THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate
E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 28 October 2026 and
close at noon on Wednesday 11 November 2026

AGENDA

1.	**Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita** For approval	**e-S 26/27 2 A**
2.	**Communications from the University Court** To note	**e-S 26/27 2 B**
3.	**Court Resolutions** For comment	**e-S 26/27 2 C**

e-S 26/27 2 A

Electronic Senate

28 October – 11 November 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 Clare Blackburn, School of Biological Sciences
   Professor Robert Fisher, School of Informatics
   Professor Sarah Henderson, Edinburgh Medical School
   Professor Fiona McLachlan, Edinburgh College of Art
   Professor Marie Murphy, Moray House School of Education and Sport
   Professor Simon Riley, Edinburgh Medical School

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, October 2026
Freedom of Information Open paper

Special Minute
Professor Catherine Clare Blackburn, PhD, FRSE, FRSB
Emeritus Professor of Tissue Stem Cell Biology

Clare Blackburn received her BSc in Biological Sciences (Honours Molecular Biology) from the University of Edinburgh in 1984, and her PhD from Imperial College, London in 1991. She then pursued a Wellcome Trust Advanced Training Fellowship at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne and the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford (1991-1995). Clare subsequently received a Wellcome Trust Career Development Award (1996-2001), starting at the University of Oxford before joining the University of Edinburgh's School of Biological Sciences (SBS) in 1997. Between 2001 and 2011 she held two Leukaemia Research Fund senior fellowships. She was promoted to Reader in 2007 and to a Personal Chair in 2011. She was elected Fellow of the RSE in 2015 and of the RSB in 2022. Clare's internationally renowned research career is marked by strong funding and publication records, with 62 peer-reviewed publications (many in leading journals), 7 book chapters, and 2 patents. Her research centres on the generation, aging and regeneration of the thymus, an essential organ for immune function. Among other highlights, Clare's work established that the entire thymic epithelium – which provides most of the specialist functions of the thymus - has a single developmental origin in mammals, overturning the textbook 'dual origin' hypothesis of 30 years standing (Gordon et al Nature Immunology 2004); that manipulation of a single transcription factor (FOXN1) can instigate regeneration of the fully involuted thymus in aged mammals (Bredenkamp, Nowell and Blackburn, Development 2014); and that overexpression of this key thymic transcription factor is sufficient to reprogramme an unrelated cell type into functional thymic epithelial cells, able to form a fully functional thymus organ on transplantation (Bredenkamp et al Nature Cell Biology 2014). Alongside her research, from 2004 Clare has led a long-term, high-impact public engagement project initially focussed on stem cells and regenerative medicine and expanding to encompass gene and cell therapy from 2020. This has resulted in the internationally leading websites eurostemcell.org and eurogct.org, several award-winning animated science documentary films, and numerous engagement events. The website and films are still extensively used in many Scottish schools, where they support Biology teachers to deliver the Higher Biology Curriculum for Excellence. Clare's public engagement work has provided impact case studies for SBS in the last two REFs.

Throughout her career at Edinburgh, Clare has contributed significantly to SBS, the College of Science and Engineering (CSE), and wider society. She served as Head of the Institute for Stem Cell Research from 2008 to 2009 and played a crucial role in acquiring core MRC funding for the Centre for Regenerative Medicine (CRM). She then served as Director of the Graduate School (DoGS) of Biological Sciences (2009-13), with overall responsibility for PhD student recruitment and admissions within the School (70 PhD students annually). In this role, she provided academic leadership during creation of the SBS Graduate School (2009-13), bringing together PGR administrative and academic oversight teams from the six SBS Institutes into a single operational unit. In 2011 she led the successful application for BBSRC EASTBIO Doctoral Training Partnership funding - a then new partnership between the Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews. EASTBIO was one of the largest DTPs funded in that round, awarded £6.8M to support 3 intakes of 24 students, with equivalent matched funding contributed by the partners. Clare provided the vision for this partnership, brokered all the relevant relationships. and chaired the cross-Institutional EASTBIO Management Group. The EASTBIO partnership remains one of the largest sources of funded PhD studentships in the life sciences in Scotland.

She was asked to take the DoGS role for a second time, and held the role again from 2017-2022, bringing in substantial additional funding including National Productivity Investment Fund studentships and other investments and leading renewal of EASTBIO in 2019 (£17M

over 5 intakes, with match funding increasing this to support ~65 students annually). As DoGS, she was a key member of the School leadership, chairing the SBS Graduate School Committee and as part of SBS Executive, CSE Postgraduate Research and Doctoral College Management Committees, and the PGR ART group (2020/21). In addition, Clare has, for many years, also contributed to Honours teaching in the School, delivering electives to the Immunology and the Development, Regeneration and Stem Cells specialist degree programmes.

At College level, from 2022, Clare has led development of CSE's 'Health and Life' theme and is currently CSE Dean for Health and Life research. In this role she chairs the CSE Health and Life research strategy group, which sets strategic direction for the theme, develops external partnerships and mentors development of institutional bids.

As Emeritus, Clare will continue to develop and support thymus research at The University, including through funded international research collaborations. She will also continue to develop the internationally important EuroGCT advanced therapies public, patient and stakeholder engagement infrastructure project, through participation in funded research projects and via fundraising initiatives.

Special minute
Professor Robert B. Fisher III, BS, MS, PhD, FIAPR, FBMVA
Emeritus Professor of Computer Vision

Professor Fisher's distinguished career of more than four decades at the University of Edinburgh is marked by pioneering contributions to computer vision and robotics, innovation in teaching, and dedicated service to the University and the international research community.

Professor Fisher graduated with a BS in Mathematics with Honours from the California Institute of Technology in 1974 and worked as a software engineer until 1980, completing an MS in Computer Science part-time. He joined the University's Department of Artificial Intelligence in 1984, received his PhD from Edinburgh in 1987, and was promoted to a personal Chair in Computer Vision in 2003. He has remained with the University throughout his career, with sabbaticals at KTH, Trinity College Dublin and INRIA.

His research has produced over 300 peer-reviewed publications, 18 book chapters and five books, including the widely used *Dictionary of Computer Vision and Image Processing*, as well as two patents and two company start-ups. Highlights include a widely adopted guaranteed ellipse fitting algorithm, the extension of computer-based skin lesion recognition from two to ten classes, and leadership of the Trimbot2020 consortium, which developed the first outdoor gardening robot. He proposed and coordinated four multi-partner European Commission projects.

Professor Fisher has also been a pioneer of digital education. He was the first at the University to place all his courseware online and among the first to record lectures and deliver a video-based flipped course. His online resources, including the interactive textbook *HIPR* (1996) and a compendium of around 1,800 computer vision topics, have each received over one million views. His *Research in a Nutshell* series of more than 500 one-minute videos showcased research across the University.

His leadership roles have been numerous and impactful. Within the School, he served as Head of the Graduate School, MSc Programme Lead, Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Director of Internationalisation, and was founding Director of the Institute of Perception, Action and Behaviour. He also served as Dean of Research for the College of Science and Engineering. Externally, he has served as Treasurer, President and Past-President of the International Association for Pattern Recognition. He was lead General Chair of the European Conference on Computer Vision 2020 and holds the same role for the 29th International Conference on Pattern Recognition in 2027. He is a Fellow of both the International Association for Pattern Recognition (2008) and the British Machine Vision Association (2010).

His commitment to mentorship is evidenced by his supervision of 33 PhD students and more than 100 MSc students, alongside collaboration with 27 postdoctoral researchers and over 50 visiting researchers.

To conclude, Professor Robert Fisher's career is marked by exceptional achievements in research, teaching innovation, leadership and international service. We believe that conferring the title of Emeritus Professor will not only honour his past contributions but will also enable him to continue collaborating with colleagues and inspiring future generations within the University community and beyond.

Special Minute
Professor Sarah Elizabeth Henderson, PGCert, BGS, BSc (Hon), PhD, SFHEA
Emeritus Professor of Educational Development and Student Learning

Professor Sarah Henderson retired from the Personal Chair of Educational Development and Student Learning in the Edinburgh Medical School on 31 July 2026.

Professor Henderson graduated with a degree in Occupational Therapy in 2000, following earlier studies in Psychology, and Fine and Performing Arts at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Her early professional career cultivated a keen intellectual curiosity in the learning experiences of both patients and healthcare professionals. She completed her PhD in 2006, exploring the assessment of chronic pain, establishing enduring interests in pain education, qualitative methodologies, professional learning, and the relationship between theory and practice.

A defining contribution of Professor Henderson's career has been her leadership in online postgraduate education. In 2004 she led the delivery of the University of Edinburgh's first fully online postgraduate programme, the MSc in Pain Management, at a time when online education was in its infancy in the UK sector. For almost two decades she led this programme's academic, strategic, operational, and financial development, building an internationally recognised programme while establishing an early blueprint for online learning at Edinburgh. Her work informed many of the principles that subsequently underpinned the University's wider online learning provision, including approaches to student support and transitions, programme governance, digital pedagogy, online assessment, staff development, and cohort community building.

Latterly, Professor Henderson was appointed Director of Postgraduate Taught Education within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. In this role she provided strategic oversight for more than 50 postgraduate taught programmes and several thousand global students. She led initiatives to strengthen programme governance, curriculum design, and student support, championing approaches that combined academic excellence with flexibility, accessibility, and compassion. This role represented the culmination of many years of leadership in postgraduate and digital education across the University.

Building on her pioneering work in online learning, Professor Henderson made substantial contributions to institutional educational development through roles associated with the Institute for Academic Development, the Digital Education Initiative, the Distance Learning at Scale Project, and the Curriculum Transformation Programme. She helped shape institutional policy and infrastructure for online learners, contributed to strategic developments in digital education, and advocated for flexible, technology-enhanced learning and innovative curriculum design. Her work helped ensure that online and hybrid learning were recognised not simply as modes of delivery, but as opportunities to enhance accessibility, redesign curricula, and create more flexible educational pathways for diverse global student communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she provided leadership in supporting staff and students through the rapid transition to remote and hybrid learning. Collectively, these contributions helped position the University as a sector leader in online postgraduate education and supported significant growth in postgraduate provision.

Throughout her career, Professor Henderson remained deeply committed to supporting both students and colleagues. She mentored programme leaders and academic staff across the University, supported colleagues through Advance HE professional recognition pathways,

and led initiatives to improve quality and consistency of student support. Her work consistently reflected a commitment to educational development, collegiality, and supportive learning communities.

Professor Henderson also maintained strong national and international engagement through collaborations with professional bodies, external review work, conference presentations, and contributions to scholarship in pain education and online learning. Through her involvement with organisations including the British Pain Society and the International Association for the Study of Pain, she strengthened connections between postgraduate education, clinical practice, and professional development.

In retirement, Professor Henderson intends to remain an active contributor to the University community and the wider higher education sector through mentoring, educational consultancy, strategic advice on postgraduate and online learning, and continued engagement with scholarly and professional networks. Alongside these activities, she looks forward to spending more time travelling, engaging with the arts, and supporting charities that work with individuals living with chronic pain.

Special Minute
Professor Fiona McLachlan MA (Hons), Dip. Arch, ARB
Emeritus Professor of Architectural Practice

Fiona McLachlan first entered the University of Edinburgh as a student in 1976, completing her MA (Hons) Architecture degree in 1981 and Diploma in Architecture in 1982. She joined the Department of Architecture in 1988 as a studio tutor, moved to a full-time lectureship in 1989, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1995. Appointed as Head of Architecture in the University School of Arts, Culture and Environment in 2002, Fiona became the first woman to head a Scottish architecture school. She was awarded a Personal Chair in Architectural Practice in 2011.

From 2006 to 2009, she played a pivotal role in the formation of the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, jointly owned with Edinburgh College of Art, and was appointed the inaugural Head of ESALA in in 2010. This initiative paved the way for the full institutional merger in 2011.

Her long career in teaching has focused on architectural design and professional practice at all levels in the school. She supported students as Professional Studies Adviser for 20 years and was Co-founder and Director of the Architects' Professional Examination Authority in Scotland, establishing a new independent gateway to the profession. Alongside her main teaching roles, she established an innovative, research-led elective course on colour, addressing a topic long neglected in architectural education. Beyond Edinburgh, she has served as External Examiner and Assessor in institutions in the UK, Ireland and China.

Fiona's research is grounded in architectural practice, with a focus on social housing and colour design for architecture. Her architectural practice– E & F McLachlan Architects– specialized in social housing and residential projects over a thirty-year period and its work was included in international exhibitions and publications.

She has authored three books on colour: her first monograph was stimulated by her work in practice, the second was an international collaboration with Haus der Farbe, Zurich. Her interest in painting led to a third monograph, which addresses collaborations between artists and architects, and colour through embedded art in architecture. In addition to her books, she has produced peer-reviewed academic articles on architectural colour and delivered public lectures on the topic to audiences in the UK, Switzerland, Italy, China, Canada and Australia. She has been nominated for the 2027 Turner Medal for her work on colour in architecture.

Fiona established the Matthew Architecture Gallery at the University in 1992 to create a venue for public architectural exhibitions and discourse in Scotland and was Director until 1997. In 2025, she was appointed as the inaugural chair of the Architecture Fringe Advisory Board, which, in addition to curating a biennial festival, provides a network of support for emerging forms of architectural practice, focused on the common good.

At University level, Fiona served as Convenor of the University Collections Advisory Committee for 5 years until 2026 and on the CAHSS Promotions Committee. She has advised the Estates Department on colour schemes for major restoration projects (Old College Reception, Playfair Stair, Law School, ECA, Minto House). Beyond academia, she collaborates with architects on colour design projects, most notably Cables Wynd House and Linksview House, both in Leith. She has also instigated a series of 'live' installations in the community, working with student volunteers on colour installations including work at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Special Minute
Professor Marie Murphy B.A.(Hons), PGCE, MSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Physical Activity for Health

Professor Marie Murphy retires from the University of Edinburgh after four years of distinguished service as Director of the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC) in Moray House School of Education and Sport (MHSES), during which she provided exceptional research leadership and made a substantial contribution to the University's research culture, profile and strategic development.

Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh in 2022, Professor Murphy had established an outstanding national and international reputation as a researcher and academic leader. She served as Dean of Postgraduate Research at Ulster University and was widely recognised for her leadership within the UK research community. Her standing was reflected in her appointment as Chair of Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 Sub-Panel 24 (Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism). Professor Murphy also played a pivotal role in the development of the UK Physical Activity Guidelines for Adults, helping to establish the evidence base that continues to inform policy and practice across the four nations of the United Kingdom.

As Director of PAHRC, Professor Murphy assumed leadership at a critical time, guiding the Centre through the post-pandemic period and successfully re-establishing a vibrant and ambitious research culture. Through her vision, energy and commitment, she fostered a renewed sense of purpose and collegiality within the Centre, encouraging researchers at all career stages to pursue ambitious programmes of research and larger-scale funding opportunities.

Among her achievements during her tenure at Edinburgh, Professor Murphy was secured and led the successful £2.4 million National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams award, establishing PHIRST Elevate and significantly enhancing the University's capacity to undertake impactful public health evaluation. This work strengthened partnerships with policy and practice stakeholders and created new opportunities for collaborative research addressing pressing public health challenges creating research impact.

Professor Murphy also led the successful bid for Edinburgh to host the Movement for Health coalition, further enhancing the University's international profile in physical activity and health evidence translation. In addition, she played a leading role in the delivery of three highly successful SPARC conferences in partnership with the Active Scotland Division of the Scottish Government. These events brought together researchers, practitioners and policy-makers and strengthened Scotland's position as a leader in the promotion of active living.

Throughout her time at Edinburgh, Professor Murphy has been a mentor, trusted colleague and inspirational leader. Her support for researchers across all career stages has been widely valued, and her commitment to collaboration has strengthened relationships across disciplines, institutions and sectors.

Although retiring from her formal role, Professor Murphy will continue to make an important contribution to the University and to PAHRC. She will provide mentorship to Centre members, support the Moray House School of Education and Sport in preparations for REF2029, contribute as a co-applicant on major research funding applications, and help develop collaborative opportunities between PAHRC, colleagues at Ulster University and her extensive network of international partners.

Special Minute
Professor Simon Riley, BSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Experiential Student Learning

Professor Simon Riley retired from the Personal Chair of Experiential Student Learning, in Edinburgh Medical School on 30th April 2026.

After graduating from the University of Edinburgh with BSc Honours in Pharmacology 1984, Professor Riley continued with a PhD in this Department, beginning his research interests in intra-uterine physiology and the regulation of pregnancy. He completed his PhD in 1988 and moved to Canada to undertake postdoctoral studies at the Lawson Research Institute, University of Western Ontario, then to Australia to the Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research at Monash University, Melbourne. He returned to Edinburgh in 1994, to take up a Lectureship and establish a research group in the Centre for Reproductive Biology. His group explored the signalling between the trophoblast cell layer of the fetal membranes and placenta, and the uterus, in the control of the maintenance of pregnancy and the initiation of labour.

Professor Riley has always been interested in teaching and learning, and this became increasingly important as his career evolved. A significant contribution to his own scientific field was setting up the Honours programme in Reproductive Biology in 2004. He has highly valued the success of participating students, whether they stay within and contribute to the field, return to medicine and then specialise in obstetrics, gynaecology or reproductive health, or indeed if they seek other fields or career paths.

This interest in teaching, curriculum design with delivery at scale, and particularly student agency was further inspired with his involvement in the initiatives in developing medical curricula to reduce content and offer students more agency. In the Edinburgh MBChB programme, he was involved in developing Special Study Modules, later renamed Student Selected Components. Simon was the course organiser of multiple modules, and subsequently Director of SSCs for several years.

Supporting teaching delivery, Professor Riley was the Director of Teaching in the Deanery of Clinical Sciences for a decade, which was primarily offering innovative online part-time postgraduate learning programmes for medical and surgical trainees and other healthcare professionals. This innovation in teaching design and delivery continued in his role as the first Director of Teaching in the Edinburgh Futures Institute, where he helped to establish the initial postgraduate and undergraduate programmes.

To continue this emerging theme of student agency, for the last 10 years, Professor Riley has been academic lead for the Student-Led, Individually-Created Courses (SLICCs) initiative. This offers a flexible and adaptable curriculum course framework to support experiential learning through a reflective portfolio. The SLICC framework is used in more than 30 courses across all three colleges. The SLICCs have informed institutional curriculum transformation, and supported student's autonomy and agency to develop their own educational journey. SLICCs have enabled both staff and students to take innovative experiential approaches and to undertake interdisciplinary working. They have also brought co- and even extra-curricular activities into the formal curriculum, enabling their value as learning opportunities to be recognised with academic credit. The SLICC initiative has generated significant national and international interest.

In his retirement, Simon plans to continue to play an active role innovating in experiential student learning, curriculum development, and enabling student agency in their learning, through collaborating with colleagues in Edinburgh and beyond. He also plans to continue his own experiential learning journey, including exploring Scottish hills, its coastline by sea kayak, and travelling further afield.

H/02/02/02

S 26/27 2 B

Electronic Senate

28 October – 11 November 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 5 October 2026.

Fit with primary responsibilities

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

Action requested / recommendation

3. Senate is invited to note the report.

Background and context

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

Discussion

5. Please see Appendix 1 for a report of business conducted at 5 October meeting.

Resource implications

6. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Risk management

7. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Equality and diversity

8. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

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

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

Author

Daniel Wedgwood
Governance & Court Services
October 2026

Freedom of Information

Open Paper

Appendix 1:

5 October 2026

Special Meeting of Court

1 Succession of Principal & Vice-Chancellor

Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, read a statement to Court setting out his intention not to seek a further term of office in the position of Principal & Vice-Chancellor, following the conclusion of his current term early in 2028. He reviewed the major achievements of his tenure in the role and noted that the announcement of his intention to leave the role had been calculated to allow an effective recruitment process and a smooth transition to the next Principal. He emphasised his continued dedication to leading the University and driving forward progress until his final day in office.

The recused himself for the remainder of the Special Meeting and Court approved key elements of the process for recruitment of the next Principal & Vice-Chancellor.

Regular Meeting of Court

2 Edinburgh Medical School 300

Court received a presentation on activities celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Edinburgh Medical School. Topics included engagement with schools, international links, research outreach, artistic activity and critical examination of the School's history in collaboration with University colleagues, the Future Medicine: Student Fund, and past and future contributions to improving health outcomes and reducing health inequality.

3 Principal's Report

The Principal's report was noted. Key points in the report included an overview of the University's recent internal and external communications, on-going industrial action and measures to mitigate its impacts on students, the publication of the first report of the national Future Framework for Higher Education, strategic developments in research and innovation and significant research awards, external recognition of the University's environmental work and community engagement.

Court discussed the background to the current strike action and actions and communications that might help to reduce uncertainty in the current context.

4 Finance, Planning and Budget

Court received an update on the University's financial position and associated risks. It was noted that the University was due to report a slim underlying operating surplus for 2025-26 (although the reportable headline operating surplus would be higher, due to receipt of exceptional capital grants relating to the national supercomputer). It was noted that there would have been a substantial underlying deficit in the absence of recent cost-saving measures. This level of savings was not expected to recur into the long term without the delivery of the University's strategic change projects and so this remained crucial.

The efforts of University staff to secure the savings achieved in 2025-26 were commended and it was noted that achieving more sustainable savings would relieve the need for staff to make such exceptional efforts in the future.

It was noted that the CFO's engagement events had helped to clarify the financial situation for many staff.

5 Student Experience

Court received an analysis of the results of national surveys, noting that the University had seen improved results for all measures in the National Student Survey (NSS) and in a number of elements of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES). Particular improvements had been achieved in areas that had been prioritised by the University. The efforts of staff across the University to achieve this were acknowledged and commended. Results from the Graduate Outcomes Survey showed more cause for concern, with further work required.

Court also received an overview of current work to enhance the student experience. Particular progress was noted in timely turnaround of feedback on assessments and in student representation processes and wider work on the Student Voice. It was noted that the University had gone through a thorough review process as part of the National Review of Awarding Arrangements, within which recent work on assessment and feedback and in relation to Boards of Examiners made important and positive contributions.

6 Rectorial Election Regulations 2027

Court approved the election regulations and clarificatory amendments to the Code of Conduct and the description of the role of Rector.

7 Other Items

Regular reports were received from the Students' Association, the Sports Union, the Development and Alumni Office and Court's committees and subgroups. Court received a status report on the strategic change portfolio and an annual report on the Regenerative Sustainability Strategy. Court also approved the approach to reviewing senior leadership remuneration to be taken by Remuneration Committee.

S 26/27 2 C

Electronic Senate

28 October – 11 November 2026

Chair Resolutions

Description of paper

1. This paper is presented to Senate for consultation in accordance with the procedures for the creation of Resolutions as set out in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966.

Fit with Primary Responsibilities

2. '….to act as a consultative body to Court on all draft Court Resolutions and Ordinances'.

Action requested / Recommendation

3. Senate is invited to make observations on the following attached draft Resolutions:

No.8/2026: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Immunogenetics
No.9/2026: Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair Neurology & Clinical Epidemiology
No.10/2026: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cancer Biology
No.11/2026: Alteration of the title of the Martin Currie Chair of Finance and Investment

4. Observations to be forwarded to Court@ed.ac.uk by 28 November 2026.

Background and context

5. Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled the University Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation of Chairs. The Act sets out the procedure for making Resolutions and stipulates that Senatus Academicus, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest require to be consulted on draft Resolutions throughout the period of one month, with the months of August and September not taken into account when calculating the consultation period.

Discussion

6. The Personal Chair of Immunogenetics is being created for the appointment to Director of the Roslin Institute, further information is available at this link. The Personal Chair of Cancer Biology is an out of cycle promotion for retention purposes.

Resource implications

7. The resource implications were considered as part of the Chair appointment process,

Risk Management

8. Risk considerations in establishing Chairs are considered as part of the University's approval processes

Responding to the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Goals

9. N/A

Equality and Diversity

10. Equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to chairs.

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

11. Final Resolutions will be submitted to the Court meeting on 7 December 2026.

Consultation

12. The statutory approval process for Resolutions requires consultation with Senate and the General Council prior to approval by the University Court.

Further information

Author(s)	**Presenter(s) (if required)**
Governance & Court Services	N/A

October 2026

Freedom of information

Open paper

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 8/2026

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Immunogenetics

At Edinburgh, the Seventh day of December, Two thousand and twenty six.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Immunogenetics:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Personal Chair of Immunogenetics in the University of Edinburgh.

2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.

3. Notwithstanding the personal nature of this Chair, the terms and conditions of appointment and tenure which by Statute, Ordinance and otherwise apply to other Chairs in the University shall be deemed to apply in like manner to the Personal Chair of Immunogenetics together with all other rights, privileges and duties attaching to the office of Professor.

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

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 9/2026

Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair Neurology and Clinical Epidemiology

At Edinburgh, the Seventh day of December, Two thousand and twenty six.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Personal Chair of Neurology and Clinical Epidemiology;

AND WHEREAS paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, provides that the University Court may, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and with the consent of the incumbent and patrons, if any, alter the title of existing professorships;

AND WHEREAS the Chair dealt with in this Resolution is in the patronage of the University Court itself:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. The Personal Chair of Neurology and Clinical Epidemiology shall hereafter be designated the Personal Chair of Population Health Sciences.

2. This Resolution shall come into with effect from 1 June 2026.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 10/2026

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Cancer Biology

At Edinburgh, the Seventh day of December, Two thousand and twenty six.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Cancer Biology:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Personal Chair of Cancer Biology in the University of Edinburgh.

2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.

3. Notwithstanding the personal nature of this Chair, the terms and conditions of appointment and tenure which by Statute, Ordinance and otherwise apply to other Chairs in the University shall be deemed to apply in like manner to the Personal Chair of Cancer Biology together with all other rights, privileges and duties attaching to the office of Professor.

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

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 11/2026

Alteration of the title of the Martin Currie Chair of Finance and Investment

At Edinburgh, the Seventh day of December, Two thousand and twenty six.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Martin Currie Chair of Finance and Investment;

AND WHEREAS paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, provides that the University Court may, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and with the consent of the incumbent and patrons, if any, alter the title of existing professorships;

AND WHEREAS the Chair dealt with in this Resolution is in the patronage of the University Court itself:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. The Martin Currie Chair of Finance and Investment shall hereafter be designated the Chair of Climate Change Finance.

2. This Resolution shall come into with effect from 1 November 2022

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary