THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Summary of Senate business – 4 March 2026

The following document provides a record of the business undertaken at the 4 March meeting of Senate. This document provides a summary of the outcomes and next steps for each item of business.

There is a short statement under each item of business, including a breakdown of voting, where relevant, and the action that will be taken to progress each item.

Where the outcome of voting is relevant to other University Committees, these will be relayed to the relevant body via reporting as specified.

The relevant Committee will determine where further action or a response is required. Where a response or update is received, this will be shared with members via the Senate Members' Portal and communicated via email.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was quorate with 165 members in attendance.

2. Minutes and e-Senate Reports

To *approve* the minutes of the meetings held on:

- 10 December 2025 - **S 25/26 3 A CLOSED**
- e-Senate meeting held 28 January – 11 February 2026 - **S 25/26 3 B**

Both sets of minutes were approved without requiring a vote.

Next steps: The 10 December minutes will be finalised and published on the Members' Portal only within a week of the Senate meeting.

The Report of e-Senate will be confirmed and published on the University website within a week of the Senate meeting.

Motions on Senate Minutes

Motion 1:
Senate approved a motion on the minutes as follows:
In light of the recent changes to reporting on Senate through minutes and summary of business, Senate requires that a proposal for such changes be brought to the next Senate meeting to meet the following criteria.

- *Senate will provide an open record of the business carried out at Senate meetings and the decisions made at these meetings (including an appropriate summary of the outcomes of closed business to the extent these may be openly published)*
- *Senate will request appropriate amendments and approve this open record.*

Choice	Number of votes
Approve	107
Not approve	23
Abstain	4
I don't have enough information to reach a decision	2

Motion 2:
Senate approved a motion on the minutes as follows:
As there has not been an adequate opportunity to consider corrections to the open summary document for the December meeting, amendments shall be invited and any contentious amendments adopted by plurality electronic vote (no minimum number of votes), after which the summary shall be subject to an electronic approval vote (enough votes to constitute quorum required).

Choice	Number of votes
Approve	99
Not approve	23
Abstain	7
I don't have enough information to reach a decision	5

Next steps:
Motion 1: A paper outlining a process for Senate minutes will be prepared for inclusion in the 19 May meeting papers.
Motion 2: Senate Support to carry out corrections process for the 10 December Summary of Business.

1.1 Matters arising
Senate Action Log - S 25/26 3 C
To *note* updates to the Senate Action Log

Senate noted the updates to the Senate Action Log.

1.2 Report of the Senate Business Committee - S 25/26 3 D
To *note*

Senate noted the Report of the Senate Business Committee.

Two motions relating to the Senate Business Committee were received. The proposer agreed to withdraw the motions from consideration for the 4 March meeting on the basis that there are live discussions on the handling of papers planned to take place at the Senate Business Committee. The motions would be carried forward to the May meeting.

3. Convener's Communications

Substantive items

4. Boards of Examiners
1.3 Award of Degrees - S 25/26 3 E CLOSED
To *approve*

The paper was approved without requiring a vote. Senate requested that an annual report outlining post-publication corrections to degree awards be provided on an annual basis.

Next steps: The decision regarding delegation of authority will be communicated to Schools and Colleges via Registry Services ahead of the summer assessment period. The University Court will also be informed via routine reporting.

Any revisions required to the Assessment Regulations will be taken forward by AQS in time for the 2026/27 academic year and the Senate Standing Orders in due course.

The request for an annual report will be shared with the Head of Student Record Operations within Registry Services, and an entry added to the Senate annual cycle of business for a paper to be provided to Senate.

1.4 **Board of Examiners Review – Implementation of a New Late Applications Process for Exceptional Circumstances - S 25/26 3 F**
To *approve*

The paper was approved without requiring a vote.

Next steps: The decision regarding the implementation of a revised late Exceptional Circumstances process will be implemented from May 2026. The communication plan will be enacted ahead of the implementation to ensure timely information is provided to students and staff.

APRC will agree a final position on the guidance to be given to Schools on handling late Exceptional Circumstances cases for graduating and non-graduating students ahead of the standard publication date for results to ensure a consistent approach.

The University Court will also be informed via routine reporting.

5. Briefing to Senate on Student Recruitment and Internationalisation including Partnership strategies - S 25/26 3 G CLOSED DISCUSSION
For *discussion*

This paper was a discussion item and there are no further actions.

6. Academic Size and Shape - S 25/26 3 H CLOSED
For *discussion*

This paper was a discussion item and there are no further actions.

Motion on Academic Size and Shape
Senate approved a motion as follows:

Senate wishes to approve any proposals for design and implementation with regards to Academic Size and Shape before implementation.

Choice	Number of votes
Approve	106
Not approve	22
Abstain	5

Next steps: The motion and outcome of voting will be relayed to University Court via routine reporting.

7. **Academic Contribution Framework: Response - S 25/26 3 I**
   To note

This paper was provided to note and there are no further actions.

8. **Senate Standing Committees: Vacancies that arise out-of-cycle - S 25/26 3 J**
   To *approve*

Senate did not reach this item before the conclusion of the meeting. The item will be carried forward.

9. **Senate Standing Committees: Mid-Year Reflection on 2025/26 Priorities and Proposal to Disband the Standing Committee Priorities Process - S 25/26 3 K**
   To *approve*

Senate did not reach this item before the conclusion of the meeting. The item will be carried forward.

10. **Update on the Statement of Primary Responsibilities for Senate - S 25/26 3 L**
    To *note*

Senate did not reach this item before the conclusion of the meeting. Members were invited to contact paper authors directly with comments, and the upcoming consultation was noted.

Items for information

To *note* the following:

11. **Research Cultures Action Plan - S 25/26 3 M**
    To *note*

12. **Court Communications - S 25/26 3 N**
    To *note*

13. **Senate Standing Committee business:**
    a. **Senate Standing Committees Upcoming Business - S 25/26 3 O**
    b. **Senate Standing Committee: Membership Update - S 25/26 3 P**
    To *note*

2 Research Strategy Group Report - S 25/26 3 Q
To *note*

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19 May 2026

Deadline for papers: Friday 10 April 2026