey Fitton, School of GeoSciences
Professor Vernon Gayle, School of Social and Political Science
Professor Simon Herrington, School of Genetics and Cancer
Professor Edward Hollis, Edinburgh College of Art
Professor Candace Jones, Business School
Professor Stephanie O'Donohoe, Business School
Professor Pankaj Pankaj, School of Engineering
Professor James Roy Robertson, School of Population Health Sciences
Professor Lara Ryazanova-Clarke, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Professor Steve Sturdy, School of Social and Political Science
Professor Suzanne Trill, School of Literatures, Language and Cultures
Professor Jonathan Thomas, School of Economics
Professor Henry Thompson, School of Informatics
Professor David Tollervey, School of Biological Sciences
Professor Michael Thrusfield, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
Professor Edwin J R van Beek, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Sciences

5. The Special Minutes are attached as an appendix.

Resource implications

6. None.

Risk management

7. Not applicable.

Equality & diversity

8. 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

9. 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, August 2026

Freedom of Information Open paper

Special Minute

Professor Christine Bell BA (Cantab), LL.M Harvard, FBA, FRSE

Emerita Professor of Constitutional Law

Christine Bell has been Professor of Constitutional Law at Edinburgh Law School since 2011 and Assistant Principal (Global Justice) since 2014. In 2015 she founded the Political Settlements Research Programme at Edinburgh, and in 2020 she became Executive Director and Principal Investigator of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform, a £18.5 million programme which researchers how peace processes can be reinvented to respond to changing conflict dynamics. Through the programme Bell together with the University of Edinburgh PeaceRep team worked on incubating 'PeaceTech' solutions to conflict, and to research in conflict zones, with a particular focus on data.

Professor Bell read law at Selwyn College, Cambridge, (1988) and gained an LL.M in Law from Harvard Law School (1990). After some years in legal practice in the United States she became Director of the Centre for International and Comparative Human Rights Law, Queen's University of Belfast in 1997 and from 2000-2011, she was Professor of Public International Law, and a founder and Director of the Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Bell's research interests lie at the interface of constitutional and international law, gender and conflict, and legal theory, with a particular interest in peace processes and their agreements. She is internationally recognised as a leading scholar in these fields. She is a prolific writer and author of a number of leading works, including three key monographs; 'On the Law of Peace: Peace Agreements and the Lex Pacificatoria' (2008), which won the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize; 'Peace Agreements and Human Rights' (2000); and 'PeaceTech: Digital Transformations to End Wars' (2024). Together with colleagues at the University of Edinburgh she is responsible for the creation of the PA-X Peace Agreement Database which is a unique archive – a qualitative and quantitative resource of all the world's peace agreements from 1990 to date. She has also taken part in various peace negotiations discussions, giving constitutional law and human rights law advice, led training for diplomats, mediators and lawyers, and has acted as an expert in transitional justice for the UN Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, and UN Women.

Alongside these wide-ranging activities and achievements, and her considerable responsibilities as project leader, Professor Bell has also been closely involved in the teaching and research activities of the wider Law School. She has taught various general public law courses; developed and taught human rights courses over a number of years at both undergraduate and Masters level, and has supervised a number of doctoral students to completion. She has maintained a consistently strong profile in the organisation of research seminars, in reviewing the writings and grant applications for colleagues, and acting as an academic mentor.

Upon retirement, Professor Bell intends to remain an active participant in the research communities in Edinburgh to which he has made such a significant contribution, in the law of peace, human rights law and beyond. Her presence at our events and interactions with members of the Law School communities will continue to be of huge benefit to colleagues and research students alike.

Special Minute
Professor Sir Adrian Bird CBE, FRS, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Genetics

Adrian Bird obtained a BSc degree in Biochemistry from the University of Sussex and moved to Edinburgh in 1968 to study for a PhD at the newly created MRC Epigenetics Unit, led by Professor Conrad Waddington. Bird's long-standing interest in the biology of DNA led him to join the laboratory of Professor Max Birnstiel who had recently purified a single gene for the first time. He chose to study gene amplification in frog eggs which was at the time thought to exemplify a potential mechanism by which different cell types could specialise. For his postdoctoral research, Bird moved to Professor Joseph Gall's laboratory at Yale University as a Damon Runyan Memorial Fellow, after which he returned to Edinburgh in 1975 to start his own research group at the MRC Mammalian Genome Unit. It was here that he pioneered the study of DNA methylation, initially by creating the first genomic maps of this epigenetic modification. Twelve years later, he moved as a senior group leader to the Institute for Molecular Pathology in Vienna before returning to Edinburgh as Buchanan Professor of Genetics in 1990. He became founding director of the Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology (1999–2011) and more recently helped to establish the University's Simons Initiative for the Developing Brain, of which he is currently deputy director.

Adrian Bird's research identified 'CpG islands' as gene markers in the vertebrate genome and revealed proteins that read the DNA methylation signal to influence gene function. Mutations in one of these proteins, MeCP2, cause the severe neurological disorder Rett Syndrome. Bird's laboratory established the first mouse model of Rett Syndrome and went on to find that the resulting severe Rett-like neurological phenotype is reversible, making it likely that this disorder is curable. Two clinical trials inspired by his group's discoveries are currently underway, one of which uses a patented gene therapy construct licensed from the University of Edinburgh. During his career, Bird has authored ~300 scientific papers, 26 of which have each been cited over 1,000 times. His H-index is 126 (*Google Scholar*)

Professor Bird's leadership in the field of epigenetics has been recognised by major international awards, including the Louis Jeantet prize for Medicine, the Gairdner International Award, the BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award, the Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine, and the Brain Prize. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and of Edinburgh and is a foreign associate of the US National Academy. Beyond Edinburgh, he has promoted excellence in the life sciences as a governor (and deputy chair) of the Wellcome Trust (2000-2010) and as a trustee of Cancer Research UK (2010-2016). He is currently a member of the governing board of the Francis Crick Institute, London, and serves on several international Scientific Advisory Boards. He was knighted in 2014 for services to science.

Professor Bird retains a Wellcome Investigator Award that was due to terminate at the same time as his retirement at the end of June 2027, but a no-cost extension will see this project run until 31 December 2027. This means that he will be directly supervising a research programme for six months post-retirement. During 2027 he will move his smaller laboratory from King's Buildings to QMRI into space that was refurbished for the Simons Initiative for the Developing Brain directed by Professor Peter Kind. He is in the final stages of applying for an ERC Advanced grant to cover future work under the auspices of CMVM. If successful this would support another five years of research. In addition, he will continue with informal mentoring of young and established research group leaders in support of their careers or grant proposals. Finally, he maintains a portfolio of roles and activities including scientific advisory boards (e.g. IMP Vienna) and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Francis Crick Institute. If this request for Emeritus status is successful his affiliation in these roles would be University of Edinburgh.

In summary, Professor Sir Adrian Bird has made a series of fundamental discoveries in the fields of epigenetics and neuroscience that have advanced knowledge and have profound clinical implications. His world class research, together with high-level involvement in funding organisations and research institutions, has benefitted life science internationally and significantly enhanced the reputation of this University.

Special Minute
Professor Ian Chambers, B.Sc., Ph.D., FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Pluripotent Stem Cell Biology

Ian Chambers is a molecular cell biologist known internationally for his studies of embryonic stem cells (ESCs). Ian has identified transcription factors (TFs) and mechanisms controlling the self-renewal of pluripotent stem cells and their differentiation into all cell types of the embryo, including germ cells.

Ian obtained a 1st class BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Strathclyde and a PhD at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research. During his PhD, Ian discovered that selenocysteine, the “21st amino acid”, was encoded by the ‘STOP’ codon, UGA. This was the first change to the universal genetic code since the 1960s creating a new field studying how selenocysteine insertion could override translational termination. Ian then did a post-doc with Paul Berg at Stanford, studying HIV molecular biology.

Ian moved to Edinburgh in 1991, to join Austin Smith’s new laboratory. Ian was attracted by the fact that, in contrast to other stem cells, embryonic stem cells (ESCs) could be cultured, so were genetically and biochemically tractable. Ian set up a genetic screen to identify cDNAs that could immortalise ESCs. He thereby cloned a previously unknown TF that he named Nanog after the Celtic Land-of-the-Ever-Young, Tir nan Og. This was the first genetic selection of a TF affecting self-renewal in any stem cell. Identification of Nanog was one of three British advances cited in the *Report & Recommendations of the UK Stem Cell Initiative*, alongside ESC establishment and the cloning of Dolly. Ian’s discovery of Nanog and its properties, including how it cooperates with Oct4 and Sox2, are now textbook examples of gene regulation in development. Ian has since pursued a series of careful analytical studies into how TFs determine pluripotency and how pluripotency connects to germ cell specification.

Ian is an elected member of EMBO and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In 2020 he was awarded the Hooke Medal from the British Society for Cell Biology. In 2022, Ian received the FEBS Letters Award, which he shared with his colleague, Dr. Nick Mullin.

Ian has taught on several undergraduate courses. He was CO for Biotechnology 3 and as CO, set up the Honours elective “Pluripotency & the Germline”. Ian was Honours Programme Organiser for Development, Regeneration and Stem Cells (2014-2022). Ian also taught the practical course “Genetic Engineering and Genome Analysis” (2009-2016) for new post-grad students and has supervised 17 PhD students. In addition to UoE teaching, Ian is committed to science communication and outreach. Notably he has created three “lessons” about stem cell biology as resources for secondary school education. These lessons have been promoted in the Science & Society section of *EMBO Reports*.

Ian took an active role at the interface of CSE and CMVM management. As Head of Institute for Stem Cell Research (2020-25) Ian drove establishment of the UK’s only axolotl facility, and recruitment of Aida Rodrigo Albors, an axolotl/mouse spinal cord regeneration expert. Ian represented ISCR PIs on the architectural design group for the Centre for Regenerative Medicine (CRM). Ian designed the Tissue Culture facility, now the beating heart of CRM. He was CRM Deputy Director (2020-24) driving reforms that led to joint cross-college Co-Directorship of CRM, improving inclusivity and diversity. Ian served on the BBSRC Strategic Advisory Panel (Bioscience for Health) from 2016-19, as Chair of the Regenerative Biology and Stem Cell Working Group. Internationally, Ian served on European funding panels, including EMBO post-doc fellowships and as a panel member for ERC, DFG, FWF (Austria).

Ian's plans for the future include applying for funding to continue research. Ian's current studies focus on the functionally essential tryptophan repeat (WR) in NANOG, a multivalent intrinsically disordered region. Ian is analysing binding of WR to the C-terminal domain of RNA Polymerase 2 (RNAP2). This NANOG-RNAP2 interaction is the first example in mammalian cells of direct contact between a cell-type specific DNA binding TF and the enzyme that transcribes DNA, offering the prospect of new insight into transcriptional regulation. Ian is also committed to advancing international co-operation. Ian set up a recurrent EMBO workshop aimed at strengthening links between European and Asian developmental biologists. He plans to expand and strengthen the European-Asian collaboration network that currently connects Scotland to Japan, China, India and Singapore.

Special Minute
Professor Do Coyle, PhD, MEd, BEd Hons
Emerita Professor of Languages Education and Pedagogies

Professor Do Coyle is an internationally renowned scholar whose pioneering work in CLIL, pluriliteracies, bilingual and languages pedagogies has had a profound impact on language and multilingual education globally. During a career spanning over four decades, she has combined intellectual leadership with sustained institutional service, holding senior roles at the Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen (HoS), and Nottingham. Her seminal publications—including the globally influential *Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)* (2010) and *Beyond CLIL* (2021)—have defined the field and continue to shape teacher education and research worldwide. Awarded the prestigious French Government honour *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* and the Lord Dearing Award for Excellence in Teaching, Professor Coyle is celebrated for her ability to 'translate' complex multilingual learning theories into accessible, transformative pedagogic practices that seek to enhance multilingual learning experiences for young people anywhere.

Joining Edinburgh in 2017 as Chair in Languages Education and Classroom Pedagogies, Professor Coyle has made a sustained contribution to MHSES and the wider University. As Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (2018–2020), she led restructuring and introduced research hubs to strengthen research capacity across MHSES. Leading the Shared Learning Spaces movement and founding the Scottish Alliance in collaboration with Edinburgh City Council, the Scottish Futures Trust, and Architecture and Design Scotland, she designed pedagogic resources promoting spatial pedagogies and design, adding new digital pathways linking the university with schools. It informed the White Paper on Next Generation Learning Spaces (2023) led by the University of Melbourne. During the pandemic, she led the high-profile, PTAS-funded interdisciplinary Hybrid Pioneers initiative across MHSES and COL, shaping futures thinking on hybrid pedagogy.

Professor Coyle's scholarly contribution is exceptional. Recognised globally as a leading theorist, she co-founded the trans-European Graz Group in 2012, now a major international research network. Her publications - co-authored monographs, edited volumes, and highly cited chapters and articles - have established conceptual and methodological foundations now embedded in teacher education programmes and professional development frameworks worldwide. She has secured and led major research projects funded by the World Bank, European agencies, the Scottish Government, Erasmus+, and Local Authorities. In Aberdeen, she oversaw the REF 2014 submission for Education, and subsequent work on pluriliteracies and alternative multilingual, multicultural learning continues to attract consultancies with over 30 national and international keynote invitations since 2017.

In MHSES she contributed widely to programmes such as MSc TESOL and Language Education and as visiting professor delivered master's courses in Australia and four Spanish universities. With the positive psychology team in Melbourne, she is currently pioneering pluriliteracies well-learning in bilingual teacher education. She leads international CLIL masterclasses. Her doctoral supervision - 53 successful UK doctorates and four European doctorates - demonstrates her long-standing commitment to developing future research leaders. She has examined over 50 PhD/EdD theses nationally and internationally.

Professor Coyle has advised governments in the Ireland, the Basque Country, Taiwan, and Sri Lanka on bilingual, trilingual, and multilingual education, involving thousands of teachers. She has served on Scottish Government advisory groups for research and language policy, contributing to the national 1+2 languages strategy and associated teacher development frameworks.

Following retirement, Professor Coyle plans to continue doctoral supervision and examination alongside some international collaborations, ensuring that any further work contributes to positioning this university at the forefront of pluriliteracies and multilingual education globally.

Special Minute
Martin Denvir, PhD, FRCP
Emeritus Professor of Medical Cardiology

Martin Denvir was born on 25 February 1962 in Stirling. He attended school in Stirling and studied Medicine at the University of Glasgow, graduating with a first-class intercalated BSc in Physiology in 1984 and with MBChB in 1987.

From 1987 to 1990, he worked as a Junior Hospital Doctor, training in acute general medicine, and passed postgraduate examinations to achieve membership of the Royal College of Physicians (UK). In 1990, he was appointed to specialist clinical training in cardiology, completing a PhD in cardiac cellular physiology in 1993 as a British Heart Foundation Clinical Research Fellow. In 1994, he was appointed Lecturer/Senior Registrar in Clinical Cardiology at the Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff, where he continued both clinical training and research. He was subsequently appointed Senior Lecturer/Honorary Consultant Cardiologist in Edinburgh in 1998.

Following this appointment, he established a research group at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, supporting both clinical and basic science research fellows, while taking a leading role in cardiology undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. In 2022, he was promoted to a Personal Chair in Medical Cardiology at the University of Edinburgh.

In 2007, following his move to the Queen's Medical Research Institute and the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, he created productive new research collaborations in inflammatory and reproductive medicine. He also collaborated with Optical Physics groups at Durham and Glasgow University to develop a high-resolution light-sheet microscope, enabling novel zebrafish research applications. This work has resulted in publications in high-impact journals including *Nature Communications*, *PNAS*, the *European Heart Journal*, and *Cell Development*.

He has mentored multiple clinical and basic science trainees, with some progressing to chairs and advanced five-year fellowships. His major clinical interests include heart failure, with more recent focus on palliative care and international collaborations involving the USA, Brazil, and Australia, leading to important publications. He has also led and recruited to international randomised clinical trials for over 25 years, contributing to publications in high-impact journals and influencing national and international clinical guidelines.

He has published over 200 papers and original articles, with more than 12,000 citations, and has an H-index of 47 and i10-index of 101 (Google Scholar). Over 28 years at the University of Edinburgh, he has secured approximately £5 million in research grants, with two awards currently still active.

He has made substantial contributions to medical school undergraduate teaching at strategic, administrative, and practical levels. Over the past six years—initially as module lead during COVID—he redesigned the cardiology course into an online resource, ensuring continued access to high-quality clinical teaching throughout the pandemic, and then again in 2023 as student numbers increased significantly. His contribution supported the Medical School's ranking as 1st in the UK for 2020–21 (see *The Guardian*, September 2021). His teaching impact was recognised with a "Student Experience Award" in 2025.

Martin Denvir is warmly thanked and wished a happy, well-deserved, retirement alongside his wife Fiona, and their children Martha and Joseph.

Special Minute
Professor Andrew Dugmore, BSc, PhD, FSA Scot, FRSGS
Emeritus Professor of Geography and Environmental Geoscience

Professor Andrew Dugmore has worked at the University of Edinburgh continuously since 1987. He is an exemplary university citizen, educator and researcher, modelling a form of academic leadership based around respect, care and good conduct.

Across thirty-eight years of distinguished service, Andrew's hallmarks have been collegiality and courtesy extended to academic and professional staff, as well as unstinting commitment to student learning, benefiting classes and supporting individuals at all levels. He continues to be a regular, highly acclaimed nominee for EUSA Teaching Awards, and perennial winner of the Geography Society's 'Lecturer of the Year' award. As a PhD supervisor, Andrew has supported 42 students to successful completion of studies. He has fulfilled key leadership positions in the School of GeoSciences: Director of Teaching; Chair of Board of Studies; Chair of Examination Board. Soon after appointment, Andrew established an Iceland-based field class for undergraduate geography students. Now the longest running international residential field class in UK Geography, it continues to make a huge impression on Geography BSc students. Successive cohorts of Edinburgh students have been inspired by Andrew's field teaching, learning amid Iceland's remarkable volcanic landscapes often the definitive experience of their degree studies.

Andrew's academic scholarship has been hugely influential in international academic circles, spanning physical geography, human geography, archaeology and palaeoecology. To date, he has published 170+ academic papers, accumulating 9000+ citations, and received more than 40 research grant awards. He pioneered cryptotephrochronology; a scientific approach that identifies and dates volcanic ash layers in sediments thousands of kilometres from their source volcano. The approach has been adopted worldwide as crucial to studying past environmental change and specific volcanic histories. In Iceland, he has championed the use of visible volcanic ash layers to investigate human-environmental interactions, enabling fuller understanding of environmental processes, while connecting archaeological sites with the wider environment and historical records. His pioneering approach to scientific inquiries has resulted in the emergence and flourishing of a global research community, in which he remains highly active and productive via collaborative research partnerships in Iceland, Scandinavia and North America. He was founder member of the North Atlantic Biocultural Organisation (NABO), has served widely on UKRI expert panels, acted as external examiner in the UK and internationally, and is presently Lead Scholar on the Advisory Board of the Human Ecodynamics Research Centre, City University of New York, Princeton University.

In respect of future planning, Andrew has a range of ongoing academic commitments, concentrated on an intensive research programme. He will have co-supervisory responsibilities for 6 PhD students (ongoing). He has six co-authored academic articles presently under review. Across 2026 and 2027, he will be working on another ten co-authored scientific papers currently at various stages of development. He will continue to work on a NERC funded project – 'Investigating the Early Human Settlement of Iceland with Ancient Soil DNA'.

Through arrangements in place with the School of GeoSciences Andrew will be a contributing teacher on the Iceland Physical Geography Field class, September 2026, making his final contribution to the course he founded.

Special Minute
William Colin Duncan (BSc MBChB MD FRCOG)
Emeritus Professor of Reproductive Medicine and Science

Professor Colin Duncan retired from his position at the University of Edinburgh in July 2026. Professor Duncan has had a distinguished and productive academic career.

Professor Colin Duncan has held a Personal Chair in Reproductive Medicine and Science at the University of Edinburgh since 2016. He was awarded a Wellcome Clinical Training Fellowship to conduct his postgraduate research at the MRC Reproductive Biology Unit in Edinburgh from 1993 to 1996. In 1998, he was appointed as a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and then continued as a Clinical Senior Lecturer and a CSO-funded Scottish Senior Clinical Fellow.

His initial research focussed on the human corpus luteum, where he developed a unique model of luteal rescue by using incremental injections of hCG to mimic early pregnancy, was world leading. He expanded his research interests into early pregnancy complications and subsequently developed an ovine model of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), which is now known as polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS), using prenatal programming with androgen.

More recently, he has helped test the fertility potential of small follicles cultured from pieces of ovary in an ovine model resulting in the first large animal resulting from in-vitro grown follicles. His latest research has translated the findings of the PMOS ovine model into women and developed intranasal insulin as a new therapeutic strategy to augment the deficient adaptive energy expenditure in PMOS. Academically, he has been involved in attracting over £10M in grant funding and has an H-index of 50 with over 7,000 citations. This was recognised in 2025 with the prestigious Ann McLaren Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society for Reproduction and Fertility.

From his first interview with Vogue in 1996, Professor Duncan has been regularly involved in public engagement. Highlights include his research featuring in the 'New Scientist' magazine, hosting public facing webinars, teaching S2 school students, discussing PCOS on Radio Scotland and in a BBC documentary (filmed in the IRR), and being heavily quoted in the recent Guardian article about the name change of PCOS to PMOS. His animation explaining PCOS is hosted by the Scottish Government on the NHS Inform Website and is front and centre of the PMOS charity Verity Website.

Professor Duncan has had multiple leadership roles with external organisations. After his work with the Scottish Government on developing a national strategy for ovulation induction, he was invited to chair the Miscarriage Framework writing group. This Scottish Government strategy has resulted in an additional £1.5M new annual recurrent funding for miscarriage care in Scotland. He was Chair of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility from 2018 to 2021. He has been a panel member for grant awards for the Irish Research Council and BMBF Germany distributing >€40M. He chaired the MRCOG review working group and then chaired the MRCOG implementation group. He subsequently chaired the RCOG Examination and Assessment Committee from 2018 to 2022 and was responsible for the COVID postgraduate examination strategy. As a member of RCOG council he represented the RCOG in the Scottish Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. He is a member of the Association of Early Pregnancy Units Executive Board and sits on the minister-lead Scottish Government Maternity Review working group representing the Scottish Early Pregnancy Network.

Within the University of Edinburgh, Professor Duncan is well known for his exceptional teaching skills. His postgraduate students have won numerous awards, including one of his PhD students winning the Young Investigator Award at the European Congress of Endocrinology twice. He has led the Obstetrics and Gynaecology module since 1998 and became part of the senior management of Edinburgh Medical School from 2016-2024 when he was Director of Year 5 MBChB. He currently leads a module on the Doctor as a Safe Practitioner in Year 5, is a member of the Reproductive Biology honours CAG and teaches widely within undergraduate medicine and Science. He has represented the University of Edinburgh as an external examiner over the years for eight Universities. He was the Postgraduate lead for the CRH within the IRR.

Professor Duncan is also a highly regarded clinician dealing with many referrals from his consultant colleagues. He is the clinical lead for the Pregnancy Support Centre and for Ovulation Induction in the Edinburgh Fertility Centre. He trains clinicians and nurses on how to perform transvaginal ultrasound scans and radiographers on how to perform hysterosalpingograms and is often sought for second opinions on complex cases.

Professor Duncan's career as a clinical academic in Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been very impressive, with clinical, teaching and research excellence, which has developed his international reputation. On his retirement, he hopes to be able to continue sharing his expertise and insights of large animal models and reproductive medicine with early career researchers. He hopes to continue contributing to the University of Edinburgh within the important field of reproductive health.

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

Special Minute
Professor Godfrey Fitton, BSc, PhD, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Igneous Petrology

Professor Fitton is retiring from his University of Edinburgh position on 31 July 2026, having been appointed 54 years ago, first as a lecturer (1972) and then promoted to a personal Chair in 1999. Prior to this he was the Turner & Newall Research Fellow at the University of Manchester, having graduated with a BSc (1965) and a PhD (1968) from the University of Durham.

Throughout his time in Edinburgh, Professor Fitton has been a core member of the Geology/Earth Sciences degree team. He has played a major role in many rounds of curriculum development, and in designing and course organising numerous and diverse lab- and field-based courses, most notably the NW Highlands, Spain, and Mull fieldtrips. He served as Geology BSc degree programme 3rd-year Course Organiser for over 20 years, Director of Studies for 7 years, and as the Director of the Departmental X-ray fluorescence analytical facility.

Professor Fitton has contributed substantially to the wider geosciences community in the UK. He has served on the NERC Geological Sciences Research Grants and Training Awards Committee (1989–1992), the Geological Society Awards Committee (1990–1994), the Geological Society Publications Policy Committee (1996–2000), the Royal Society of Edinburgh Earth Sciences Committee (2001–2003), and has been a member of NERC Peer Review College (2007–2011). He has also been a member of the Geological Society Accreditation Panel since 2014, and of an international peer review panel of the Danish Council for Independent Research (2016–2019).

Professor Fitton is recognised as a major scientist of international standing in igneous petrology and geochemistry. His high international standing and contribution to scholarship was marked by his election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE) in 2000. In the 1970s, he introduced the scientific community to the geodynamic significance of the then little-known Cameroon line of volcanoes, and is recognised as the world authority on them. He is also a leader in research on intraplate volcanoes in the Western USA having demonstrated, in ground-breaking papers in 1988 and 1991, the role of the involvement of lithospheric mantle in their formation. Prof. Fitton has also made major contributions to our understanding of the nature of mantle plumes through his work in Iceland, offshore Greenland and the Pacific Ocean. He served as Co-Chief Scientist on the highly successful Ocean Drilling Program expedition to the submarine Ontong Java Plateau in the SW Pacific Ocean in 2000. In his most recent work, with Professor Linda Kirstein and Dr Alan Hastie, Professor Fitton has shaped our understanding of the origin of intraplate magmatism and the formation of the Earth's earliest continental crust.

Professor Fitton wishes to continue active and ongoing collaborative research involving several members of the School of GeoSciences. He is developing new research as a Co-I on proposed NERC grants (with Professor Kirstein and Dr Hastie), will continue essential PhD and MScR supervision, and will continue work with Gus Calder to develop new XRF analytical techniques that will be of wide interest to the research community. He wishes also to continue to assist in teaching and training of UG and MEarthSci students, including helping to develop new fieldwork provision. He will also continue as Chair of The Laidlaw-Hall Trust, which has provided vital support for student extracurricular field studies since its establishment in 1992.

Special Minute
Professor Vernon Gayle, FRSE FAcSS
Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Social Statistics

Vernon Gayle has made significant contributions to the University's international reputation and research profile since his first appointment as a Professor in 2013. His research standing was recognised when he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in 2024 in addition to being a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences. Vernon has been a champion of the development of quantitative methods in research, and also in ensuring that the School supports social science graduates to have the quantitative skills that will support wider society to deal with the many challenges we face. Vernon's research has made a substantial contribution to the fields of youth studies, the sociology of education, and social stratification. His work has contributed to policy relevant evidence on social inequalities which continues to be central to debates on the nature of social class inequalities in modern Britain. Vernon has worked with an extensive network of international collaborators and his work has been published widely in highly respected journals.

Vernon Gayle 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. As well as contributing to generic Sociology teaching, Vernon designed and taught in the areas of social statistics and research methods. He offered both large core courses introducing students to statistical methods and more advanced specialist modules on longitudinal analysis. As the RSE nomination noted: 'he has spearheaded the development of techniques and tools for undertaking transparent and reproducible research, and open science'.

Vernon's commitment to teaching extends beyond the classroom as seen in his important teaching textbooks *Quantitative Longitudinal Data Analysis* (Bloomsbury, 2021, with Lambert, P), *What is Quantitative Longitudinal Data Analysis?* (Bloomsbury, 2018, with Lambert, P) and *Social Stratification: Trends and Processes* (Ashgate, 2012, co-edited with Lambert, P., Connelly, R., Blackburn, B). Writing in the journal of *Educational Research and Evaluation*, Xin Shao noted that the 2018 book presents 'complicated social scientific and statistical ideas in a clear, readable, and engaging fashion'. This speaks to Vernon's wider championing of quantitative methods as seen in multi-million pound grants to establish a series of Centres including the Edinburgh University Q-Step Centre (UoE was one of only 18 universities in the UK chosen and funded to develop degree programmes and a series of other projects aimed to develop quantitative skills in the social sciences), the Administrative Data Research Centre, Scotland, for which Vernon served as Deputy Director between 2013 and 2018, the ESRC Centre for Population Change and the National Centre for Research Methods Southampton / Manchester / Edinburgh Consortium. Vernon has also been instrumental in the development and enhancement of the UK's social survey infrastructure, notably contributing to the development of the UK Household Longitudinal Study.

Vernon 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 the interim Director of the Research Training Centre, co-ordinating ESRC-recognised social science research training. Vernon has also supervised 19 PhDs to completion, and intends to continue supervising a couple of students who are in the final stages at present. Beyond this, Vernon intends to continue with a number of research collaborations and projects, including mentoring colleagues and assisting with grant applications.

Notably, Vernon is Edinburgh's first Black professor of Sociology. A son of the windrush generation with an impressive biography who forged his academic career via a non-standard route from a working class background. Vernon has been a champion of marginalised and diverse students and colleagues and has been a supportive and encouraging mentor to many.

Special Minute
Professor C Simon Herrington, MA (Cantab), MB BS (London),
DPhil (Oxon), FRCPE, FRCPath, FRNS, FSAScot
Emeritus Professor of Molecular Cancer Pathology

Professor Simon Herrington retires as Professorial Fellow of Molecular Cancer Pathology in the School of Genetics and Cancer on 31st August 2026.

Professor Herrington has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the University through internationally recognised research leadership, major service to his discipline, and critical specialist expertise that has strengthened Edinburgh's cancer research and clinical-academic environment.

Professor Herrington is a distinguished expert in Molecular Cancer Pathology, with a particular focus on the pathological and molecular characterisation of ovarian tumours. As part of the Nicola Murray Centre for Ovarian Cancer Research, based at the Institute of Genetics and Cancer, he provides essential pathology leadership and specialist input underpinning major research programmes. He is currently contributing to projects examining the genomic and transcriptomic features of high-grade serous, low-grade serous, clear cell, endometrioid carcinomas and carcinosarcoma of the ovary/Fallopian tube, supported by funding from the Centre and external funders including the MRC, Target Ovarian Cancer, and Wellbeing of Women.

Earlier in his career, Professor Herrington's research made important contributions to understanding the pathogenesis of anogenital epithelial neoplasia, including the role of HPV infection in epithelial malignancy and its implications for improved diagnosis. He also helped to advance novel diagnostic approaches through the development of optical imaging technologies for early cancer detection, establishing significant interdisciplinary collaborations. These included long-standing work with the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of St Andrews, as well as collaborations developed through the EPSRC/MRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Optical Imaging (OPTIMA) and partnerships with colleagues at the University of Strathclyde and Edinburgh Medical Imaging, all aimed at developing innovative optical approaches to cancer diagnosis.

In addition to his research contributions, Professor Herrington has provided major professional and scholarly leadership. He is a Consultant Pathologist specialising in gynaecological pathology, and has served the international community in senior roles, including as a member of the Board of Worldwide Cancer Research and Past President of the International Society of Gynecological Pathologists. He has also made an exceptional contribution to academic publishing, serving as Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Pathology (2002–2008 and 2014–2022) and Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Pathology: Clinical Research (2014–2025).

Professor Herrington's publication record is exemplary: he has co-authored over 230 peer-reviewed articles, 36 book chapters, and 18 books, including major editorial leadership as co-editor of the 4th and 5th editions of the WHO Classification of Tumours of Female Reproductive Organs, and as editor of the 15th and 16th editions of Muir's Textbook of Pathology. His work has attracted over 12,000 citations, reflecting sustained impact and international esteem.

Professor Herrington intends to remain actively engaged with the University's research mission following retirement. In particular, he will continue to contribute to ovarian cancer research through ongoing collaborations (including with Professor Charlie Gourley and Dr

Robb Hollis), remain involved in the Nicola Murray Centre for Ovarian Cancer Research (including participation in its governance), contribute to the ovarian cancer theme within the Cancer Research UK Scotland Centre, and continue to serve the discipline as Editor Emeritus of The Journal of Pathology and The Journal of Pathology: Clinical Research.

Special Minute
Professor Edward Hollis MA, Dip. Arch., PhD
Emeritus Professor of Interior Design

I write as Head of Edinburgh College of Art to nominate Professor Edward Hollis for the title of Emeritus Professor of the University of Edinburgh, in recognition of his distinguished and sustained contribution to the University over more than twenty years.

Professor Hollis joined ECA in 2004, following earlier academic experience at Napier University and professional architectural practice in Sri Lanka and Edinburgh. He became Programme Director of the newly established BA Honours Interior Design and played a formative role in developing Interior Design as a distinctive and successful area of teaching and research within ECA. He also established the International Masters in Interior Architectural Design, in partnership with institutions in Stuttgart, Lahti, Istanbul, Lugano and Ahmedabad, demonstrating an early and sustained commitment to international collaboration and curriculum innovation. More recently, he returned to programme leadership in Interior Architectural and Spatial Design, continuing to contribute directly to teaching and academic development.

Professor Hollis's service to research leadership has been particularly significant. He was Research Director for Design, Deputy Research Director for ECA, and coordinator for Unit of Assessment 34 for REF2014. He subsequently served as ECA Director of Research from 2015 to 2018 and as Deputy Dean of Research for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences from 2018 to 2021. In that College role he made an important contribution to the University's Arts and Humanities submissions to REF2021. Across these roles, he has been a thoughtful and effective advocate for practice research and for the development of cross-disciplinary research cultures across ECA and CAHSS.

His own research has made a notable contribution to the fields of interior design, architecture, narrative and cultural heritage. His books, including *The Secret Lives of Buildings*, *The Memory Palace*, *How to Make a Home*, and *A Drama in Time*, have reached both scholarly and wider public audiences. His work has helped to shape debates about interiors, adaptive reuse, ruination, memory and heritage practice. He has organised and contributed to major conferences in interior design, served on editorial and advisory boards, and has been active in externally funded research, including projects supported by AHRC, Carnegie, Una Europa and JPICH. Through Una Europa, he has played an important role in developing the University's engagement in cultural heritage, including cross-institutional doctoral provision.

Professor Hollis has also made a substantial contribution to postgraduate research. In his recent role as Director of Postgraduate Research for ECA, he has worked to strengthen and support the PGR community. He has supervised a significant number of doctoral students to completion and currently remains involved with a further cohort whose continuity of supervision will benefit from his continued association with the University.

The award of Emeritus Professor would recognise Professor Hollis's long-standing contribution to teaching, research, leadership, supervision and the wider intellectual life of ECA and the University. It would also support an orderly continuation of his involvement with doctoral supervision and current research projects. I therefore strongly commend this nomination to the Head of College and, in turn, to Senate.

Special Minute
Professor Candace Jones PhD, M.H.R.M., AB
Emerita Professor of Global Creative Enterprise

Professor Jones joined the University of Edinburgh in 2016 as the Chaired Professor of Creative Enterprise in the Business School. She was hired with the goal of formulating new teaching about the creative sectors and to advance research in the creative industries.

She developed an interdisciplinary Masters in Global Creative Industries for the Edinburgh Futures Institute that combines business strategy, law, specifically Intellectual Property Rights, Humanities and Informatics. This interdisciplinary program is distinctive from other Masters Programs in Creative Industries. The EFI Masters Creative Industries programme has been extremely successful. The new programme has attracted over 1100 applicants for 28 or 21 slots, more than twice the application rate of any other EFI Masters programme. She also developed new courses for the Business School at the Undergraduate and Masters Levels.

The EFI and Business School creative industries courses seek to build skills in students, enhance capacity in the creative sector, and aid Edinburgh cultural organisations, such as Edinburgh International Festival, Historic Environment Scotland and Edinburgh Printmakers. These courses have produced repeated and positive interactions with creative and cultural organisations. A March 9, 2026 email from Janet Archer, CEO of Edinburgh Printmakers, clearly states the value and contribution of her courses: "Dear Candace, I hope this finds you well. I'm getting in touch to let you know that we have adopted the tech solution 'Odo' recommended by The University of Edinburgh's Business Students and so far, everything is going very well. I thought you'd appreciate knowing this has translated into a very useful business tool for EP! Thank you again for working with us on our tech systems review project which is hugely appreciated."

With initial funding from her Chair, Professor Jones in 2016 created the Creative Industries Conference that rotates among European and North American universities that continues to this day and has involved the following co-funders and conference partners: Yale University, New York University, Columbia University, Imperial College, Bayes Business School, INSEAD, HEC-Paris, IESEG, University College London, University of Amsterdam, Rotterdam Business School, and Pavia University.

Professor Jones was an integral member of two £6,000,000 AHRC grants from 2018-2023: (1) Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC) led by Nesta AHRC Grant AH/S001298/1 and the University of Edinburgh Business School, and (2) Creative Informatics: Data Driven Innovation for the Creative Industries, AH/S002782/1. Both grants produced research, engaged in collaborations across universities and with cultural and creative organisations in the UK. She continues as a Research Fellow for the Policy and Evidence Center.

Professor Jones also serves as an Associate Editor at the Academy of Management Discoveries, a leading international journal in the field of business studies. She continues her research on Edinburgh's Festivals with articles under review and in preparation for several high quality journals, a book on the Festivals for Routledge and also the Elgar Encyclopedia of Creative Industries is under discussion.

She will reside in the United States but continue to spend time in Edinburgh and the United Kingdom to pursue and present her research. For instance, she will be presenting research on Edinburgh Festivals at Bath University in April 2027.

Special Minute
Professor Stephanie O'Donohoe PhD, BSc
Emeritus Professor of Advertising and Consumer Culture

Professor O'Donohoe joined the University of Edinburgh as a Lecturer in Marketing in January 1987, with a first-class undergraduate degree from Trinity College Dublin. She began her part-time PhD studies and her lecturing career at Edinburgh simultaneously. Her PhD was awarded in 1994, and she was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1998, Reader in 2007, and a Personal Chair in 2012. She has made a rounded contribution to the life of the Marketing Group, School and College.

An interpretive researcher, she contributes to knowledge in three key areas: (1) consumers' marketplace interactions, particularly as these relate to family life/transitions (2) advertising representations, consumption and production; and (3) experiences of self-representation on social media. She has developed a strong network of UK and international scholars, and her theorising has engaged beyond marketing to disciplines including sociology, media and cultural studies, family studies, social gerontology and death studies. To date, she has had 44 articles published/accepted in internationally respected academic journals. She has published 14 original book chapters and co-edited one book and two special issues. As of July 26, 2026, she had 4,083 Google Scholar citations, with a h-index of 30 and an i10-index of 50.

Beyond her own studies, she has contributed to the development of interpretive consumer research through various initiatives and by supporting doctoral students/early career scholars. She has supervised fifteen PhD students to successful completion, twelve as first supervisor. Several have taken up academic positions, at the University of St Andrews, Strathclyde, Bath, Birkbeck, and Edinburgh. She has also served as external examiner on 34 PhD vivas, in the UK and internationally, and delivered invited PhD workshops and presentations.

As a teacher, she developed research-informed and practice-engaged courses in advertising and marketing communications, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels; four of her students went on to PhD studies with her. She has been nominated for multiple EUSA awards, most recently as Supervisor of the Year in 2026. Her wider concern for students is exemplified by her lengthy service as Convenor of the School Undergraduate Special Circumstances Committee.

As Marketing Group Research Champion and Deputy Director of Research (Ethics), Professor O'Donohoe supported colleagues in their research projects and dilemmas. Drawing on her experience as a member of the CAHSS Promotions Committee and of the Business School Promotions Panel, she has advised and mentored many colleagues, not least in the nine years she served as Joint/Deputy Head of Group. Within the Marketing Group, she has supported colleagues in successful applications for promotion to Grade 10 (5), Grade 9 (9) and Grade 8 (2). More generally, her mentoring efforts twice earned her the CAHSS Susan Manning Inspiring Mentor Award, in 2016 and 2022. Her commitment to colleagues is also evident in her recent role as School Health and Wellbeing Champion.

Professor O'Donohoe will remain in Edinburgh after her retirement. She intends to continue supporting her three remaining PhD students, continue her collaborative and individual research projects, and support School initiatives to enhance health and wellbeing as appropriate.

Special Minute
Professor Pankaj Pankaj, BTech, ME, PhD, Fiset
Emeritus Professor of Computational Biomechanics

Professor Pankaj Pankaj obtained his undergraduate degree from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, master's degree in Earthquake Engineering from University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee) and PhD in Numerical Methods from University of Swansea. He specialises in nonlinear computational solid mechanics. Early in his career, he focused on earthquake-resistant design, providing consultancy on seismic design for structures including nuclear power plants, dams, and buildings. Pankaj joined the University of Edinburgh in 1998 where he founded the interdisciplinary computational biomechanics group, which exploits numerical methods and mechanics for the solution of clinical problems.

Pankaj has made major research contributions to bone health in ageing populations. His work on fracture treatment and bone grafting has influenced clinical practice and training worldwide. He has shown why implants loosen, informing rehabilitation strategies, and developed computational models that predict bone behaviour from its microstructure. Using simulations on ARCHER, his research enables diagnosis of bone strength from imaging. He also continues to advance computational solid mechanics, including parallel finite element methods, with applications in areas such as snow mechanics and trabecular bone analysis. He has had in excess of 190 research collaborators from across the world and from 44 different organisations.

For research supervised by him, many of Pankaj's students have received prestigious awards and fellowships from VPHi (Virtual Physiological Human Institute, Belgium), Institution of Mechanical Engineers, British Orthopaedic Research Society, British Orthopaedic Association and Carnegie Trust. He has delivered keynote talks at clinical and biomechanics conferences in North America, Europe and Asia. In 2022, he was awarded the prestigious KT Dholakia gold medal and delivered the Plenary Dholakia Eponymous Lecture to orthopaedic surgeons in Mumbai at WIROC Global. The same year, as a visiting professor at ETH Zurich, he was awarded Senior Fellowship of Collegium Helveticum (an institute for advanced study, supported by three universities in Zurich). He chaired the Congress of the European Society of Biomechanics in 2024, attracting a record 1100+ delegates to Edinburgh from 51 countries. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for three journals: Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology; Bone and Joint Research; and International Journal for Numerical Methods in Biomedical Engineering.

With regard to teaching and supervision in the School of Engineering over the years, Pankaj co-developed two MSc programmes and developed eight new courses spanning all years of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. He has been nominated eight times for the Edinburgh University Students' Association teaching award. In 2026 he was recognised to have contributed to the thriving research culture by the Seek, Find and Celebrate project of the University.

Pankaj has been the International Dean for South Asia (2015-25). His deanship saw significant growth in the research partnerships between the University and institutes in the region. He initiated and led the dialogue with the Government of Gujarat in India which led to the establishment of a new autonomous Gujarat Biotechnology University in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, which is the largest international partnership the University of Edinburgh has in India. He also led the dialogue with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, which resulted in 125 HEC funded PhD studentships at the University.

Pankaj plans to continue contributing to the University's goals and mission through supervision of PhD students, mentoring junior colleagues, developing and supporting new research proposals (with colleagues in Edinburgh and other institutes) and through publications. He has developed new collaborative links with institutes in North America and China, which he intends to strengthen through joint projects. Pankaj will continue his public engagement work by actively promoting awareness of engineering research and highlighting its benefits for society. He also plans to pursue stand-up comedy and create podcasts for his upcoming website.

Special Minute
Professor James Roy Robertson CVO, MBE, BSc,
MBChB, MFPH (Hon), FRCGP, FRCP(Ed), FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Addiction Medicine

Roy Robertson graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1972 (BSc Med Sci) and 1975 (MBChB). He became a member of the Royal College of GPs in 1980 and a fellow in 1990 and a member of the Royal College of Physicians (Edin) in 1992. He became an honorary member of the Faculty of Public Health in 2020 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2018. He was appointed as a Partner at the Muirhouse Medical Group in 1980 and a lecturer at the University in 1992.

Mentors in early career included Ekke Kuenssberg, John Munro and John Howie, the former encouraging the importance of patients coming first and the latter in generating research from the caseload in front of me. With the combined authority of a medical practice and a university appointment the opportunity for clinical research, patient advocacy and political lobbying was inspired by links with John Strang (King's College), Anne Johnston (Middlesex hospital), Sheila Bird at the MRC and Ray Brett in Edinburgh. Joint projects with Alex Wodak (St Vincent's hospital Sydney), Bob Newman (Beth Israel hospital NYC) and a European collaboration from 7 European countries expanded the range and impact. A ten-year spell on the UK Government standing committee on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) included membership of seminal publications from committees on Drug Related Deaths, Harms caused to Children and Chairmanship of the Government response to the Shipman Inquiry. Membership of several Scottish Ministerial advisory committees included chair of the National Forum on Drug Deaths, which achieved Ministerial approval for the first naloxone provision scheme, and laid the foundation for the first UK Safer Injection Facility. Other activities included membership of UK Departments of Health Guideline committees (three iterations), the Westminster Expert Advisory Group on AIDS and evidence given to several House of Commons committees.

Clinical practice and teaching of undergraduates and many layers of postgraduates and specialists were a core activities over 5 decades. Research projects as PI and co-applicants on MRC/UK and Scottish funded projects led to collaborations with researchers in UK, European and Australian universities.

From 2001 until 2022 Roy was apothecary to HM Queen Elizabeth and latterly HM King Charles, a post that expected attendance to the medical needs of Principals of the Royal family when resident in Edinburgh.

Over 150 publications spanned clinical practice, pathological findings associated with AIDS and drug use, laboratory and policy topics. Important findings include the transmission of HIV in a cohort of young people whose partner was already infected. This study was a European wide project with Edinburgh supplying the majority of cases. Other findings were from a long running cohort of injecting drug users attending a treatment programme. Three books about drug use and management were with collaborators (one as editor with 21 international experts from 8 countries. Another book on the Harms caused by injecting drug use will be published in May 2026 by Taylor and Francis.

Ongoing commitments include membership of the Scottish clinical advisory group on drug deaths, collaborator with a NIHR RCT on benzodiazepine prescribing and episodic advice to media, undergraduate and postgraduate researchers.

Special Minute
Professor Lara Ryazanova-Clarke MA (Hons), PhD
Emeritus Professor of Russian and Sociolinguistics

Professor Lara Ryazanova-Clarke has been a valued member of the University of Edinburgh since joining the Department in October 1992. Over more than three decades of dedicated service, culminating in her appointment to a Personal Chair in Russian and Sociolinguistics in 2017, she has made an important contribution to the life, development and reputation of the Department of European Languages and Cultures through her leadership, teaching, mentorship, research, and engagement beyond the University.

Throughout her career, Professor Ryazanova-Clarke has played a central role in shaping Russian Studies at Edinburgh. As Head of Russian, Research Director for the Department, and Lead for the Una Europa project, she has provided thoughtful academic leadership during periods of significant change. She has overseen the development and review of teaching provision in Russian at all levels and has inspired generations of students through her teaching of both language and content courses spanning Russian culture, literature, sociolinguistics and discourse studies.

Professor Ryazanova-Clarke has also made an outstanding contribution to postgraduate education. Having supervised twenty-two doctoral students to successful completion, she has helped nurture a new generation of scholars who now contribute to the field internationally. Her intellectual guidance and her commitment to supporting early career researchers have been widely appreciated within and beyond the University.

Alongside these many contributions to the Department, Professor Ryazanova-Clarke has established an international reputation as one of the leading scholars of Russian sociolinguistics, discourse studies, bilingualism and transnational Russian studies. Her pioneering research on linguistic change in post-Soviet Russia, political discourse, language ideology, and Russophone communities across the world has had a lasting influence on the field. Her publications, including *The Russian Language Today*, *The Russian Language Outside the Nation*, *The Vernaculars of Communism*, and the two-volume *French and Russian in Imperial Russia*, have become important points of reference for scholars internationally. More recently, her leadership of the AHRC Open World Research Initiative project *Global Russians: Transnational Russophone Networks in the UK* has further strengthened understanding of Russian-speaking communities and cultural identities in contemporary Britain.

Her scholarly leadership has extended well beyond her own research. She is a founding editor of the *Russian Language and Society* book series at Edinburgh University Press and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, helping to shape the direction of research in her discipline.

Professor Ryazanova-Clarke has also been a committed advocate for public engagement and knowledge exchange. She has collaborated with numerous cultural and public organisations, including the British Council, the Queen's Gallery, the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, Edinburgh Filmhouse and the Scottish Poetry Library. As co-organiser and Secretariat of the Cross-Party Group on Russia in the Scottish Parliament, she has also contributed to fostering informed dialogue between academia, cultural institutions and public life.

Professor Ryazanova-Clarke leaves the University with the gratitude and admiration of many across the institution. Her commitment to students and sustained service to the Department have enriched the University in many ways. We wish her every happiness in her retirement, as she continues to pursue her research, enjoys spending more time with her family, and embraces the pleasures of her new role as a grandmother.

Special Minute
Professor Steve Sturdy MA, PhD
Emeritus Professor of the Sociology of Medical Knowledge

a) Evidence and Distinction

Professor Sturdy is a leading scholar of the history and sociology of medicine, with an international reputation for his research on the development of medical science, technology and practice since the mid-nineteenth century. Enabled by a strong record of securing external grant funding, and disseminated through his many publications, his research has greatly advanced our understanding of the nature and purpose of modern medicine. He is frequently invited to share his expertise at international conferences and workshops and through prestigious keynote and stand-alone lectures, and he continues to set new agendas for investigating and thinking about medicine, practice and policy.

Professor Sturdy has also made invaluable contributions to knowledge exchange, notably through his work as Deputy Director of the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum, a pioneering initiative devoted to widening the reception of social science research beyond existing audiences and building capacity amongst social scientists for public and policy engagement. He has also championed closer engagement and collaboration between scientists, social scientists, and humanities scholars, and has done much to advance the University's commitment to promoting outstanding interdisciplinary research, especially in his capacity as co-founder and Co-director of the cross-College Centre for Biomedicine Self and Society.

Through his own research and teaching, his success in training PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, and his work to promote excellence in research and KE across the University, Professor Sturdy has not only won academic distinction for himself, but has enhanced the reputation of the University of Edinburgh as a site of outstanding scholarship and a destination of choice for rising generations of academics.

b) Relationship to the University

Professor Sturdy first entered the University as a PhD student in 1982. After seven years of postdoctoral positions at the University of Manchester, he returned to the University of Edinburgh with a Wellcome Trust University Award in the History of Medicine. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2007 and to a personal chair in the Sociology of Medical Knowledge in 2014. His contributions to academic leadership include serving as Deputy Director of the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum, Co-director of the cross-college Centre for Biomedicine Self and Society, and Head of Subject in Science Technology and Innovation Studies. He is widely respected within and beyond the University of Edinburgh, not just for his leadership, but for his collegiality and support, especially towards more junior colleagues.

c) Academic Case for Nomination

Professor Sturdy's distinguished research career, and his many contributions to the academic life and standing of the University of Edinburgh, fully justify his appointment to an Emeritus Professorship. His research and publication plans extend well beyond his forthcoming retirement, and as Emeritus Professor he will continue to bring credit to the University, both at home and abroad.

Special Minute
Professor Suzanne Trill BA, PhD
Emerita Professor of Seventeenth-Century Literature

Professor Suzanne Trill's academic life has been devoted to developing the study of women's writing in the seventeenth century, introducing and explaining it to students and to the wider public. After completing a BA Honours (First Class) in English Literature at the University of Southampton in 1988, she went on to complete an AHRB funded Ph.D. at the University of Liverpool (1993). In 1992, she became a Lecturer at Queen's University in Belfast, then came to the University of Edinburgh in 1997, first as Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer (2006). She was promoted to Professor of Seventeenth-Century Literature in August 2023.

Her research on gender and early modern women's writing in England and Scotland focuses on devotional literature and life writing, and she is an acknowledged world expert in this area. Her first collection of essays, *Voicing Women: Gender and Sexuality in Writing, 1500–1700* (1996/1998) queried the 'femininity' of translation in Mary Sidney's *Psalmes*. The award of a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (2001) led to a checklist of early modern women's writing in the Edinburgh archives (2004) and initiated her research on Anne, Lady Halkett, about whom Prof. Trill has written two books and several articles. This work, along with the discovery of Anna Walker's 'A Sweete Savour for women' (2002), combines assiduous archival scholarship with questions about gender, faith, and politics, helping to revise scholars' understanding of women's writing in the early modern period. Since 2019, she has served as section editor for the Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women's Writing, and since 2021 she has been co-investigator in the world leading, AHRC funded Alice Thornton Project, which produced a Digital Scholarly Edition of the four Books of Alice Thornton's life (pub. 2025) and a collection of essays *Alice Thornton's Books: Reassessing the Life Writings of a Seventeenth-Century Woman* (forthcoming 2026).

Throughout her long and distinguished career, Prof. Trill has been at the forefront of introducing questions around gender, politics, and the archive into our undergraduate curriculum. She adopted alternative modes of assessment, such as learning journals, long before such pedagogical approaches were commonplace. Her courses 'Shakespeare's Sister' and 'Her Own Life' introduce students to the joys and challenges of archival work, and her course 'Shakespearean Sexualities' is a perennial favourite. Her teaching ensures that students graduate from Edinburgh knowing that plenty of women writers existed before Jane Austen.

She has also been a rigorous and generous supervisor for many PhD students, who have benefited enormously from her example in establishing the necessary standards for original research of high quality. For these reasons, and many more, she has left a lasting imprint on students and colleagues.

In addition to her recent tenure as Head of English and Scottish Literature, Prof. Trill held a series of leadership roles, including both departmental and school (LLC) director of learning and teaching. Between 2009 and 2018, she was successively Vice-President, President, Secretary and Casework Co-Ordinator for the Edinburgh branch of UCU, with a brief term as Women's Representative on the NEC.

We wish Prof. Trill all the best in the next chapter of her life where writing and women's voices throughout the centuries will continue to play a central role.

Special Minute
Professor Jonathan P. Thomas MA, DPhil
Professor Emeritus of Economics

Professor Jonathan Thomas, Fellow of the Econometric Society and Fellow of the British Academy, joined the School of Economics in 2002. After completing an undergraduate degree at Cambridge in 1979, and doctoral studies at Oxford, he returned to Cambridge in 1982 to work on the project "Risk, Information and Quantity Signals in Economics" led by Frank Hahn. Subsequently, he taught briefly at the University of Bristol before moving to a lecturer position at the University of Warwick in 1985, where he stayed for fourteen years and was appointed Professor in 1995 and Honorary Professor upon his departure. During this period, he held several visiting positions at Konstanz, Tilburg, Bonn, Erasmus, Munich and Nuffield College, Oxford. From Warwick, he moved to Scotland, first to the University of St Andrews in 1999, and then to Edinburgh, where he remained for the rest of his career.

Professor Thomas is an internationally renowned economic theorist whose work on dynamic contracting has been highly influential, establishing a foundational framework for modelling long-term economic relationships in which parties cannot always credibly commit to future outcomes. This work emerged from his time on the Hahn project at Cambridge in the early 1980s where he met fellow researchers that would become lifelong coauthors and friends, and with whom he developed and extended these ideas (and many other distinguished research projects) for the rest of his career. His pioneering early work on dynamic wage contracts in employment relationships has become a canonical citation and is widely taught in world-leading PhD programmes. Later work extended these ideas to study transnational (e.g., foreign direct investment) contracts and informal insurance arrangements in village economies. Beyond these, his work has had a lasting methodological impact by developing some of the recursive techniques now widely used in modern dynamic macroeconomics and public finance. His work has been published in the most prestigious international economics journals, including the *Review of Economic Studies*, the *American Economic Review*, and *Econometrica*, among many others.

Upon arriving at the School of Economics, Professor Thomas was presented with an informal agreement that he would be spared the most arduous administrative duties. Ironically, given his pioneering expertise on the perils of limited commitment, he subsequently took on several onerous citizenship roles and did so always with characteristic good grace. Among many other roles held within the School, he served as Director of the Scottish Graduate Program in Economics for ten years, Interim Head of School, Research Director, and Workload Allocation Coordinator. In the wider profession, he served on the Royal Economic Society Council, the British Academy Economics Section Standing Committee, and the economics panels of the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise, the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework, and the 2020 Hong Kong Research Assessment Exercise. He taught students at all levels and across several fields, from microeconomic theory to macroeconomics and finance.

In retirement, he plans to continue his ongoing research projects, to immerse himself more in the study of ancient Greek, and to spend time with family and friends.

Special Minute
Professor Henry S. Thompson, BA, MA, BSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Web Informatics

Henry Thompson is an internationally recognised pioneer of web and language technologies whose work has shaped both the architecture of the World Wide Web and the evolution of XML. His sustained leadership in research, standards, teaching and institutional service makes him an outstanding candidate for the title of Emeritus Professor. Henry graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1972 with a BA magna cum laude in Computer Science, followed by an MSc in 1973, before moving into Linguistics for his MA (1977) and PhD (1980), during which he published influential single-authored work on grammatical theory, American Sign Language and cognitive science. In 1976 he joined the Language Understanding group at the newly formed Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), first as a part-time Research Intern and then full-time from 1978 to 1980, co-authoring several of the group's seminal late-1970s papers.

In 1980, Henry was appointed to a Lectureship in the Department of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh and seconded half-time to the newly created School of Epistemics, which later became the Centre for Cognitive Science before forming part of the School of Informatics. He was promoted to Reader in 1989 and to Professor of Web Informatics in 2011.

Henry has been an exceptionally committed teacher and academic leader. He designed multiple new UG and PGT courses, supervised around 25 PhD students and nearly 70 MSc dissertations, and served as School Director of Internationalisation for seven years, Board of Examiners Chair, and member of the CSE Student Appeal Committee. He led Edinburgh's relationship with the British University in Dubai for two decades and initiated and managed undergraduate joint degree programmes with four leading Computer Science departments in China, significantly extending the School's global reach.

His research has been notably wide-ranging, with publications spanning Computational Linguistics, Machine Translation, Speech Recognition, Language Resources, Markup Languages and Web Architecture. He was co-Principal Investigator and Research Manager of the Alvey-funded Speech Input Project (1984–1989) and co-Principal Investigator for two major ESRC awards establishing and sustaining the Human Communication Research Centre, where he served as Deputy Director during its formative years.

From the mid-1990s Henry became a central figure in the standardisation of markup and web technologies. In 1996, he was invited to join the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) effort that produced the Extensible Markup Language (XML), subsequently serving on multiple W3C Working Groups and co-editing seven W3C Recommendations and one IETF RFC. He represented the University of Edinburgh on the W3C Advisory Committee for over 20 years and authored a REF Impact Case Study in 2014 demonstrating how his and colleagues' work on XML underpinned its global adoption.

In 2004, Henry was nominated by IBM and elected by the W3C Advisory Committee to the W3C Technical Architecture Group (TAG), chaired by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and responsible for maintaining the conceptual integrity of the Web's standards. Re-elected three further times, he served for a total of seven years, during which his work with Berners-Lee and others cemented his reputation as a leading authority on Web Architecture and shaped his research focus for the following two decades. Henry's influence on contemporary web standards continues to be recognised. In July 2026 he was invited as the only academic participant at the bi-annual HTTP Workshop, joining around 50 senior engineers and

designers from organisations such as Adobe, Anthropic, Apple, Meta and Google to shape the next generation of web protocols. He and his students are now investigating the existential risks GenAI may pose to the social value of the Web, including empirical work to measure and counter AI-generated pollution of online information.

Thompson is married to Catharine, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Edinburgh; they have three children and three grandchildren. While he will particularly miss close interaction with students, he is eager to step back from administrative duties and intends to remain actively engaged in research and international standards work, further enhancing the University's global standing in Web Architecture and AI-era web governance.

Special Minute
Professor David Tollervey BSc (Hons), PhD, FRS, FMedSci, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of RNA Biology

David Tollervey is a world-leading RNA biologist who has made foundational contributions to understanding eukaryotic ribosome synthesis, gene expression and RNA quality control.

David Tollervey studied for a BSc (Hons) in Microbiology in Edinburgh, and then in the Genetics Department at Cambridge for an MRC-funded PhD in the lab of Herb Arst. In 1981 he obtained a NATO Postdoctoral Fellowship to work in the laboratory of Christine Guthrie at the University of California, San Francisco. At the end of the fellowship, he was offered a tenured position (Chargé de Recherche I) at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, where he started his own research group in 1984. At the time he was the youngest Chargé I in France. The group focussed on small RNAs, discovering that there were numerous small, nucleolar-localised RNAs, in many different eukaryotes. They designated these species as the small nucleolar RNAs (snoRNAs), which have become a substantial research topic.

In 1988, David Tollervey obtained a Group Leader position at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg. At EMBL the Tollervey group made major discoveries that helped underpin much of our basic understanding of the eukaryotic ribosome synthesis pathway. More generally, they showed that small numbers of enzymes and cofactors play key roles in both RNA processing and degradation in eukaryotes, an insight underpinning much subsequent research.

With the proposed development of the Michael Swann Building as a centre for cell biology, David participated in the “pitching” session with the Wellcome Trust that led to initial funding of the research centre. Following this, David successfully applied for funding as a Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, a position that he still holds. At the end of 1996 / start of 1997, David relocated his lab from Heidelberg to the Swann Building. In Edinburgh, the group identified many components and principles driving ribosome biogenesis, and developed important techniques for their detailed analysis. An important success was the discovery of the exosome nuclease complex, initially as a ribosome synthesis factor, and several key cofactors, which remain major research topics for many groups. Following this, they discovered that nuclear pre-mRNAs with defects in splicing, polyadenylation or export are rapidly degraded, demonstrating active nuclear surveillance by the exosome. More recently, they made significant progress in uncovering links between RNA folding and processing, and transcription.

From 2011 to 2021 David Tollervey served as Director of the Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology, twice leading the renewal of funding from the Wellcome Trust. He contributed to teaching by organising the “RNA World” honours elective course for some 20 years, participation in other courses and the supervision of over 20 graduate students.

David Tollervey has enhanced the reputation of the University through research publications (298 publications; 49,541 Citations; 125 h-index), and recognition as a Fellow of the Royal Society, Academy of Medical Science, Academia Europaea and Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a member of EMBO. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France, and has received other awards. He was previously elected as Director and then President of the international RNA Society, and last year he was awarded their Lifetime Achievement Award. He serves on Advisory Boards for the Babraham Institute Cambridge, Centre for Integrative Biology, Toulouse and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and on the editorial boards of six journals. He previously served on the membership committees of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and on funding and/or

interview committees including the EU, Royal Society, Wellcome Trust, and the Edinburgh/Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF).

In retirement, David Tollervey expects to continue to serve the University by remaining actively engaged with research, continuing to mentor students and junior colleagues, and serving on PhD thesis committees and advisory boards.

Special Minute
Professor Michael Thrusfield, BVMS, MSc, DipECVPH, DTVM,
CBiol, FRSB, FRCVS PFHEA
Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology

Michael Thrusfield graduated in veterinary medicine from Glasgow in 1970. Following a year in Papua New Guinea, he read the Diploma in Tropical Veterinary Medicine at Edinburgh, followed by an MSc in virology at the Birmingham Medical School.

He spent a year as a Research Associate at the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, followed by two years in general practice.

He has taught veterinary epidemiology at the R(D)SVS for just two months shy of 50 years, first as Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, then Professor, being appointed in 1976, and, as such, he was instrumental in developing veterinary epidemiology in British academia. Throughout this period, his teaching responsibilities have included both undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses in epidemiology. In addition to the usual academic duties (e.g., research publication, thesis and dissertation supervision, general curriculum development, Course Directorships and Chairman of Boards of Examiners), he also has been Director of Extramural Education in the Veterinary School and a member of the University's Central Professorial Promotions Panel. During a Sabbatical in 2002, he researched appropriate control strategies for control of the UK's 2001 foot-and-mouth disease epidemic, also designing the Scottish post-epidemic serosurveillance protocol. Among his graduate students, Catley's development of participatory epidemiology, which is now used widely by veterinary agencies around the world to control animal disease in low-income and middle-income countries after its inception in Africa, is particularly notable. His research also has included the identification of animal abuse, which is now used as a guide by professional bodies. During his tenure, he co-established the professional forum, the *Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine*, which initially had Edinburgh University as its biennial location, but which is now Europe-wide. During his tenure, he also has been elected to Fellowships of the Royal Society of Biology and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and made a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and was also the first Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Registered Specialist in Epidemiology. In 2012, he was awarded the Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal for the Advancement of Veterinary Science.

Internationally, his textbook, *Veterinary Epidemiology*, was first published in 1986 as the first textbook on the subject. It is widely used throughout the world, also being published in Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic, with a low-cost edition for use in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. He has had long-standing epidemiological teaching duties, via the TEMPUS and ERASMUS Programmes, at Universities in Warsaw and Cluj-Napoca (Romania), dating back to the early 1990s, also with occasional teaching at Universities in the Netherlands, Portugal Spain, South America, Brazil, Japan and China. His advisory roles have included reform of veterinary services in Jordan, the UAE and Bhutan, in addition to epidemiological advice to the *International Atomic Energy Agency* in relation to the control of trypanosomiasis, and the global eradication of rinderpest. Other roles have included the application of epidemiological techniques to the control of diseases of coral reefs, and trypanosomiasis control in Africa and Indonesia. He was also responsible for the inclusion of epidemiology (as population medicine) as one of the two specialist threads in the *European College of Veterinary Public Health*, which was established in 1999 and of which he was a Foundation Diplomate.

As a Professor Emeritus, he will maintain the necessary academic contacts during the writing of the fifth edition of his book. He will undertake student-admission interviews and be available for invited lectures, including a currently planned Public Lecture.

Special Minute
Edwin J.R. van Beek MD PhD MEd FRCR FRCPE FISMRM
Emeritus Professor of Clinical Radiology

Edwin van Beek was born on 10 June 1960 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He graduated from Erasmus Medical School in 1987. Following a few years in Surgical services in the UK and in Amsterdam, he went on to gain a PhD on the topic "The Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism" at the University of Amsterdam in 1994. Subsequently, he specialised in Clinical Radiology at the Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam.

In 1999, he took up a Senior Clinical Lecturer post at the University of Sheffield, where he established a successful chest MRI program, set up PET-CT (following study at King's College, London) and developed the imaging protocols for the Pulmonary Vascular Unit. He was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists and obtained a Masters of Education degree during this period.

In 2004, he moved to the University of Iowa, where he was appointed Professor of Radiology, Medicine and Biomedical Engineering, where he developed a clinical service for Cardiac CT Angiography, worked on CT based methods for identification and quantification of lung diseases and established hyperpolarized gas lung MRI. He obtained his full USA medical license in Iowa during this time. He was instrumental in developing the Lung Imaging Database of the NIH National Cancer Institute, which has become the reference standard for lung nodule software development.

In 2009, he took up his post as Scottish Imaging Network (SINAPSE) Chair of Clinical Radiology at the University of Edinburgh. As a Director of the facility, his first task was to help establish the Clinical Research Imaging Centre in the Queens Medical Research Institute and to facilitate training of cardiac CT to support the SCOTHEART study. This was subsequently expanded, incorporating state-of-the-art MRI, CT, PET-MRI and PET-CT with co-located Radiochemistry facilities. Together with the larger team, this Centre has become one of the leading imaging research facilities in Europe, now integrated with the Brain Research Imaging Facility, and renamed Edinburgh Imaging.

He has been particularly involved in developing quantitative imaging biomarkers across multiple specialities, using all the imaging techniques available. He has been a fervent supporter of the establishment of lung cancer screening in Scotland, lobbying at the Scottish Parliament and leading the imaging component of the LUNGSCOT pilot study. His latest work has focused on developing artificial intelligence tools for the identification of lung nodules and lung diseases.

He was awarded the Honorary Membership of the Hellenic Radiological Society in 2010, Fellowship of the Royal Society of Physicians Edinburgh in 2012 and was elected to membership of the prestigious Fleischner Society in 2015.

In 2019 he was awarded the Senior Fellowship of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine for his broad contributions to the Society, including his work on pulmonary MRI, hyperpolarized gas MRI, service on multiple committees, his long-term Deputy Editorial role for the Journal of MRI, and his work on value-based MR imaging.

In 2022 he was awarded the John B West Award and Medal by the International Workshop of Pulmonary Functional Imaging for his life-time achievements in the field.

We wish Edwin a happy and well deserved retirement, alongside his wife Grace, one daughter, one son and five grandchildren.

Electronic Senate

16 – 30 September 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 15 June 2026.

Fit with primary responsibilities

2. *D24: To note the activities of Court.*

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.
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. 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 15 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

Daniel Wedgwood
Governance & Court Services
September 2026

Freedom of Information

Open Paper

Appendix 1:

15 June 2026

Membership

Court welcomed Professor Colin Pulham to his first meeting in the position of Elected Academic Staff Member of Court and welcomed the new Student Members of Court, Bradley Stevens and Syjil Ramjathan.

Court thanked Professor Richard Blythe, for his service as Senate Assessor, and other members who were demitting office at the close of the academic year. In particular, Court expressed appreciation for the work of Janet Legrand as Senior Lay Member and noted that Frank Armstrong would assume this role from August 2026, following his election earlier in the year.

1 Principal's Report

The Principal's report was noted. Key points in the report included progress in the national Future Framework for Higher Education. It was noted that key positions in the Scottish Government had been announced, bringing elements of both continuity and change in posts that were relevant to the higher education sector.

2 Senate report and Statement of Primary Responsibilities

Court noted the report and welcomed changes to the recording of Senate business.

Court considered the proposed Statement of Primary Responsibilities of Senate (SOPR) and welcomed this initiative to clarify Senate's responsibilities and its relationship with Court. It was noted that, while the effectiveness of Senate was Court's responsibility, the draft SOPR had been opened to consultation with numerous key stakeholders, including soliciting detailed feedback from a 'critical friends' group of elected members of Senate and a survey open to the full membership of Senate.

Court approved the SOPR in principle, noting that some adjustments would be carried out before final approval, with the involvement of relevant members of Court. [Note: this work was completed and the SOPR was approved by Court's Exception Committee and shared with Senate, along with responses to feedback from the Senate consultation.]

3 Finance, Planning and Budget

Court received a full update on the University's financial position and associated risks. It was noted that the University was on course to deliver the 2025-26 budget but this had been achieved in part through non-recurring savings, meaning that significant sustainable savings would have to be achieved in the coming year.

Court approved the University Group budget for 2026-27, noting that this was updated and adjusted in the light of developments over the current year but grounded in the two-year budget approved by Court in 2025.

4 Resolutions

Court referred Draft Resolution No. 7/2026, on Boards of Studies' Terms of Reference, to Senate and the General Council for observations.

Court approved Resolution No. 5/2026, Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations, and Resolution No. 6/2026, Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations.

Court approved Resolutions No.3/2026 and No.4/2026 to formalise the foundation of two Personal Chairs.

5

6 Other Items

Court approved a Joint Education Programme in Engineering. Regular reports were received from the Students' Association, the Sports Union, the Development and Alumni Office and Court's committees. Court also received the annual Prevent Duty Compliance Report and annual assurances on compliance with Education Act (1994) requirements in relation to the Students' Association.

Electronic Senate

16 September 2026

Report from Central Academic Promotions Committee

Description of paper

1. Report of the recommendations of the Central Academic Promotions Committee provided in Discussion.

Fit with Primary Responsibilities

2. *D21: To note the activities of University Committees whose work has implications for areas under Senate's remit, in order to inform Senate's discussions and decision making in those areas.*

Action requested / Recommendation

3. For information.

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

4. In July 2026, the Central Academic Promotions Committee reviewed electronically one nomination for the award of the academic title of Personal Chair. This award was confirmed. Details of the award are provided in the next section.

Discussion

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

Title	Initial	Surname	College	School	Personal Chair Title	Date of Effect
Dr	K	Myant	CMVM	School of Genetics and Cancer	Personal Chair of Cancer Biology	1 August 2026

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

7. N/A

Responding to the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Goals

8. N/A

Equality and Diversity

9. 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

10.Court Services will publish resolutions and Senate/Court will ratify the Personal Chair title.

Consultation

11.The Central Academic Promotions Committee have confirmed this award.

Further information

Author(s)

Kirsten Partridge
HR Partner Reward
Human Resources
1 September 2026

Presenter(s) (if required)

Freedom of information

Open

Electronic Senate

16-30 September 2026

Rector Election 2027 Date

Description of paper

1. This paper consults Senate on the potential date for the Rector Election 2027, in accordance with University Ordinance No. 197 (appended to this paper).

Fit with primary responsibilities

2. *D25: To make recommendations to Court in relation to certain matters (e.g. creation of new degrees, amending existing degree regulations) as specified in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966; and to act as a consultative body to Court on all draft Court Re*

To comply with University Ordinance No. 197, which states: "The election shall take place on such day in the month of February or March as may be fixed by the University Court after consultation with the Senatus Academicus, provided that such date shall not be later than the second Saturday in March in any year"

Action requested / recommendation

3. Senate is invited to comment on the proposed election date.

Background and context

3. A Rector is elected by students and staff every three years. Rules on when the election can be run are contained within University Ordinance No. 197: Rectorial Election. This states: 'The election shall take place on such day in the month of February or March as may be fixed by the University Court after consultation with the Senatus Academicus, provided that such date shall not be later than the second Saturday in March in any year.'

Discussion

Duration of election

4. Ordinance No. 197 provides for a six week window when an election can take place, between 1 February to 12 March 2027. The election in 2018 took place over two days and this was extended for the elections planned in 2021 and 2024 to four days. The extension to four days was in response to an external review of the election regulations by Civica Election Services (formerly Electoral Reform Services), which, commenting on the two day voting period for the 2018 election, said: 'The electorate for this election consists of staff and students whose commitments and routines are likely to vary significantly. It might be argued that extending the voting period even by a few days will make it easier for voters, and lead to increased participation in the election and higher turnout'. A sole eligible candidate was nominated in 2021 and 2024, meaning that a Rector was elected without a vote and it was not possible to estimate if extending the voting period had an effect on participation. ***It is proposed to slightly extend the four day voting period to five days should two or more candidates be nominated and a contested election take place.***

Proposed election date

5. The six week election window sits within the Semester 2 teaching block and two main factors have been considered when looking for the most suitable election date within this window:

- Flexible Learning Week occurs in week commencing 15 February and it is proposed that the campaigning period and voting period does not overlap with Flexible Learning Week in case engagement and turnout is adversely affected; and,
- The elections for the Students' Association sabbatical officer positions (and many other elected roles) take place from Monday 1 March to Thursday 4 March, with campaigning from 23 February. It is proposed that the Rector election date does not overlap with the Students' Association election date given that students vote in both sets of elections.

6. Given these factors, two potential election dates have been identified:

i) Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February; or,

ii) Monday 8 March to Friday 12 March 2027, as:

- It avoids holding a campaigning or voting period within Flexible Learning Week;
- These do not overlap with the Students' Association election voting period or take place over a weekend.

7. Comparing the two potential dates:

- The later election date of Monday 8 March to Friday 12 March would have some of its campaigning period (Monday 22 February to Sunday 7 March) overlap with some of the campaigning period and all of the voting period for the Students' Association elections – this would not be the case for the earlier proposed election date;
- The current Rector will be in post for the University Court meeting on Monday 1 March and the earlier election date will enable any new Rector-elect to observe this University Court meeting as part of their induction, which would not be possible for the later election date; and,
- If the Senate member elections in 2027 follow a similar pattern as in recent years, the earlier of the two dates will have no overlap with the Senate member elections and the later of the two dates will overlap with the nominations period for the Senate member elections, albeit this is relatively minor given that it is a nominations period and not the voting period.

Given the three points above, ***the working assumption is that the earlier date of Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February is the preferable of the two identified potential dates.***

7. Senate is invited to comment on the identified potential election dates of:

i) Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February 2027

ii) Monday 8 March to Friday 12 March 2027.

Resource implications

8. None for the timing or date of the election, with the administrative costs for the election to be met from within the existing budgets.

Risk management

9. The proposed election date has been suggested on the basis of aiming to mitigate risks of a low number of candidates and of a low turnout, both of which have been witnessed in recent elections. Figures from the last five elections are shown in the table overleaf.

Table 1: Candidate numbers and turnout in recent Rectorial elections

Election Year	No. of Candidates	Turnout
2024	1 (and 1 not valid)	N/A – elected unopposed
2021	1	N/A – elected unopposed
2018	2	6%
2015	2	10%
2012	1 (and 1 withdrew)	N/A – elected unopposed

Equality & diversity

10. Students and staff will be encouraged to nominate suitable candidates from all backgrounds.

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

11. Comments received will be reviewed and a paper summarising any comments and a proposed election date will be submitted for approval to the 5 October 2026 meeting of the University Court. Draft election regulations will be shared with student and staff unions (the Students' Association and the Joint Unions Liaison Committee) for comment prior to submission to the University Court for approval.

Authors

13. Kirstie Graham and Lewis Allan
Governance & Court Services Office

Freedom of Information

14. Open Paper.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ORDINANCE NO 197

RECTORIAL ELECTION

At Edinburgh, the Second day of June, Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven years.

WHEREAS the University Court of the University of Edinburgh deems it expedient to amend the provisions governing the election of the Rector:

THEREFORE the University Court, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Sections 3 and 4 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, and with particular reference to paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 2 to that Act, HEREBY STATUTES AND ORDAINS:

1. The Rector shall be elected by the fully matriculated students and the staff of the University by means of a single transferable vote system, and the election shall be conducted in accordance with arrangements determined from time to time by the University Court.
2. The election shall take place on such day in the month of February or March as may be fixed by the University Court after consultation with the Senatus Academicus, provided that such date shall not be later than the second Saturday in March in any year.
3. The provisions of Article 2 shall apply so often as a vacancy in the office of Rector has occurred for any cause, or is about to occur through expiration of the statutory term of three years prescribed by Section 5(2) of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1889, provided that the person elected shall not in any case enter on office as Rector until a vacancy shall actually have occurred.
4. For the purposes of the Rectorial Election, no person shall be deemed to be a fully matriculated student unless he holds a matriculation card which certifies that, in the year concerned, he is in attendance on a course of study or is enrolled for one or more classes in the University. Students registered for the purpose of graduation or examination only and postgraduate students who have completed their prescribed period of study are not fully matriculated students.
5. For the purposes of the Rectorial Election, no person shall be deemed to be a member of staff unless he holds a contract of employment issued by the University Personnel Office and his name appears on the electoral roll as at 31st January preceding the date of the election, and he produces proof of identity.
6. A person shall be ineligible to be nominated for election as Rector if :
 - (a) he is qualified under this Ordinance to vote in the election; or
 - (b) he is a part-time student or is matriculated for examination or graduation purposes only.

7. If, at any time after his election, whether before entering on office or during his period of office, the Rector is, or becomes:

(a) qualified under this Ordinance to vote in a Rectorial election; or

(b) a part-time student or individual matriculated for examination or graduation purposes only he shall immediately thereupon become disqualified to hold the office of Rector and shall resign from that office which shall be deemed to be vacant from the date of such disqualification or (if later) from the date when he would otherwise have been entitled to enter on office.

8. University of Edinburgh Ordinances Nos 180 and 194 are hereby revoked.

9. This Ordinance shall come into effect on the date of its approval by Her Majesty in Council.

Approved by Order in Council, dated 22 July 1997.

Electronic Senate

16- 30 September 2026

Senate Election Dates 2026-27

Description of paper

1. The paper provides Senate with information on the proposed nomination deadline and election dates for elected academic and elected College professional services staff seeking election to Senate in 2027.
2. The paper also provides Senate with information on the proposed nomination deadline and election dates for elected members of Senate seeking election to a Senate Standing Committee in 2027.

Fit with primary responsibilities

3. *D16: To approve the arrangements for the election of members to the Senate in line with University Court approved election regulations.*

Action requested / recommendation

4. Senate is invited to comment on the proposed election dates.

Background and context

5. Academic staff members are elected annually to Senate. These elections are conducted under the [Senatus Academicus \(Senate\) Election Regulations](#). Under the Senate Election Regulations, the call for nominations for each election will be made after 31 January each year. Each year, elections are to be conducted to a timescale approved by Senate. The elections must take place in time to communicate the results to Senate before its final meeting of the academic session, and the results must be communicated to Senate no later than 30 June each year.
6. College elected Professional Services staff are elected on a triennial basis to Senate. These elections are conducted under the [Senatus Academicus \(Senate\) College Professional Services Election Regulations](#). The College Professional Service elections last took place in 2024 and took place on a schedule which differed from the main Senate Elections. This was because the proposal to add Professional Services staff to Senate was approved by Senate on [7 February 2024](#), with the associated election regulations approved by Court on 22 April 2024. A paper will be presented to the 21 October meeting proposing revisions to the [Senatus Academicus \(Senate\) College Professional Services Election Regulations](#) to align with the timescales as set out in the Senate Election Regulations. The proposed dates are drafted on the basis of the revisions being approved by Senate and Court respectively.
7. The final Ordinary meeting in the 2026/27 academic year is 18 May 2027.
8. At its 12 October 2022 meeting, Senate agreed that three places on each of the Senate Standing Committees would be allocated to elected members of Senate with each position nominally assigned to each College. Current elected academic staff members of Senate plus Senate Assessors and the Academic Staff Member of Court are able to self-nominate for a position on one of the three Senate Standing Committees. Senate agreed that in the event that the number of eligible nominations for a Committee exceeds the three available places, an election would be held to determine which nominees are assigned to the membership of the Committee. Senate reserves the right to revise the Standing Committee Election arrangements at a future meeting.

9. Election of student members of Senate is managed by the Edinburgh University Students' Association.

Discussion

10. The proposed dates for the 2027 Senate Academic and Professional Services Staff Elections are as follows:

Wednesday 3 February 2027	Nominations open
Wednesday 3 March 2027 (12 noon)	Nominations close
Wednesday 24 March 2027 (9am) to Wednesday 7 April 2027 (12 noon)	Voting open online ¹
By Friday 30 April 2027	Results announced

11. Mitigating factors:

- Good Friday falls from Friday 26 March and Easter Monday falls on Monday 29 March. The University is open for business during Easter.
- Teaching block 4 concludes on Friday 2 April.
- Civica Electoral Services require a minimum of two weeks from receiving the data to the commencement of an election. To ensure sufficient time for staff to verify nominations and prepare documentation for the election, the voting period cannot begin earlier.
- Three days of the proposed voting period will take place during the Spring teaching vacation (5 to 16 April 2027). The majority of the voting period will take place prior to the conclusion of teaching block 4, therefore staff are expected to be available to engage with the voting process prior to the vacation period.
- A Rector Election will take place in 2027 (see September 2026 e-Senate - Paper e-S 26/27 1D). The proposed election dates for the Rector Election are provided in the relevant paper. The Rector Election is not anticipated to impact on nominations for election to Senate from eligible staff. The proposed Rector Election dates may overlap with the nomination period for the Senate and Professional Services staff elections, however potential impact on canvassing and voting in either election is anticipated to be minimal.
- Flexible learning week takes place from 15 February to 19 February 2027, which is during the proposed nomination period. It is possible that some academic staff will take annual leave during this week. However, the length of the nomination period (one month) should ensure that all staff have sufficient opportunity to participate in the nomination process.
- Both nomination and voting will take place online, remaining accessible to staff working across different campuses and from home.
- Nominations will be open for a full month, and voting will be open for two weeks, falling across three calendar weeks, which is intended to maximise opportunity for all staff to participate in the election process.

¹ If there are more nominations received than positions available, then the names of the candidates will be announced and online voting will occur. Eligibility to stand and to vote is set out in the Senate Election Regulations.

12. The proposed dates for the 2027 Senate Standing Committee Elections are as follows:

Wednesday 24 March 2027	Nominations open
Wednesday 14 April 2027 (12 noon)	Nominations close
Wednesday 5 May 2027 (9am) to Wednesday 19 May 2027 (12 noon)	Voting open online
By Friday 4 June 2027	Results announced

13. In an effort to increase engagement with the main round of Senate Standing Committee elections, it is proposed that the beginning of the nomination period run concurrently with the Senate Academic Staff Elections voting period. This is to ensure that staff have an opportunity to consider and engage with Standing Committee elections whilst they are still engaged with senate business and prior to the final meeting of the academic year.

14. Additional communications will also be prepared for circulation during the nomination period in the event that there are fewer nominations than positions in a bid to fill vacancies via the main round of elections.

15. Possible conflicts and mitigating factors:

- a. The nomination period for Standing Committees will open before members are aware of the results of the main Senate Elections. Members who are seeking re-election will be eligible to nominate themselves prior to the Senate Academic Staff Elections results being announced. In the event that a member who is seeking election to a Standing Committee is not re-elected to Senate, then they will be removed from the election prior to candidate names being confirmed and prior to the voting period.
- b. There are a minimum of 3 working days where both the results of the main Senate elections will be known and nominations for Senate Standing Committees will also be open. This allows for any members who are successfully elected to submit a nomination for election to a Senate Standing Committee. In practice, it is anticipated the results of the Senate Election will be available prior to the final publication deadline provided.
- c. Spring Teaching Vacation takes place from 5 April to 16 April 2027, which is during the nomination period. It is possible that some academic staff will take annual leave around this week. The nomination period takes place over three weeks and across four calendar weeks, which should ensure that all staff have an opportunity to participate in the nomination process.
- d. The voting period will take place during the exams, marking and Board of Examiners period. Whilst it is appreciated that this will be a busy time for staff, voting is open for two weeks and across three calendar weeks, which is intended to ensure that all staff are able to engage with voting.
- e. Nominations and voting will take place online, therefore remains accessible to staff working across different campuses and from home.

16. The University's Information Services Group outsourced the running of elections to Civica Electoral Services. The 2026 Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections were conducted by Civica Electoral Services. The process for nomination and voting will clearly be communicated to eligible staff and elections will continue to be supported by Registry Services with input from ISG as required.

Resource implications

17. The resource implications for managing the administrative tasks required for the election will be primarily met within Academic Quality and Standards.
18. The University's Information Services Group has outsourced the running of elections to Civica Electoral Services and the budget required for this will be met by ISG.

Risk management

19. The University's Risk Policy and Risk Appetite statement refers to the University holding 'no appetite for any breaches in statute, regulation.' Senate elections are mandated by University Ordinance 212.

Equality & diversity

20. Ordinance 212: Composition of Senatus Academicus was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) (published on the [Equality and Diversity webpages](#)). The EIA recommended publicising elections through a broad range of channels, to ensure that staff in all categories are aware of opportunities to stand for election, and this will be taken into account in planning election communications.

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

21. Any comments will be taken into consider in election planning. The final timetable will be presented to Senate for approval in December 2026.

Author

Olivia Hayes
Senate Clerk
September 2026.

Freedom of Information

Open